

## The Orphans' Friend.

FRIDAY, -----AUGUST 31, 1883.

### UNTOLD.

A face may be woeful-white to cover  
a heart that's aching;  
And a face may be full of light over  
a heart that's breaking!

'Tis not the heaviest grief for which  
we wear the willow;  
The tears bring slow relief which  
only wet the pillow.

Hard may be burdens borne, though  
friends would fain unbend them;  
Harder are crosses worn where none  
save God can find them.

For the loved who leave our side  
our souls are well-nigh riven;  
But ah! for the graves we hide, have  
pity, tender Heaven!

Soft be the words and sweet that  
soothe the spoken sorrow;  
Alas! for the weary feet that may  
not rest to-morrow.

New York Observer.  
EARLY IN THE FOLD.

BY MISS G. HALL.

Little Bessie Bower was a blue-eyed, fair-haired, pretty child. Her face was like the summer sunshine, making everybody happy wherever she went. She was a busy little girl too, not only carefully tending the flowers and grasses that grew about their home, but she seemed to think that all the beautiful earth, with its flowers and singing birds, were made for her to love and care for. She was right about that too, for you know that even the same Father who took care of her, looked down and cared for all these things that he had made.

But she had lately been busy in another way. She had been thinking a good deal, though she was only nine years of age, about that Father in heaven, and she had been asking him every night to help her to do right and to teach her how to love and serve him. She really wanted to be a little servant of Christ, and whenever the good Shepherd sees this, he always prepares his lambs for fold by making them fit to be carried in his bosom.

Bessie had a very nice Sunday-school teacher, who had talked a great deal to her about heavenly things, and who had seen for a long time in her soft, lustrous eyes this desire for a knowledge of divine things, and that she wished to live a life that God would approve.

On returning home one Sunday afternoon, after one of these earnest conversations, Bessie seemed unusually serious and thoughtful. By and by she drew her little rocking-chair to the side of her mother, and looking up in her face, said to her, "Mother, am I too young to become a Christian?" "Too young, my child! why, the hearts of God's smallest children can receive his love. Christ, our Saviour, was a very little child himself when he began his mission of love, and he lived through every hour of a child's life. So, you see, he knows all about these little hearts, and can prepare them for his love.

"Don't you think, Bessie," her mother continued, "that he used to tell the children where he lived all about heaven, how they ought to be good and obedient to their parents, because even when he was a man he was very fond of them, and took them in his arms and blessed them?"

"Did you say that my little children can love Jesus?" Bessie again earnestly inquired, her eyes dilating with the thought.

"Surely, yes, Bessie! Let me tell you of a little girl only five years old, whom I once knew, who loved him so that she always showed it in her sweet, heavenly temper—even in that baby-life the Holy Spirit came into her heart, and yet she didn't know how it came there. She was so obedient to her parents, so kind to her brothers and sisters, and loved so to say her prayers to her Heavenly Father, that everybody knew, young as she was, that she was Christ's child. Sometimes she would talk to the servants in the house, especially to an old colored man, who had been long in the employ of the family, but who often got angry, and used very wicked words. The old man would shed tears while she talked in her child-way, and promise to do better, and even then she was leading him to do right, though she did not know it.

"Now, little Mary had a brother two years younger than herself—only a baby—and one day in a pet he struck his poor sister and hurt her very badly. Of course he did not know any better, but instead of getting angry, she coaxed him to go into an adjoining room, and there she knelt down, with little Henry, before a chair, and with her hands clasped, she asked God to forgive her dear brother for striking the blow, and make him a better boy. Young as she was, her heart was so full of love, there was no room in it for anger, you see, Bessie; and every day she was like a little angel in her loving ministry to all about her, until Christ took her to himself, which was not very long, to do some work in heaven for him."

Bessie looked up into her mother's face with a pleased and joyous surprise, and said to her, "I am trying to be good, too," and then she inwardly said a little prayer to One who is always listening, to ask to be helped in her desire to be gentle to all around her, and to avoid every angry word and every selfish worry.

