

The Orphans' Friend.

FRIDAY, JULY 13, 1883.

EXAMPLE.

Man is an imitative being. Surround a child with evil associates and he will in all probability go astray. Give him for companions pious persons and he will be much more likely to lead a life of piety himself. "Evil communications corrupt good manners." The power of fashion is based upon man's imitativeness. There is a tendency to dress, talk, live as we see others around us doing. Men are apt to follow the example of their models—their teachers, leaders—rather than any oral directions received from them, however forcefully delivered. The parent may attempt to guide his child in ways of industry and sobriety, but it will be vain if he himself be idle and dissipated. So if he permit his children to go habitually into the society of the vicious, it will tend to neutralize the force of his own teaching and example however virtuous. The Almighty seems to have had regard to this trait of human character in making arrangements for human redemption. He provides us the Saviour, the Jesus, the Leader, one who not only spake as never man spake, but who also lived as never man lived; that by example as well as precept he might lead the race forward and upward to the desired goal. And hence He said "I have left you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you." Let us be careful always to live so that we shall be pleased to have others follow our example.

We believe it is only necessary to intimate to the good people of the State that the Orphan Asylum must have larger contributions at this time or its usefulness is in peril of being curtailed. Unless its friends should come to its help, some of the children now domiciled here will have to be sent away on account of inadequacy of funds. The financial success of the Asylum thus far in its history has been a marvel to all who have watched its progress. Strict adherence to the cash system has been the secret of this success. At times in the past the exchequer has been almost empty, and the future looked dark and cheerless, while some of the friends of the noble charity would exchange glances of significant doubt and apprehension. The Superintendent, however, would continue, apparently undismayed, to discharge the duties of his station, trusting to a higher source than man for succor and help, and his faith has never yet forsaken him or failed to be rewarded. Let us hope that a similar result will follow in the present need of the Asylum.

We hope that liberal contributions will flow into its coffers, and that it will tide over the impending crisis without the necessity of a single orphan losing the benefit of its fostering care and protection.

We are pleased to see that so many of the papers in the State have copied, approvingly, Superintendent Mills' article condemning "Peck's Bad Boy." We trust that there will be less of that sort of literature going into the families of our people than heretofore. The newspapers of our State are doing good service in many ways: they are worthy of the patronage of our citizens; they ought to be sustained; but they ought to be careful that nothing impure, nothing contrary to religion, nothing that is calculated to weaken the respect of our children for the Bible and the God of their fathers be printed in their columns. We make this remark because a number of our exchanges have published extracts from the "Bad Boy," unwittingly doubtless, but yet calculated to do just as much harm as though printed for that purpose.

Correspondence.

"A little brother and sister returned to the Asylum. The parents had separated once because of the intemperate habits of the father. Then the mother thought she would try him once more, but it was no use. His appetite was too strong, and the 'drink' was more to him than wife or children. So they were returned to us and the mother works to support herself."

The above is an extract from the journal of the Auburn (N. Y.) Orphan Asylum for June. That institution is not limited to the care of orphans, as is the Oxford Asylum, but cares alike for children whose parents, by reason of native barbarity or excessive intemperance are deemed unworthy to have the care of their offspring.

Would it not be well for the people of our State to have an eye to the care of these wards of society, who are utterly destitute of moral and religious training? Is it not the duty of wise statesmanship to give them such aid as will enable them to become useful men and women? It is true that the percentage of good citizenship may be small, as compared with the beneficiaries of our own Asylum, (in many of whose veins flows the blood of Carolina's honored dead), but it would pay. Sooner or later it will be an essential attribute to good government. Is not our christian duty equally imperative? A vine that is untrained grows more beautifully than one trained in the wrong direction. So the children of immoral and intemperate parents are often worse off than orphans. We would not advocate their admission into our asylum, which is unable to alleviate the wants of all the orphans of our State. Let a separate institution be prepared for them, and supported from the State treasury.

A few years ago orphan asylums were comparatively unknown, but as civilization advances, they are becoming numerous, and their sphere of usefulness is increasing. By all means let the orphans be properly cared for; meanwhile, let us not forget the other children who are equally as destitute of moral training. We believe that there are

enough philanthropic patriots in our State to look after these unfortunates if their claims are properly presented. The matter is certainly worthy of some thought.

MR. EDITOR: Your correspondent has recently passed through the county of Person and into the county of Caswell. Possibly, some of the observations made may prove of interest to your readers.

CONTENTMENT

seemed to be smiling from every household, waving in every grainfield and sitting upon the brow of every maid and matron, as we passed through that thrifty section. We could but observe the appearance of peace and happiness as the housewife sat contentedly under the shade of a native oak, hard by the front door, stringing snaps for dinner, or listened to the blithe song of the barefoot girl as she guided the calves to the green pastures. This is truly a rural population. No railroad has disturbed the quiet of these hills and valleys with its screech and clangor, and "far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife" the peaceful inhabitants may pursue their ordinary avocations undisturbed by innovations and unshackled by conventionalisms.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Although there is no railroad in Person, yet there are material improvements that attract the travelers notice. At Roxboro, the county seat, within a few years, a block of brick stores has been erected that would be creditable to any city in the State; a new church has been built by the Baptists, the Methodist church has been greatly improved and beautified, while private residences and grounds have received due attention. The county has determined to erect new public buildings, so that soon we may expect a new court house to grace the centre of the town. In the country we observed many newly settled places, and a number of new residences and other buildings on old places, new school houses, and other marks of thrift and enterprise.

