

FOREWORD.



1887

AS the present year, 1911, marks the completion of twenty-five years of continuous and unceasing public service to the Humane and Children's Aid cause, the thought has been suggested that some few friends might be interested in the story of those early days when the foundations were laid for the great philanthropic work that now has spread far and wide, and is exerting a powerful influence in the promotion of youthful happiness

and social well-being. This book is not intended for general circulation, but for the information and encouragement of fellow-workers, and for the preservation of records that with the passing years would be increasingly hard to collect together.

At the age of thirteen, when I first saw the Hon. George Brown, Editor of *The Globe*, it became an all-controlling ambition with me to become a journalist, and later in life that ambition was realized, and seven happy years of service were spent as a member of the staff of that paper. But I had no sooner entered on a journalistic career than the neglected condition of a large class of the children of the poor, and the absence of organized effort on their behalf, impressed me so forcibly that I was unable to resist the appeal to become their friend and advocate.

In the summer of 1886, when twenty-two years of age, I began the social work that has since that time absorbed every waking moment of my life. It was not without many regrets and misgivings that I relinquished the hope of becoming a great journalist, but "there's a divinity that shapes our ends, rough-hew them how we will," and so I sorrowed, suffered and sacrificed for others, because that was the burden that was laid upon me.

J. J. KELSO.

Toronto, May 25, 1911.