REPORT

OF THE

FEMALE HOME SOCIETY.

"THE HOME."

480 SEIGNEURS STRRET,

Montreal, May 26th, 1874.

It is now time to submit Report of the Female Home Society for the year ending the 30th April, being the sixth year of the existence of the Seigneurs Street Home—the only one yet opened under the care of the Society.

This Report will speak but little of the general character of the work and of the way in which it is conducted, as these have been sufficiently spoken of in former reports. The present one will be brief, and will consist for the most part of extracts from the Matron's journal and from letters, by which means friends and foes—if there really be any of the latter—of the Home will be able to judge of its work.

Several young women have been sent to the Home by Mrs. Tilton of Ottawa, who has done so much to sustain a Home there, who writes that she has been obliged to close it, but for the present only she trusts; want of means, increase of lying-in applicants, and above all the great need of a lady superintendent, having caused her to take that step. We trust this excellent lady will soon be enabled to resume her much needed work.

The Home continues to receive women sent up by the Revd. Mr. Sykes Chaplain to the Quebec Jail, and in some instances with pleasing results. He expresses himself as gratified that girls are in some cases allowed to be confined in the Home. Mr. Sykes takes a deep and intelligent interest in these women, and corresponds with Mrs. Gowan about them; and it is satisfactory to know

that Quebec has one so kindly interested in poor fallen women. Sadly must the Sister City miss the labors and the open home of Capt. and Mrs. Barton.

Extracts from Matron's Journal.

"Aged 24. Sent here by a lady friend of the Home. Had been seduced in the country and came to Montreal. Remained in the Home for some time; her child was sent to the P. I. Home, she herself went to service as general servant, and her mistress is pleased with her.

"On opening my Journal to record the events of another year, I wonder if I shall have again to record many cases such as this, where the mother has no desire to keep her child. It is hard for me to know what to do for the best. I have advised in many ways, and sometimes have erred. None can lay claim to perfection, either in deed or counsel, and it requires a quick perception of the "fitness of things" to bring all to work for good in the end. Some women who went to the Infants' Home have come out to put their children into the nunnery, after nursing them a month or two; others have returned to me to show their misery from taking my advice 'to keep their child.' One servant girl came begging, with a basket on one arm, and the child which I advised her to keep on the other! No one cares to hire a girl with a child, and we can imagine what destitution will drive her to do. They do not say, as Hagar did, 'Thou God seest me,' and their last state is too often worse than the first. Moreover, I have noticed that nearly all these unfortunates show a want of mind, a want of mental balance, so that, in my humble opinion, it is best in such cases that the children should be given to those who are better able to bring them up, as benefits, and not burdens to society."

No. 410.

"Aged 16. A very depraved child, sent here by her brother-in-law and mother. They said 'they had done all they could with her, to no purpose, and were advised to bring her here.' Young as she was, she seemed to have the seared and hardened temperament of a heartless thief. While here she broke open a box belonging to one of the poor girls, stole all her clothing, which she hid among the bushes in the garden, and, when she found she was suspected, broke a hole in the garden fence and got out. Her mother afterwards had her sent to the Reformatory for two years."

No. 411.

"A wandering imbecile, whom I sometimes find sleeping in the porch. Never stays any where longer than a week."

No. 412.

"A colored girl, fallen, came from jail and was sent here by a lady who had done much in trying to reform her. Only remained a week here, and

left 'to look for a place,' without waiting for an answer to the letter which I had written to her mother about her. She soon got into her old home in the prison."

No. 430.

"A French girl, one of three fallen sisters. Came from prison five years ago, and after a year's probation went to service. She makes this her home when changing her situations, and is always grateful to those who have given her the first sense of home comfort. One cold day she called here, and handed me 50 cents, modestly whispering "it will help coals."

No. 431.

"A young woman who had lived a very degraded life, and came here from prison nearly six years ago. After staying in the Home one year, she was sent to service, and has ever since been steadfastly seeking to regain her lost character; she was a broken-down creature when she came first, now she is respectable looking, and really respected. All our success is from the Lord."

No. 415.

