

PRISON REFORM.

Mr. Goldsborough S. Griffith, President of the Maryland Prisoner's Aid Association, is broadening his influence as a philanthropist and practical reformer beyond the bounds of Maryland. We learn from an exchange that he is making a tour of the South to look after the pauper and prison population in the county jails and poor houses and to inspect the penitentiary system through the several States. He has visited in this work New Orleans, Mobile, Macon, Richmond and many other Southern cities. He advocates cleanliness and general reform in prisons and is a tireless worker for the accomplishment of reform in the criminal.

Mr. Griffith is not pleased with the "lessee" system which removes the convict from the immediate protection of the State and classes the tenderest culprit, convicted of misdemeanor, with the hardest criminal, steeped in wickedness. He thinks that thus the prime object of imprisonment, the reformation of the criminal, is sacrificed. This food, which convicts are given, is in vogue in nearly all the Southern States. But he has objection to it, that the again? are subjected to cruelty and are not allowed to be quartered as wide open beings ought to be. Their objection is, that in outside the night, if in prison, surrounded by good moral influences are, when herded together in contractor's camps, subjected to the most depraving conditions and have no one to work after their spiritual and moral welfare.

Mr. Griffith has found in the South an awakening interest on the subject of prison reform and he is led to believe that within a year or two efforts will be made to abolish the system of leasing convicts.

In Galway is the finest fishing bay in the world. The Irish catch thousands of fish but never think of salting down any to preserve them for home consumption. Scotch and English fishermen sail across the Channel load their boats, return home, salt their catch, and export to Ireland.

"Bad luck to 'em, the Scotch niggers!" said a waiter at the Galway hotel, as he served a guest with two salt haddock. "They catch our fish and send them back to us and make us pay for 'em!"

What an excellent illustration that is of the way in which many Southerners regard Northern thrift and manufacturing enterprises. They re-take the material from our market, products in which the South abounds, made it into useful and necessary articles—a work that we would not do—and returned the manufactured article to us re-

zoning a handsome profit. And they have sometimes been regarded as mercenary, and thus characterized, in consequence of their doing for us a work that we would not do ourselves, and making us pay for it. But we are glad to say that such a contracted view is giving place to broader sentiments. Every year marks an advance in Southern manufacturing enterprise, and we are getting more and more disposed to learn valuable lessons from our more thrifty Northern brethren. This is one of the leading indications of Southern progress and prosperity. There are many traits of character found among Northerners that we would regret to see adopted by our people, but a little more self reliance, dependence upon home resources, utilizing home facilities, enterprise, would go far toward making us independent and influential.

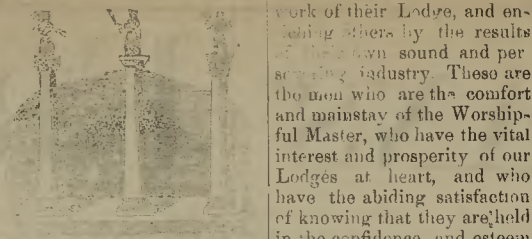
EDUCATIONAL.

The president of the Middlebury College, Vermont, proposes to the board of trustees at the beginning and end of every term. A record of the weights will it is supposed, establish the nutritive value of the various foods used.

Shaw University and Estey Seminary, at Raleigh, have introduced an industrial feature as part of their regular instruction, and all the pupils are much pleased with the work. The schools have an attendance of two hundred and seventy-five pupils so far this term.

There are two great educational matters which are daily growing more important in our North Carolina school system. We may try to dodge these questions, but we will soon be compelled to meet them squarely and give our decision. These two important subjects are: "Compulsory Education" and "Industrial Schools." The State must give to every boy and girl enough education for citizenship and practical life; and if our children will not take the instruction voluntarily, there are two alternatives to be met—either allow a large portion of our population to remain in disgraceful ignorance, or we must compel them to attend some school. Of the two evils, we must choose one, and it should be the latter. The children are also to be taught something else besides mere books. The head is to be instructed as well as the hand, because both are necessary in earning a livelihood. Industrial schools are becoming very successful throughout many portions of the Union, and sooner or later North Carolina will be obliged to fall into line, or our children will be seeking these advantages in the schools of other States. These are not matters to be lightly thought of for they demand the careful, careful consideration of every citizen of North Carolina, and we are called upon to decide what is best for the children of the State.—N. C. Teacher.

The State loses a valuable friend to education by the death of Prof. Richard Sterling, of Mocksville. At the time of his death he was the Superintendent of Public Instruction of Davie county.—N. C. Teacher.



