

THE ORPHANS' HOMESTEAD

Among the various institutions which characterize Gettysburg as an educational center, one of the most interesting is the National Orphans' Homestead. To those best acquainted with the present management of the Homestead it has been known that the instruction given in the various branches is very thorough.

This was made more generally evident by the public examinations of last Friday and Saturday. It was our privilege to be present in company with quite a number of citizens of this community, and some visitors from a distance.

Every one present will testify to the remarkable readiness with which the children responded to the questions of their teachers.

The writer can testify also that the examination fairly displayed the actual attainments of the various classes, as there were no parts assigned beforehand. No one knew the question he was to be asked.

The examination in Music was especially noticeable. We have been acquainted with many Public schools and Sunday schools, but never yet have seen an equal number of children so thoroughly taught in music. They exhibited not only training of voice, but a complete knowledge of the rudiments of music.

Mr. Smeltz of Pennsylvania College, who has charge of this department deserves to be highly congratulated. Singing and declamations were agreeable interspersed throughout the examination of the two days. A liberal citizen of Gettysburg was so highly pleased with the exercise, as to make a contribution on the spot for a treat of ice-cream for the children.

This was enjoyed on Monday evening with many kind remembrances of the donor.

We are pleased to see a growing interest in the Homestead on the part of our citizens. Such an institution is an honor and a blessing to any community. Around it cluster affection and prayers from vacant hearth-stones in nearly half the states of the Union. As to its financial management, for efficiency and economy it may challenge comparison. The labor performed in it and for it has been a constant labor of love and self-sacrifice.

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