

Heavenly Father for His continued goodness, and their sincere thanks to the many kind friends of the institution for the generous support and encouragement which they have given the managers and trust that in this account of their stewardship the benefactors may see that their confidence has not been misplaced.¹

The total number of inmates in the Home during the past year is two hundred and fifty-five, including those in residence on the first of January, 1885, of these twenty-seven were apprenticed to farmers, one hundred received temporary shelter, whilst waiting for situations in the country, two were sent to friends in England, twenty-three were removed by parents or friends, ten ran away, and ninety-three remain in the Home.

During the past year seven boys have completed their term of apprenticeship, and are now in positions which enable them to support themselves. At the present time there are eighty-nine boys of various ages, serving their time with farmers. The demand for boys has been greater than ever during the past year, the managers being unable to fill all applications. Whilst on this subject the managers do not think it out of place to mention the terms and conditions upon which boys are bound to farmers: They are usually sent out at ten and bound until they are eighteen years of age. When a farmer makes application for a boy, he is required to furnish two certificates of character, one from his clergyman and the other from a Justice of the Peace. Two months are allowed for approbation: if the boy proves satisfactory, indentures are signed in triplicate by the First Directress and the farmer, each receiving a copy, the third being filed in the office of the Clerk of the City Council. The boy must be kept comfortably clothed, and sent regularly to church (Protestant) and Sunday School, and to the Public School for at least four months of each year; a payment of four dollars, must be made to the managers at the expiration of the first year, and an increase of four dollars for each succeeding year ex-