

responsibility of management rests. We have accepted and do yet accept it. And if any persons cannot bestow confidence upon this management they are at liberty to withhold confidence; so also if any persons cannot bestow aid under this management, they are at liberty to withhold that also. Members of the Society and subscribers would of course be recognized and welcomed as suggesters of anything for the Home's well-being, or as enquirers into its affairs. But I do not understand how any title to enquire into its affairs, much less to become its wanton traducers, can have been acquired by mere outsiders. But, if the proclivities of any lead them, right or wrong, in that direction, it is no business of mine to attempt to hinder their running in it.

Out of some 480 adult inmates during these seven years, out of a class for the most part degraded and depraved, it may well be supposed there have been diverse characters with which to deal. There are deceivers and deceived, adepts in concealment and in false pretence, bearing names they never got by birth, by baptism, or by wedlock. Some to be severely blamed, others to be intensely pitied—some callous and coquettish, others worn and sad and filled with shame—some in correspondence with parents, others in denial of them—some naturally truthful, and others the reverse—some older ones in crime seeking to lead the younger ones down the downward path, others really seeking to help them up—even mistresses coming in themselves to decoy younger women to their dens. In this work, of all others, perception of character of others, decision of character in herself are needed—knowing when kindly to yield and when firmly to stand—when to act in government and when in love—when to admit and when to expel—when the influence of one over others is good or evil—when an example on one side or another is to be afforded—these, as aptitudes which are all needed, Mrs. Gowan remarkably possesses. To gather old men or women, infants or children, the deaf or the dumb, or the sick into their appropriate institutions, is simple work compared with this one of character so complex, and presenting cases and questions so delicate and difficult of treatment. Moreover there is so much painfully disagreeable and repulsive—to say nothing of risks to which one's good name might unknowingly be exposed—that, but for conscious usefulness therein and obedience to higher behests than any organization of our fellows could impose, we would have revolted from it long ago. But every now and then occur instances of happy restoration to parents and to home—of real retrieval,—which God's grace only can achieve; of grateful and truthful and comforted hearts to brighten the dark scene and encourage amidst discouragements.

To have had committed by one's fellow citizens to one's care some \$12,000 for this work is no inconsiderable trust, and the longer the Home exists, as its besetments are realized, the more do I realize this responsibility, and the less disposed to surrender it if I could, those who placed me therein being content; and my purpose is, if spared, and my wife also spared to be my co-worker, still to execute this trust exactly in the spirit