

W. Alexander Anderson

THE
REVUE

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

That the Committee have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Report of the Halifax Poor Man's Friend Society for the year 1824. The Report is a valuable and interesting one, and contains a full and complete account of the operations of the Society during the year. The Committee are glad to see that the Society has been successful in its efforts to relieve the distresses of the poor, and to improve their moral and social condition. The Committee are also glad to see that the Society has been successful in its efforts to secure the education of the children of the poor, and to provide for their support when they are unable to support themselves. The Committee are confident that the Society will continue to be successful in its efforts to relieve the distresses of the poor, and to improve their moral and social condition.

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PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY

AT THE NOVASCOTIAN OFFICE

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RULES.

- 1st. That this Institution be designated the *Halifax Poor Man's Friend Society*, a general meeting of which shall be held annually.
- 2d. That 20 persons be annually chosen as a Committee, also a Treasurer and Secretary from among the members of the Society to conduct its business, and that five of its members constitute a quorum.
- 3d. That the Committee meet monthly—that it be furnished with a map of the Town, to be divided into Wards, and that it appoint from time to time, as many, and such persons, as visitors in those wards, as it may judge expedient.
- 4th That the acting visitors, donors of 20s., and subscribers of 12s. annually, *paid in advance*, be considered members of this society, and entitled to vote at the general meeting.
- 5th. That it shall be the duty of the visitors to ascertain what cases of distress exist in the several wards to which they are appointed to insert in their books the name of any person becoming a subscriber, and to report the same to the Committee.
- 6th. That it shall be the duty of every visitor strictly to investigate, any case of distress coming under his notice, and if immediate relief be necessary, that he be permitted to render assistance to the amount as directed by the Committee.
- 7th. That a subscription of one shilling per month, to be collected in the different wards by the visitors, shall be solicited as extensively as possible, and that any donations which the friends of this Society may be inclined to bestow, will be thankfully received.
- 8th. That as journeymen and servants who are now receiving wages, may through sickness or other causes, be thrown out of employ, and may become objects of attention from the Society, they shall also be requested to contribute six pence monthly.
- 9th. That any sum remaining in the hands of the visitors, at the monthly meetings of the Committee, shall be then paid in, to be by them paid over to the Treasurer.
- 10th. That as this Society is formed solely for benevolent purposes, none of its members shall receive the least remuneration for their services, and each subscriber shall be at liberty to withdraw his name, on giving one month's notice to the Visitor of the Ward in which he resides.
- 11th. That the books of this Society shall be always open, for the inspection of the Public.

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Proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of the Halifax Poor Man's Friend Society, held on Tuesday Evening, January 25th, at the Exchange Coffee House.

The Honorable JUDGE HALLIBURTON in the Chair.

The Report of the Committee for the last year having been submitted to the meeting, it was moved by the Hon. Enos Collins, seconded by E. A. Crawley, Esq. and

Resolved unanimously,

1st. That the Report now read be adopted by the society, and printed under the direction of the Committee.

Moved by S. N. Binney, Esq. seconded by Dr. Johnston, and

Resolved Unanimously,

2nd. That the warmest thanks of this society are due to His Excellency Sir James Kempt, for his continued patronage of this Institution, and for the very liberal and important aid which he has ever afforded to it.

Moved by M. Tobin, Esq. ; seconded by J. W. Johnston, Esq., and

Resolved Unanimously,

3rd: That this meeting reflect with heartfelt gratification upon the good which has been done by this society since its formation, in materially diminishing the aggregate of human misery ; and that they look forward with the most pleasing anticipations to its renewed and increasing operations.

Moved by C. R. Fairbanks, Esq ; seconded by Dr. Head, and

Resolved Unanimously,

4th. That this meeting do earnestly recommend to the community, the provision of some system of general employment for the poor; being fully satisfied that until such measure be devised and adopted, the unabated exertions of this society will continue to be necessary.

Moved by W. B. Almon, Esq. M. D. ; seconded by J. W. Nutting, Esq., and

Resolved Unanimously,

5th. That the thanks of this meeting be presented to John L. Starr, Esq. for his services as Secretary during the past year, and that he be requested to continue in that office.

Moved by J. F. Avery, Esq. M. D. ; seconded by B. Murdoch Esq., and

Resolved Unanimously,

6th. That the thanks of this meeting be presented to M. G. Black, Esq. the Treasurer, for his services during the past year, and that he be requested to continue the same.

