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TORONTO, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1878.

THE INFANTS' HOME.

IT gave us much pleasure to be present at the annual meeting of the friends and supporters of this benevolent institution. The Hon. Ex-Lieutenant-Governor Howland gracefully presided. The reports of the managers and of the Treasurer were read by the Hon. Vice-Chancellor Blake, who also seconded the motion for their adoption made in eloquent terms by the Rev. David Mitchell. Very able addresses were delivered by Rev. Messrs. Jones and Warrender, and by Professor Daniel Wilson, Mr. J. Gillespie, and Mr. Graham. Dr. Burns read an interesting report from the medical gentlemen, including himself, who give gratuitous service to the Home. What was wanting at this meeting was a much larger audience. It seems almost incredible that an institution of such a public nature and that is doing such a valuable work should have so little sympathy from the public. The idea of some thirty or forty persons constituting the anniversary meeting of the Infants' Home is sufficiently preposterous. There ought to be one hundred present for every ten that were at the meeting last week.

The matter of the report was exceedingly instructive. Since the formation of the Society three years ago, three hundred and ninety children and one hundred and sixty-nine destitute mothers were received in the Home. During the past year one hundred and forty-nine infants and seventy mothers were received. Of the children thus received forty-three were sent to relations, eleven were adopted, two sent to Girl's Home, fifty died, and forty-three remain. Of the seventy mothers admitted during the past year, thirty-five have been provided with situations, eight sent to relations, six dismissed, two sent to General Hospital, and ten remain in the Home. The monthly expenses averaged about three hundred dollars, and there is no certain income beyond the small grants received from city and Government, together amounting for the past year to about sixty dollars per month. The statement of Dr. Burns, so modestly given, to the effect that

notwithstanding all their efforts, there should be so large a percentage of deaths, is sad evidence of the forlorn condition of these children. What a pleasant thought for those who maintain the Home that they are the blessed means of contributing to the comfort of so many helpless ones in a trying moment. But how much more inspiring to witness the cheering spectacle of a number of children who would have been in a miserable and destitute condition, lively and happy, and receiving such a ground-work of physical health as with the collateral advantages of education, will make them useful and honorable citizens.

We have to bespeak for this Society the hearty and substantial support of the community. The work of the ladies is indeed a labor of love. They ought not to know anxiety or care in the maintenance of the Home. It is sufficient that they perform such duty without having the financial burden to harass them. It is a work that returns far more than it costs. Its cost is a few hundred dollars per annum, and for this outlay there is the saving of money that would have to be expended upon burying, upon police services, upon mothers forced to prey upon society, upon children being brought up to a life of stealing and begging. That is the negative side, but there is a positive saving. As Rev. Mr. Mitchell well remarked, it would be sufficient reward if only one child were saved to society and to heaven. He instanced the case of a young man who came one evening with his sweetheart to Rev. Dr. Guthrie to be married. He was a young soldier, with a glittering star on his breast received as a reward for bravery. When Dr. Guthrie learned that the two had been inmates of his ragged school, we can well imagine the excited joy which then took possession of his heart. But there is more than this. There is the certainty of a large percentage of such children being saved; and that means, not only being saved for eternity, but becoming good and loyal citizens.

It is the intention of the lady managers of the Home to erect a suitable building in which to carry on their work. For this purpose a sum upwards of two thousand dollars has been raised and is now in bank. But such an amount as this, however creditable to the donors, will barely suffice to purchase the lot, let alone pay for the building. It is therefore obvious that other contributions for this purpose must flow into the treasury. Would it not be well for the ladies to get up a bazaar in aid of their enterprise? We make sure that it would prove one of the most popular sales that have ever been held in Toronto, and we are sure that the returns would go far to enable these benevolent ladies to accomplish their noble purpose.

CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE.

A great treat is in store for the Christian community in this city and neighborhood. A conference of Christians similar to those held in the mother country and the United States will meet in Shaftesbury Hall from Monday till Friday of next week. We observe with pleasure that the Revs. H. M. Parsons of Buffalo, Robert Cameron and John Clarkson of Brantford, W. J. Erdman of Chicago, Dr. Brookes of St. Louis, William Taylor of California, besides a large number of our

city clergy, including the Rev. Messrs. Rainsford and Macdonnell, are to be present and take part in the exercises. These meetings cannot but prove very attractive and profitable. It will be delightful to meet with such brethren, and to listen to their words. From the conference there will go forth a precious and lasting influence, which will tell upon the work and spiritual prosperity of the churches. The practical benefit of the discussions will be felt during the coming winter, especially in the departments of P. 2 reading and Sabbath School work. We notice there is to be a discussion on Friday upon "How to reach the masses," from which we hope to get some light upon a question of great and acknowledged difficulty. To all the brethren assembled in conference we give greeting. May the Spirit of God be vouchsafed to them.

TORONTO COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE.

THE annual distribution of prizes in connection with the above Institute, took place in the afternoon of Thursday, the 10th instant. It gave us pleasure to observe the large and influential attendance of ladies and gentlemen who had gathered together to witness the various exercises. Quite a number of our leading citizens, including the Mayor and several clergymen, had seats on the platform. The ceremonies proved of much interest to the entire audience.

Considering how many of the pupils of this school have during the year now closed taken scholarships in the Universities, and also high places in the examinations, we see at a glance the important work which the Institute is accomplishing in the higher education. With such an accomplished and successful Rector as Mr. McMurchy, and with a staff of well-qualified assistants, it is to be expected that the results of the year's labors will be extremely satisfactory. But as the Rector said, with such pupils he could do anything. That is saying a great deal for Toronto, and also for the system of public schools which prevails. Indeed, as a whole this city is greatly favored in the matter of education. With the Model and public schools on the one hand, where a preparatory education of a superior nature may be obtained at little or no cost, and with the University at our door where the study of classics and philosophy may be successfully carried on, there is nothing to hinder any boy of "parts"—or for that matter any girl—from reaching the highest position to which culture will entitle him or her. Between the schools and the University the Grammar School is the necessary link; and Rector McMurchy is rendering an invaluable service to the community by the able manner in which he discharges his duties. He has his reward in the attainments of his scholars, and he will have a large return for his labor in the years to come in seeing many of his pupils occupying the highest places in the professions and in public affairs. The boy while at school may at times entertain an unkindly feeling towards the master, but when he reaches manhood's estate he will regard his teacher with profound respect and affection. Mr. McMurchy may reasonably look forward to such a future, when his pupils will look to him as the worthy instrumentality by which