It is greatly to be feared that a serious misconception of the duties which Masons owe to each other sometimes exists among some members of the Fraternity, and this gives rise among the outside world to an idea of Masonry which is at variance with its tenets and its principles. It may be broadly stated that no one can be a good Mason who fails in his duty as a citizen. Masonry acknowledges the supremacy of the law, and inculcates an earnest loyalty to the established government. It enjoins upon its votaries the paramount duty of conducting themselves as peaceable citizens. At an early period in the initiation, the candidate is truthfully assured that any obligation he may be called on to take will not conflict with his duty to his country, and he is enjoined to live soberly, act discreetly, and strictly to conform to the moral law. In the administration of justice true Masonry can never conflict with law. A Brother is not called upon to shield any criminal, even though the offender may have worn the white apron of innocence; but, on the contrary, Masonry teaches a strict recognition of the duties he owes as a man to the society in which he lives. As a judge, a juror, a witness, he can recognize no distinctions between a Brother and a profane. Should any other line of conduct prevail the very foundation of our social system would be endangered, and the Order would incur the just odium of every honest man.

As a Mason is known by the regularity of his initiation, frequent trials, and approbation, etc., so also is a good and true Mason known by the regularity of his attendance at the meetings of his Lodge, the assiduity with which he applies himself to his Masonic duties, and the advancement to which he aspires in pursuit of the studies of the art. We have often heard it remarked that many a man has been known to ride his Masonic "obby to death," and unquestionably there is a certain degree of force in the simile when we watch the progress of some Brethren who, like the hare in the fable, disdaining the tortoise like plodding of more sensible men, scamper over the checkered floor, carried on the wings of a fleeting popularity toward their only goal—distinction.

They covet every jewel that glistens on another Brother's breast, and there is not a degree but they must possess its secrets. But in a majority of cases these men are of a transient disposition, and the overcharged enthusiasm which impels them forward, with sometimes ill-judged impetuosity, speedily evaporates, and often leaves its pursuer broken-winded or apathetic. There is a vast difference between these spasmodic spirits, whose ambition is fickle and unabiding, and those who plod on with steady earnestness of purpose, with the single eye of not only regarding their own position and feasting on a brief span of popularity, but of affording sub-assistance in the hard, dry

work of their Lodge, and enabling others by the results of their own sound and persevering industry. These are the men who are the comfort and mainstay of the Worshipful Master, who have the vital interest and prosperity of our Lodges at heart, and who have the abiding satisfaction of knowing that they are held in the confidence and esteem of sensible men. They, too, are the Brethren who exemplify the more useful virtues of human excellence, punctuality and regularity, which are so essential in every sphere of life, and which tell far more in the long run than the most brilliant flashes of intermittent enthusiasm. A Brother can scarcely be termed a useful member in his Lodge who bestirs himself by fits and starts, and puts in a fussy show now and then of activity.

POLITENESS AND ITS PLACE.

Probably one-half of the rudeness of youths of this day that later in life will develop into brutality, is due to the failure of parents to enforce in the family circle the rules of courtesy. The son or daughter who is discourteous to members of the family because of familiarity with them, is very likely to prove rude and overbearing to others, and very certain to prove a tyrant in the household over which he or she might be called upon to preside. There is at this day undeniable among the rising generation a lack of courteous demeanor in the family. Of all the places in the world let the boy understand that home is the place where he should speak the gentlest and be the most kindly, and there is a place of all where courteous demeanor should prevail. The lad who is rude to his sister, impertinent to his mother, and vulgar in his house will prove a sad husband for a suffering wife, and a cruel father to unfortunate children. The place for politeness, as Helps puts it, is where we mostly think it superfluous.

The temperance question is coming to the front in England as a factor in politics. English conservatism will thrust it back among social questions if possible, but the growth in political intelligence will not permit it to remain there. In a recent speech, that famous hero of the people, John Bright, spoke of the cause of temperance as "a great cause more intimately connected with the advantage of the people than almost any other public question that can possibly be discussed." The appreciation of the vital importance of the question is the most hopeful sign of the times in England.

Mrs. M. J. Alston, Littleton, N. C., says: "I recommend Brown's Iron Bitters to the nervous and debilitated. It greatly benefited me."

The other day a grocer sold an old farmer a gallon of tar through mistake for molasses. After discovering the mistake he wanted to hear some complaint, but hearing none, wrote to the old fellow, who replied as follows: "Much obliged for the crecks hum, but it come too late, as all of the stuff is done sopped up. Wife she tolded that tar was suttin outen fix with the 'lasses; but I loved she must be preddog-dist.—Arkansaw Traveler."

Dr. E. H. Babbitt, Hickory, N. C., says: "Brown's Iron Bitters give great satisfaction."

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