Moved by Rev. W. Temple, seconded by John A. Barry, Esq. and

Resolved Unanimously,

That the thanks of this meeting are due to the gentlemen who have acted as the Committee and Visitors of the society during the past year.

The following gentlemen were then chosen the Committee for this year, viz:

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|------------------------------|----------------------|
| L. Johnson, Esq. M. D. | S. N. Binney, Esq. |
| M. Tobin, Esq. | John Howe, jun. Esq. |
| J. A. Barry, Esq. | Rev. J. T. Twining, |
| J. F. Avery, Esq. M. D. | Mr. David Hare, |
| Rev. W. Temple, | J. W. Nutting, Esq. |
| John Young, Esq. | Mr. J. M. Neil, |
| John Starr, Esq. | H. H. Cogswell, Esq. |
| Charles Twining, Esq. | Rev. Mr. Carrol, |
| W. B. Almon, Esq. M. D. | G. N. Russel, Esq. |
| J. W. Johnston, Esq. | Rev. Mr. Renny, |
| E. A. Crawley, Esq. | } Joint Secretaries. |
| B. Murdoch, Esq. | |
| M. G. Black, Esq. Treasurer. | |

His honor Judge Halliburton having left the Chair, it was taken by Dr. Hume, when on motion of John Starr, Esq. seconded by the Rev. Mr. Martin, it was

Resolved Unanimously,
8th. That the thanks of this meeting be presented to his Honor Judge Halliburton, for his kindness in taking the Chair, and his attention to the business of the evening.

Moved by C. H. ...
Resolved Unanimously.
That the thanks of this meeting be presented to the Committee for the past year, and that he be requested to continue in that office.
Moved by J. F. Avery, Esq. M. D.; seconded by R. Murdoch Esq.

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REPORT.

Your Committee in laying before you a statement of their proceedings during the last year, have in the first place, to call your attention to the amount of relief afforded to the wretched and distressed persons, who came under the notice of your visitors. From the 1st, February to 14th April, one thousand three hundred and twenty six persons, have received such relief as was calculated in a slight degree, to alleviate their misery—amounting in the aggregate, to 979 feet of wood; sixty four pounds Meal; eight bushels of Potatoes; two and three quarter pounds of Tea; eleven pounds of sugar; fourteen loaves of bread; one pound of Flour; twenty boxes of herrings; two blankets and one bed case: and six pounds eleven shillings and eleven pence in money—together with seven thousand gallons of soup, averaging about one hundred and forty gallons per day, distributed from February 10th to April 1st; the cost of which was something under four pence per gallon.

The receipts during the past year, as particularized in the Treasurer's account hereto annexed, amount to £317. 5. 5.; the amount expended is £360 3 10½, and the balance now in the hands of the treasurer is £10 2 5½. His Excellency Sir James Kempt, with a liberality which eminently characterizes him, presented a donation of £10, with an assurance of his entire approbation of the objects of the society. A petition was presented to the legislature during its last session, praying for aid towards our funds, and one hundred pounds were liberally voted in consequence; which amount has been received by your Treasurer. Your Committee have also to acknowledge, a very handsome donation of £50, from the Committee of the Amateur Theatre, received through the attention of Colonel Arnold, Royal Engineers. The residue of the amount of receipts is made up by subscriptions from the Honourable Members of H. M. Council, several gentlemen of the army, and by a truly liberal subscription from our benevolent inhabitants generally.

Soon after your Committee were appointed, they met, for the purpose of carrying into effect the objects of the Institution, and conceived that they could not more effectually do so, than in confining the distributions chiefly to the articles of wood and soup. They borrowed from his Majesty's fuel yard, 122½ cords wood, as it was then scarce and selling at a very advanced price. This quantity was replaced during the last summer, and your Committee have to acknowledge the very obliging attention of Deputy Commissary General Haden, Colonel Couper, J. W. Tapp, Esq., and Richard Inglis, Esqr., in facilitating the issue and return of the wood. A soup-house was opened on Marchingtons Wharf, A. F. Jones Esq. having very politely lent for that purpose two large boilers from the Navy Yard, and it was conducted under the superintendance of J. Starr, M. Tobin, and S. N. Binney, Esqrs., and attended by one of your

Committee each day, to inspect the tickets, and to see that the delivery accorded with them.

The Gentlemen, who at the request of your Committee, performed the important duty of visitors, are entitled to the warmest acknowledgements of your Committee and of the society at large, for the cheerful and satisfactory manner in which they performed that duty. Without their zealous and faithful co-operation, the wants of a distressed community could not have been so judiciously, and discriminatedly relieved as they assuredly have been.

