

THE MARS HILL BRANCH.

A letter from a friend near Mars Hill, brings us intelligence that preparations for the reception of orphans at that place are progressing satisfactorily. Mr. Sams and Miss Green, who have had immediate charge and supervision of these preparations, have met with some difficulty in procuring workmen to make necessary repairs, but they have finally succeeded in getting them and had the fire-places put in order and other repairs are being rapidly pushed forward. Our correspondent says, "Our people are hopeful and, I think, will do their duty in helping on the work at Mars Hill." So mote it be!

The Superintendent will be at Mars Hill this week to give personal assistance in perfecting arrangements for the reception of inmates, and will take with him some half dozen or more children. We hope the friends in that section, will not forget that many things are wanted to get the house ready for the children that will be sent there; provisions, clothing, bedding, table ware, hats, shoes,—indeed everything necessary to an outfit for house-keeping. When Nelson was about going into his great naval engagement, his address to his sailors and marines was, "England expects every man to do his duty." We would adopt the sentiment in addressing the friends of the orphans; every man is expected to do his duty, and if it be done, the orphans of the West as well as the East will be comfortably provided for, educated and made useful citizens. "Look well to the West."

The welcome of our little "FRIEND," into the newspaper fraternity, by our State exchanges, and by some outside of the State, has been of the most cordial and encouraging character, for which we tender our most earnest and warmest acknowledgements. We are willing to attribute a great deal of the nice things that have been said of our unpretending sheet to the kindly feelings of the writers to the object proposed in its publication and the work in which we are engaged. Nevertheless, we shall endeavor to justify, as far as practicable, the flattering things said of the paper, by making it really a Children's Friend, and at the same time not unworthy the patronage of "children of a larger growth."

We have hitherto labored, and are yet laboring, under some difficulties in getting out the paper, not yet having completed arrangements for printing it at the institution. These arrangements will soon be completed, when the size will be somewhat enlarged and all the work of getting it out done at the Asylum.

Great works are performed more through perseverance than strength.

"Send Me a Girl."

This is the burden of a large number of letters recently received at the Orphan Asylum in Oxford. Now, girls have been received, not for distribution among those in greatest need of nurses; but in order that they may secure a respectable English education, and become more useful to themselves and to others. The teachers do not advise that any of the present number be discharged at this time, unless they can go where their studies will be continued. While these things are so, the Superintendent is at a loss to answer those who send for girls to come to them without delay. Wait a time with patience, and some girls will be prepared to leave. Then write and say what you will expect them to do for you. Do not require them to be "without kin." It is admitted that "poor kin" are sometimes in the way, even of an orphan; but how can we dispose of them? A girl who loves some one and has some one to love her, will be much more agreeable in a family than one who feels that no one will applaud her improvement, and no one will lament her errors or her degradation.

FORGETTING THE CHILDREN.

When Bishop Keener preached in Raleigh, his opening prayer contained a fervent petition for children, and especially for orphan children. Another able minister makes it a rule to mention, in at least one prayer a day, the orphans collected in Oxford. How many of those who lead the prayers of families and of great congregations remember to mention the fatherless children? Reader, what is your custom? What is the custom of your minister? Sometimes children go to church, and hear no prayer that seems to be addressed to them, and they go home wondering "who cares for my soul." It really seems that many otherwise good people do not and can not suffer little children to come unto them for guidance and instruction in righteousness. Be careful; your thoughtless neglect may ruin an immortal soul.

Eight Scholars.

It is a good habit to commence early in life to read newspapers, and know what is passing in the world. The knowledge gained enriches the mind, stimulates thought, and supplies abundant topics for conversation. Teachers testify that they can readily tell who of their scholars read the papers and who do not. The former are generally brighter, more wide-awake, better informed, can answer general questions, and are more interested in study. Nobody who wishes to get on in the world can afford to neglect newspapers. They are the great educators in our age.—*Youths Companion.*

Better run in old clothes than run into debt.

Going West.

Going West, while chilly winter rules the inverted year! Yes, the orphans cry for help comes From Buncombe's icy mountains, From Brunswick's coral strands, From sparkling Western fountains, From Eastern loamy lands.

The new institution must prepare in Winter for a vigorous summer campaign. Difficulties and hardships must be overcome and endured that the work may be pushed with vigor. Then let us say with Bishop Berkley,

"Westward the course of Empire takes its way,  
The four first acts already past,  
The fifth shall close the drama of the day;  
Time's noblest offspring is the last."

The children who have crossed the mountains and come to Oxford are in excellent health; but some who dwelt by stagnant swamps are pale and feeble for these the doctors prescribe; mountain air even in winter. So a lively little party started from Oxford, on Monday the 18th inst., and went through rain and sleet to Henderson.

A five-year old girl gave her little brother, three years old, half a glass of whiskey, in Baltimore, Sunday evening, and he died from effects of it.—*Exchange.*

This paragraph floating through the papers reminds us of a sad and affecting incident. We were walking through the Federal Cemetery in Raleigh, and stopped at the highly ornamented grave of an infant. Just then a stranger came up and we inquired whose child was buried there. With a penitent face he answered: "This is our baby's grave. She was sick. People told us to give her brandy. We gave it to her, and when she got worse we gave her more and at last the baby died, and we buried her here and planted these trees and flowers near her grave. But when our next baby was born, my wife's mother came to stay with us, and when that baby was sick she gave it food instead of brandy and the baby got well. Then we found out that we had killed our first baby with brandy. We are so sorry that we did not know any better than to give brandy to a baby." Having told his story, he turned his face away, and we left him in his silent sorrow.

Contributions to the Orphan Asylum from the 12th to the 19th of January, inclusive.