"Bless you, my dear child. May God help you and he will: 'They that seek me early, shall find me,' are the words of your loving Saviour; and what a friend, to simply ask for our love, and promise such a blessing! Open your young heart, then, to his love, he can, he will enter in and take up his abode there, if you will but let him, even if it be but a little girl nine years old."

Bessie has grown to womanhood now, and her life of earnest faith and duty speaks more strongly of the reality of her faith and hope in Christ, than any words of mine could ever do. Her life here is not yet ended, but it is linked in a far brighter life beyond. How many a tired heart to far-away places she has caused to sing for joy by telling the old, old story that she learned so long ago in her childhood days, for she is now a missionary in Japan.

We cannot look down into the ground and see how the rain and sun prepare the seeds, to send out shoots which shall form plants and trees, but when we see the plants rising, green and graceful, when we see the buds forming and opening into flowers, we can tell that the sun and rain have been at work under the ground.

Neither can we look into the heart of a sinful child, and know the exact moment when she first felt sorry for the wickedness of her heart, nor how she prayed in secret to

her Heavenly Father, and had holy thoughts put into her heart, and began to love her Saviour, and receive strength to obey him! We cannot tell any more than the plant, how all this was done, but from the beauty of character, the joy and gladness, the overcoming of difficulties, the feeling of trustfulness that comes into every Christian's life, young or old, we know that it has been done, and that it is the work of the Holy Spirit.

Begin, dear children, in early youth to trust your heart to your Saviour. Before you enter into the work of each day—and you all have some duties to perform—seek to speak first to your Heavenly Father, and ask his blessing. He will never turn a deaf ear to your entreaties.

"Whoever cometh, need not delay, Now the door is open, enter while ye may— Jesus is the true, the only living way— Who ever will, may come!"

### WHAT'S THE HARM?

How many find themselves in unhappy circumstances from beginning a career of wrong-doing by the use of cards! When they began there were no stakes. They did not play for money, nor cigars nor drink, but merely for amusement. By and by the game ceased to amuse; and, to make it interesting, a small wager was laid, perhaps a single cent, but this grew larger, until dollars were played for, and a passion for gambling created. With this came, as a matter of course, drinking, and other vices. Card-playing at first seems innocent enough, but at the last how often does it ruin everything? There are rooms in cities where old and young men congregate evenings, and spend more than the profits of the days, or week, or month, at the gambling table. Sometimes it is their own money, sometimes the money of their employers. They manage to escape detection and disgrace for a while, but, by and by, a defalcation or a forgery comes to light, and then follows fight or imprisonment, and a good name gone down in the darkness.

A correspondent of the Philadelphia Times says: "There is a man in Washington who is now a common gambler, but who, in other years, bore a splendid name. He was a graduate of Harvard College, and was elected at the close of the war, to the United States Senate, from one of the Southern states. He served in this and other offices with great distinction. After his term in the Senate, he was appointed Assistant Secretary of Treasury. Here his fall began. He became too fond of wine and cards, and finally lost his office and landed in jail.

"After getting out of jail he was, for a time, wretchedly poor. He rallied a little, and got appointed to a twelve hundred dollar clerkship. His friends thought he might recover himself in this position. But he did not. He had a terrible passion for gambling, and under the baleful influence of this, he lost his clerkship and his money too. Now he goes about, borrowing a dollar or two, whenever he can, which he takes into the gaming rooms, and plays, with until it is gone. If he has no money, he sits by and keeps the score for the low wretches who frequent these halls on earth. He once had a charming family of boys and girls; but he knows not where they are now."

## The Orphan Asylum

IS LOCATED AT OXFORD.

The County-seat of Granville, forty-five miles North of Raleigh; twelve miles from Henderson on the R. & G. R. R.

The Orphan Asylum belongs to (and, of course, is conducted according to the regulations adopted by) the Grand Lodge of Masons.

Its benefits are extended to the most needy orphans, without, ever asking whether their fathers were masons or not. Children are received between the ages of eight and twelve, and discharged between the ages of fourteen and sixteen.