Agreeably to the 4th Resolution passed at the annual meeting, a "Committee of Industry" were appointed to carry said resolution into effect. As many persons in good health, and able to work, appeared in the lists of your society, it was agreed that the "Committee of Industry" should meet at stated periods to examine into their respective cases, and to prevent thereby any such persons from receiving *undeservedly* and *improperly* any relief from the society's funds. The visitors were instructed "to give no relief to any such persons, until they had been examined by said Committee—been found by them to be fit objects of relief, from the circumstance of their having no means of supporting themselves, by their being unable (as was the fact) to get any work—until their tickets had been countersigned accordingly by one of said Committee."—thus affording at once, a check to imposition, and a proof, that merely "getting up a story, and putting on a sorry countenance," could not be an effectual "passport to the magazines of the society." The Committee of Industry "reported to your Committee, that they could not obtain any employment for the persons who applied to them, and whom they examined, and found to be willing to work, could employment be obtained for them."

Your Committee during the last month, finding a balance in the hands of the Treasurer, and that the article of wood was selling at a very low price, placed the sum of one hundred pounds in the hands of a sub-committee, to be expended for the purchase of that article; and they are fully persuaded, that the want of *fuel* is felt more *sensibly*, than any thing, among our Poor. One hundred and eleven and five-eighths cords have been purchased, and by permission of J. W. Tapp, Esq. is now placed in his H. M. Fuel Yard:—there yet remains of the sum voted, £9: 10: 6½ to be expended.

During the period which your Committee have been in office, the subject of a Saving's Bank has been agitated. In April, the Honourable the Attorney General, met with your Committee, and laid before them a plan for the establishment of a Saving's Bank, which was fully considered of at a subsequent meeting of your Committee, several amendments proposed, and then returned to the Attorney General, *where the subject rested*. Your Committee however most strenuously recommend the adoption of some measure, to assist the industrious and saving of our poor, in putting aside some part of their earnings during the summer season, where it may accumulate, and be held in safe keeping:—affording thereby a new stimulus to prudence and economy. In our sister province New Brunswick, two Saving's Banks have been instituted and patronized by Sir Howard Douglas, and which promise the happiest effects.

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Your Committee conceive that the Poor Man's Friend Society has lost nothing in the estimation of a humane and discriminating public. Its utility stands above the reach of all cavil ; and whilst its machinery continues to be guided by visitors of respectability—of sound judgement—and of philanthropic minds ; it will ever be a blessing and an honor to those who promoted its early dawnings, and to the town in which it flourishes. Never was an institution in this town more generally approved of ; never was one more respectably, and extensively patronized ; and never, was one more cautiously managed. Like every other humane Institution, it partakes of the nature of those who conduct it ; and it must be conceded, that human foresight cannot in this society, any more than in any other Institution, effectually guard against every attempt to abuse its charity. But your Committee are satisfied that its guards are quite as effective if not more so, than those of any other Institution. The services of all its officers are gratuitously rendered, and caution is the very " watch-word" of its visitors. Its charity is not " indiscriminately and unnecessarily" afforded, as some would have the public to believe, whilst they pen their nerveless invectives against it. No case is relieved, until examined by one or more of the visitors, and found to be a real case of distress, and then the relief afforded is " a mere pittance"—perhaps two feet (seldom ever is it four) of wood, during a long and dreary winter, with two or three quarts of soup per day, to a family of sometimes eight or ten persons, and some of them perhaps sick. From the first day the society commenced its operations, to the present, the average value of relief given to each individual is less than *four shillings and one penny* per annum.

Private charity often relieves the importunate and worthless beggar, * from his own false relation of " misery unequalled," but it is for the Poor Man's Friend Society, through the activity of its visitors, judiciously to discriminate between objects who are fit to be relieved, and those who are not ; and although in some cases, visitors may be deceived, yet they are instances which bear no comparison to the number of worthy and deserving objects whom they relieve—not enough, however, by very many, to warrant " the society either being put down, or its objects entirely changed." As its " legitimate uses" are to relieve *only* those, who have no other means of being preserved from starvation and death, and to whom no such means are offered and refused ; as these uses are acknowledged to " have been pursued" they must indeed be " above all cavil." The Society cannot therefore, " lessen the inducements to industry" when it operates scarcely two months and a half (not five months as has been incorrectly stated to the public) of the year ; under the restrictions before-mentioned, and in a season too, where there is little or no scope for the

