

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
TORONTO MAGDALEN ASYLUM  
OR  
FEMALE HOUSE OF REFUGE.

3rd JULY, 1861.

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The friends and supporters of this important Institution have a claim upon its managers for a periodical review of their guardianship and trust; and yet, from the very nature of the object, we can do little more than present statistics, and appeal to them, as the most satisfactory statement we can lay before our subscribers. Six previous Reports have made the public sufficiently aware of the origin, design and progress, of our Association, and a repetition of such statements is surely unnecessary now. The Institution is thoroughly established, and its merits or rather importance recognized, not only in the city, but throughout the province; for, from time to time, we have had applications for admission from various and even distant localities; and only a few days ago, a father of respectable character applied, through a clergyman, for admission to such a Reformatory for an unfortunate daughter, who, having gone astray, could only be saved by removal to a distance. This application is from one of our provincial cities, and was immediately responded to—and, in similar cases, board has been paid or donations given in order that the benefit of the Refuge may be enjoyed. Indeed, we believe that our Institution will become the parent one—that her branches will extend, for the evil we seek to cure or mitigate has no localities, and as our cities increase so will *crime*, and this moral police, if it merit no higher title, will be found a most essential part of every large municipality. This is one reason why our Institution should be made as efficient and perfect in its management as possible. In taking the initiative, let us try to make it a model for others that may necessarily spring up. Every name added to the list of applicants, we consider an argument in favour of the object. The first movement to such a Refuge is hopeful. The emotion may be temporary, and the motive not always the purest; still we say, it is a step in the right direction; and such a movement by any trembling penitent or almost despairing outcast is never to be undervalued—the smallest indication of life *not extinct* revives hope, and encourages effort, for “while the lamp holds