"Aged 17. Brought here by her mother. Is a very pretty simple girl. Had been decoyed into a house of ill-fame in this city, and ruined. After a few months' stay in the Home, she was taken back again by her mother, who afterwards called to tell me that she has great comfort in her daughter, she is so humble, and her conduct free from every impropriety."

No. 422.

"Aged 17. A young girl led astray by her sister's husband. Her poor mother, a widow, brought her here, so that her married daughter would never know of her husband's abominable infidelity. The young girl lived in her sister's house and attended school. She was six months here, was very quiet and well-behaved, and is now in service."

No. 423.

"A stewardess on one of the river boats, seduced by one of the waiters. When she went to her home her brothers drove her away. She was very grateful for the shelter given her here, and, since she went to a situatiou in the U. States, has sent money to pay all her lying-in expenses. What a trying position for a young girl is that of a stewardess; their shipwreck is almost certain. I have had a number of castaway stewardesses."

No. 427.

"A school girl whose parents boarded her in the family of the man who seduced her. She left them, and came to Montreal. What a work of mercy it is to lay hold of these young girls in their first wrong step. The tempter comes to them in such a subtle way that they do not know they are being tempted until they fall. I procured a good situation for this girl,

her kind mistress is quite a mother to her. Her sister has come to see her, and she will return home in the summer."

No. 432.

"Aged 19. Seduced in the country, and sent here by the clergyman of the place. Her poor father, who brought her, was greatly distressed at parting, as he did not wish her to come home for some time after she got over her trouble. She is a very quiet simple girl, and I have a good home in view for her,—I do not think it best that she should stay too long in the Home, as new comers often bring vices with them which would not work to her ultimate good."

No. 433.

"Aged 30. A woman from the jail, a very depraved lazy creature, who, after all the trouble she gave in having her thoroughly cleaned, left, coolly asking to be allowed to keep the clothing I had put on her. 'Oh no,' I said, 'you have a comfortable home here, if you wish to do well stay in it, and you will be sent to service by-and-by, if not you must put on your own rags to wallow in the mire again.' She left, to come and be cleaned again and again, every time with the firm resolve '*to do better this time.*' They know our home is available at all hours without need of a passport, but I confess I feel it thankless work sometimes to find my earnest expostulations scorned and ridiculed. Well, the effort is ours, the result is God's, and His faithful grace will, in His own time, cause the incorruptible seed tospring into life, when, perhaps, the sower is quite forgotten."

No. 436.

"From the jail.—Expected me to place her at once in a situation. How could I place her, a degraded creature, in a respectable family, she who was one of the vilest of the vile, and the associate of such for years? She left in a few days 'to seek a place to herself and no thanks to you.' These women have of late been so accustomed to be dressed up and taken away in carriages from the jail to situations, that I do not expect them willingly to undergo a term of probation here.

"Those who will not come to the Home have no desire to reform, and, as lying is their trade, they easily dupe the inexperienced by a show of assumed earnestness, and desire 'to be sent to the country.' Some of those who have been so treated have come to our door almost naked, having sold all the clothes they got, had a 'jolly trip' as they say, and return to the jail, taking care to lay the blame of their failure on every one concerned but themselves."

No. 443.

"A teacher who lost her position by her fall from virtue. Is now in service, and when changing her places stays a night occasionally."

No. 445.

"A young girl brought here from St. George's Home by Mr. Pell—is an

imbecile and very troublesome. If there was a Protestant Home for imbeciles in this city, I could supply several every year. They are sent here and remain fixtures, their want of intellect preventing them from getting employment."

No. 453.

"We never had an inmate in the Home who made more trouble and noise than this one, yet, when we think of the enormity of her crime, the battle for her rescue was worth fighting. She came late one night, and had her child before morning. A few days after, a man called, and asked for 'Miss A——.' Without permission he walked past the woman who opened the door, and up-stairs to the woman's bed-room.

"When I was told of it, I went up immediately, and asked him who he was. He said 'Her friend.' Well knowing what these poor deluded girls' 'friends' are, I ordered him out, but he refused to go, and it was not until I said I would call in the aid of a constable that he went after using a great deal of insolent and bad language. He returned again in a few days, and the same trouble had to be gone over again. A third time he returned, accompanied by another man who proved to be a policeman in plain clothes; I did not know this until I had sent for a constable to take them both out, as neither had any right to go into the sick-room. He was very outrageous, but such is the insanity of crime that his own furious conduct betrayed the dreadfully guilty life that he and the young woman had been living. The devil often overleaps himself, and surely he did in this case.