The average cash expenses for each orphan is five dollars a month, but the sum required varies according to the seasons, and does not include what is spent for repairs, furniture and improvement of the premises. The Grand Lodge gives the building and grounds, and \$2000 a year. The State gives \$5000 a year. For the remainder of its support, and for enlargement, the Orphan Asylum is dependent on voluntary contributions from subordinate Lodges, churches of all denominations, benevolent societies, and charitable individuals; and their co-operation is earnestly solicited.

EXTRACTS FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MASONRY: The design of the Orphan Asylum shall be to protect, train and educate indigent and promising orphan children, to be received between the ages of 8 and 12 years, who have no parents, nor property, nor near relations able to assist them. They shall not be received for a shorter time than two years. In extraordinary cases the Superintendent may receive children outside the ages specified.

The larger girls shall assist in the ordinary house work, and in making and mending the bed clothes, their own clothes and the clothes of the boys. The larger boys shall assist in the preparation of fuel, the care of the stock, and the cultivation of the soil.

At least four religious denominations shall be represented among the officers of the Asylum, and the representatives of all religious creeds and of all political parties shall be treated alike.

The Institution shall be conducted on the cash system, and its operations enlarged or curtailed according to the funds received.

Orphan children in the said Asylum shall be fed and clothed, and shall receive such preparatory training and education as will prepare them for useful occupations and for the usual business transactions of life.

Resolved, That the sincere thanks of this Grand Lodge be hereby tendered to many benevolent ladies and gentlemen, to the ministers of the Gospel, to churches of various denominations, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Good Templars, Friends of Temperance and other benevolent societies whose hearty co-operation and liberal contributions have rendered timely and valuable assistance in the great work of ameliorating the condition of the orphan children of the State.

Resolved, That all benevolent societies and individuals are hereby cordially invited and requested to co-operate with us in providing funds and supplies for feeding, clothing and educating indigent and promising orphan children at the Asylum in Oxford.

Resolved, That the Master of each subordinate Lodge appoint a Standing Committee upon raising funds for the Orphan Asylum, and require said committee to report in writing each month, and that said reports and the funds received be forwarded monthly to the Superintendent of the Asylum, and that the support of the Orphan Asylum be a regular order of business in each subordinate Lodge at each Communication.

"Should deserted children be admitted?" was decided in the negative.

"Should children having step-fathers be admitted?" was also decided in the negative.

"Should deformed children be admitted?" This was left to the discretion of the Superintendent. When the deformity is of such a character as to require extra attention, it was thought inadvisable to admit the parties in the present condition of the Asylum.

"Should boys learn trades at the Asylum?" Decided in the negative, it being impracticable at this time to employ skilled mechanics in the various trades, erect suitable work-shops and purchase necessary tools.

"Should collecting agents be appointed in different parts of the State; and if so, what wages should they receive?" This was left to the discretion of the Superintendent; but the meeting advised against employing and paying agents.

### THE ADOPTION OF ORPHANS.

We are always glad to accommodate childless couples who wish to adopt children as their own; but greatly prefer that they should come and make their own selections.

### APPLICATION FOR CHILDREN.

Correspondents are requested to read and regulate applications for children by the following resolutions of the Grand Lodge of Masons:

Resolved, 1. The Superintendent of the Orphan Asylum shall not consider any application for an orphan until the same has been approved and endorsed by the Orphan Asylum Committee of the Lodge in whose jurisdiction the applicant resides.

2. It shall be the duty of the said committee to make due inquiry into the desirableness of the situation offered before endorsing an application; and also

to inquire into the circumstances and treatment of children already discharged, and living in their jurisdiction, and use their best efforts to secure good treatment, or the return of the children.

3. It shall be the duty every secretary of a Lodge to send the names of the Committee of the Orphan Asylum to the ORPHANS' FRIEND for publication, in order that persons wishing to employ orphans may know the steps to be taken.

