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E. A. WILSON, Editor & Proprietor.

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THE MASONIC JOURNAL which is published at Greensboro is worthy of our support. It is ably edited, possesses a high degree of merit and contains, besides Masonic Literature, well selected matter which is calculated to make its visits desirable and instructive.

THOS. S. KENAN,
Grand High Priest.

The enterprise ought to succeed. We need a means whereby a more general Masonic communication may be had: a means for the more general diffusion of Masonic intelligence.

I hope every Mason will take the JOURNAL—every Lodge endorse it, and at once make it the Organ of Masonry in North Carolina. With such encouragement and support I am satisfied you can make it of incalculable worth to the Fraternity.

GEO. W. BLOUNT,
Grand Master.

All of which is endorsed by the Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter.

A Legal Summons.

It is surprising how few Masons appreciate the importance of a Legal Summons. Many of them attach no more importance to it than to a mere notification. But if they would reflect on its importance, they would at once see that obedience to a legal summons is one of the binding duties they owe to the order and to themselves. We know of a number of instances where this duty has been wholly disregarded, and Masters almost defied to take action against such recreant members. It is the duty of every Master of a Lodge to see that this offense is as promptly punished as any other dereliction that a member can be guilty of. It is the duty of Masters of Lodges to see that every open violation of our laws is promptly dealt with, it matters not who the offender may be. A man who goes voluntarily into the Masonic order, (and all go voluntarily) takes upon himself all the duties and responsibilities of a Mason, and for one to plead ignorance, or that their duties are too onerous, is no excuse. There is a way to get out, and every one who is unwilling to comply with his assumed obligations should at once retire, and not remain to add confusion and dissatisfaction among those who are willing to fully observe every Masonic duty.

The Grand Lodge of Arkansas has passed an edict that Masons of twenty years' affiliation shall be inscribed on rolls of honor in their lodges and be exempt from dues.

The Orphan Asylum.

Many articles have been written, and many speeches made in behalf of this noble Institution, and nearly every one has his plan, based on some impracticable theory, how it should be supported.

After three years experience, and after hearing many speeches, and reading many interesting articles on the subject, the Committee to whom was referred all matters pertaining to the Orphan Asylum, at the last Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge, unanimously recommended that the plan adopted at the commencement of the enterprise, be adhered to—that no change be made in the plan, viz: *Voluntary Contributions*. We are satisfied this plan will raise more money, at less cost, than any that can be devised. But the trouble is, the Masons themselves, much less the public, do not have as many opportunities offered them to contribute as they ought to have.

The Grand Lodge has a law requiring each subordinate Lodge to have a special Committee to solicit funds for the Asylum, and that duty is made a part of the business at each regular meeting. We have the very best authority for saying that in many of the Lodges the subject is never mentioned, and in others when it is, it is done as a mere matter of form, and no effort is made to induce the members to contribute. In other Lodges where the matter is properly attended to, the burden usually falls on the faithful few who are always prompt in their attendance on Lodge meetings.

This matter should be remedied, and it can be done by no one so well as the Masters of Lodges. Not only should the Committee on the Orphan Asylum, in each Lodge, take up the collections as required by the Grand Lodge, but they should afford every member of the Lodge, whether he be a regular attendant at the meetings or not, an opportunity to contribute to the support of this noble Charity. Masters should see that Committees do their duty, and Committees should see that every member has an opportunity afforded him to do his duty.

WHILE AT KITTRELL SPRINGS it was our pleasure to attend a public installation of the officers of Ionic Lodge, 337, on St. John's day. The hall was crowded and every one seemed pleased. The regular orator failing to come several of the brethren made speeches. They have a neatly furnished little hall, and the Lodge is in good condition. The following are the officers installed:

Thos. Capehart,—W. M.
J. C. Reid,—S. W.
Thos. C. Hines,—J. W.
C. W. Raney,—Treas.
J. H. Fuller,—Sec.
D. H. Gill,—S. D.
W. H. Hester,—J. D.
J. S. Hunt,—Tiler.

Past Grand master Bro. Joseph R. Chandler, when he was cited before the Legislature of Pennsylvania in 1836, at the bidding of the Anti-Masons, in his written protest said, over his own name:

"I considered when I entered the Masonic Order that I was 'in the pursuit of happiness,' by means recognized in the laws of many States, and certainly denied by the statutes of no Commonwealth in the Union. No principle of the Order has come to my knowledge by which my opinion of its usefulness to its members, or its consistency with the general welfare has been changed."

A valuable Masonic jewel, costing \$900, was presented to Albert Pike, the Sovereign Commander of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, southern jurisdiction, recently, in Washington. The presentation was made by Robert Toombs, of Georgia.

Our Orphan Work.

Many of our readers cannot form a proper conception of this great Charity. Remote, as it is, from the great business centres of the State but few, comparatively, know practically of what is being done at this Institution and the obligations we are under to foster and promote with parental care its every claim and interest.

To act intelligently the reader should know something of the history of the Institution, both as to its origin, design, and present work and purposes.

