

A LITTLE PLAIN TALK.

One of the objects in publishing a paper at the Orphan Asylum was to make it a medium of communication between the Institution and the public generally, and its immediate guardians, the Masonic Fraternity, specially. In order to the accomplishment of this object, it was expected the members of the order, as well as large numbers outside, would subscribe to the paper, and the more readily because of the extremely low price at which it is published. The subscription list is gradually increasing, but not as fast as, under all the circumstances, we had reason to expect. Only two Lodges have subscribed for it, and in a large majority of the Lodges there is neither officer nor member that takes it. We can't afford to "dead-head" the paper to Lodges or officers of Lodges, as this would absorb too much of its income and make it a burden upon the finances of the Institution. This week we publish matter of importance to all the Lodges, but it will not reach many of them unless we send it gratis. This we shall do, this time, because we want all to see what is said in regard to Grand Lodge dues, contributions for the Orphan Asylum, appointment of committees, their duties, &c., and hope that each Lodge will immediately take steps to furnish itself with the means of obtaining like information hereafter, by ordering the paper, and further aid in the enterprise of its publication, by sending in all the subscribers, with the money, they can obtain.

LAW AMENDED.

We publish elsewhere, an act of the General Assembly, passed last week, by which the existing law in regard to Apprentices is so amended as to prevent white children being bound to negro masters. This will prevent negroes obtaining legal control of white children, but there are still in the State white children in the custody of negroes without any legal formality. Such cases must be looked into by the charitable in the neighborhoods where they exist, and the children placed in the Asylum or in the hands of white guardians.

No longer ago than last week a negro brought a white boy, eight years old to the Probate Judge of one of our southern counties, to be bound to him. He had had the child in possession for a long time, by consent of his mother, who had deserted. Some of the citizens of the county took the matter in hand, rescued the child from his negro would-be master, and sent him to the Asylum, where he is now with the prospect of growing up, at least, in association with his own race.

There are, doubtless, similar cases in the State, and we hope they may be attended to by the humane and charitable, and the children placed where they may be trained to usefulness and virtue.

According to an English journal, the difficulty of removing lead paint from a window can be greatly avoided, by applying a piece of heated iron, such as a scolding iron, or other similar instrument. When heated, but not red hot, it can be passed slowly over the paint, thereby rendering it so soft that it will part from the wood without any trouble.

Kind words, spoken in the right time and place, are more to heal the wounded spirit than all the gold this world can give.

THE SAME PLAN.

The Grand Lodge, at its last session, made no change in the plan of supporting the Orphan Asylum, but ordered that the plan heretofore in operation be continued. Here it is:

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 standing order of business in each subordinate Lodge at each Communication be:

In order that the Lodges may see that no change has been made in the plan of supporting the Orphan Asylum, and that this plan has no connection with the revenue system of the Grand Lodge, we copy the third and sixth sections of the Grand Secretary's Quarterly Circular, issued on the first January, 1875:

III. ORPHAN ASYLUM.

The Grand Lodge continued its annual appropriation to this institution. No change was made in the mode of raising funds by Lodges for its support.

A resolution was passed, recommending to the Subordinate Lodges to subscribe to the paper proposed by the Superintendent to be published at the Asylum, and endorsed by the Grand Lodge.

Bro. J. H. Mills was re-elected Superintendent.

VI. ANNUAL DUES TO GRAND LODGE.

The revenue system of the Grand Lodge is changed by substituting fifty cents per capita, as the annual dues of Lodges to the Grand Lodge for fifteen dollars, as heretofore required.

It is respectfully requested that the subjects herein noticed receive the careful attention of the Lodges. Fraternally,

D. W. BAIN, Grand Secretary.

For further information on this subject we refer to a communication from Past Grand Master, John Nichols, to be found in another column of this issue.

COMMITTEES.—We commence this week a list of the committees appointed by the subordinate Lodges under a resolution of the Grand Lodge, to raise funds for the Orphan Asylum. We hope every working Lodge in the State will, through its proper officer, furnish us with the names of its committee on this subject at the very earliest day practicable. As stated last week, we have a special reason for wishing to know the names of these committees of the several Lodges.

