

The Orphans' Friend.

FRIDAY, -- DECEMBER 27, 1883.

Christmas Reflections.

And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways, and the Lord was with him.

A man that hath friends must show himself friendly; and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you.

The wicked is driven away in his wickedness, but the righteous hath hope in his death.

With this issue the FRIEND closes its labors for 1883. While its success has not been all that we anticipated at the beginning of the year, we feel encouraged with our labors, and stimulated to begin the new year with renewed zeal. But we all know how difficult it is to carry out our plans. In the morning we see great possibilities; in the evening we are forced to acknowledge many derelictions. Yet our work has been done conscientiously in the fear of God. We therefore trust that our friends will extend to us that charity which has ever characterized the people of our State. Wishing all its patrons a joyful Christmas, and a happy new year, the FRIEND bids adieu to the old year. It will not greet you again until the 4th January 1884.

CHRISTMAS CHARITIES.

We had intended an article under this heading, but we find such an admirable editorial on the same subject in the *Youths Companion*, that we make extracts from it, asking our friends not to forget the orphans in the distribution of their charities:

"The kindly spirit of the Jewish law ordained that the poor should participate in national entertainments. At the Feasts of Weeks and Tabernacles the Jew was to see to it that not only his own family should rejoice therein, but that his servants and the stranger, the fatherless and the widow should share in the general joyfulness.

"But the fat and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared," said Nehemiah to his countrymen, as they observed the Feast of Tabernacle at the rebuilding of Jerusalem. The righteous observance of the Feast of Purim, commemorating the deliverance of the exiled Jews from the slaughter ordained for them by Haman, required the "sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor."

"The festive day by which the Christian celebrates the birth of Him who came to bring "on earth peace," and "good will towards men," finds also its fitting expression in the joys of the family-gathering and in deeds of kindness and charity. Time has shorn the holiday of its boisterous jollity, and associated it with the hallowed feelings of domestic love and exuberance of children. It is as natural as it is sweet and reasonable, that with these home joys should be associated kindly thoughts of those whose houses glow not with pleasant memories nor with delightful anticipations.

"Alfred Crowdail, poet and artist, says to all who

would express the sentiment of Christmas, "Scatter Your Crumbs."

"Amidst the freezing sleet and snow
The timid robin comes;
In pity drive him not away,
But scatter out your crumbs.

"And leave your door upon the latch
For whosoever comes;
The poorer they, more welcome give,
And scatter out your crumbs.

"Soon winter falls upon your life,
The day of reckoning comes;
Against your sins, by high degree,
Are weighed those scattered crumbs."

THE EPISCOPAL CONVENTION

Convened in Newbern, N. C., last Wednesday morning, and was called to order by Bishop Lyman. The resolutions, passed by the House of Deputies and concurred in by the House of Bishops authorizing a division of the Diocese of North Carolina was read by the Bishop.

Dr. Watson, of Wilmington, was elected president, Rev. N. Harding was elected secretary, Dr. A. J. DeRossett, Treasurer. "East Carolina" was chosen at the name of the new Diocese.

Rev. Dr. A. A. Watson, of Wilmington, was elected Bishop.

The following committees were announced:

Missionary committee—Bishop *ex officio*; Revs. Israel Harding, Mr. Ambler, Col. Fremont and Col. Alderson. Committee on canons—Revs. Dr. Huske, Revs. N. C. Hughes, Sr., Nat. Harding, and Messrs. F. R. Rose, G. H. Roberts and Geo. H. Haigh.

Committee on education—Bishop *ex officio*; Rev. N. C. Hughes, Sr., and Messrs. John S. Long and Wm. Calder.

Committee on church building—Bishop *ex officio*; Revs. Robt. Drane, Nat. Harding, J. B. Houghton, Messrs. F. A. Boyle and W. B. Shepard.

Trustees of diocese—Bishop *ex officio*; Messrs. Geo. Davis and Col. Fremont. Trustees of University of the South—Rev. V. W. Shields, Messrs. W. B. Shepard and Judge Baxton.

Trustees of General Theological Seminary—Bishop *ex officio*; Messrs. N. C. Hughes, Sr., Israel Harding, Robt. Drane, Dr. DeRossett, Messrs. H. R. Bryan, Jno. Hill and Robt. Calder.

