

THE
FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY
OF TORONTO,

FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING WITH THE
30th SEPTEMBER, 1896.

Motto :

" It is wiser and less expensive to save children than to
punish criminals."

The Board of Management, in presenting its report for the twelve months ending with the 30th September, 1896, would gratefully place on record its devout thankfulness to God for the large measure of blessing granted on the work of the Society during the year. The Board and its officers meet many discouragements incident to the very nature of the work ; but on the other hand there has been very much of to cheer and to encourage.

Very much encouragement has been experienced by the growing interest of the general public in the Society's work. This has shown itself in several ways, viz. : in the sympathy expressed for the work and the recognition of the adaptability of the Society to overtake it. Many persons now make use of the Society's officers in cases of neglected and ill-used little ones coming under their notice, the calls in that way to attend cases being so numerous as to more than tax the ability of the staff to attend to them. The largest measure of the encouragement, however, comes from the undoubted benefit to the children rescued and adopted out, and from the evidences of improved home surroundings, the outcome of the judicious interference of the Society's Agent.

The general features of the work of the year have been much the same as those of previous years, while the number of children claiming the attention of the Society's officers has been larger, and several cases