

## EDUCATIONAL

J. K. HARTZLER, *Bellefonte, Mifflin County, Editor*  
For the Educational Column.  
**A Day With the Orphans.**

These are prolific times, and great events and enterprises are born. Among others that will illumine the pages of history but few will outshine the grandeur that devoted to the origin and progress of Sol-diers' Orphan Schools.

Children whose fathers fell in our late struggle are gathered together by the State, cared for and educated as faithfully and as tenderly as a kind intelligent father, with ample means would do.

Could the State, in any other way, to the same extent, repair the loss to the children and to herself? How much better to erect moral and intellectual monuments to the honor of parents and to the State than monuments of marble or granite? How much more sensible and Christian-like to remember in this way the "bone and sinew" of the land which really gave the death blows to treason than to expend all our public thanks and money in the erection of monuments to the memory of men whom fortune made great? Verily we are teaching the nations of the world a lesson.

A short time since, while on a visit to the school at McAlisterville, I was deeply impressed with the grandeur of the movement, and felt proud that for once, at least, and in so noble an enterprise, Pennsylvania leads the nation, the world.

Are any prejudiced against these schools, let them visit one well conducted, and see the happy, cheerful, joyous faces of the children, the care and attention paid them, and hear them sing in their sweet, impressive tones such songs as "Tenting on the old camp ground," "Orphans' prayer," &c., and surely, if they have the merest spark of humanity left, they will go home ashamed of their prejudices.

I myself had no prejudices to be ashamed of but was really not prepared for such a treat,—threatened the "little folks" I would tell the people of Mifflin county all about them.

I arrived in the morning and was introduced to Mr. Caveny, the acting principal, a gentleman much beloved by the children, whom they delight to call papa. Mr. Caveny took great pleasure in showing me into the different departments of the school and explaining its general working. I was first shown into the clothing department, where, to my surprise, I learned that all the clothing for the one hundred and fifty-five boys and girls are made by the orphan girls themselves under the superintendence of two ladies, one principal, the other assistant.

Here I was first struck with the home-like appearance of things. Girls were sitting busily plying the needle with cheerful countenances, while the elderly ladies, mother-like, were moving about preparing work, giving instructions, &c. I there learned the modus operandi of the school. That each boy and girl was required to work two hours a day, and study and recite lessons six, making eight hours employment for each day. That the girls were taught and required to do all kinds of housework,—sewing, baking, making beds, scrubbing, washing dishes, taking care of garden, &c. That the boys learn farm labor on twenty-eight acres of land belonging to the institution, which is farmed principally in garden vegetables. In short, I found it was only a family on a large scale.

I was then shown into the primary department of the school under the charge of a lady from New York, and was highly pleased, delighted indeed, with her teaching, as well as with the deportment of the pupils and the interest they manifested in their lessons.

Next I was conducted into the principal school room in which were seated about one hundred and fifty boys and girls whose brightly beaming eyes reflecting radiance on every side, gave assurance of contented, happy hearts beating beneath their bosoms.

Then they sang, and what a volume of unwritten history unfolded itself as they breathed forth in beautiful song the touching words of "Tenting on the old camp ground," "The orphans' prayer," &c. The scenes of many a camp ground with its sick and dying fathers whose affections had clustered so tenderly around these children; the fiery ordeal of battle when putting forth a brief petition for the dear ones at home; many a father bravely and heroically met the foe and poured out his precious life for the salvation of his country; then the grandeur of the thought that the State has heard the prayer of the dying hero and has become a father to the fatherless, looking like a kind parent to their interest and to their welfare. All this, torna-do-like, rushed through the spiritual heavens sweeping everything before it, at least, so far as my vision extended.

While addressing the children, which I was kindly requested to do, I asked them, How many are tired of this place and would like to go home? All that are, raise hands. Not a single hand went up. All was quiet. I then said all who like this place and would rather stay than go home, raise hands. Quick as lightning every hand went up at full arms length. I wish those grumblers and propagators of falsehood from Mifflin county had been there.

Next, dinner being ready, we were

ushered into the dining room, and soon two drummer boys and one with fife struck up a lively air, to which the boys in fine order marched to their seats at table. Thus they continued while the girls took their places, promoting in wonderful manner an air of cheerfulness. We had a plain substantial dinner in the shape of potpie, &c. I am satisfied that their living is as good as any children's ought to be. They are taught politeness at table, boys being required to help the girls, and no one is allowed to leave until tap of bell, when all leave in order.

In the afternoon I visited the other teachers and heard their classes recite, and am convinced that the orphans are more highly favored in teachers than children generally are.

I was highly pleased with the school in every respect and advise people to visit it. The children generally are clean and well clad—are required to attend worship daily, are taught habits of obedience, diligence, industry and politeness, and with the good teachers they have, are making fine progress in their studies.

M. M.

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### FURNITURE,

and has now on hand a large assortment of goods suitable for housekeeping, such as Sofas, Tetes, Spring and Cane Chairs, Windsor Chairs, Lounges, marble top Tables, with a general assortment of well made furniture of all kinds, and at low prices. We wish to draw the attention of purchasers to call and examine the stock. In connection he can furnish persons with Crockery, Queensware, Butterwubs, Churns, Tubs, Buckets, Wash boards, Tucker's patent Clothes Wringer—best machine out to save labor and clothing. Hair, bush, and Excelsior Mattresses, Wardrobes, Settees, Extension Tables, on hand.

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Gems, Alabates or Ivory-types, Ferrotypes, Melainotypes, Photo-Miniatures, Ambrotypes, Cabinet Photos, & Card Photographs—Portrait or Life size Vignettes, Photographs—Photographs for oval frames, plain or in colors, &c., &c., &c. Our work is executed in the best style, plain or in colors, and at the lowest rates. Call at McEWENS.

N. B.—Instructions to students given at fair rates. ap4f

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THEORY AND PRACTICE COMBINED

by a system of ACTUAL BUSINESS TRAINING

and pre-arranged practical, giving the student in one year a complete insight into the routine, details, customs and forms of business in general, as conducted in the best-regulated commercial and financial establishments.

Theoretical Bookkeeping

Upon a new plan, with an original keeping of the practice of accounts, arranged and published by the proprietor of this Institution exclusively for his own use, saving one-half the ordinary labor of the student, and fitting him to become a practical bookkeeper.

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Algebra and the Higher Mathematics, Photography, or mental Penmanship, the Art of Detecting Counterfeit Money, Engineering, Surveying, Navigation and Telegraphing.

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A regular Telegraph Office is kept open with the Institution with twenty-four branch offices in various parts of the city, where public business is transacted and in which the students of this Institution are permitted to practice their regular office practice can be had in any other school in the city than the institution, without which no one can obtain a position as a practical operator. Young men are cautioned against the deceptive representations of those who, without any such facilities, pretend to teach Telegraphing.

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This Institution is now enjoying the largest patronage ever bestowed upon any commercial school in the State. Over five hundred students were in attendance the first year, and over nine hundred during the past year. The best class of students may invariably be found here, and all its associations are first-class.

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containing complete interior views of the College, and full particulars of the course of instruction, terms, &c.

FAIRBANKS, A. M., President.

Nov. 8, 1861.

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