* It is a fact that some of our juvenile beggars are sent through the town to beg, and dare not return without having collected something, for fear of meeting the utmost severity, from their brutal keepers, who spend their collections in midnight revels and gambling.

exercise of industry, amongst the class who are relieved by this Society, and they are therefore of necessity in idleness. The able-bodied men relieved by the Poor Man's Friend Society are few; but those chiefly who are relieved, are sick and infirm men—women—many of them widows with large families—and poor distressed children: and your Committee therefore cannot but believe the Poor Man's Friend Society to be “a valuable and humane institution.”

It is much to be desired that some plan be adopted, by which our poor—those who are able to work—could find steady employment; and your Committee think, that some plan may be devised to realize so desirable an object—they are confident that could many be domiciled in the interior; their labour would yield them an ample maintenance; and they thus be rendered contributors to the “Public weal.”

Until such employment can be found, every thing that is benevolent and humane in our nature, urges a continuance of our exertions to lessen the sufferings of the wretched and the distressed.

Your Committee feel confident that the extent of sufferings in this community during the inclement season of winter, is known but very imperfectly, except to those who are eye witnesses of it. The political economist may sport his theories from his warm and comfortable study, but his heart would contradict the cold speculations of his brain, were he called to behold, what your visitors often behold, with paralyzed feelings:—a mother, and a tender offspring, with a sick and infirm father, huddled together in a cold and cheerless garret, exposed to every blast of a northern wind—without food—without fire—and almost without clothing. This is not the mere chimera of imagination! Hundreds of such scenes (or those of as deep a dye of misery) at this moment are open to inspection, in proof of the justness of this melancholy, and not overstrawed picture.

Let us then “double our diligence, and not to be “weary in well doing.”

“I know that the Lord will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and the right of the Poor” Ps. 140. 12.

“And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted souls; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day” Isaiah 58. 10—the great Apostle St. Paul says, “Only they would that we should remember the Poor; the same which I also was forward to do” Gal. 2. 10—Let those who would oppose our objects be reminded—“He that oppresseth the poor, reproacheth his maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor” Prov. 14. 31. “The rich and the poor meet together, the Lord is the maker of them all.” Prov. 22. 2.

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List of the different Wards, and the Visitors appointed by the Committee on the 28th January 1825.

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| South of Bishop-street - - - - - | } Ward No. 1, Dr. Johnston, Jas Tremain and Joseph Austin, |
| From Bishop-street to Salter-street, and also the square in which St. Paul's Chapel and Mason Hall stand, - - - - - | } Ward No. 2, Michael Tobin and Robert Storey, |
| From Salter-street to Sackville-street, and from Water-street up to Barrington-street, - - - - - | } Ward No. 3, Dr. Avery, Charles Loveland and William Fairbanks, |
| South of Sackville-street, and from Barrington-street up to Albemarle-street - - - - - | } Ward No. 4, Dr. Almén, and James Creighton, |
| From Sackville-street to Prince-street, and from Albemarle-street down to Barrington-street, - - - - - | } Ward No. 5 John Young and Wm. Young, |
| From Sackville-street to Prince-street, and from Barrington-street down to the water side, - - - - - | } Ward No. 6; J. W. Johnston and E. A. Crawley, |
| From Prince-street to George-street, and from the water side up to Grafton-street, - - - - - | } Ward No. 7, G. N. Russell and G. P. Lawson, |
| From Prince-street to George-street and from Grafton-street up to Barrack-street, - - - - - | } Ward No. 8, Chas. Twining and Able Gore, |
| From George-street to Duke-street, and from Barrack-street down to Argyle-street, - - - - - | } Ward No. 9, John Howe jun. W. Black, & J. S. Tremain, |
| From George-street to Duke-street, and from Barrington-street down to the water side, - - - - - | } Ward No. 10, J. A. Barry, Archibald Stewart and Jas. Leishman, |
| From Duke-street to Buckingham-street, and from the water up to Argyle-street, - - - - - | } Ward No. 11, M. G. Black, J Black and R Romans, |
| From Duke-street to Buckingham-street, and from Argyle-street up to Barrack-street, - - - - - | } Ward No. 12, David Hare, John Munro, J. C. Wilkie, |
| From Buckingham-street to Jacob's-street and from Barrack-street down to Argyle-street, - - - - - | } Ward No. 13, Stephen N. Binney and Hugh Bell, |
| From Buckingham-street to Jacob's-street, from the water up to Argyle-street, from Jacob-street to Cornwallis-street; and from the water up to Gottingen-street, - - - - - | } Ward No. 14, John Starr, John Greenwood and J. L. Starr. |
| From Cornwallis-street to Gerrish-street and from the water up to Gottingen-street, - - - - - | } Ward No. 15, John M'Neil and John Morrow, |
| From Gerrish-street to Dock Yard lane, and from the water up to Brunswick-street, north of Gerrish-street and west of Brunswick-street, and north of Dock Yard lane: - - - - - | } Ward No 16 and 17, J. W. Nutting, Adam Hemmcon, and Duncan M'Queen. |

