

Report of the Alexandra Industrial School for Girls, East Toronto.

To the Governors of the Industrial School Association.

The year 1897, with its joys and sorrows, its triumphs and failures, is fast drawing to a close and will soon be but a memory—a happy memory let us hope to all assembled here to-day to listen to the report of the work done by the Industrial Schools.

This particular report concerns the working of the Girls Branch of the Association, an institution too little known to the general public, through no fault, we believe, of the Ladies Committee who have lost no opportunity of trying to get every one with whom they had any conversation interested, knowing that if they could induce people to pay a visit to the school, their sympathy in the work would certainly be aroused—but alas for their best endeavours, comparatively few have found their way there. They do not despair, however, knowing that “all good things come to those who wait,” and sooner or later the good results will be recognized.

During the year the number of girls has fluctuated; at present there are 21. Fewer than last year, a fact to be deplored when one is brought to face the fact that youthful depravity such as good people who sit at home have no conception of is rampant in our midst. We have spoken to these good people of an occasional case that has been sent to the Alexandra Industrial School, and they have found it almost impossible to give credence to our story. Most of these unfortunates are the victims of circumstances, having been born into degradation and sin. Happily for Miss Walker and Miss Bainard, the Superintendent and Matron, all the girls are not depraved. Many are guilty of nothing worse than idleness, and some of very trifling misdemeanors which, if left uncorrected, would develop into much more serious offences, especially when parents are incapable of managing their children. The restraint placed upon the girls at the school is a kindly one, a fact they very soon come to recognize, and before long to feel grateful for; and one very great