Deputies to general convention—Revs. N. C. Hughes, Dr. Huske, Nat. Harding, T. M. Ambler, Messrs. A. J. DeRossett, Jno. Hughes, Jas. C. McRae and Col. J. W. Alderson.

Supplementary deputies—Revs. Israel Harding, V. W. Shields, Robt. Drane, Eborn, Messrs. Griffin, S. J. Hunsdale, DeBruce Cutler and Dr. Jno. H. Hill.

Dr. Huske asked to be relieved from serving as chairman of the finance committee. He moved that Rev. N. C. Hughes, Sr., who was an expert in such matters and had a great deal of money of his own to count, be made chairman. Carried.

On motion of Rev. Mr. Drane, Col. J. G. Burr was elected historian of the diocese.

The Bishop, feelingly expressed the depth of his emotion at the separation from those to whom the dearest of ties had bound him for ten years, and the cheering hopes he felt at the success of the new diocese. The benediction was pronounced and the convention adjourned *sine die*.

The next convention of the diocese of East Carolina will be held in Washington on the 2nd Wednesday in May, 1884.

"A novel way of aiding the needy has just been put into operation in Baltimore. It is the "Provident" wood yard, where men who are willing to work can saw a cord of wood for fifty cents. At present the place is far too small and arrangements are making to enlarge it. Strange to say not one tramp has yet put in an appearance for work. The applicants are all residents of that city who have been thrown out of regular employment. One of the applicants on Tuesday was an old gray haired man, fully eighty years of age; he was one of the first to finish his assigned labor, and went off rejoicing with his half dollar.

"A recently published statement of the yield of precious metals show that in 1882 the output of gold in the entire world was valued at \$118,000,000, and of silver at \$94,000,000. It is a fact not generally understood that Russia is the third greatest producer of gold, the yield of that country being \$30,000,000, only \$21,400,000 less than the United States, and \$2,000,000 less than Australia.

YOUR DUTY.

We are aware that many men think it quite sufficient to put in an occasional appearance at their Lodges, and to "drop" in casually at a Lodge of instruction. They know sufficient of the work to enable them to follow the outline of their duties in Lodge, and show themselves times just enough during the year to prevent them from being forgotten by the rest of the members. But this is not what we call praiseworthy, or any approach to the fulfillment of those duties which a Mason takes upon himself at his initiation. Far be it from any one to check the impulses of that ambition which fire the mind naturally when it is first illuminated with Masonic light. In the very nature of our institution, the beautiful symbolism which then dawns upon the new found sight of him who gains the "predominant wish" of his heart, "stirs the young blood" and impels him to stretch forth his mental hand to grasp a further instalment of those grand and glorious principles of which he has received as yet but a little foretaste. It would be strange, indeed, if the young Mason could be found who would rest satisfied with this first insight into our mysteries, and think he had completed his Masonic education when he had responded to the toast of his health as the initiate at his first banquet with the Brethren.

From this starting point all Masons have set out on the explorations of the system, and it would be absurd to expect them to run all at the same pace. We might as well imagine the droll picture of a dozen horses starting for the Derby, and moving in a machine-like line to the winning post, all abreast. The race is not all at the swift, however, and it is the experience of most of us in every phase of life that steady and consistent perseverance is to be preferred to the gushing and irregular speed manifested by the unstable and impulsive. It is, therefore, the greatest comfort and satisfaction to a Master when he finds that on assuming his gavel he can count upon a certain number of the Brethren who are always at their posts, to assist him in carrying out the work, upon whose fidelity and constancy he can reckon, and about whom he has no occasion for an anxious thought. We have seen the blush of vexation and disappointment mantling the brow of many a Worshipful Master, who, when he comes to the opening of his Lodge, is compelled, through the absence of his Wardens or other officers to select from the rank and file some other Brother upon whom collars have not yet been bestowed. He is vexed and irritable, because he has invited a visitor or two to come and see the working of his Lodge, and all at once he finds the machinery out of gear. Perhaps the Brethren he has called to fill pro tem. the chairs whose rightful owners are delinquent fail to answer his expectations and the audible voice of the prompter does not improve matters in the least. This, indeed, is but a natural sequence in a Lodge where regularity of attendance is not one of the cardinal virtues.—*London Chronicle*.

"South Carolina declines to have a divorce law. "For better or worse" in that State means until "death us do part."

CHRISTMAS 1883.

