

The Orphans' Friend.

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ABIDING RICHES.

Your slave may with your gold abscond,
The fire your home lay low;
Your debtor may disown his bond,
Your farm no crops bestow.
Your steward false may prove a cheat;
Your freighted ships the storms may beat;
That, only, from mischance you'll save
Which to your friends is given;
The only wealth you'll always have
Is that you've lent to Heaven.

From the Masonic Journal.

ORPHAN ASYLUM IN N. C.

It is beyond all question that this Institution is worthy of the attention and support of every North Carolinian worthy of the name, or who has the least sympathy for the class of persons it is intended to benefit. There is another thing equally true, that it actually receives the attention and support of but a very small part of those on whom it has strongest claims; and should it prove a failure, it will be a burning shame and disgrace, not to the Masonic Fraternity, alone, but rather to the whole State.

But how is it to be sustained? That's the question. I see no valid reason why the State should not make a liberal appropriation annually for the purpose; others may, however; but without that, we have the means at hand to sustain it amply, if they were only available. I have watched with some interest the various plans operated for raising funds for the orphans—lectures, concerts, festivals, exhibitions of various kinds, and many, and perhaps most of these may do well, but woe be unto the Orphan's Home if it is to depend alone on these spasmodic efforts and special occasions for its existence. These will wear out. The life, vigor, and growth of this Institution can be sustained and promoted, only by regular, systematic contributions. If it was intended to last only for a few years the present plan might do; but it should be permanent, and a regular system is all that will answer the purpose.

Last year, from all sources, there was collected throughout the State the insignificant sum of \$13,095.98. Now let us see what the Masonic Fraternity alone could accomplish and not burden themselves. In the State are 9,000 Masons in Lodges, besides two or three thousand non-affiliated. Now drop the latter from the account—which should not be done by more than half, as they pay no dues, then throw off those in regular standing, then if the remaining 5,000 would contribute the small sum of 50 cents, on an average, per month, it would give \$30,000 per year. To this may be added special donations from Lodges; so that 30 or 40 thousand dollars could be raised upon this plan and no man be oppressed. To this it may be added, that it would be constantly coming in. We work this plan in Farmington and Mocksville Lodges. The committee for the Asylum write to each member, and ascertain how much he will give monthly, this makes a constantly accumulating fund, and though small in a single Lodge, yet it is seen how large the aggregate would be if all the

Lodges worked the same plan.

But now add to this other organizations—Odd Fellows, Good Templars, Knights of Pythias, Friends of Temperance, Grangers—that make contribution to the Asylum, and let them adopt the same plan of regular monthly contributions, and when all is collected at the end of the year, it would make a handsome amount. In many cases a man belongs to several of these organizations. In that case let him contribute regularly in one, and as he pays dues in all, he can still have a voice in making special contributions from fund belonging to the several organizations. But this still would leave a large class who belong to none of these Fraternities. In order to meet this let societies be formed in the interest of the Asylum, in Town, County, or Township, wherever practicable—Ladies alone could do it in many places—and especially secure monthly contributions. Or let the several organization, I have named appoint joint committees for the same purpose—the whole object being to secure a number that will contribute regularly.

If from all together we could secure the small number of 15,000 in the State to pay monthly the pittance of 50 cents, it would give us \$90,000 per year, which would accomplish something. I repeat it, systematic contribution is the only thing that will meet the case. The plan suggested is feasible, and will succeed, if we will take hold and push.

W. C. WILLSON.

Farmington, Davie Co., N. C.

PRUSSIAN SCHOOLS.

It has often been remarked that one reason why the Prussians were victorious over the French five years ago, was because the Prussian soldiers were much better educated, and therefore more intelligent.

Education in Prussia is universal and compulsory. There are very few Prussians indeed who have not passed through the common school course; this is because the law requires that every child shall be sent to school. If a parent neglects to send his boy or girl he is fined; and if he continues this neglect his fine is increased, and he is even sometimes put in prison.

Every town and village throughout Prussia is obliged to have schools, supported by taxes levied upon their inhabitants. No matter how poor the parent is, he must send his children to be educated. A small fee of about two cents a week is charged for each scholar; and if the parent cannot pay even this small sum, his children are taught free.

The village schools differ from those of the towns in the studies taught. In the village schools the pupils are taught to write in German characters, reading, geography, history, and the four rules of arithmetic. In the town or city schools they are taught to write in Roman text (such as we use), and advance in arithmetic to fractions and the rule of three.

Children are only compelled to attend the town, or common schools; it is as the parent likes about sending his children to the

higher schools. In all there are eleven grades of schools in Prussia, all supported by the State, or by public taxation.

The lowest grade is that of the common village or town schools, of which we have already spoken. Next come what are called "citizen schools," in which further progress is made in the ordinary branches begun in the common schools. The third grade is that of the "real schools," in which languages, arts and sciences are taught.

The seminaries are one step higher. These are a kind of normal schools, wherein young men and women are trained to teach in the common schools. Then, in order, come "colleges," industrial schools, schools of architecture, schools of mines, schools of agriculture, veterinary, schools, and finally the universities.

The teachers in the public schools are considered as State officials, and they, as well as the schools, are all under the control of the minister of Public Instruction. The salaries paid to teachers in Prussia are very small. The highest paid in Berlin to masters is only \$600 a year, while the sewing teachers (for sewing is taught in female schools) only receive \$45 and \$50. It must be borne in mind, however, that the cost of living in Prussia is much less than in this country.

In all there are about 28,000 common schools in Prussia, with over 3,000,000 pupils.

From the Presbyterian.

WHAT TO FORGET.

How we strive to remember our duties, and what an unutterable pain when one is forgotten!

But we do not think enough of the duty of forgetting some things.

