

DAILY JOURNAL

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MONDAY.

SOME indications of the working of a bad spirit among the boys, led to a meeting with them on Sunday, of those whom the boys had chosen for their fathers. The meeting was called, not so much for the purpose of special criticism, as for advising with them and inducing them to turn their hearts to their fathers. In the course of the meeting it became manifest that a very disobedient and disloyal spirit had been corrupting them. This spirit seemed to have its center in Orrin Wright. Since his return from the West, he has had little if any sympathy or fellowship with the Community. His face and heart have been turned toward the world, and he has been sowing discontent and disobedience among the boys. Homer Hazelton appears to have been the most affected by his influence, though all of his class have been disaffected toward the Community, and were plotting among themselves to leave, if they should be threatened with a whipping. Orrin and Homer were evidently ring-leaders. In regard to these two, Homer appears to have been the victim of Orrin, and Orrin is the victim of his father's unbelief, disobedience and infidelity. There was sincere criticism of the boys, and

all but these two accepted it and endeavored to clear themselves. Mr. Wright's decision to leave and to take Orrin with him, appears to settle Orrin's case for the present. There have been indications in the past, that Orrin was good-hearted, and when obedient to good influences, loveable and disposed to seek improvement. But his father's influence and example have constantly tended to make him discontented, and insincere. His trip to the West was one of the worst things he could have done; and his father is responsible for it, and for his present state. Homer is still in a half-hearted state. Mr. Hamilton was very sincere with Mr. Hazelton in the meeting to-night for his attitude, his influence on Homer, and his past religious and spiritual character.

The state of the boys led to some sincere remarks in regard to the conduct of Mr. Wright in taking Orrin out West last fall, contrary to the advice and wishes of the Community, and allowing him to become filled with the spirit of the world, and then bringing him back and encouraging him in spirit to diffuse a corrupting influence among the Community boys. It was thought that no amount of service could atone for conduct so cruel and destructive.

Mr. Wright has decided to leave the Community. His letter announcing his intention was as follows:

Oneida Community, Jan. 15, '66.

Mr. E. H. Hamilton,

Sir:—I have made up my mind to leave the Community; please name some one to settle with me. Orrin goes with me.

Yours &c., A. D. Wright.

The letter was received with hearty cheers by the family. W. A. Hinds was selected by Mr. Hamilton to settle with Mr. Wright.

We are "comforted with apples" this winter, notwithstanding the prediction of scarcity that prevailed last summer. Besides all that are needed for kitchen and table use, Mr. Ackley every morning places three large baskets, filled with Greenings, Fall Pippins, Seek-no-further, Swaars, Henry Sweets, Northern Spys, &c., in convenient situations in the main passage ways of our buildings. From these baskets all are at liberty to help themselves.

Our friends from Wallingford seem to find no difficulty in organizing themselves into Oneida life. Mr. Seymour finds business every day at the Trap Shop. Mr. Perkins we notice is vigorously engaged at his favorite pastime of splitting wood.

Martin Kinsley reports \$225,50 worth of pork sold since Jan. 1. The whole amount sold last year was \$1529,30.

Dr. J. A. Roland, of the Attorney General's Office, Washington, who visited the Community last summer, has sent to Mr. Underwood, for the Community, several volumes of Public Documents. They include the Smithsonian Reports for 1862--3, Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture for 1863 and the two Vols. of Diplomatic Correspondence for 1864.

We have genuine winter to-day. Mercury at seven

deg. below zero at 7 A. M. To-night the sky is cloudy and bids fair or foul, rather, for snow. We have had but little snow, and no sleighing thus far this winter. The ground is nearly bare, and the meadows, grainfields and strawberry plants all need their winter covering.

For the information of Messrs. Thacker and Barron we will mention, that during the cold weather last week the lowest figure marked by the mercury, was —20.

The maple grove at Willow Place, sometimes called our sugar bush, is being cut down and worked into firewood.

Mr. Cragin arrived at about midnight. We are all interested in the plans and prospects of the business of silk manufacturing, to which we understand Mr. C.'s mission here relates.