

During this period the number of families relieved is as follows:—

1868.		Feb. 4.....	308
Dec. 10.....	109	" 11.....	300
" 17.....	181	" 18.....	297
" 23.....	251	" 25.....	258
" 30.....	288	Mar. 4.....	264
1869.		" 11.....	248
Jan. 7.....	288	" 18.....	213
" 14.....	272	" 25.....	204
" 21.....	354	April 1.....	183
" 28.....	318		

Cases relieved by the Secretary during the Summer.....	213
Total number of times, families were relieved.....	4529

The number relieved the first year was....	3800
" " " " 2nd. " was....	3146
" " " " the present was....	4529

The number of families on the Relief Roll the past season has been 577.

The Board are glad to state that through the never failing generosity of our Citizens, they were enabled to give a large measure of relief to the Protestant poor of our City throughout the winter now passing away, and that a small sum is left on hand, with which to relieve urgent cases of distress throughout the present month of April. A thorough examination has been made into each case, and so far as known to the Board, not a single case of distress, having a claim upon our funds, has been turned empty away.

The Board have visited the homes of the poor during the winter nights, and it is gratifying to state that hardly a case of drunkenness was met by them during their rounds; on the contrary they were much pleased with what came under their observation, and had sufficient evidence that the provisions and wood given out were generally used by the poor people with economy and care.

The Board having found during the course of these visits, that many poor families were in much suffering, owing to the want of beds and bed clothes, immediately set to work to provide these necessary articles. 52 good new beds and 71 pairs blankets were accordingly distributed amongst the most needy, and it is a great satisfaction to know that much suffering has thus in some degree been permanently relieved through the benevolence of those who have contributed to our funds.

The Board have given out a larger quantity of wood than usual, 843 quarter cords having been distributed against 659 quarters last year, and 580 quarters by the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society, to their own poor. A large number of families have been dependant on the Board for their winter's supply of fire-wood.

The public have contributed liberally to the funds of the Board, a larger sum having been placed at their disposal than in any previous winter. About one hundred and sixty persons subscribed various sums. There were fewer donations than usual in provisions or other articles. Nevertheless owing to the increased

contributions in money, none of the poor were turned away, and all received relief, more or less according to the circumstances of the case.

A quantity of firewood was purchased and laid in during the summer, at the yards of the House of Industry and Refuge, and a second lot was purchased during the winter. It has been suggested by those likely to know that coal might also be provided as a part of the kind of fuel to be given out, if a cheap and suitable kind of stove could be got up.

The City Missionaries, and Bible Women have, as usual given much care and attention to the work of the Board.

The Account Current with Mr. Brown the Secretary-Treasurer, is annexed to this Report. The total income for the year has been \$3,271.36½, and the expenditure \$3,138.98, and the balance in hand on 3d April, was \$132.38½.

Last year there were 659 quarter cords firewood given away at a cost of \$1049.43½, exclusive of what was given by the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society. This year 843 quarter cords at a cost of \$1,149.12.

The Board would draw the attention of all interested in the support of the poor, and in the general well-being of our community, to the important measures recently introduced into the Legislature of the Province of Quebec, regarding the detention and training of youthful vagrants and offenders.

The first is an Act respecting Reformatory Schools for the detention and reclamation of youthful offenders, or young persons who have been sentenced to detention in a reformatory prison, the second, is an Act respecting Industrial Schools for the reception and training to some useful occupation, of vagrant children or orphans, under the age of fourteen, found wandering without settled home or proper guardianship, and for their detention until they are sixteen years of age, and this Act further contains a provision for the grant of a sum of money from the Provincial Funds for each child sustained according to the principle adopted in England.

The Board in now closing their services for the year, would desire to record their gratitude to Almighty God, for the good they have been able so far to accomplish on behalf of their suffering fellow creatures, and though the work necessarily involves from year to year a large amount of anxiety and labor; yet they trust they can say that through the good hand of God upon them and through the generosity and benevolence of so many of the citizens of Montreal; they have not only been enabled to alleviate a large amount of human suffering, but had the consolation of knowing in their own experience the truth of the memorable saying of our Saviour that, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

All which is respectfully submitted.

CHAS. ALEXANDER,
Chairman.
WM. BROWN,
Secretary.