IN CASH.  
Paid, \$90.67, Young people of Little River Academy, Cumberland County.

Paid, 26.90, Mt. Lebanon Lodge, No. 117, Wilson, N. C.

Paid, \$1.00, Rev. Wm May.

Paid, 50 cents, A friend.

IN KIND.  
1 bbl flour, E. G. Brodie.  
1 bag flour, John Freeman.  
1 ps. bacon, J. H. Lassiter & Son.  
1 pair socks, 1 bedquilt, Ladies of Henderson.  
2 pairs shoes, from Wilson, donor unknown.  
1 bushel chestnuts, W. L. Bryan.  
1 pair socks, Miss Williams, of Union Co.

Prince Alfonso, King of Spain is only 18 years old.

Nothing Made in Vain.

Everything that God has created has its allotted use or labor in the accomplishment of His wise designs. The finite mind of man may not be able to see or appreciate the details of the grand plan of the universe, and the mutual dependencies upon each other of the myriads of objects of creation, but science is constantly developing new facts to his mind and enlarging his scope of knowledge in this direction, and hence we are daily finding that many things we are prone to look upon as pests are of real use and benefit. Even the dreaded Colorado potato-bug may become useful, as may be seen from the following note which we clip from an exchange: "An order just received from a chemical manufacturing firm of Indianapolis for one thousand pounds of potato-bugs may be classed as one of the curiosities of commerce. It has been discovered that these insects possess qualities which make a good substitute for the Spanish fly, and there is a prospect that, from being regarded as an unmitigated pest, they may become a source of actual benefit."

THE RIGHT TO LEARN.

Suppose a mother should never teach her little daughter to sew. Every one would admit that she had wronged her child. Suppose a father should never teach his son swim, to handle a horse, or guide a plow, or pull a hoe, or follow any useful occupation. The man who would justify such folly could not be found. Why not? Simply because children have a right to learn, and the people feel that to deprive them of this right is to commit a crime. But all children have an inalienable right to read the laws of their country and the commandments of their Maker. Without a knowledge of these, they can not become good or useful citizens; for corrupt legislation and ignorant voters are generally found together. How few of those who pack the penitentiary are able to read! The child reared in ignorance is wronged and often wrongs its country in return. Let us take a case: A little boy's mother died on the day of his birth, and the father gave the child to a poor neighbor. The boy is now fifteen years of age. He has spent his life near an excellent school which he has never been allowed to attend. He is regularly hired out and his wages are consumed by others. He lives in dirt, rags and ignorance, while his father revels in riches and gives him no protection, because a second wife, "who knew not Joseph," now rules in his house. This is a plain case of compulsory ignorance forced upon a boy who had a right to learn. Can he be expected to honor that father who has sanctioned his oppression? Can he love that church whose members denied him the privilege of learning to read the Ten Commandments! Can he love that country

whose laws have afforded him no protection? Would it be any marvel if a boy so wronged in his youth, should wrong others and wrong the state in his manhood? Compulsory ignorance embitters the soul. Some hard things have been said against compulsory education; but what shall we say about compulsory ignorance? Should a man of ample means be allowed to enforce ignorance and degradation upon his children? Must all their rights be ignored, lest we interfere with his? Better guard the rights of both, and let the children be allowed to learn to read and write, if nothing more.

A dear little girl had been taught to pray specially for her father. He had been suddenly taken away. Kneeling at her evening devotion, her pleading eyes met her mother's. She sobbed, "O mother, I cannot leave him all out! Let me say, thank God that I had a dear father once, so I can keep him in my prayers." Many stricken hearts may learn a sweet lesson from this little child.—*Youths Companion.*

Dr. Deems, in his address at the funeral of Alice Cary, told how she spent some of the intervals of her terrible sufferings in making a cap, to please a poor old woman. One of the most touching tributes to the deceased poet fell from the lips of the same old woman, who, as she looked up from a tearful contemplation of her friend's remains, exclaimed with a sigh, "Ah! she knew how to talk to the poor."

Frankness.

"Be frank with the world. Frankness is the child of honesty and courage. Say what you mean to do on all occasions, and take it for granted you mean to do just what is right. If a friend asks you a favor, you should grant it, if it is reasonable; if it is not, tell him plainly why you cannot. You will wrong him and wrong yourself by equivocations of any kind."

Quite a list of patents have been recently issued to North Carolinians by the Patent Office.

The following persons have paid for the CHILDREN'S FRIEND for one year, from this date: N. Hunter, Miss Lizzie W. Marsh, Jos. P. Hunt, R. H. Battle, Jr., Dr. E. Grissom, Mr. Mary A. Lawrence, J. Y. Moss, Edward B. Lawrence, John W. Lawrence, Thos. Webb, C. P. Stokes, Mrs. M. P. Belcher, Bob Tanner, M. E. Carter, Miss Mary Etta Carter, Miss Cora V. Carter, Miss Lizzie Reynolds, Miss Corda Sluder, C. T. Dowd, A. D. Blackwood, H. B. Jordan, W. J. Crocker, M. P. Stone, J. L. Stone, Wm. M. Jones, N. L. Brown, Dr. W. G. Hill, L. D. Starke, Jr., Gilbert Elliott Jr. Robt. Faucett, Mrs. M. J. Tinnin, Dr. Wm. Cameron, Mrs. V. A. Blackwood, Miss Mary L. Jones, J. F. Curfman, D. L. Adams, J. J. W. Jones, Dr. F. T. Fuller, W. H. Dodd, James Dalrymple, J. B. McFarland, Dr. Wm. Arnold, Jesse Love, N. R. Bryan, E. D. Monroe, Miss Belle Jones, J. Osborne, J. P. Guilely, J. C. R. Little, Miss C. Wilson, John Nichols.

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