

ST. PAUL'S ALMS HOUSE OF INDUSTRY FOR GIRLS.

In the year 1867 this Institution was established. It was, at first, merely an experiment: A small house on Tower Road, near the Gardens of the Horticultural Society, was rented, and a few girls, who from circumstances surrounding them seemed to be on the way to ruin, were taken in. The object immediately in view was that of providing a home for those who were almost homeless and training them up to be skilled domestic servants. The Committee desire it to be clearly understood that the aim of the Institution is that of preserving young girls whose position, whether through the fault or only the misfortune of their guardians, is one of proximity to vice, from being destroyed by the noxious influences around them; in short, it is a home for those who in early life are in the midst of temptation, and in which they may be trained in the duties of servants in a household, be taught reading, writing and arithmetic, and be instructed in the doctrines and precepts of Christianity. These intentions have been fully carried out. The school, as we may call it, has from the first been most successful. There were a few difficulties during the period of initiation, but they were comparatively trifling and soon overcome. The number of children gradually increased and the success which accompanied the effort warranted the managers in seeking a larger house. An eligible building, as respects both situation and size, was found and purchased at a moderate sum. Into this the children were moved, and entered upon their duties under the most favorable auspices.

The Institution is managed by a Committee of ladies and a Committee of gentlemen. The latter take charge of the finances; the former of the internal economy—a special department being assigned to each for supervision; one, for example, overseeing the dormitories, another the kitchen, a third the clothing; and so on throughout. On the last Thursday of every month both committees meet at the home, the bills for the past month are presented, and the Treasurer requested to pay them; reports from the matron, through the ladies, are received, and any