

A RECEPTION

With exercises appropriate to the commemoration of Washington's Birthday, in which the Children will all participate, will be held at the National Orphans' Homestead, on Saturday next, from 2 to 5 P.M. Major Cleeton, of Conn., will be present and give some interesting facts concerning the earnest co-operation of the Sabbath Schools in New England, in behalf of the Homestead. The public of Gettysburg and vicinity are respectfully invited to attend.

Tickets of admission, 25 cents, can be procured at the stores of Messrs. Schick, Fahnestock, Buehler, and Harner. The proceeds are to be appropriated for the benefit of the children. Let the house be filled.

Star and Sentinel
Feb. 19, 1868

ORPHANS' HOME

A pleasant reception took place at the National Orphans' Homestead, on Saturday afternoon, Feb. 22, 1868, the large school room was crowded with visitors. An illuminated motto, "God bless our Home," spanned the entrance to the main building, while the school room proper was gaily decked with National Flags. The Orphans, 60 in number, (35 girls and 25 boys), were seated on an elevated platform--the girls wearing blue dresses, with white sashes and shields with the names of the various states emblazoned thereon, the boys wearing either shields or miniature flags. Above the platform was suspended a large card with the words "WASHINGTON--1732" wreathed in green, while on either side of the room were portraits of Washington and Grant. The decorations were all in good taste and reflected much credit on the Committee who superintended them. The exercises were opened with a prayer by Prof. Ferrier, followed by a Poetical Recitation entitled "Salutation to the Flag", the production of Miss Latimer, in which four of the children participated. Major Cleeton, the New England agent of the Home, read an essay on the "Boyhood of Washington," and Lieut. Norton, an original poem by Miss Latimer, "The Drunkard's Wife." This was followed by an allegorical tableaux of the 13 original states, entitled, "Tribute to Washington;" and original poetical by

ical production by Miss Latimer, in which the states were represented by equal number of children--all uniting in the chorus,

"Joined hands in hand the new states come,
To bless the name of Washington."

Remarks were made by Prof. Ferrier and D. McConaughy, Esq., while Maj. Cleeton gave some interesting details of his experience as Agent of the House in the New England States. The exercises were interspersed with frequent singing by the children, closing with the national hymn, "America, tis' of thee."

The Home has now under its care 60 orphans of the fallen heroes of the Republic, and is managed by Lieut. Norton, who served in the 153rd New York Regiment, assisted by Mrs. Norton, Mrs. Hummiston, Miss Clayton, Miss Latimer, and Mr. J. C. Burns. After the exercises, the buildings and the grounds were thrown open to the visitors--everything being in excellent order. We are under obligation to Mrs. Robert Horner (who takes an active interest in the Home) for sundry attentions during our visit.

At the close of the exercises, the Zouaves, under Capt. Norris, made their appearance on the grounds and drilled for half an hour or more, in presence of the Orphans, much to their gratification.

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Feb. 26, 1868

The Bill to incorporate the National Homestead at Gettysburg for the Orphans of our soldiers and sailors passed both houses and was signed by the Governor.

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