

Filthy Lucre.

It is an old adage that "the love of money is the root of all evil," yet go where you will, amid the busy throng, in the seclusion of the forest home, money is the perpetual theme that is uppermost in every mind and foremost on every tongue. What an untold power it wields over the busy throng of mortality, and what a lack of power its absence creates!

So strong is the human appetite for money, and so keenly is its proper needs felt by the multitude that everything bends to its iron will and is estimated only by its value in dollars and cents, or is compared by a niggardly economy that is variance with the laws of justice and morality. Truly, this is appalling, and shows that there is a great wrong existing somewhere that must be removed before the cry of "no money" and "hard times" ceases. It is equally true that the various political parties set up their several claims to preference based upon their plans for lifting this monetary cloud, but all this hustings bombast doesn't amount to anything for the needed relief so long as the money is not in proper circulation among the people. This has been a year of great plenty, agriculturally, and yet thousands cry for bread. And so it will continue to be until a change is wrought in our whole system of finance and business. The mills, factories, foundries and machine shops must be put in motion; the now idle mechanics, of all classes, must be put to work; the money of the country must be put in active circulation by those who now hold it, in payment for the daily labor of the thousands of skilled hands that are now idle for the lack of employment. Let the ring of the anvil, the trowel, the plane and the hammer keep time to the cheerful song of the happy workman, and at once the farm wagons will be put in motion and the abundant harvest will be rapidly distributed for the sustenance and comfort of our suffering people.

It is perfect demagoguism to champion either the one currency or the other so long as all are withheld from the people. Circulate any kind and it will accomplish the desired effect. Notwithstanding all the theorists in the world to the contrary, it is the great medium of communication in business and living, and without its proper circulation those interests are compelled to suffer—and that, too, in proportion to its scarcity.

Concentration.

It will be seen from the subjoined article from the *Orphans' Friend* that Brother Mills has seen best to abandon the Ashville and Mars Hill branches of our work, and to concentrate the whole in the Asylum in Oxford. This is strictly in accordance with our views, we having opposed the inauguration of these branches. This Western branch of the work has never been self-sustaining and had to rely upon Oxford to keep it going; and so all can readily see the wisdom of the course the Superintendent has pursued. Here is his card of explanation:

"We have brought our feeble children from Mars Hill to Oxford, and, on the 30th inst., a public sale will close the Orphan House at Ashville. A large number of the children have returned to their friends, some have gone to employment, and some have been adopted by persons wanting children. As rapidly as possible we are concentrating our en-

tire orphan work at Oxford. The reasons for closing the Orphan House at Ashville are the following:

1. The premature removal of the orphans from Mars Hill to Asheville. We did not own any house in Ashville—were not at liberty to alter or adapt the house we entered to our use, and in August it was unexpectedly sold under a judgement which had been for many years lying dormant. Circumstances made it unwise to return to Mars Hill. We erected two school rooms on the property presented by Rev. L. M. Pease, but had no other houses and the building site was reserved. So then the orphans in Ashville had no where to stay.
2. Contributions in cash came in very slowly, and contributions in kind were collected with much toil and trouble. The late steward, Mr. James H. Moore, was sanguine and zealous; but he was kept in a constant struggle to procure food and clothing.

3. As the building were not adapted to our uses, the management and progress of the children were not satisfactory.

4. We have now laid the claims of the orphans before the people of almost every county beyond the Blue Ridge. The orphans have heard that there is a place at which they may learn to read and write, and by cheap transportation they can be carried from any part of the State.

5. Rev. L. M. Pease is erecting an Orphan House in Asheville which will be opened and conducted on plans to be announced in due time. His long and successful experience, at Five Points New York, will give him unusual advantages in the management of such a work. He will also pay for the Form-Rooms erected, and the land donated, being useless to us, will be reconveyed to him.

Miraculous Escape.