DUTY OF VISITORS UNDER THE FIFTH RULE OF THIS INSTITUTION.

- 1st. To circulate extensively the Society's Annual Report
- 2d. To solicit and collect, as much as possible towards the funds of the Society.
- 3d. To relieve, agreeably to the instructions given them from time to time by the Committee, the wants of those whose cases, upon personal inspection, are found to come within the spirit of the Institution.
- 4th. To make correct returns of their expenditure, and its amount to the Committee, at such times as they may direct.
- 5th. To furnish the Secretary with an alphabetical list of Subscribers.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE VISITORS FROM THE COMMITTEE

The Visitors will go through their several wards *immediately*, and examine into the state of the Poor, and solicit Subscriptions.

They will be careful not to relieve any case without previous personal inspection; and by no means any case within the jurisdiction of other Visitors.

They will, if possible, go through their several wards at least *once* in a fortnight—that Paupers resident therein may not have an excuse for troubling Visitors of other Wards, and that they may not suffer from want of proper supplies.

They will afford relief in cases of *extreme distress*, to all persons even although they may be of known profligate conduct; but they will immediately report such cases to the Committee to be by them brought under the consideration of the Magistracy.

They will not exceed the sum of *ten shillings* per month, in addition to Wood and Soup, in relieving cases of *great distress*.—In ordinary cases, they will supply only Wood and Soup.

They will not supply *money* except under very peculiar circumstances; but will expend it themselves, in the most judicious and economical manner.

They will not in *ordinary* cases, supply more than two feet of Wood in three weeks; and in very extraordinary, such as where fire is required at night, from sickness, &c. they will not exceed 2 feet in 10 days.

They will circulate the Report as soon after they receive it from the Secretary as they conveniently can.

They will be particular in making returns of expenditure to this Committee, as follows:

From the first to the last day of February, on the evening of the first Monday in March. From the first to the last day of March on the evening of the first Monday in April. From the first to the fifteenth day of

April, on the returns will be received.

They will meet, as they meet, at the Society.

The Committee will be at the disposal of at least one of the Commissioners of the Poor, and will be at the disposal of any business.

April, on the evening of the first Monday after the latter date. Printed returns will be always kept in readiness by the Secretary, and these only will be received by the Committee.

They will be particular in paying over to the Committee whenever they meet, any sum which may be in their hands, the property of the Society.

The Committee most earnestly solicit punctuality in the attendance of at least one Visitor from every ward, at the different Meetings of the Committee; as without strict attention to this particular, the Committee can neither ascertain the state of the Funds, nor regulate any business, which may depend upon such knowledge.

By order of the Committee,
BEAMISH MURDOCH, } *Joint Secretaries.*
E. A. CRAWLEY.

