

APPENDIX.

CARD.

The Female Home, Seigneurs street, stands in some sense in succession to the old Magdalen Asylum of this city. Nor can that institution be adverted to without mention of three honored names, Messrs. Davidson, Wenham and Paton, the well-known bankers of former days. These were its responsible managers. I was one of their Committee, but declined responsibility on the ground that such work could best be carried on under control of one or two competent persons, and best also by persons of years more numerous than were mine at that date. Messrs. Lunn and Vennor are, I believe, the only survivors of that Committee, and they were more active thereon than myself. But two lessons were then learned—the delicacy and difficulty and the need of such a work; and my knowledge of the experience of those gentlemen has, it may well be supposed, been turned to some useful account. But that Magdalen Asylum was closed, and for two or three years there was no open door for refuge or rescue of young women. The need of a Home was felt, but who would lead the “forlorn hope?” The work was neither pleasant to contemplate nor readily to be chosen, nor would any man of honest intentions enter upon it without the hope, at all events, of being useful to some of the so-called outcasts of society. The excellent work of Captain and Mrs. Barton, of the artillery, at Quebec, somewhat known to me, afforded encouragement and stimulus; so did General Russell’s experience of Homes—not Magdalens—in London.

So it was attempted. Considerable sums of money were at once given to me therefor,—not to a society or committee of any kind, but to my individual disposal, on my individual solicitation, and with the understanding of my personal responsibility to see the work carried out. The result was the purchase of the building known as the Female Home, Seigneurs street, and investment of the surplus contributions. General Russell, Major Malan, Mr. Claxton, and myself are those who engaged Mrs. Gowan and placed her in the responsible position of matron, advisedly and of intent with power beyond that of matrons ordinarily, all equally parties to that appointment, the superior responsibility of the conduct of the Home being however, distinctly mine. Thus the home was opened in May, 1868, and has continued to this day under the same management.