With the majority of us, life is limited by certain responsibilities, or sets of them. Like waves we advance a certain distance only to recede again, bound by shores we cannot pass. Like them too, lashed to our greatest heights by adverse winds, and there only for a moment fit for the white crown of purity, ere we sink like their foamy crests back to lower levels.

Let us labor earnestly then within our prescribed limits forgetting their narrowness, caring not so much for range of circumference, as that all within be kept pure by constant activity: not forgetting that the little act which we meant kindly was taken otherwise, but so add to it that there shall be no second mistake.

Make it a duty to forget the unpleasant things of life, for they are otherwise only enlarged.

Forget all failures of the past, that only tells what we have done, not what we may do.

Only Now is best lettered by its backward spelling. What we have won is alone ours to build upon. Hinges are little things, but large doors turn on them and so our memories may be the means of fastening on to our minds, thoughts that shall shut out much external sunshine.

Let us forget self and the insignificance of our own lives, ceasing to compare them with others but making life great by the immensity of our efforts.

TALKING AT TABLE.

This is one of the very best digesters; there is no tonic known equal to it, as it is of the kind calculated to promote hilarity and good feeling generally. Most parents are prone to prohibit their children from laughing and talking at the table; it is unphysiological; it is a cruelty.

Joyousness promotes the circulation of the blood, enlivens it, invigorates it, sends it tingling to the remotest part of the system, carrying with it animation, vigor and life. The louder the little ones laugh the better; the faster they talk the better, for then they eat less in a given time, consequently chew their food more thoroughly.

Discard controversy from the dining table. Discourage all subjects which invite political or religious rancor. Let every topic introduced be calculated to instruct, to interest or amuse. Do not let the mind run on business or previous mishaps, or past disappointments. Never tell bad news at the table, nor for an hour before. Let everything you have to communicate be, if possible, of a glad, joyous, hilarious character, calculated to bring out pleasant remarks or agreeable associations. On the other hand, never administer a reproof at the social board to either servant or child; find fault with nothing; speak unkindly to one. If remarks are made of the absent, let them contain some word of commendation which, if repeated in their hearing afterwards, will kindle kindly feelings, and thus will thoughts of the family table come across the memory in after years, when we have been scattered and some laid in their final resting-place, and bring with them a sweetness of emotion which makes it a pleasure to dwell upon them.—*Hall's Journal of Health.*

THE ALPHABETS.

The Sandwich Island alphabet has 12 letters; the Burmese, 19; the Italian, 20; the Bengalese, 21; the Hebrew, Syriac, Chaldee, and Samaritan, 22 each; the French, 23; the Greek, 24; the Latin, 25; the German, Dutch, and English, 26 each; the Spanish and Slavonic, 27 each; the Arabic, 28; the Persian and Coptic, 32; the Georgian, 35; the Armenian, 38; the Russian, 41; the Muscovite, 43; the Sanscrit and Japanese, 50; the Ethiopic and Tartarian, 202 each; the Chinese, less than 50,000.

Leigh Richmond, when traveling in Ireland, passed a man who was a painful spectacle of squalor and raggedness. His heart smote him, and he turned back and said to him:

"If you are in want, my friend, why don't you beg?"

"And sure, isn't it begging that I am, your honor?"

"You didn't say a word."

Of course not, your honor; but see how the skin is speaking through the holes of me trousers and the bones crying out through me skin! Look at me sunken cheeks, and the famine that is starin' in me eyes! Isn't that begging that I am with a hundred tongues?"

THE TRUFFLE.

The truffle is a kind of mushroom, of a fleshy, fungus structure, and of a roundish figure, found buried in the soil of woods at a depth of several inches, and it is much esteemed as an esculent. It is not very extensively known in this country, but it is very popular in France, where the yield this year is reported to be enormous. French dishes dressed with this vegetable are considered more tempting than when dressed in our fashion. The history of the truffle has a decidedly classical character. The earliest notice of it that has been found, is in the annals of Athens, by whose wealthy population it was held in high estimation. The best and most valued roots were found in Thrace. In Rome this vegetable was even more appreciated. At splendid banquets where many thousands of the tongues of birds were served at table, the rarest truffles were used as a condiment to stimulate the sickly appetites of Lucullus and Vitellius. Modern naturalists have likewise devoted some attention and inquiry to the matter, and the general opinion is it a kind of mushroom or gall nut, growing beneath the surface of the earth on the root of the oak, just as the real gall is formed on its branches. It is also found near birch, elm, and other forest trees. The best specimens are black. A white variety is found in the deserts of Arabia in profusion, where it is of the same use to the inhabitants that potatoes are in this country. In India a liquor is distilled from it which is highly prized by the natives. It requires a year to bring the roots to a state of maturity. In France spaniels are used in searching for these underground vegetables. The value of the crop is not generally known in this country. In the year 1835 over 500,000 pounds of truffle were exported from the French ports to supply the English and American markets, as well as those of Sweden, Russia and Turkey. The value of this export was about \$920,000. The exports have gradually been increasing from year to year, amounting at the present time to nearly one and a quarter million dollars.

ON THE STRETCH!—Human heart-strings are often stretched to their utmost capacity. Like some delicate instrument, when the strings are touched by the skillful player, hard-pressed in some difficult passage. How we tremble lest they should be snapped asunder! The human heart-like that delicate instrument, is severely tried, often times. Surely we say, it will be broken to pieces. But no—it is held attuned to the richest melody. How is this? The breath of the DIVINE INTERCESSOR sweeps over the instrument, "For we have a high priest which can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities."

A poor little girl in the Fourth Ward, New York, as she was dying, said, "I am glad I am going to die, because now my brothers and sisters will have enough to eat!"