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Almon, M. B.	12	0	Crawley, Mr. (2 years,)	1	4	0					
Almon, Mrs.	12	6	Crawford, A.		12	0					
Anderson, James		5	0	Clarke, J.		12	0				
Arnold, Col.	2	0	0	Chipman, Judge		12	0				
Austen, Charles		5	0	0	Cassey, J.		12	0			
Austen, Henry		12	0	0	Carrit, W.		12	0			
Austen, Joseph		12	0	0	Chaplain, W.		10	0			
A Friend		5	0	0	Cochrane, Mrs.		10	0			
Do.		5	0		Cochrane, Major		12	6			
Do.		7	6			D					
A. Z.	12	0	0	Dechman, J.		5	0				
				Darby, Capt.		5	0				
				Doyle, M.		5	0				
				0	Deblois, W.	1	0	0			
Bain, James	12	0	0	0	Dechezeau, A.		12	0			
Barry, J. A.	12	0	0	0	Dupuy, J.		12	6			
Barron, John	12	0	0	0	Denny, M.		10	0			
Bauer, Thomas		5	0	0	Doyle, L.		12	0			
Black, Martin Gay	1	0	0			E					
Bolton, Thomas Junr.	12	0			0	Etter, B.		12	0		
Bulger, Richard	12	0	0		0	Edwards, Esq.		12	0		
Brown, Thomas	12	0					F				
Bliss, Lewis		5	0			0	Flood, R.		5	0	
Beamish, Thomas		10	0			0	Fawson, Capt.		12	0	
Beckwith, Col.		5	0			0	Friend to the Society		12	0	
Byrne, Patrick		6	0			0	Fairbanks, C. R. Esq.		1	0	0
Bolton, Thomas		5	0			0	Ferguson, J.		12	0	
Blair, R. Esq.		12	0			0	Fulmer, A.		10	0	
Boggs, Thomas Esq.	1	0	0			0	Forrester, Thomas		12	0	
Belcher, C. H.		5	0			0	Fiddes, A.		12	0	
Black, Jane		12	0			0	Forsyth, W.		5	0	
Black, W.		12	0					G			
Black, James		12	0			0	Gray, B. G. Rev.		12	6	
Bennet, Michael		12	0			0	Grant, Miss		2	6	
Black, Rev. W.		12	0			0	Gray, Rev. Doctor		10	0	
						0	Gore, A.		12	0	
						0	Grassie, Mrs.		12	0	
						0	Grant, Peter		12	0	
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Carter, Mr.		5	0			0	Haden, (Commissary,)		1	0	0
Crawford, W.]		10	0			0	Haden, Mrs.		1	0	0
Creed, R.		12	0			0	Haliburton, Judge		1	0	0
Cummins, J.		5	0			0	Haliburton, W. H. O.		12	0	
Clarke, F. W.		5	0			0	Hill, Hon. C.		2	0	0
Charlier, Esq.		12	0			0					
Creighton, J. Jun.		12	6			0					
Currie, Mrs.		5	0			0					
Cogswell, H. H. Esq.		12	0			0					

Hackett, B.
Holland, A.
Handley, G.
Haskins, G.
Howe, J. E.
Howe, J. J.
Hartshorne,
Harris, Lt.
Holmes, M.
Hoffman, D.
Hamilton, J.
Hazard, J.
Harney, J.
Haverstock,
Hemmeon,
Head, Doct.
Hare, D.
Hall, A.
Hague, W.
Hodges, R.
Hutchinson
Harvey, H.
Hump, Doct.
Haliburton,
Inglis, Rev.
Johnston, I.
Jones, A. F.
Johnston, J.
King, Edw.
Kerwick, M.
Kirby, J.
King, Mrs.
Knox, W.
Kington, B.
Lusher, Rev.
Leishman, J.
Loveland, C.
Leonard, M.
Lynch, P.
Letson, F.
A Lady,
Lee, J.
Mitchell, S.
Murdoch, V.
Mitchell, A.
McRae, A.
McQueen, I.

Slater, Mrs.	12	0	Turner, Mr.	12	0
Stewart, A.	12	0	Thomson, Capt.	12	6
Shaunon, J. N.	12	0	Twining, Rev. T. T.	1	0
Smith, J.	12	0	U		
Skinmings, R.	5	0	Uniacke, Hon. R. J.	4	0
Sheffer, J.	5	0	V		
Stuart, Hon. Judge	1	0	Vickers & Son,	1	0
Stranger, a	1	0	Vass, Nicholas	12	0
Stevens, Wm.	5	0	Veith, A.	12	6
Sums under 6s.	5	13	W		
T			White, N. W. Esq.	1	0
Twining, Chas.	12	0	Wellner, J.	1	0
Tobin, James	12	0	Witham, John	6	0
Tobin, M.	12	0	Wilkie, J.	5	0
Tobin, T.	12	0	Whipping, Geo.	5	0
Thompson Jas.	5	0	Wauman, Miss	5	0
Tremain, John	12	0	Winter, Miss	12	0
Tidmarsh, Miss	5	0	Wilson, Colin	5	0
Tapp, J. E. Esq.	12	0	Wallace, Dr.	5	0
Tapp, H. W.	12	0	Wilkie, Jas. Junj	12	6
Tapp, Y. W.	12	0	Wiston, Wm.	5	0
Templeman, J.	12	0	Y		
Tremain. Jas. Esq.	10	0	Young, John Esq.	12	0

Dr. *The Halifax Poor Man's Friend Society in account with Martin G. Black, Treasurer.* Cr.

