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REPORT

OF THE

Operations of the Society of St. Vincent of Paul, for the Year 1870.

REPORT.

In presenting their Report for the past year, the Halifax Council of the Society of Saint Vincent of Paul do not think it necessary to enter into any details as to the system pursued by the Society in the relief of distress, or as to its practical working since the last Annual Meeting.

The Society has been in existence in this city for eighteen years; and we venture to hope, that not only our patrons, but the public at large, are sufficiently acquainted with the operations of our body to render any further information altogether needless.

During the year just ended, we are happy to be able to state that the amount of distress which has come under our notice has been rather below the average, a fact which, perhaps to some extent, may be attributed to the exceptional mildness of last winter. Neither have we to chronicle any individual case calling, as did some cases in former years, for special mention; except, it may be, one where a soldier's widow, with four children of her own and two grand-children, all of whom promised to become a permanent burden to the community, were by the kindness of Colonel Barnby, R. E., Colonel Bayne, and the Messrs. Setton, conveyed to the other side of the Atlantic. The absence of any such widespread destitution as existed in the year 1869, for instance, has had, strange as it may seem, the effect of leaving our Society in debt to the Treasurer in the sum of two hundred dollars—a larger amount than at any former period. The simple reason is, that the members and their friends did not feel called upon to make the same strenuous exertions to raise money as in former seasons. We hope that our honorary members and other patrons will, therefore, be no less generous towards us than in former years; but will place us in a position not only to meet the demands of the current year, but to free ourselves from the debt due for the one that has closed.

The Society cannot allow the present opportunity to pass without again calling attention to the necessity that exists for some refuge or reformatory for Catholic children—boys more especially—as the good Sisters of Charity continue to provide to the extent of the limited means at their disposal for such female children as would be otherwise utterly neglected; the worst or most reckless find their way to the Police Court, and are not easily reached or influenced except by such an institution as we speak of. The schools, so admirably conducted by the Christian Brothers, and other religious communities, are doing a great work for the future of our city, as well as for the immediate interests of the children under their care; and the catechetical societies afford religious instruction every Sunday to some hundreds of children; but the boys who, owing to the criminal neglect of parents, or other causes, attend neither school nor catechetical instruction, are those whose future careers promise most evil to the community, and who engage, as far as our limited means permit, the care and solicitude of the members of this Society. A reformatory, somewhat similar to the Halifax Industrial School, would, we feel assured, do much to remedy the existing state of things. Neglected boys could be taken charge of, and hindered from falling into crime; while those who might have already fallen could be sentenced to a term in the reformatory, and thus saved from the lower depths into which they are now generally plunged by evil association. We dismiss this subject with the hope that 1871 will see something actually done for our unfortunate street boys.

The members of the society are pleased to be able to testify to the good done by the Association for the Relief of the Poor—an organization similar to our own, founded some years ago, upon a slightly different basis, by a number of gentlemen, different from us in creed, but agreeing with us in the desire to alleviate the miseries of their suffering fellow citizens. Wherever our members have been brought in contact with those gentlemen, in the pursuit of this common object, they have found them always ready and willing to do anything, or to afford any information, that might be of service; and we only hope that the Association may have before it a long career of usefulness and good.

As most of our friends are aware, the year, although not characterised by any unusual calls upon the energies of our Association, was a most sorrowful one to the Society itself. Three gentlemen, who were present at our meeting a year ago, were, almost immediately afterwards, called hurriedly out of life by the same mysterious calamity which saddened 1870 to the whole city. With a few words about these "laborers gone to their reward" we shall conclude our Report.

John Barron, our late President-General, was so universally known and appreciated, that we need do little more than endorse what has been said of him by the Rev. President of the Visiting Dispensary, and by the Vice-President of the Association founded by our lamented President, for the young men of the North End. He stood for fourteen years at the head of our Society, and whatever measure of success we may have achieved has been owing, under God, to nothing so much as to his stirring energy, his strict adherence to rule, his regular and punctual attendance at all our meetings, and his complete comprehension of the spirit of our Society and its salutary founder.

