

JAPAN PEAS.

At the Orphan Asylum in Oxford last year, some friends advised us to plant Japan Peas, because they were so prolific. We selected the richest soil and the yield was tremendous, the average being more than a hundred to one. But, on trial, it was found that neither man nor beast, neither orphan nor pig could be persuaded to eat them. We are fond of peas; but we are done with Japan.

Roswell C. Smith, the author of Smith's inevitable Grammar and of other school-books, is dead. Noah Webster's Dictionary has been very much improved since his death. Some first-class teacher may now do a good work for Smith's Grammar.

The earth-quake at Bald mountain will not be repeated. It paid neither the people who got it up, nor the papers which sent reporters there. Who wants another earth-quake?

A PATENT TOBACCO-STICK.

Mr. S. C. Shelton, of Asheville, has patented a tobacco-stick. A wire is fastened near one end of the ordinary stick and runs along its back and terminates in a sharp point. The leaves are stripped from the stalk in the field and strung on the wire, one half hanging on one side of the stick and the other half hanging on the other. In this way the barn holds more and a good color is more easily secured.

The May number of *Our Living and Our Dead* is exceeding interesting and decidedly exceeds the average American magazine; yet some Southern people prefer Northern literature, just because, they do.

When a man's daily deportment will not prove him to be a Mason, then he ought to inform people of the fact by wearing a G, or a square, or some masonic emblem.

Tuscarora Lodge, No. 122, has appointed a committee to make suitable preparations for the celebration of the 24th. of June next.

On Tuesday night, in company with several gentlemen, we attended an exhibition at the Asylum. The Orphans sang several songs and also went through the calisthenic exercises, after which they were addressed by his Honor Judge Watts, and Hon. J. J. Davis. A collection was then taken up and we learn quite a nice little sum was realized. When you visit Oxford, be sure to go to the Asylum and see the great work which is going on in the way of educating and caring for the Orphans of our State, and we are sure that your purses will open more readily to assist in sustaining this great enterprise.—*Franklin Courier.*

Mr. J. Hobgood has a venerable chicken cock which takes care of a lot of little chicks in the most motherly manner, feeding and clucking to them and at night gathers them as a hen gathers her brood under his wings.—*Wilson Advance.*

A clergyman in one of our Eastern cities was met by a seedy-looking man with a flask of whiskey in his pocket, who inquired: "Sir, is this the nearest road to the almshouse?" "No, sir," replied the clergyman, pointing to the bottle; "but that is."

Wilson, N. C., April 28th, 1875.

To the W. M., Wardens and brethren of the several Lodges in North Carolina:

I feel it my duty to call upon you for more active effort in behalf of that noble charity, at once the pride and chief glory of Masonic enterprise in this State,

THE ORPHAN ASYLUM AT OXFORD.

It must be sustained; and to the Lodges of the State it looks for support. Our honor as individual masons, our character as a great benevolent Institution, our obligation to obey the resolutions of the Grand Lodge, all demand that you do not neglect to provide for the support of the poor helpless children committed to our care.

Resolutions of the Grand Lodge, on page 53, Proceedings of the Annual Communication, December, 1873, is still in force and legally and morally binding, and Masters of Lodges are obliged to see that they are obeyed. And I now call upon you not only to see to it that they are obeyed in letter, but in the true spirit of Masonic charity. The following is the resolution:—

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.

WORK.

The resolutions of the Grand Lodge at its last session restoring the ancient work has gladdened many a heart made sad by the innovations of the last few years, and I now call upon all to drop the "new departure" and fall into the old system of work as we had it from Stevenson and his pupils, and as ratified by the testimony of our fathers as the ancient work of the order. Many never departed from the old way; but those who have, I admonish to repair the damage by calling in some one qualified to teach, and learn to tread the paths made hallowed by the faithful of other days.

Brethren Bernice Walker, Franklin, N. C.; Samuel H. Roundtree, Kinston; N. C.; W. F. Davis, Kittrell's; N. C.; Thomas Palmer; Shiloh, N. C.; T. G. Gardner Wilmington; N. C.; hold commissions as Grand Lecturers, and they and those whom they recommend have authority to teach the work.

GRAND LODGE DUES.

I have reason to fear that some Lodges, in view of the action of the grand Lodge, changing the system of annual dues to the grand Lodge from the specific sum of fifteen dollars to FIFTY cents per capita, are disposed to deal summarily and rigidly with members who are not prompt in the payment of Lodge dues. While I approve of a strict conformity to the law, and applaud these officers of Lodges who insist upon obedience, yet I apprehend the matter may be carried to too great a length, and I feel it to be my duty to remonstrate against that which I am informed is prevailing to an alarming extent, that of almost indiscriminate dismemberment for non-payment of dues, which course must result disastrously to the best interests of Masonry in this jurisdiction, and embarrass the Grand Lodge in its operations. I earnestly commend

to Lodges the duty of requiring their Secretaries to be more active and faithful in their efforts to collect the dues from the members, which may oftentimes be more effectually accomplished by the personal appeal than by a notice to appear and pay. Such a course would bring prosperity to each Lodge and furnish the means to enable it to meet its full proportionate share of duty and obligation to the Grand Lodge and to charities dependent upon it.