1824.

March 1st. To paid Visitors expended in Feb. £2 5 9
 April 1st. amt. Soup Comtee. and expended 114 3 24
 Printing Report &c. of 1823. 7 10 0
 By Balance on hand this day, £53 0 11
 His Excellency Sir James Kempt's

TO THE PUBLIC

THE miseries of the poor and destitute members of the human family will, to their benevolent brethren, always be a fit subject for tender sympathy; but their sufferings are so greatly augmented by the severities of the inclement and protracted winters of this climate, that an unusual appeal to the compassionate kindness of those to whom Providence has given to enjoy the blessings of abundance, may at this time seem not unpardonable.

With these impressions the Committee of the Halifax Poor Man's Friend Society are led to solicit the particular attention of their fellow citizens to the nature and operations of that Association, in the hope that by being better known it will gain further support, and that while its efficacy is enlarged by the increase of its numbers, the system it pursues may at the same time receive improvement from the suggestions of persons of good sense and experience.

This institution had its commencement in the winter of the year 1820. A large and respectable meeting of the inhabitants of Halifax assembled in the Acadian School Room, in consequence of the exertions used by several benevolent individuals to excite a public interest in this laudable undertaking. A society was on that occasion embodied under the name it now bears; means were taken by circulating printed copies of a public address, and in various other ways, to extend as widely as possible a knowledge of the plan in contemplation, and it early received the patronage of His Excellency Sir James Kempt, the Hon. Judge Haliburton, and other gentlemen of the first respectability, who have to this day continued to the society their countenance and aid. The annual subscription which should constitute the qualification of a member of the society was established at the small sum of *twelve shillings*; and altho' the revenue arising from subscriptions and donations has seldom amounted to £400 in the year, yet with these limited means the society has continued its operations in each succeeding winter, and the average number of individuals in each year to whom it has given occasional assistance is estimated at about 1380.

A Committee is chosen from among the members of the society at each annual meeting, to whom is entrusted the management of the affairs of the Institution, and the general appropriation of its funds; but the more immediate ministers of this charity are persons who have been denominated visitors, who also are selected from among the members of the society, and whose duty is to inspect weekly the respective wards which are assigned to them throughout the town;—to inquire minutely into the condition of indigent and distressed persons; to afford occasional pecuniary or other relief as they judge proper, in cases of extreme urgency; and to make a regular and particular report of the cases of distress they meet with, to the Committee, who authorize further assistance to be given as they see occasion.

The labours of the society are entirely limited to the winter season, as being that period during which the sufferings of the poor are most severe on account of the inclemency of the climate, and the difficulty

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of procuring employment. The mode of relief adopted since its organization has been chiefly confined to the supply of fuel, and occasional pecuniary aid. Soup also was distributed during the two last winters, and a committee was appointed for distinguishing such poor persons as were capable of performing work from the helpless, and for devising plans for their useful employment.

All these measures originate in the general committee, who have authority to vary, from time to time, the mode of relief administered, according as the necessities of the poor may seem to demand; and to direct the benevolent exertions of the society in such manner as may appear to promise the most extensive benefit.

To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, to feed the hungry and to clothe the naked, are duties of too strong a moral claim, to be innocently dispensed with on the ground of any speculative reasoning or notion of political advantage:—It is indeed highly desirable, that while the stewards of the Bounties of Providence are employed in ministering to the necessities of their fellow men, their labours should be directed by a spirit of wisdom and discrimination;—that while the bodily wants of the poor are supplied, their moral improvement may not be overlooked; and especially that the relief afforded be not converted into the means of indolence or vice. A truly enlightened policy appears to be to neglect neither of these considerations in the too eager pursuit of the other; and on this basis the Halifax Poor Man's Friend Society has been established. Sensible that no argument could relieve a community from the reproach, that any of its members should actually be enduring the miseries of extreme and abject poverty, and perhaps even perishing in this condition, while not a few individuals are surrounded with all the superfluities of wealth and plenty, this society directs its chief attention to the discovery of all such objects of misery, and carefully guards against abuse and misrepresentations, by a personal investigation, through its officers, into the actual circumstances attending every instance of want which falls within the scope of the relief contemplated.