"The girl told me her whole life's history. The wicked man, a well-known resident of this city, had married her aunt 17 years ago, and failing in his effort to seduce the girl, his niece, he made her believe he had never married her aunt and married the girl privately, both women being in the same house, the aunt knowing nothing of this state of affairs. Abortions had been procured by city doctors. This outrage on society and the law has been going on in our midst, and yet the defiant villain goes unfettered and unscathed! When he came to take the girl away, he was firmly told that he had no claim on her, as she had asked my protection, and I was determined she should be sent to her father, which was done, she taking her infant with her."

No. 454.

"Before mentioned as an imbecile. The other women were afraid of her as she sometimes gave them a stealthy blow, so I had to return her to the St. George's Home; she was meanwhile a month in the Hospital."

No. 455.

"A flash looking girl, wearing a gold watch and massive chain. Said 'she had got into a little trouble and had parted with all her jewellery, except her watch, which was a keepsake from her brother.' I had a suspicion she would have to part with that too, her personal equipment made me suspect her source of income, so, a day or two after, I asked Detective

Lafon if there was a gold watch and chain 'wanted.' He said yes, and gladly came and took possession of it, and some other things which had been stolen by her from a party in the 'Maison Doré,' he said. She left the 'Home' shortly after, and I heard had spoken very disrespectfully of its conductors, who had talked so kindly to her and warned her of her evil ways. I think it is so absurd to listen to or give credence to the stories narrated by most of these women, to whom lying is such a habit that they would often rather lie, even though they had no interest in what they say, than speak the truth. My experience with them makes me doubt every one until brought under the influence of the Holy Spirit. I do wonder how people of sense can be so willing to open their ears and arms to error and shut their eyes to the truth, by believing the ridiculous stories told by some ingrates of those who have been their best friends."

No. 456.

"A waitress, aged about 17. Seemed quite a smart girl, and had been seduced by the hostler in the hotel where she had served. Shortly after she arrived, she asked for pen and ink to write home, she said. I saw the letter addressed to her seducer, and told her I had to see what she had said. I was quite shocked at its contents. She told the man she had got into a 'horrid looking house, and oh, Pete, if you only saw the bed-room I was taken into, you would not put your horses into it.' This of our beautiful sunny bed-room with its row of little iron bedsteads and pink coverlets, that the girls take delight in keeping tidy.

"She confessed she only said,it to make him think she was miserable, so that he would send her money. This is often the way evil reports get abroad. The girl was so ashamed at being found out that she, being a Roman Catholic, went to the nunnery. I often thought of her, and was really glad to meet her at the depot, getting a ticket to go home to her mother.

"It is quite a common thing for these women to tell tales of want and ill-treatment, in order to excite pity, and *get money*, that is the chief thing.'

No. 460.

"An educated young girl who came from Scotland to hide her shame, she had a child in the Home, and went to a country town as milliner. She gave me great anxiety. Very little temptation would have made her abandon herself to vice. She was all affectation, and never accused herself of having done wrong. I sometimes felt it thankless toil to cast the truth on her rocky heart. She gave trouble by statements which she afterwards acknowledged were untrue. She manifested contrition and expressed much gratitude for the benefits of the home."

No. 462.

"A woman who came from jail five years ago, she had given herself up to every vice. I saw her in prison, and offered her a home; she came, remained a year and was sent to service. I am happy to say she never returned to her

evil ways again, but was respected in her situations. Her fast failing health warned her kind mistress to send her back to the Home. She died in the General Hospital, giving every evidence of having rested her weary soul on Jesus."

No. 466.

"A young married woman. Had been a teacher, and made an unhappy marriage, was trying to get a divorce from her husband, and had been recommended by a doctor to come here for protection. She has now returned to her parents."

No. 467.

