

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT
OF THE
Montreal Protestant House of Industry and Refuge,

For the Year ending 31st March, 1868.

PRESENTED TO THE CORPORATION AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, ON WEDNESDAY THE 15TH APRIL, 1868.

The Board of Management have the honor to lay before the Governors and Subscribers to the Institution the Reports of the different Committees for the past year.

The Report of the Poor Relief Committee gives a general view of the work which has been accomplished during the year, and as the internal management of the affairs of the Institution falls principally on this Committee, your Board would invite attention to the important details contained in their Report, by which it will be seen that, from year to year, your Institution is becoming more and more useful in relieving the wants of the Protestant Poor of our city.

The Report shews that 8303 nights' shelter have been given to homeless persons during the year, an increase of 2396 over last year; that the average number of inmates throughout the summer has been 65, and during the winter 120; and that 26,926 quarts of soup have been distributed from the soup kitchen, an increase over last year of 4792 quarts. The Soup Kitchen, like the Night Refuge, is kept open for urgent cases of distress all the year round.

The Report also shews what has been done by the Board of Out-Door Relief, in helping our out-door poor through a winter of unexampled severity, and the thanks of your Board are justly due, and are hereby tendered to those generous citizens, who by their timely and liberal contributions aided the Out-Door Board in their long and arduous labors.

Those whose business it is daily to visit the poor, have testified to the good which has been accomplished. It is true that one or two cases of gross imposition have been discovered, but those who administer relief to the poor must make up their minds to meet occasionally with such experiences.

Your Board beg leave also to submit the Annual Report of the Industrial Rooms, another important branch of our organisation. The ladies who have charge of this department are enabled to give a large number of poor women needlework at their own homes. From their Report it appears that they have paid for out door work during the year the sum of \$4,107.66, and received for sales, &c., the sum of \$2,518.61. These sums are exclusive of the proceeds of the Bazaar, which this spring amounted to \$1,545.65. The balance of assets are stated at \$1,533.82. On the whole, the statement of the Rooms for the past year is exceedingly gratifying.

Your Board have always felt a deep anxiety in the fostering of industrious habits on the part of the inmates, knowing well that idleness is a fruitful source of vice and immorality. The difficulty has all along been to introduce some sort of work in which all could more or less engage. This difficulty seems at length in some measure to have been overcome, and your Board refer with much pleasure to the details in the Poor Relief Committee Report of the manufacture of kindling wood, a light and easy occupation in which all the inmates, even the oldest, have been engaged during the past winter.

The thanks of your Board are heartily tendered to the kind friends who have sent us in supplies of broken wood during the winter.

The Finance Report shews a total expenditure for the year of \$6,296.39, and the total receipts at \$6,401.51. These receipts include the sum of \$1800 received on account of the original and supplementary subscription lists, so that, notwithstanding the utmost care and economy, we have again been compelled to encroach upon our capital to the extent of \$1,694.88, to meet the current expenses of the Institution. It was hoped that casual donations would go far to supplement the annual deficiency, but these have fallen short, and no doubt the Out-Door Relief has diverted considerable sums which would otherwise have been given to this Institution. Our annual revenue from investments is only about \$2,320. Your Board refer with some anxiety to this condition of our affairs, and would strongly urge upon those who have not yet aided the Institution, the duty of contributing to its support so as to obviate, if possible, the necessity of encroaching further upon the Endowment Fund.

A Mortgage of \$4,000 held by your Institution has been repaid during the year, and the amount, with an additional sum, making \$5,000, has been re-invested in Harbor Bonds.

Your Board are under great obligations to the Directors of the City and District Savings Bank for the liberal manner in which they have treated this Institution, in their usual annual distribution to the charities of the city. The amount received this year is \$400.

The thanks of the Governors are justly due to Dr. George Ross of the Montreal General Hospital, for his gratuitous services as attending Physician, and for his unremitting attention to the inmates when sick.

Your Board have to regret the recent death of another of the large original subscribers to