A Denverite named Wolfe Loudner, recently returned from an eastern trip, imparted to the reporter of the Rocky Mountain *News* the following incident of his Journey: He was on his way west, on a train on the Chicago and Alton Railroad on the night of the 6th inst., and had a berth on the sleeping car, all unconscious of danger, when the conductor awoke him and asked him to come out and see how narrowly he had escaped perdition. Wolfe followed him and found the train standing on the bridge that crosses the Mississippi at Louisiana, Mo. The conductor led him to the front of the engine, and there, several hundred feet from the shore, was a yawning chasm over a hundred feet wide. The river had undermined the third pier from the shore, and still some distance from the draw, and it had gone down, carrying a whole section of the bridge with it. The time of night was 11.45, and the freight train had crossed safely at 11. The engineer gave the accustomed three whistles as he approached the bridge, and the position of the signal lights showed the draw was shut. The engineer, whose name is P. McNamara, said as he approached the bridge he was seized with a strong presentiment that all was not right. He could see no signal from the watchman always kept on duty at the bridge and proceeded very slowly. All at once, and he could not tell why he did it, the engineer reversed the engine and stopped the train. He got out to look ahead, and found the pilot within two feet of the yawning chasm. Another turn of the wheels and he never would have lived to tell the story, nor, in all probability, any of the hundred or more passengers in the five coaches which would have inevitably plunged into the roaring torrent fifty feet below. It seems the watchman, who had passed over the bridge after the freight passed, had gone on a spree, and was found drunk in the city. The train was delayed until the next morning, and the passengers transferred.—*Phil. Chronicle.*

Masonry Well Taught.

The veteran Grand Lecturer of Michigan, Bro. S. Blanchard, recently deceased, used to observe that he taught Masonry upon the following basis:

1. As we teach by symbols, Morality, Science and Religion in the consecutive Degrees, I urge upon my pupils that the lectures are the guides of the work.

2. That everything we do in the Lodge is symbolic and has its own meaning.

3. In a report to his Grand Chapter he beautifully observed:

"At an early period Masonry took me by the hand, bid me follow my conductor and fear no danger. Thus was I led into the peaceful and humane temple and introduced to a multitude of honorable and virtuous men, who have made darkness light, who have ever been, and to the close of my life will continue to be my constant, ardent and devoted friends. Its teachings have been food to my mind amid all the vicissitudes of my life. This is the relation which Masonry created, and by which it has ever been recognized; and which now, as my pathway is darkened, fills my heart with love and gratitude to our benevolent fraternity."—*Ex.*

As the annual elections for lodge officers are not far off we desire to say a few words to those of the craft who are ambitious, and who are sometimes apt to allow their ambition to get the advantage of their judgement. There is an old maxim, "The office should seek the man," which applies with peculiar force to the offices within the gift of the craft, not because of their exceeding importance in a worldly point of view, but that the welfare of each particular lodge should be and is the first consideration. Each candidate for office should ask himself the question: "Am I the most fit and the best qualified member of this lodge for the position to which I aspire?" If the question is answered (conscientiously) in the affirmative, the lodge will already have discovered it, and act accordingly. But if the question is answered otherwise, it seems to us not only unwise, but exceedingly improper for such a man to press his nomination, to say nothing of advocating his election. A resort to arts, usually practiced by ward politicians, in the furtherance of ambitious aims in Masonry, is unbecoming, undignified, and mean. Good material is not so plenty as to be unrecognized, nor will a competent and punctual member have long to wait for such promotion as his capacity merits. Reward and honors come to those who wait patiently and work faithfully.—*N. Y. Square.*

It is not Safe.

All men ought to have found out by this time that it is never safe, either for a public functionary or a private individual, to do wrong. It is never safe to indulge in swindling, cheating, or bribe taking. It is never safe to practice corruption—any kind or degree of it. It is never safe to indulge in falsehood—any sort of it. It is never safe to do anything which would bring shame to the doer by being revealed. One may fancy his misdeeds can't be found out, or have been covered up, or can be so covered; or they can be so denied or explained away so the people will be deceived about them; but yet it remains true that there can be no safety for the wrong doers, and no security against his exposure. Though this looks hard to some people, it is, nevertheless, in accordance with the fixed and irreversible moral law of things and of being. The only safety for a man, or for a woman is in refraining from wrong and doing right.—*American Manufacturer.*

A new Masonic temple is about to be erected at Gold Hill, Nevada, at a cost of \$50,000. Among the articles deposited in the cornerstone that was laid August 2, 1876, was a piece of stone from the foundation of King Solomon's temple and some salt from the Dead Sea.—*Louisville Masonic Journal.*

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