A WARNING.—The papers inform us that a young artisan, while under the influence of liquor, jumped from the dome of the Capitol in Washington, last week, and falling on the roof of one of the wings of the building, was immediately killed. It might have been accidental instead of wilful, but his fate, dying under such circumstances, is no less to be deplored. He had lost control of his reason by indulging in the deadly vice of drunkenness. This ought to be a warning to the young to abstain from the use of a thing, the effect of which is so likely to bring them to a terrible death—terrible even if not so tragical, for no drunkard can go to heaven.

RALEIGH, N. C., Feb. 20, 1875.

Bro. Mills.—In the last number of THE CHILDREN'S FRIEND, in an article under the head of "No Connection," the following sentence appears:

"But this change has no connection whatever with the Orphan Asylum, or with its support. Yet we are sorry and surprised to learn that some Lodges have supposed that this change is merely some new plan for the support of the orphan work. One of the most difficult tasks in the world is to make a matter plain to those who do not wish to understand it."

In this you are correct: The action of the Grand Lodge in changing the dues of Subordinate Lodges, was in consequence of a recommendation made in my address, in which I used the following language:

REVENUE.

"The revenue of the Grand Lodge is not equal to its demands; nor is the present system of dues at all equitable. The law of the Grand Lodge now requires each subordinate Lodge to pay into its Treasury the sum of fifteen dollars per annum. No argument is necessary to convince any candid mind of the great inequality of this assessment. A lodge with but a dozen members pays its fifteen dollars, while the lodge with its hundred members is required to pay no more. The case is so plain that I deem it unnecessary to do more than call your attention to the injustice of this law; and the wonder is that it has so long existed. I am clearly of the opinion that each lodge should pay a certain sum per capita for each member reported on its returns; the revenue of the Grand Lodge will be thus increased, and the pecuniary obligations of the subordinate Lodges, equalized. Lodges will at once proceed to revise their lists of members, and cut off all drones. While our members will be decreased, the effect will not be to lessen the number of actual working members in any Lodge in the State. He that will not work neither shall he eat, and thus it should be with our order; those who never attend Lodge meetings and who do not contribute to the support of Masonry, should be cut off and taught the lesson that if they expect to enjoy the benefits of Masonry, they must contribute to its support."

Thus it will be seen that no allusion was made to the Orphan Asylum; and the recommendation made was for the reasons stated, viz: that the present system of paying dues by subordinate Lodges was wholly unequal, and the revenue raised was not equal to the demands made on the Treasury.

Instead of making this recommendation for the purpose of raising funds for the Orphan Asylum, I distinctly recommended a continuance of the former plan—voluntary contributions. In my address, referring to this subject, I said:

"Many plans have been suggested and discussed, and the question has been considered in all its bearings, but I am not prepared to recommend any change in the plan adopted at the last communication of this Grand Lodge, believing as I do, that it is better than any that has been suggested, and one that, if prosecuted with vigor, is far more feasible than any that can be devised. Besides, frequent changes may lead to confusion, and chill the ardor of many friends of the

Asylum. I therefore recommend a continuance of the present plan with a full knowledge of the fact that but little over one-half of the Lodges in the State have contributed one dollar to the support of the Asylum. Of the 229 chartered Lodges in the State, but 5 have contributed over \$100 each; 6 have given over \$50, and less than \$100; 99 have given less than \$50 each; and 113 have contributed nothing. Yet, in the face of all this, I recommend a continuance of the present plan of voluntary contributions, because I believe that institutions established on purely benevolent principles, as our Orphan Asylum has been, should be supported by the free will offerings of an enlightened and a benevolent people. Besides, as now organized and managed, the Asylum has the sympathy and support of all parties, sects and conditions of the citizens of our State. Churches, sister societies of various organizations, and the benevolent of every class and condition of our people, have contributed with a liberal hand to its support."

I regret to learn that Lodges are neglecting their duty on such a pretext as that alluded to in your article of last week. I certainly intended to recommend a continuance of the plan of last year, and as the Grand Lodge made no change, it is, of course, expected that subordinate Lodges will appoint their committees as heretofore, and make monthly remittances of their collections. This is, in my opinion, the true plan to support the Asylum, and I trust it will never be abandoned.