The new system of revenue: (fifty cents per capita) adopted by the Grand Lodge, should commend itself to every Lodge in our jurisdiction as being the most equitable that could be adopted, whereby every Lodge pays to the Grand Lodge in proportion to the number of members: a system which has the endorsement of nearly every Grand Lodge in this country, through ours is less in amount per capita than many.

It is my sincere hope that the Lodges will appreciate the importance and necessity of a liberal endorsement of the new system in order to enable the Grand Lodge to meet its obligations, one of the greatest of which is the Orphan Asylum

G. W. BLOUNT, Grand Master.

ABOUT SNAKE'S EGGS.

BY PROF. G. BROWN GOODE.

Mr J. C. Christian, of Huntington, Ind., writes: "I have several times killed water snakes, which, when opened, contains upwards of twenty good sized young snakes, from six or seven inches long. Last summer, after pulling out a large stump, we found twenty-seven eggs, which we broke, finding in each a well developed snake about nine inches long; after wards we found and killed two snakes near the same place, about four feet long, and resembling the snakes in the eggs. I am satisfied that some snakes bring forth their young alive, while others lay eggs. Now is there any other class of animals which have more than one was of reproducing their young?"

Mr. Christian has determined for himself a fact which has long been known to naturalists. Some snakes do lay eggs, while others give birth to living young, yet the difference is not so great as it may at first appear. We all know that every animal, in its earliest stages of development, is enclosed within the walls of an egg. That all life is produced from eggs; "Omne vivum ex ovo", is an adage handed down from the earliest times, and modern investigations have confirmed its truth.

Animals are either viviparous, oviparous, or ovoviviparous. The first class includes all the highest animals, the mammals, or those which suckle their young; and these the young animals derives its nourishment from the system of its parent, until it is strong enough for an independent life. In the other two classes, which ought really to be considered as one, the young animal is walled up at an early period within the outer coverings of the egg, and as it is now entirely separated from the parental system, it is nourished by a supply of nutritious matter stored up within the egg, and which we call the yolk. When the young animal is sufficiently grown to care for itself, and the yolk of the egg is all used, it bursts the envelop of the egg, and is born. To this class belongs birds, reptiles, batrachians (frogs, toads, etc.), fishes, insects, crustaceans (crabs and lobsters),

worms, mollusks, and all the lower animals. Oviparous animals are those which "lay" their eggs to be hatched by the warmth of their parent's body, as in most birds; by the warmth or the soil or sun, as in reptiles; or by the warmth of the water, as in fishes. Ovo-viviparous animals, are those which do not lay their eggs, but retain them until the envelopes are broken, so that the young are born alive. The casual observer would be very likely to call these viviparous; but a study of their anatomy shows us that they are very close to the ovipara; in fact, the only difference is this, that the egg is delayed a little longer in the former, so that it is hatched just before it is laid. This point established, it is not very hard to comprehend how it is "that some snakes bring forth their young alive, while others lay eggs." I know of a case where one of our common striped snakes (*Eutaenia sirtalis*) was kept in confinement, and having no satisfactory place in which to lay its eggs, retained them until after they were hatched, thus giving birth to its young alive. The same thing has been known to occur in the common English lizard, (*Lacerta agilis*), which is also usually oviparous. We find the same thing in other groups of animals; thus many of the sharks and skates of our sea coast, are oviparous, while others bring forth their young alive. The minnows (*Cyprinodontidae*) of our brooks, show the same differences of habits, and parallel cases occur among frogs, snails, insects, and worms.—*Amer. Agriculturist.*

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ORPHAN ASYLUM FROM APRIL 27TH TO MAY 4TH INCLUSIVE.

- IN CASH.
- Paid \$1.75, collection in Enfield.
 - " 17.04, collection in Halifax.
 - Paid \$14.50, Collected in Roxboro, by Misses Lela J. Lamsdell and Miss Rosa Lee Jordan.
 - " 14.00, Rev H H Gibbons' collection in Bank's Chapel.
 - " 9.00, Anderson Lodge No 149.
 - " 8.15, Collected by Rev J. C. Alexander.
 - " 4.90, Franklin Lodge No 109.
 - " 3.00, Bevon Lodge No 204.
 - " 2.53, H. Curtis.
 - " 2.00, Mrs M S Finley, Dr R F Hackett, F A Spaulhour.
 - " 1.70, collection at Tully's.
 - " 1.30, Rev James McNell.
 - " 1.00 each, Mrs Kate Holden, S P Parlie, W H Hubbard, J S Ferguson, J D Covles, P C Hall and Wife.
 - " 50 cents each, J F Spaulhour, A Bunnison, J S Cannon.
 - " 35 cents, R F Chatter.
 - " 25 cents each, J C Hubbard, Samuel Chatter, Rev L P Gwaltney, Mrs Hall, Miss Fanny Rousseau.
 - " 10 cents each, W A Laxton, S H Bobbitt.
- IN KIND.
- Mrs A Rousseau, 1 calico dress.
 - Eljah Montague, 2 pieces of bacon and 1 bag of beans.
 - R J Mitchell & Sons, seed corn and soap.
 - T D Crawford & Co., 1 lot garden seeds and one bushel onions.
 - Miss Bettie Meadows, 1 pair socks.

