

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BELLEVILLE DOMESTIC  
MISSION SCHOOL.

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The "Domestic Mission School" was commenced in the summer of 1869, by Mrs. McAdam, the Bible woman from Montreal, who remained a short time only in Belleville; subsequently the School was carried on by a few of the Ladies who were members of the Domestic Mission Society.

The children assembled once a week, upon Saturday afternoon, so as to keep none from attending their regular daily school: moreover, as the district school of Samson Ward was not used on this day, it was placed at the disposal of the Ladies, thus materially helping to decrease the expenses,—the rooms being well adapted to the purpose for which they were required.

The regular method pursued for instructing the children, secured the most excellent results; all classes of society were cordially invited, even urged to attend,—the richer to sew for the benefit of the needy, and the poorer ones to learn to sew and knit,—it having been noticed by those Ladies in the habit of visiting the poor, that very few, comparatively speaking, could sew properly, consequently were incapable of conveying the necessary instruction to their little ones. This deplorable state of things the Ladies undertook to remedy as far as possible.

Before beginning their afternoon's work, which was cut out and prepared by Mrs. C. H. Elliot, the children, often sixty in number, had religious instruction imparted to them by Miss Wallbridge, under whose constant superintendence the school was conducted. It is to be deeply regretted that the School could not be carried on for want of more liberal support, it being sustained solely by the mouthly contributions of the teachers, with the exception of several donations in money and material, from ladies taking an interest in its success.

Many serviceable garments were made and distributed to the poor, some incompleated ones being still retained until the school be resumed.

MARY MEUDELL,

*Secretary & Treasurer.*