To this society, so organized—ready at all times gladly to receive hints that may tend to improvement—treading with wariness and caution the steps marked out for its immediate progress; and bearing the honorable stamp of the blessings it has already shed around, during the period of its past labours, to recommend it to a favourable reception in future; and, perhaps, it may truly be added, with as few errors or mistakes to sully that reputation, as may belong to any institution of human origin; to such a society as this, do its committee earnestly solicit the consideration and support of the generous inhabitants of Halifax, and all persons of benevolent and sympathizing dispositions.

The usual motives which are urged in favour of alms-giving are so well known, and so generally acknowledged, that it is thought unnecessary to repeat here a theme that may appear hackneyed—nor do the Committee feel themselves called upon to refute objections that are often murmured against the practice of distributing to the necessities of the poor, and still less such as are directly levelled against this

Society. Those who are not insensible to the strong and repeatedly enforced precepts of the gospel on the subject of this duty need only to be reminded that thus it is commanded—Cavils that are raised on false assumptions deserve no answer—Where they proceed from unintentional mistake, the error however unpremeditated must yet arise from ignorance of the nature and system of the society; and to such objectors, it is but fair to say, “come along with us and judge for yourselves, before you propagate opinions unfavourable to an association that in many thousand instances annually mitigates the sufferings of your fellow creatures”

But after all, if there be not among us a pulse ready to beat, and to beat high, at the voice of philanthropy, it would be a vain attempt and far beyond human power now to awaken it. Every charitable Institution like the present must proceed on the supposition of a large amount of private generosity in the community; and taking this ground on the present occasion, the arguments the Committee adopt would chiefly be calculated to shew each benevolent individual that here is a method of employing a small means to a more extensive advantage than can often lie within the compass of private ability.

Few members of the community have leisure enough to inquire into the actual condition of the wretched objects that daily urge claims on their bounty; and without such inquiry, it must be evident, that both private and public charity is in danger of being misapplied; and by presenting an encouragement to idleness, perhaps encrease the evil it was intended to alleviate.—By the constitution of this society, that particular information is obtained respecting the character and wants of every object of its charitable assistance which is so indispensable to a judicious distribution; and this being effected by the labour of a few individuals, in visiting regularly the habitations of the indigent, means are thus obtained, at comparatively a small expense of time and trouble, to lay out the whole funds of the institution with judgment and discrimination. Another obvious benefit accruing from this system is the restraint it imposes on the extravagance and vices of the poor. There is generally a sense of decorum among them which will induce them to seek the approbation of their wealthy visitors; and it soothes the asperities of poverty, and reconciles the poor man to his condition, when he finds that prosperity does not quench the fire of sympathy, nor silence the language of commiseration.

To those who delight in smoothing the rugged inequalities of fortune, but whose means are unequal to their generous inclinations, it must be gratifying to be connected with an association which will at once give them the command of a considerable fund for any purpose of judicious relief, for the purse of the society is never closed against the supplications of unpretended misery.

And although the committee abstain from every attempt at moving the feelings of their townsmen by those ordinary topics which they conceive would gain no additional force from any remarks they could offer, yet in a young and growing colony, gradually rising into importance in the western world, it may be not improper to hold up the value and dignity of national character as an inducement to the sup-

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port of this and every praise-worthy public institution. The grand object of society is the improvement of the condition, the ease and comfort of every individual who composes it, and it is to the honour of a community to have it said that if abject wretchedness is known within its precincts, it must be the unavoidable result of the most obstinate and incorrigible indolence—The name of Penn has been honourably transmitted to posterity, and his country has enjoyed well deserved fame by means of a public institution admirably devised for the purpose of rescuing the poor from vice and wretchedness—our beginnings are small—but how many noble things have had a commencement equally humble—it is surely the part of a patriotic mind, not to start back peevishly from a good undertaking, at every difficulty or partial failure, but with patience, and perseverance, to bear up against opposition, and carry it forward to perfection.

This the Committee of the Halifax Poor Man's Friend Society trust will be the mind of very many of their fellow citizens, and in this hope anticipating their ready and generous aid in favour of the Institution, they subscribe themselves their

Faithful Friends and Servants

HENRY H. COGSWELL,
JOHN YOUNG,
E. RENNY,
L. JOHNSTON,
J. W. NUTTING,
J. W. JOHNSTON,
DAVID HARE,
JOHN A. BARRY,
WILLIAM TEMPLE,
M. TOBIN,
M. G. BLACK,
JOHN M'NIEL,
EDMUND A. CRAWLEY,
BEAMISH MURDOCH,
CHARLES TWINING.

FINIS.