

3rd.—The soup kitchen was opened on the 8th January, 1864, and has every day since, added to the comfort and maintenance of many individuals and families in the city. About five thousand quarts of soup have been served out every month. The smallest number of daily applicants has been 60, and the largest 114, at present the number is about 75. Besides the soup carried home from the kitchen, a crowd of persons have dined at the rooms every day. Most fortunately, the services of Mrs. McDonald, a very efficient matron were procured, a person possessed of every qualification needed, and most faithful and zealous in the discharge of her duties. This branch of the work is an excellent means of directly assisting the poor. It is also very popular and evidently much in favour with the citizens and persons living in the neighborhood of the city, as they have sent, and continue to send, most liberal supplies of meat and vegetables, which have been partially acknowledged through the Press. The entire expense of the soup kitchen up to the present time is \$222,24 viz., in repairs to the building \$43,88; furniture \$47,21; and maintenance \$131,15, being about \$10 a week. In future, this effort could be carried on for less than \$1 a day. The sum necessary from now up to the 1st May, will not exceed \$40, and it is then intended to close the kitchen and to remove for storage to the Campeau Street house, the boiler and other articles belonging to us. We have again in this branch to acknowledge the services of the Rev. Messrs. Caulfield and Morrison, who have daily attended at the kitchen, and visited the applicants at their dwellings, and in this way guided the relief into proper and deserving channels. The register kept by these gentlemen shows the name, abode, occupation, and number in family of every applicant. The missionaries are clearly of opinion that the result of their visitation goes to prove the great necessity for this kind of relief, and also the good moral condition of the poor in Montreal. Nearly all the work belonging more particularly to the soup kitchen has been done by Messrs. Charles Alexander and J. O. Becket, these two members of this sub-Committee, having specially undertaken this duty and devoted a good deal of time and labour in its faithful performance. A considerable number of Roman Catholics have been relieved at the soup kitchen.

4th. It is the earnest desire of this Sub-Committee that as little delay as possible should take place in the erection of suitable buildings for a night refuge, soup kitchen, and office, and that special care should be had to an ample supply of hot and cold water, and a mode of securing free and perfect ventilation. These essentials do not require to be pressed on those who have visited the night refuge, but as all the Governors have not had the privilege, it is thought necessary to call particular attention to them in this report. And it is also of great importance that arrangements should be made in the plans for a large and comfortable room capable of accommodating not less than one hundred persons for the purpose of holding religious

services as often as convenient, so that by this means those unfortunate persons who come into our hands may depart a little better than they came, having had, at all events, some good influence brought to bear upon them.

5th. In regard to the future, although not within the scope of duty assigned to us, we beg respectfully to offer the following suggestions. It has been our opinion all along, that existing charitable institutions should be encouraged to carry on their work as usual, until the House of Industry is in full operation with building completed, and every thing in order. We adhere to this opinion. But we find a very general expectation on the part of subscribers and the public, that we should continue to do a little work during the summer months, and not suspend operations entirely. The public feeling seems to be that, there should always be a door open somewhere, to which deserving individuals might be directed, and where, for a few days, or nights, they could be provided for. To meet this call has engaged the anxious attention of this Sub-Committee. If we expect a liberal support, and large subscriptions from the people, efforts must be made to meet public expectation in regard to our work, and not to fall short in this particular. Only in this way can the Institution be made to secure a hold on public sympathy, and, as a consequence, a larger revenue from subscriptions. After much deliberation, we are prepared to recommend the following plan. We have the Campeau street house rent free, fitted out and furnished by ourselves. We shall also have there after the 1st of May all our soup kitchen furniture. Let that house be kept open not as a Refuge as at present, but as a house for relieving the deserving poor, by outdoor or indoor relief as may seem expedient. The present Matron of the soup kitchen is, in our opinion, quite competent to do all the duty, with such assistance as she would readily obtain from the inmates. The entire cost per month would be under \$60. The kind of relief would be of a very plain but wholesome description, confined probably to oatmeal, bread, and soup, quite enough to provide for destitution, but not sufficiently tempting for those who can, by any effort, do better. This plan might be tried for a month or two. The cost would not be great, and the public, we believe, would appreciate the effort.

6th and finally. The past winter has brought to every member of this sub-committee such experience and knowledge of the poor as may be turned to profitable account hereafter. But we feel that we are as yet only groping in the dark, and that we have very much to learn. Every member has worked willingly and steadily during the past winter. The duty has been, of course, a self denying labour, so much misery, distress, and suffering appearing in our midst and calling loudly for help. To a certain extent this call has been met, for, when shelter and food have been freely provided for all who come, it is plain that destitution and want in their worst forms have been greatly alleviated.

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