### HOW CHILDREN ARE ADMITTED.

Very often the Superintendent hunts up poor and promising orphans, and informs them of the advantages offered at the Orphan House, and induces them to return with him. Generally it is best that he should see them before they start. When this is impracticable, a formal application should be made by a friend. Here is one in proper form:

..... N. C. .... 188..... This is to certify that..... is an orphan, without estate, sound in body and mind, and ..... years of age. H..... either died in ..... h..... mother in 18..... I believe..... hereby make application for..... admission into the Asylum at Oxford. I also relinquish and convey to the officers of the Asylum the management and control of the said orphan till 16 years of age, in order that..... may be trained and educated according to the regulations prescribed by the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. I also promise not to annoy the Orphan Asylum, and not to encourage the said orphan to leave without the approval of the Superintendent. .... Approved by ..... W. M. of.....

The application should be sent to the Superintendent, and he will either go for the children or provide for their transportation. In no case should a community take up a collection to send a man with the children, nor send the children before the Superintendent has been consulted.

### ACTION OF EPISCOPAL CONVENTION.

Resolution adopted by the last annual Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, at Winston, May 13, 1880:

"Resolved, That this Convention does heartily approve the efforts of the Oxford Asylum to alleviate the sufferings of the orphan children of North Carolina; and to provide for the welfare of the helpless orphans of North Carolina; and that we commend to the imitation of all, the example of this spirit of active charity and beneficence on the part of the Masonic fraternity in thus fulfilling the Apostolic injunction to remember the poor."

### ACTION OF THE N. C. CONFERENCE.

On motion of Rev. J. R. Brooks, the following resolutions were adopted at the Annual Conference held at Durham, in 1881.

"The Committee to whom was referred the communication of this Excellency Gov. Jarvis, bringing to our notice and commending to our favor, the Oxford Orphan Asylum, recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

1. That we reiterate our oft-repeated expression of sympathy with this noble charity, and heartily commend it to the liberal support of all our people.

2. That our pastors are hereby requested to take a collection in all their congregations at such time during the ensuing Conference year as they may think most appropriate and best, and to forward the same to the Superintendent of the Asylum.

3. That the Recording Stewards of our several pastoral charges are requested to report to our annual conference the amounts collected under the head of "For the Orphan Asylum."

J. R. BROOKS, } Committee.  
E. A. YATES, }

### ACTION OF PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD.

Resolutions adopted by the Synod of North Carolina in session at Raleigh, N. C., November 13th, 1880: "Whereas the Oxford Orphan Asylum of North Carolina is a purely benevolent institution, and is doing great good for the needy Orphans of our State, therefore,

Resolved, That we approve of its purposes and suggest that the congregations within our bounds take up at their own convenience an annual collection in behalf of that institution and forward the same collected, in connection with any article of food and raiment which may be contributed, to the Superintendent.

### ACTION OF BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION.

At the Baptist State Convention, held in Goldsboro, November 17th, 1880, the following resolution was adopted:

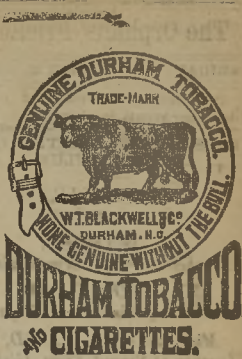
"WHEREAS, We feel a deep interest in the work of the Oxford Orphan Asylum, and believe it is doing an inestimable amount of good; and

"WHEREAS, We believe that the Baptist people of the State will feel it to be not only a duty, but a privilege, to contribute regularly to its support; therefore

Resolved, That all our pastors are hereby earnestly requested to take up a collection at each of their churches at least once a year in behalf of this great and important work.

Elder F. H. Ivey submitted the following resolution, which was adopted at the Convention held in Winston in 1881:

"Resolved, That this Convention feels an undiminished interest in the work of the Orphan Asylum; and that we repeat, with earnestness and emphasis, the recommendation to all our pastors to take up at least one collection during the year in aid of the Oxford Orphan Asylum,



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### THE YOUNG

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