

subscriptions towards the erection of such an Asylum as would reflect credit alike on the benevolence and good taste of a city renowned for charitable deeds.

In 1847, the sum of £800 was cheerfully subscribed by many kind friends, and promises of further assistance held out by so many others that the Ladies considered themselves justified in commencing the building, to the extent of their available funds, and at the commencement of the year 1848, contracts were therefore entered into for the mason and joiner work, to the extent of £964.

But in the interval it pleased Divine Providence to afflict this city with unprecedented commercial distress; and several of the subscribers, with the best intentions, were not able to fulfil their promises of aiding in this good work.

Could they have foreseen the great monetary changes which then took place they would have deferred their undertaking; but the above promises, and the then prosperous state of the times, fully authorised the commencement of the building—so that many were the anxieties of the Directresses during the progress of the building, lest the funds on which they depended to pay their contractors should, at the hour of need, not be forthcoming; however, with the generous assistance of other kind friends during the years 1848 and 1849, and by appropriating (as a loan) the sum of £284 from the reserved funds of the institution, they were able to complete the building externally, and do sufficient to the interior to make it tenantable; and on 1st May, 1849, were enabled to remove the officers and orphans to their new home—since when they have done much towards the internal finishing and necessary comforts of such an institution; and although the sum of £1340 14s. 2d. has, up to the 30th December, 1849, being actually expended on the new building, it is still far from being finished as originally intended—and the above mentioned sum of £284, borrowed from the Reserve Fund, as a temporary loan, must be repaid, and placed at interest in the Savings' Bank, as soon as possible, it being destined to supply at an emergency, any deficiency in the annual subscriptions and donations for the household expenditure and support of the orphans; but to attain this end and at same time complete the building, a further sum of £450 is required, and the Directresses now most earnestly appeal to those of their fellow citizens who have not yet contributed, to come forward and lend their aid.

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