

THE ASYLUM OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD.



The Asylum of the Good Shepherd, at Quebec, offers a refuge to the Penitent and a safeguard to the innocent who are in danger. It was opened on the 12th of January, 1850, under the auspices of Religion.— Its only resources are those which Divine Providence and christian charity provide. So far they have not failed. God, of his infinity goodness and mercy, has inspired generous women with the noble thought of devoting themselves to the salvation and reformation of the most degraded of their sex; every one who knows the value of a soul redeemed by the blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ appreciated such a thought, and though it would have seemed that charity had exhausted all her funds in works of an equally estimable nature, she had yet her mite to offer for the asylum of the Good Shepherd. Each one has offered his. The Clergy, the Religious Communities, The Society of St. Vincent of Paul, generous christians, pious Ladies, all have made it a duty as well a pleasure, to come to its assistance. Does not this admirable co operation which the asylum of the Good Shepherd becomes, in a manner, the work of all, assure us that it will prosper? Does it not seem to say: "The hand of God is here!"

Thanks to this assistance the asylum of the Good Shepherd possesses at the present moment a modest dwelling in De Lachevrotière street, St. Louis suburbs, in which 20 Penitents are living under the direction of 9 mistresses. Their daily labour, the work of their hands is sanctified by prayer. They pray for their benefactors. The Penitents never leave the precincts of the establishment which protects them; they perform their religious duties in a chapel in the interior. Their nearest relatives, alone, can converse with them, by permission of the Superior, and in the presence of a Mistress. This confined state of existence must necessarily be painful for persons whose former habits were of a very different nature; several, however, among whom is the one who was first admitted into the asylum, bear it with courage and even with joy. They know that it is their road to Heaven.

These 20 Penitents are not the only ones to whom the establishment has proved useful; others have spent in it a time of more or less duration; of these, 12 have been placed as servants, 7 restored to their parents, and one was reunited to her husband after a separation of 15 years. Some, it is true, have fallen anew, but we venture to hope that even they will derive some benefit from their sojourn in the asylum of the Good Shepherd. At all events, the consoling dispositions in which two of these unfortunate creatures have died, would seem to confirm us in that idea.

In order to point out more fully the necessity and utility of this establishment, we may add, that of the Penitents admitted made their first communion, 7 received the sacrament of confirmation, and 2 were baptized, in the asylum.

These happy results of a work which is yet in its very infancy are an earnest of the benefits of which it will be productive as it increases, and they are very encouraging to all who take an interest in it. The house has already proved too small, and the Superior has been under the painful necessity of refusing admittance to several unfortunate females, who hoped to find a refuge in it. A larger Building, then, must be erected. It is with this view that His Grace, the Archbishop, has appealed to the Faithful residing in the country parts; it is, also, for the same object that a Bazaar will be opened on the 25th of this month, which all christian and generous hearts will not fail to patronize.

Quebec, 3d May, 1852.