We are now opening at our store positively the best selected and most attractive stock of Christmas goods ever brought to Oxford. See our display and you will be delighted. It surpasses anything of the kind you ever saw. The newest and most decided trappings of the novelty makers this season are on our tables. We have innumerable articles suitable for Christmas presents that you will find just the thing to suit your taste. Don't think of buying before you call on us.

LET JOY BE UNCONFINED.

We have toys of every description, we have elegant dressing cases, we have fine writing desks, we have beautifully bound books, we have the biggest doll in the State, we have splendid Christmas cards, we have richly decorated china, we have the loveliest vases, we have confectioneries of all kinds, we have fresh oranges and bananas, we have citron, mistos, and currents, we have Christmas fireworks. All of which will be sold at very reasonable prices. We are headquarters for Christmas goods.

WILLIAMS AND FURMAN,

MISCELLANEOUS.

"A little boy in one of the city German schools, while engaged in the delightful exercise of defining words, a few weeks since, made a mistake which was not all a mistake. He said: "A demagogue is a vessel that holds beer, wine gin or any other intoxicating liquor." He was probably thinking of demijohn, but he hit the truth just the same.

"And it may not be impertinent to call to the mind the fact that in spite of hard times, we have more schools and better schools in North Carolina than we ever had before. More children and youth attend them, and they are better taught than "before the war." The next census will show a note worthy decrease in the proportion of the illiterate to literate persons of each race in this State.—*State Chronicle*.

"As the result of dime novel reading a half dozen boys, all under fifteen years of age, and sons of prominent citizens, have been arrested in Milwaukee for setting fire to buildings in different parts of the city. There was a regular gang of the young incendiaries.

"The Kinston correspondent of the *Newbern Journal* tells a very neat story. He says: "A Kinston girl told her young man that she would never marry him until he was worth \$10,000. So he started out to make it. How are you getting on George? she asked at the expiration of a couple of months. "Well," said George hopefully, "I have saved \$22." The girl dropped her eyelashes, and blushing remarked: "I reckon that's near enough George."

"Bro. Lafferty, of the *Richmond Advocate*, says that over two million dollars worth of fertilizer was used in Virginia last year; but had all the dirty politicians been plowed under instead, the money for fertilizer might have been saved. That does not read pious; but had such an event transpired, the old State would have reaped a boundless crop.—*Biblical Recorder*.

"If, as nearly all sensible people believe, the reading of the details of crime promotes crime, what an evil work is being done by many influential newspapers!

"A piece of black rape, which he found hanging on his hay scales recently, so weighed upon the mind of Joseph Hallock, a Woodstock Valley, Conn., farmer, who considered it an ill omen, that he was shortly afterward found dead in his barn.

A. LANDIS, Jr

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J. G. Hall, OXFORD, N. C.

Committees on Orphan Asylum

Lily Valley Lodge, No. 252—John R. Hill, William H. Riddick, Erasmus Bagley.

Eureka Lodge, No. 288—G. A. J. Sechler, S. G. Patterson, Charles W. Alexander.

Fulton Lodge, No. 99—A. Parker, V. W. Taylor, J. Samuel McCubbins.

Mount Energy Lodge, No. 140—Henry Haley, John Knight, H. F. Parrett.

Hiram Lodge, No. 40—George M. Smedley, Theodore Joseph, John Nichols.

Evangelical Lodge, No. 303—M. Morrison, I. P. Harman, L. McNeil, McDonald.

Fellowship Lodge, No. 84—Joseph Parker, C. S. Powell, John T. Cobb.

Wayne Lodge, No. 112—E. A. Wright, Augustus Edward, E. V. Cox.

Camden Lodge, 864—Rev. A. R. Pittman.

Salem Lodge, No. 289—J. W. Hunter, C. A. Fogle, Chas. Hausor, Colaric Lodge, No. 379—A. J. Butler, J. D. O. Culbreth and R. W. Toward.

Winston Lodge, No. 167—J. Q. A. Barham, W. H. Miller, E. B. Whitsell.

Berea Lodge, No. 204.—Dr. J. W. Booth, A. S. Carrington, John Mitchell, J. J. Meadows.

St. John's Lodge, No. 1.—William M. Poison, John W. Perdue, Z. E. Murrell.

GRAND LECTURER—Dr. C. D. Rice, Raleigh, N. C.

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