"A servant girl who was sent here by a lady in the city. She told me her husband was burned in a grist mill. It is quite wonderful to think how all the elements have combined to do away with these girls' husbands. Every kind of death except hanging has been called into requisition. I have not yet had the forlorn widow of a hanged man. 'Widows' of men who were drowned, burned, killed on the railway track, on the 'flying trapeze,' fell over board ship, kicked to death by horses, fell from scaffolding, and every kind of frightful accidents has happened to take them away, so that my nerves are now quite strong enough to bear anything."

No. 468.

"A woman from the jail rested herself a week, and left, liking her old headquarters better than the quiet of the Home."

No 492.

"Called herself an actress, and her husband (?) a clog dancer. She was very ill here, and appeared dying. The doctor had little hope of her recovery, but she got well and will soon be able to take a situation."

No. 498.

"A quiet girl of 19 brought here by her cousin. Was seduced under promise of marriage. Had been eight years as servant in one family who wish her return to them. She cannot read, but as she will likely be three months here, I got a book for her; she studies hard, and I hope will be able to read a little when she leaves."

No. 500.

"A young girl who brought another to the Home, and she herself staid until she found a place. She told me she meant to stay in a hotel, as she was a stranger. I offered her shelter here, which she was glad of. Being a nice looking girl, I thought she might be in danger. Had there been a Servants' Home in the city, I would have sent her to it. There are many homeless girls who, when out of situations, need advice and protection from the evils which surround them in a city like ours, and who would, by watchful care, be saved from temptation and perhaps destruction."

No. 504.

"A cook who came in saying she understood that this was 'a free Home.'

She had on a fine velveteen dress, but brought nothing to put on her child, nor change of clothing for herself, nor money, nothing but a noisy combative temper, continually making war. We kept her two weeks and sent her to the Lying-in-Hospital."

Extracts from Letters.

From No. 399, who has been five years doing well.

"My dearest Mrs. Gowan,—I received your welcome letter, and it did me good to hear from you once more. How is Maggie B? I could get her a nice place if she still wishes to come to *Yankee Land*. You don't know how lonely I am without some one to speak to me and come and see me; the work is very hard. I have not much to say this time, but condense it all in love to you."

From No. 386.

"Dear Mrs. Gowan,—I hope you won't think me ungrateful in not writing before this, but I have been suffering with sore fingers.

"If you ever felt a desire to express your gratitude to any one, and scarcely knowing how to begin, you will be able to judge how I feel at the present moment.

"Being with you over seven months, I had such a good chance of testing your goodness and kindness. When I think how many hearts you made glad, how considerate you were to those around you who needed a friend so much, truly God was good to the Home when he placed you there. I am sure I cannot tell how lonesome I felt for many weeks after leaving your house, how I missed your cheerful face, and the readings and prayers. You little think how many found peace under your influence; and dear Mr. T., I can in imagination see him every Sunday, and hear his kind fatherly voice."

Again she writes:—

"I shall ever be greatly indebted to you for all your kindness, I was sorry to learn by your last that you were not well, but you are always so busy, and have so much care, that I don't wonder at you being sick.

"How often I wish I could only pop in for a while in the mornings, and hear you read and explain that precious book. I often felt condemned when I heard you, for as often as I have read my bible, I never seemed to understand it in the light you showed it to us."

From No. 423.

"I am getting along very nicely, the longer I stay, I like it the better. I go to church every Sabbath, and Mr. and Mrs. C. are so kind and nice, they are more like father and mother than master and mistress."

Her master writes:—

"She refers with satisfaction to the christian home she had with you and the Sunday school at the 'Home.' I would be glad to know o the nature and management of your institution."

From her father.

"Dear Madam,—We received your note this evening concerning poor Lizzie, we thought we would never hear of her alive. We are very sorry that she has disgraced the family, but we may thank God we have found her, and thank you for taking care of her. A mother's love don't die out, give it to poor Lizzie, and tell her to ask God to forgive her. She has given her poor mother many a sore heart, she is the only one of the family who has departed from the path of duty, and we had nine. We thank you kindly for writing, for it is a year past last month since we heard of her."

From No. 428.

"I am sorry I did not write to you before now, I can never forget the 'Home' as long as I live. I have reason to thank God for His kindness. Though we may never meet in this world again, I trust we may in the next. Let me know how all the girls are getting on. I will never forget your kindness to me; I took it very hard when Mrs. H. told me she had not been to see you, but I hope to hear from you soon."

