

THE LAKESIDE HOME.

In the report of the Hospital for Sick Children, issued in 1883, the pressing need for a Home on the Island, for our convalescent ones, as well as for the children of those in the city, who have neither the means nor the opportunity of taking their ailing ones away for change of air, was strongly brought out. In speaking on the report, Hon. S. H. Blake emphasized this need, and made a powerful appeal for the establishment of such a Home, reading to those assembled the story of "Little Dot," a pathetic little history founded on fact, issued by friends of the Fresh Air Fund, New York.

A few days, after three gentlemen were quietly discussing our city charities and their needs and claims, when the subject of an Island Home, for the little patients in the Sick Children's Hospital, was introduced and continued until one of them mentally resolved to secure a building on the Island, in which the children could live during the hot months. With Mr. J. R. R.—the gentleman alluded to—to think was to act, and the next morning he called upon the President and offered a contribution of \$1,000 to build a Convalescent Home on the Island, if the city would give the land. As special prayer had been offered for such a building for more than a twelve month, the committee accepted this, as was expressed at the time, as but another proof of God's willingness to give abundantly above all we can ask or think.

Rev. Dr. W. and other publishers kindly placed the work of the Hospital, and the plan for an Island Home before the young people and children of Canadian Sunday Schools, through the columns of their journals, and in response many small offerings from boys and girls were forwarded and applied to the Island Home, then in process of building, the material as far as the \$1,000 would purchase, having been taken across the Bay before the breaking up of the ice.

The building progressed, but was about at a standstill, when Mr. R. kindly relieved the minds of the committee in this, to them real distress, by the gift of a second \$1,000. The following extract from the Secretary's diary of the eighth annual report, will give the reader some idea of the anxiety at this period, and our gratitude to God at His goodness in removing it: "\$1,000 required by the 1st July for the Island Home. We prayed earnestly that our Heavenly Father would send us this amount, as the house is being built, and we have but little more than \$1,000 on hand." An entry in the same diary, June 8th, reads: "We thank God that the same gentleman who sent us the \$1,000 for the Island Home, sent us word not to be anxious about the \$1,000 needed, as he would supply it himself."

"Verily God hath heard me. He has attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, which hath not turned away from my prayer, nor His mercy from me."

The first year about sixty weak, ailing children summered at the Lakeside Home. It was pretty to see them playing all day on the clear, smooth sand, paddling their tiny feet in the blue water, gathering daisies, buttercups and waterlilies, and filling their little aprons with pebbles. The third year Mr. R. added a wing, and 105 children passed through this Home, and almost all returned to the City after a shorter or longer sojourn in this healthful atmosphere, sturdy and strong.

This season 95 children spent a delightful summer under the loving care of Miss C. and her staff of nurses and workers. A number of little girls from the Girls' Home came to us, and one sickly little fellow from the Orphans' Home, also Rosie R., from the Haven, with her babe, and a nurse, needing change of air from the Infants' Home. The remainder were puny, delicate children from the city, and all the patients from the Hospital who were able to be moved.

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