

THE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
**Halifax Ragged & Industrial Schools.**

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In presenting their Annual Report, the Committee desire to record their grateful thanks to the author and giver of all good, for the grace and help wherewith he has enabled them to persevere, in the face of many and great difficulties, in the furtherance of a work the object of which is to rescue the poor neglected children of the upper and lower streets of this city, from a life of vagrancy and crime; to educate them in the fear of God, and by giving them an opportunity of learning some useful trade, to inculcate in them principles of cleanliness, honesty and industry; and by bringing them under the shelter and protecting power of human love, to raise through the agency of God the Holy Spirit, their thoughts and feelings upward to Him who is the source and fountain of all love.

The lot of the Halifax street boy is a sad and melancholy one. Many of these wretched and neglected lads are reared in overcrowded dwellings which are unfit for human beings, the walls begrimed with dirt, the scanty furniture and bedding filthy in the extreme, many of their wretched dwellings inadequately supplied with water, without proper ventilation, no partitions, families huddled together without the least regard to cleanliness or decency,—hotbeds of disease, misery, and crime. Alas! for the miserable wretches who are growing up amidst such baneful influences:—how can these children be snatched from certain ruin except by the Christian Public coming forward and establishing Industrial Schools, and Reformatories, where they may be brought under the counteracting influences of moral and religious training.