The following persons have paid for THE ORPHANS' FRIEND for one year from this date:

- Howard & Peter Jones, Miss Adita Chetani, L. P. Duncu Miss Nora Johnston, J. K. Harris, S. J. Allen, J. T. Rogers, W. H. Jones, William O'Neal, Miss Ada Martin, Miss Manie Morrow, Franklin Lodge No 109 Henry Gibbs, T. F. Anderson, J. L. Jenkins, Miss Eveline Brown, Winfield Buckner Spiers, E. L. Cohen & Co., Miss Fannie Grady, Miss Emily Gilliam, Wright Hays.

Hint to Boys.

The following significant advertisement lately appeared in a country paper: "An apprentice wanted.—A boy that neither drinks, uses tobacco or profane language, can find an excellent opportunity to learn the printing business at this office." Whereupon a contemporary takes the opportunity to give the following bit of good advice to boys generally: No employer will accept the services of a chewing, smoking, drinking or swearing boy, when a clean one can be found. Boys who have these habits, inevitably become dull, lazy and shiftless. They do not rise in life to respectable positions, but in a slipshod manner, sluff, sluff, sluff along, living from hand to mouth, and fetch up in the poorhouse, the prison, commit suicide, or die miserable vagabonds.

The two Foxes.

BY PETER P. HENRY.

On a winter's night,
As the moon shone bright,
Two foxes went out for prey;
As they trotted along,
They cheered the lonely way.

Through the wood they went,
But they could not scent
A rabbit or goose astray;
But at length they came
To some better game
In a farmer's barn by the way.

On a roost there sat
Some chickens as fat
As foxes could wish for their dinners,
And the prowlers found
A hole near the ground,
And they both went in—the sinners.

They both went in,
With a squeeze and a grin,
And the chickens were quickly killed;
And one of them lunched,
And feasted, and unchained,
Till his stomach was fairly filled.

The other, more wise,
Looked about with both eyes,
And scarcely would eat at all;
For, as he came in,
With a squeeze and a grin,
He remarked that the hole was small.

And the cunning elf
Said to himself:
"If I eat too much, it is plain,
As the hole is small,
I shall stick in the wall
And never get out again."

Thus matters went on
Till the night was gone,
And the farmer came out with a pole;
The foxes both flew,
And one went through,
But the greedy one stuck in the hole.

In the hole stuck he,
As stuffed as could be
With the chickens he had been eating.
He could not get out,
Nor turn about
And so he was killed by beating.

Thus the fox, you see,
So greedy was he,
Lost his life for a single dinner.
Now I hope that you
Will believe it true,
And never be such a sinner.

SEEING JESUS.—A little girl was lying in bed, so ill that her disease had taken away her sight. Her teacher went to see her, and said, "Are you quite blind, Mary?" "Yes," she replied, "but I can see Jesus!" "How do you see Jesus?" "With the eye of my heart." Happy child! Mary knew the Lord. Do you know and love Him?

GIVING.

1. I ought "to give as God prospered," that is, in proportion to the means placed in my hands. The widow, with her two mites, is not relieved from the obligation, and the rich are called upon to give according to their abundance.
2. I should give liberally, not in stinted measure.
3. I ought to give cheerfully, not grudgingly.
4. My gifts should be the result of principle, not of mere whim, or under the influence of exciting appeals: I should inform myself in respect to proper objects, and purposes in my heart to give.
5. I ought to give frequently. This is God's plan: "On the first day of the week, let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him."

WHY SHOULD I GIVE?

1. It is God's will. He has commanded it just as he has commanded repentance, faith and baptism.
2. Because God is always giving to me.
3. God has attached large promises to giving. I must not forget this.
4. Giving will be promotive of my own happiness.
5. The subjects of necessity are numerous.
6. The opportunity of giving will soon pass away.
7. These gifts will be remembered in the judgment. How unspeakably desirable is Christ's approval.
8. Have I not been remiss in times past?
9. Gratitude for the unspeakable gift of God's dear Son ought to move me to give.

"If I was a horse now," mused a big boy, "I'd be stabled, rubbed down and be fed; but I'm a boy, and I've got to go home, clean off snow, bring in wood, tote water, and rock the old baby for an hour and a half!"