The original law required each Lodge to pay into the treasury of the Grand Lodge the sum of £5 annually, which should be applied to purposes of charity and education. These contributions had gone in annually until many thousands of dollars had accumulated. The Grand Lodge then determined to carry out the purposes of the fund, and erected at Oxford, then considered the most eligible and desirable location in the State, a large and handsome brick building, to be known as St. John's College, with the view of establishing a school that would at once take rank with any in the land. Through a series of inefficient management the building was not entirely paid for, was ultimately sold for the debt and purchased by the Grand Lodge for the amount against it, thus making it, unencumbered, the property of the Grand Lodge in fee simple. It then stood practically idle for a long time.

In 1872 Brother J. H. Mills conceived the idea of converting it into an Asylum for the protection and training of the indigent orphans of the State without reference to their parents being Masons, and the Grand Lodge regarding his suggestions with favor matured its plans accordingly, and on the memorable 22d of February, (happy coincidence,) 1873, the OXFORD ORPHAN ASYLUM received its baptism of faith by the admission of three children, since which time it has had an honorable and useful record, 317 children having been received, fed, clothed, instructed and kindly cared for and as comfortably as the means would permit. Of this large number only 5 have died; 15 have ran away and been decoyed off by bad hearted, unscrupulous persons, 176 have been adopted into pleasant families where they have superior social and educational advantages, or have been put to useful trades, and by the kindness of friends 5 girls have been placed at different Colleges where they are receiving a first class education almost entirely free of cost to the Institution, leaving 116 still at the Asylum at Oxford.

In addition to this, about a year and a half ago valuable property at Mars Hill was donated to the Grand Lodge for a branch Asylum, and was regularly opened. Since then, also, other valuable property at Asheville, has been donated and the children at Mars Hill removed to it, while the Mars Hill property is retained as an infirmary where the sickly from both Oxford and Asheville are sent to recruit, it being regarded one of the most salubrious and healthy locations in the whole State. At these two places there are fifty children, which added to the number at Oxford makes 156 now under the care of our Asylum Work, and to be provided for by the voluntary contributions of the people.

To carry on this great work is no small task, and is attended with heavy expense. This expense must be met by the voluntary contributions of the people of the State. So far this has been done without reference to system, but has depended upon the spasmodic efforts of individuals, Societies of different orders, Churches, and Sunday Schools, and the result is,

that while some have done nobly others have failed to do anything and there has been a falling off during the half-year of '76, just past, of \$1,500, as compared with the first half-year of '75. This ought not and must not be.

We fear that familiarity with the theme has produced indifference, and many have awaited the awakening power of orphan concerts, charades, tea parties and such, rather than upon the great moral and religious obligation to give with regularity and system. First resolve to do this and then these extra efforts combined with pleasure will not be misplaced.

Bro. Mills, the able and efficient Superintendent, is perfecting a plan for securing this system and regularity by the formation of Orphan Aid Societies at every accessible point in the State, and having reviewed the whole plan, we give it our unqualified endorsement and cooperation, and call upon all friends to needy humanity to join in the effort and permanently establish a systematic contribution in this organized form.

Having recently visited the Institution and freely mingled with the children, teachers and officers, we are prepared to speak intelligently of the work that is being done and the importance of an undiminished effort for its faithful prosecution. To spend a day at the Institution and witness the unselfish devotion of the teachers to their duty, and the parental affection bestowed upon each of these little charges, and then the little children, God bless them, are perfectly devoted to their teachers and greet them with smiles and caresses and the most cheerful obedience on all occasions. No wonder that crowds greet the little bands that go out to give concerts in our towns and villages, and no wonder that the warmest sympathy and interest are enlisted on such occasions, but friends, could you all see them as we have seen them and hear them as we have heard them at their morning and evening devotions in their spacious chapel with upward of an hundred voices joined in sweetest song, in richest melody, you'd all feel that if you each had a thousand bags of gold you would gladly cast it at their little bare feet.

God bless that noble band—the indefatigable MILLS, Misses Jordan, Lee, Crewell, Long and that great-souled orphans' mother, Mrs. ROBARDS. GOD BLESS THE ORPHANS!

Elections of Officers.

PAMLICO LODGE, 300.—AURORA.

W. A. Thompson,—W. M.
John R. Boyd,—S. W.
W. H. Brinson,—J. W.
R. Burgeron,—Treas.
John B. Bonner,—Sec.
B. F. Sugg,—S. D.
J. M. Litchfield,—J. D.
Barney Lincoln,—Tiler.

HARMONY LODGE IN THE LOWER PARISH OF NANSEMOND, VA.

A. P. Gomer,—W. M.
W. R. King,—S. W.
W. H. Bunting,—J. W.
J. A. Phelps,—Treas.
Sam'l Isham,—Sec.
McKenny Lewis,—J. D.
D. B. Jones,—Tiler.

At a regular session of McKee Encampment, No. 15, I. O. O. F., of Raleigh, held on last Friday evening, the following officers were elected for the ensuing term:

C. P.—N. J. Whitaker.
H. P.—John B. Hill.
S. W.—T. W. Blake.
J. W.—C. Wallen.
Scribe—Phil. Thiem.
Treas.—A. W. Fraps.