

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT, 1886.

The past year has been one of much anxiety to the Board, owing to the supply of work in the Shoe Shop almost ceasing, thereby throwing a number of our older boys nearly idle and decreasing our earnings very materially. We close the year in debt about four hundred dollars, and to enable us to do effective work this debt will have to be paid; and we look to our friends, some of whom have been contributors for nearly twenty-five years, to aid us in our determination to pay as we go, and keep out of debt. In former years we were always worried with a balance against us. For the past few years we have been able, by prudence and economy, to live within our income; but owing to the death of some of our best friends, and business reverses of others, our income has greatly lessened; adding to these the loss of work in the shoe shop, it is no wonder we are in debt.

As will be seen by the Superintendent's report, we commenced the year with 31 boys and closed with 27, one having died during the year. We ought to have at least ten more boys, which would not cost the Institution over one-fourth more expense to keep, as we have to maintain as large a staff for forty as for thirty, but we are happy to say the supply is visibly lessening. There are certainly not as many bad boys brought before the magistrate of the Police Court as there were in former years, and we know that this institution has been the means of saving scores of poor boys, who would have been regular inmates of Rock Head, or perhaps the Penitentiary. No one but those who have been closely connected with the Institution for the past quarter of a century knows what numbers of excellent men in the city and elsewhere, earning good wages and making excellent citizens, have been rescued in their boyhood from the streets, educated, taught a trade, and sent out into the world fully equipped to earn an honest living. The Industrial School has certainly cost much money and