

ANNUAL REPORT.

JUNE 7TH, 1881.

The Managers of the Orphans' Home and Female Aid Society have much pleasure in laying before the public their Thirtieth Annual Report.

During the past twelve months thirty children have been admitted—fourteen girls and sixteen boys—seven have been apprenticed, thirteen removed by relations, one adopted, and two died, leaving at present 108 in the Home; the average number for the year being 107, an increase of seven upon the previous year ending June, 1880.

As in past years, several boys and girls have fulfilled their terms of service, but having gained the good will of their employers, and become as one of their family, they have either remained with them at stated wages, or have been assisted by them in securing new employment. The money earned by these children while bound is placed by the Managers in the Savings Bank, and that, with the interest, is sent to them upon the expiration of their term of service, when they so desire it, thus giving them the advantage of a small capital to begin life upon. The Managers feel they have much cause for congratulation in the teacher allotted to them by the Public School Board. Under her careful training the children are making steady progress, especially in a most useful branch of study; as an instance of this, on a recent official visit of the Mayor and City Clerk, the children gave evidence of the thoroughness of the present system, and astonished their examiners by their rapidity in calculation. Several of them also were awarded Jesse Ketchum prizes in September last, and two lads received prizes of merit from Mr. Hughes, the Inspector.

The projected scheme for building a workshop for the boys, which had been deemed advisable, has been abandoned for the present, as many tenders received greatly exceeded the amount in hand.

In December, when the funds of the institution were at a low ebb, the opportune bequest of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) from the late Mr. Andrew Wilson, of Toronto, enabled the Managers to tide over what otherwise would have been a very trying season.

Thanks are due Alderman Boswell, who, so kindly used his influence with the City Council, and secured for the Home an increase of \$250 in the annual civic grant, enabling the Board to set aside, as the nucleus of a building fund, the net proceeds of the Calico Ball, amounting to \$536; also \$64, the returns from a Concert, due to the joint efforts of the Matron, Miss Wheelwright, and the Toronto Teachers' Choral Society. The present building has been long felt to be insufficient to accommodate the increasing demands of so large a city; not a matter of surprise when one recalls the date of its origin, October of 1851, when it stood almost alone as a refuge for homeless children. Its establishment was mainly due to the thoughtful benevolence of Jenny Lind, then on a professional visit to Toronto, and whose