Fraternally yours,  
Joux Nichols,  
P. G. M.

ONE STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

The Legislature has passed the following bill:

A Bill, to be entitled, An Act to amend Chapter 5, section 4, page 82, line 9, of Battle's Revision, in regard to preventing white children to be bound to colored Masters.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact,

1. That Chapter 5, section 4, page 82, line 9, of Battle's Revision be amended by adding, after the word "years," the following: Provided, that no white child shall be bound to a colored Master or Mistress.

2. That this Act shall take effect from and after its ratification.

The above bill passed the Senate on the 1st of February, and the House on the 18th by a vote of, yeas 88, nays 12.

PLAYING TRICKS.

Many persons seem to have a natural disposition for playing tricks, or practical jokes, on their friends and acquaintances. There are few circumstances under which this can be done without wounding the feelings of the subject of the trick, and, in many instances, irreparable injury is inflicted. We know a boy about fifteen years old who is afraid to go out alone into the dark at night, because he was frightened by his sister when he was very small. She placed herself under his bed, after he had lain down at night, and raised the bed with her back, by which he was so terribly frightened that he will hardly ever get entirely over it.

We have just been reading of a case which recently occurred in Kentucky, in which one young lady went into the room of an-

other at night, dressed in a long white robe, with gauze wings attached to her shoulders, and her face whitened to the color of death, which so frightened her friend that she had to be taken to a lunatic asylum, with little hope of her recovery. It is better never to indulge in such "fun."

OUR HOTELS.

(CONTINUED)

The Central Hotel in Charlotte has pleasant rooms, good beds and bountiful tables. The waiters never say: "Milk is skase," or "the pie is out." You can choose your dishes and be sure of enough. The cooking is elegant. And then, Mr. and Mrs. Eccles are kind and the traveler feels safe in their hands. The Central probably enjoys a larger transient custom than any hotel in the State.

The Charlotte Hotel keeps up a lively competition with a formidable rival.

Concord has two hotels and they fight hard for a small trade.

Lexington has one hotel, which takes good care of the few who go there; but its patronage does not justify any great preparation, except during "court weeks."

Thomasville has no hotel; but travelers generally stay with Mr. Ped. Thomas, who kindly takes them in.

High Point has two good hotels, Barbee's and Jarrill's. Both feed well and furnish rich milk and fresh butter in great abundance. The sale of intoxicating liquors is forbidden in High Point; but a Baltimore drummer says he sells a vast amount of liquor there.

Dr. Hamlin keeps hotel at Ashtaborg. He once gave us a splendid opossum dinner. His location is out of the way of travel.

Mr. Buttner keeps the Salem Hotel, and feeds in genuine German style. Some of his dishes are excellent. The Merchant's Hotel in Winston feeds well, and invites visitors to a very prosperous town. Greensboro boasts two large hotels. The Benbow House is to go through a lottery wheel on the tenth of March. The Medoo House (Central Hotel) is in the hands of Mr. Sublett, who understands his business. Near this house is the Yarbrow House of which we have spoken.

At Graham Mr. Klapp keeps a good table. At Durham, Cary, and other places, on the N. C. R. R. the hotels are equal to the demands made upon them. Raleigh boasts of two first-class Hotels, Dr. Blacknall of the Yarbrough House, and Col. Brown of the National Hotel are public benefactors. It pleases them to be able to gratify their guests, and they explore the markets of the South in search of the richest and rarest. Long may they flourish. The Grange Hotel and Cotago Hotel, the Carolina House and the Howell House are in good hands, and the members of the Legislature live mountain high and pay valley prices for food. Even the ground pea trade is extremely dull at present.

At Goldsboro the Humphrey House enjoys a monopoly. We have two objections to Goldsboro: Water is bad and milk is always scarce. In other respects it is a very pleasant and prosperous town.

Nothing that is truly great can ever be altogether borrowed; and he is commonly the wisest, and he is always the happiest, who receives simply and without anxious question whatever good is offered him with thanks to its immediate giver.—Ruskin.