

*M. J. Macdonell*

## REPORT.

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In presenting to the public the Report of the year 1853, the Trustees have the pleasure to announce that the Institution continues to fulfil in a satisfactory manner the objects for which it was originally established. It is gratifying to reflect that the House of Industry is, with such limited means, enabled to supply the wants of all applicants not relieved by private charity, or by Institutions of a private or sectional character. It is interesting to look back on the commencement and progress of this Charity, and to mark the small amount required for sustaining the regular poor of this locality, notwithstanding the great increase in the population. In 1837, the House of Industry seems to have first become a regular Institution. Previous to that time, the poor of Toronto must have been entirely relieved by private charity. While it is desirable to avoid the formation of large Alms-houses, as having a tendency to encourage idleness, to break down the spirit of independence, and cause the man struggling with temporary difficulty or calamity, to turn to the public for support, instead of redoubling his exertions to secure an honest livelihood by his own labour, it is obvious that there must in all communities be a class of aged and helpless poor, and of orphan children, who must be maintained at the public expense. When such persons have no relations whose duty it is to maintain them, this is the only remaining resort. It is a wise and humane maxim in the Mother Country, that "so long as there is