CROPS.

Person is looming up as a prosperous and successful farming community. The cereals and grasses flourish here. We noticed in many upland fields where there are no cultivated crops growing; that herds grass springs up spontaneously. In addition to this very desirable quality, the lands produce fine tobacco; indeed, Person is about disputing with your own Granville the palm as the finest tobacco producing county. In this connection we write you, what was told us by reliable parties, that Person county can boast of the

LARGEST TOBACCO PLANTER

in the United States, judged by the number of hills cultivated. Col. C. S. Winstead, a large landholder, is the party, and it is said that on his lands are planted yearly at least two millions of hills. There are other large planters and a great many highly successful small farmers. About two-thirds of a crop has been planted this year, and though backward, is looking reasonably well. The same may be said of the corn crop. Wheat and oats below the average in quantity, but of a good quality.

TWO TREES.

Your young readers will be interested in reading an account of two remarkable trees

that were shown me. One is a very large poplar, known as the "Big Poplar," standing by the roadside. It is indeed a giant, at least fifteen feet in circumference, and reminds one of the big trees we read about as growing in the mountain regions of Western North Carolina. The other is a great oak at Paine's Old Tavern, under which the soldiers of Cornwallis are said to have stacked their arms, when he bivouacked there on his famous retreat Northward. The spot is of further interest in that the late Bishop Robert Paine, of the Methodist Church, spent here a large part of his boyhood.

STANDARD MASONIC LITERATURE.

There is no subject of such general and prevailing interest now among the Craft everywhere, as the standard masonic literature of the day. The desire to obtain "more light," in Masonry, has always been, and will be to the end of time, the most laudable ambition of the intelligent Craftsman. From Maine to California, the universal cry of the great brotherhood of our Order is, "let us have more light," and the writings of Hutchinson and Smith, and Oliver and Mant, and Preston and Calcott, and Inwood and Towne, and Laurie and Arnold, and Mackey and Morris, have, to a great extent, already dispelled the clouds of darkness and ignorance which have hitherto bedimmed the masonic horizon, and shed a flood of light upon our ceremonies and our symbolism truly gratifying to behold. The effect of this light is seen in the increased intelligence of our brethren everywhere. Few masters of lodges of the present day, who avail themselves of the masonic literature of the times are seen to jumble through the ritual and ceremonies of the Order, after the fashion of a parrot—unacquainted with the meaning of the language they are mispronouncing. To the masters of the old school, the higher language of symbolism and allegory—the only language in which Masonry can convey a full knowledge of her doctrines—was a sealed book or a dead letter. Acquainted with Cross' *Chart*, or some such publication, and nothing more, they "could explain the emblems," but did not know what the emblems explained." This halo of masonic light is appearing also on the printed pages of the proceedings of our Grand Lodges; and the increased intelligence which now characterizes those assemblies bears a highly gratifying and honorable contrast with the want of intelligence of brethren of the last century, whose mistaken zeal in the preservation of the doings of our Order from the public eye, led them to destroy many documents of interest to the Craft. The annual addresses of the Grand Masters of our Grand Lodges are another evidence of the existence of masonic light, and of the great importance of masonic literature. To all intelligent brethren this importance must be at once apparent. Look at its effects upon the masons of this day who have availed themselves of its advantages. They see more clearly end act more intelligently than those old-school fogies who turn up their eyes in horrified astonishment, at seeing a masonic picture, or the slightest allusion in a book or magazine, to the institution. And why

should it not be so? Will not the study of the accumulated wisdom of the great and good of all ages of our Order, tend to enlighten the Craftsman who is seeking for, and wishes to obtain, more light? There are none so blind as those that will not see, and to that class of the Fraternity—if they can be said to be of the Fraternity at all—we have nothing to say. Let them pursue the tenor of their way; they believe they are right, and we respect them; we will follow ours. But what would Freemasonry be without its literature? Nothing worthy of the study and attention of the great majority of the Order. As the body without spirit, is dead; so Freemasonry, without its literature, would be a lifeless, inert, dry, and uninteresting study for the bulk of the brethren of the Order.

On this subject, Most Wor. Brother Dunlap, says:—

"There is one consideration which I would here earnestly press upon your notice—the importance of a knowledge of the standard masonic literature. We have among us sure and safe guides through all the hidden and abstruse principles of Freemasonry, besides periodicals and newspapers issued from the weekly and monthly press. Though we have such a literature, it can hardly be realized how small a portion of the masonic community are conversant with it or are even aware of its existence. If the expense render it impracticable for each one to form a private masonic library of his own, yet it seems to me, not only expedient, but a binding duty on Grand Lodges and on all subordinate masonic organizations, to provide themselves with libraries, according to their respective means."—*American Review*.

Committees on Orphan Asylum

- Lily Valley Lodge, No. 252.—John R. Hill, William H. Kiddick, Erasmus Bagley.
- Bureka Lodge, No. 283.—G. A. J. Sechler, S. G. Patterson, Charles W. Alexander.
- Fulton Lodge, No. 99.—A. Parker, W. W. Taylor, J. Samuel McCobbins.
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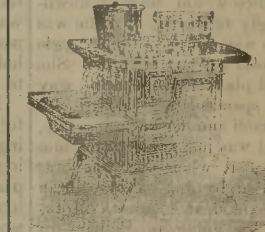
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