Mr. Edw. J. Kenny was a most generous benefactor of the Society, giving, as he did, the munificent donation of one hundred dollars for several years. Owing to his frequent and continued absence from the Province, he was not known as he deserved to be; but every one who had the pleasure of his acquaintance knew him to be a high toned and genial gentleman, a scholar, and a man of ability—one who was certain, had he lived, to have exercised a great and beneficial influence in the community. It is with a melancholy pleasure we recall the fact that the only public occasion upon which his undoubted ability was brought to light, was at our meeting two years ago, where he made a most admirable speech, which is still fresh in the memories of many of his hearers.

Mr. Walter Barron was also one of the most liberal contributors to our funds. Like the gentleman last named, he was too little known; but only needed to be known to be loved and respected. His charity was not limited to this Society, but was widespread, and, like him-self, quiet and unobtrusive; and has, in most cases, only come to light since his untimely end. He was a man, if ever there was one, who fully obeyed the divine counsel, not to let the left hand know what the right hand did.

Thinking of those admirable men so suddenly taken from amongst us, we cannot help feeling that the loss to their families and to the Catholic community is irreparable; and we are even apt to think that Providence dealt unkindly with themselves. But the apparent calamity may be looked at in another way; and we may be sure that, although the dark shadow of approaching doom hung over and followed the ship that bore them away, our friends were followed and surrounded by the prayers and blessings of the widow and fatherless, whom they had fed and clothed and comforted; that, although they were taken in the noon of life, they have received the wages of the whole day, the rewards promised to those who do works of mercy in Christ's name; and that, to-day, their spirits look down upon us, from a land where care, and languor, and sorrow are no more.

We again record with gratitude our obligations to the members of the Children of Mary's Society, in connection with the Sacred Heart Convent. Their labours in providing articles of clothing for a large number of the most destitute of the families under our care have been unceasing; and we deem it a duty thus publicly to acknowledge how much the whole community are indebted to a Society which manifests such a deep and warm interest in the poor, and whose members devote themselves with such generosity and with such cheerfulness during the winter to clothe the naked, thus enabling parents to attend Church, and numbers of children to be present at Catechism and School.

Though the present winter has been so far unusually fine, yet we feel that the poor and the destitute are in our midst. Already the members are importuned by many families whose claims were recognized in past years, and who are expecting that relief without which they cannot provide the necessities of life for their large and helpless families. Our friends and benefactors are again reminded that we commence the year with a debt of \$200, mostly incurred in the purchase of fuel and in the relief of urgent and extreme cases of destitution during the last few weeks. We trust our appeal will not be made in vain to those to whom God has given the substance of this world.

M. B. DALY, President.

W. L. COMPTON, Secretary.

STATISTICS.

During the year the two Conferences have distributed:—

11500 loaves of Bread.
8064 lbs. of Tea.
2154 gallons of Molasses.
961 lbs. of Candles.
203 " Soap.
378 " Oatmeal.
60 " Cornmeal.
124 " Butter.
92 " Sugar.
170 " Meal.
179 pecks Potatoes.
77 dozen Herring.
22 bushels Coal.

Bottles Wine, Milk, Eggs, &c., &c., to sick persons.
Clothing has also been distributed through out the year, either for the sick, or for the poor, or for the young girls of the house, or for the aged, chiefly to children, to enable them to go to school.

The amount received from all sources during the year was \$1,819.39; expended, \$1817.29; leaving a balance due the Treasurer of \$197.90.

The largest number of families on the books at one time was 85, representing about 664 individuals.

The number of visits paid to the poor at their homes was about 4,160; and the funeral expenses of some ten persons were paid.

Subscriptions, Donations, &c.

Paid in to the Treasurer, during the year, 1870:

His Grace the Archbishop	\$40 00	Peter Grant	5 00
His Excellency Sir A. Friend	20 00	Alex Henslein	2 50
C. H. Doyle	10 00	H. H. Fuller	15 00
Sir Edw. Kenny	40 00	T. M. Langton	6 00
Very Rev. Dr. Hannan	20 00	John L. Barry	5 00
Lady Young	20 00	Bar T. Dwyer	5 00
Edw. J. Kenny	100 00	Joe F. McKenzie	5 00
Daniel Cronan	40 00	Robert Noble	6 00
Walter Barron	20 00	Michl Scallan	4 00
Henry Peters	20 00	John Brennan	2 25
Thos F. Kenny	40 00	Edward Kelly	2 50
P. Power, M.P.	40 00	Jas McDonald	5 00
Hon J. Cochran	25 00	Jas Fitzgerald	2 00
Paul Farrell	20 00	Patrick Dillon	5 00
Wm Chisholm	20 00	Wm Kennedy	62
Patrick Walsh	20 00	Thos Walsh	5 00
Michael Dwyer	20 00	John Kearney	6 06
Jer F. Kenny	20 00	R. Eustace	4 80
B. O'Neil & Co	20 00	Patrick Healy	2 50
Stephen Tobin	12 00	James Cutten	6 00
Rev P. Power	10 00	Joseph Muleahy	3 00
Rev. Canon McIsaac	8 00	M. Murphy	4 00
Rev. F. Murphy	5 00	John Hogan	4 00
Henry Hesslein	10 00	Wm Stoker	4 00
Michl Cochran	10 00	M. Campbell	4 00
Alpin Grant	10 00	Wm Swaine	4 00
Jas Mulrooney	10 00	J. P. Hargarty	5 00
E. J. Davys	10 00	James Mackay	2 00
Qtr-Mr Vignaux	2 50	John Mooney	2 00
Miss Vignaux	5 00	Donald Scott	4 00
Miss Winford	5 00	Michael Kerry	4 00
Garret Cotter	5 00	R. Donahoe	1 00
Dr Farrell	3 25	Michl Muleahy	2 00
Rev T. Allan	4 00	Mrs Jas Quinn	62
John Pugh	5 00	Mrs J. O'Connell	10 00
Patk Conolly	4 00	H. Elliot	1 00
B. Muleahy	1 50	W. E. Heffernan	5 00
T. Mullane	2 00	Duncan Grant	2 00
John Ead	5 00	James Payne	1 00
Mrs O'Connor	2 00	Edm O'Donnell	4 00
James Sullivan	2 50	Jas Lougan	1 00
Mrs T. Neville	1 00	Thbl Flour and	1 00
Wm Carey	5 00	Patrick Hayden	5 00
John Barron	5 00	R. Cunningham	5 00
M. Kearney, jr	5 00	Joseph Fortune	5 00
Bequest of late Mrs Murphy	20 00	Wm Ryanagh	2 50
Mrs Farrell	3 25	John M. Ingles	4 00
Ald Walsh	5 00	Michael Ellis	1 50
A. Friend	1 00	John Heenan	4 00
John Doyle	4 00	J. Flinn	5 00
Michael Clinton	1 25	Michl Hennessy	2 00
B. Walsh	5 00	Patrick Langton	5 00
Mrs J. Conway	2 50	Laur Howlett	5 00
Anonymous, per B. Walsh	4 00	Robert Wise	5 00
M. J. Power	4 00	A. Friend, by T. Durney	5 00
Wm Phelan	5 00	Edward Lequire	1 50
John B. Gray	5 00	A. Friend, by Dr. Hannan	5 00
M. B. Daly	10 00	J. F. Phelan—five chals. Coal	
M. Berrigan	4 00	Y. M. Literary Association	40 00
Peter Meagher	3 00	Catholic Total Abstinence & Benevolent Society	45 00
T. P. Conolly	5 00	Assault-at-Arms, 78th Regt	40 00
Miss R. Kenny	2 00	Very Rev Canon Shepherd—five chals. Coal	
Mrs Wall	1 00	Collected at St. Mary's Conference	90 50
John J. Chisholm	2 50	From St. Patrick's Conference	99 94
John Cahill	5 00		
Grant, Romans & Co	5 00		
Miss Tobin	5 00		
Doctor Tobin	5 00		
Chas McCarty	5 00		
Mrs Burns	5 00		
Ald Duggan	5 00		
Samuel Carter	4 00		