In another letter she writes:—

"I am going with my mistress to England in the spring; I like her very well, the longer I stay with her I like her the better, but I will never forget the good home I had in Montreal. I have saved a little money since I came here, and have sent you two dollars for the Home. I hope you will not take it as an insult, it is so little; I hope I may be able to send you more by-and-bye."

From her mistress.

"You will be pleased to hear that Kate is doing very well indeed. I hope the poor girl may keep herself straight. I have spoken to her many times, and she seems very penitent. Your letter to her gave her great joy about her baby, and she often says 'Mrs. Gowan has been like a good mother to me, I will never forget her.' The girl has a very grateful heart."

From No. 381.

"I write you a few lines to let you know I am well. I thank God for all His mercies to me in sparing me through all my troubles. I pray that He may bless Mr. T. for his kindness to me in helping to turn me from my wicked ways. Oh may I never depart from the right way. Tell Mr. T. that he does not know how happy I feel when I think of his kind prayers for me. My daily prayer is, may God bless Mr. T. and Mrs. Gowan and all in the Home. I wish I could tell you how I feel, it would make you happy. I am writing to my dear mother, she longs to see me; I trust to meet her again."

To No. 462 from her mistress.

"I can hardly realize that you are in Montreal. It must have seemed very good to you when you found yourself there again, and saw Mrs. Gowan once more. I had a letter from her a few days ago."

From No. 375.

"I shall not soon forget the pleasant time I spent in Montreal. I have great cause for thankfulness to God for taking care of me, and I trust that He will watch over me and keep me from temptation, that I may walk nearer to Himself in the future."

From No. 467.

"I have been waiting very anxiously to hear from you, but fearing you have not received my letter, will write again. I was in hopes to have heard something about my baby long ere this, it seems sometimes as if I must be crazy, for I am alone a good deal, and then I long so for my poor little boy. Then again the terrible thought comes that perhaps I did not do right in leaving him, but still I do not see how I could do otherwise, for my husband is still here and watching my every move. I do not go anywhere for fear I may meet him."

To No. 432, from the physician who sent her here.

"Your father has just come to ask me to write you a few lines for them. They have received your letter, and are very thaukful to hear you are so well and happy, and they pray God to keep you so. They are thankful you have found so good a home, and such kind friends in your present necessity. I am sure you try all you can to please Mrs. Gowan and those about you. Pray very often for help to live a godly and christian life."

From a physician in this city.

"The girl who hands you this has just come down from Kingston, and wished to get imformation from me about entering some Lying-in-Hospital, but as she is not near enough her time for that, I do not know what she can do if you do not afford her the shelter of the roof of the 'Female Home.' She will tell you her own tale. If you cannot take her in, please give her such advice or directions as from your experience you may think best for her."

From No. 467.

"Dear Mrs. Gowan,—Yours was received in due time, and you may well know how welcome it was. I was so glad to know my little one was alive. Oh! how my heart aches for him. I must contrive some way to have him with me, for I cannot live so. I was so sorry for you, and wish I could have helped you bear some of your troubles, but could do nothing but pray for you. Dear Mrs. Gowan, be careful and not overdo yourself, for although your heart is willing, remember your flesh is weak, and you owe it to your children, to care for yourself as well as others. I do not see how you lived through so much, and am a good deal puzzled to know how you get along with H. and S. both gone. I will try and write a note to Sarah and Fanny, but I hardly think Mr. —— would care about my writing to him, for of course I do not wish to urge myself into the notice of any one. I would so much like your picture, mother speaks about it often. She would so much like to know how you look. I do not know but she thinks she has a rival

in you. Well I do love you, and am not one bit ashamed of it, and hope some day, God willing, to see your dear face again. Meanwhile do not forget me in your prayers.

From the mother of No. 506, County Cavan, Ireland.

"Dear Mrs. Gowan,—I am very thankful to you for your kindness on behalf of my daughter.

"I shall always feel grateful to you for the trouble you have taken with my dear child Ann. I am so glad she is now in a good place, and that it is so near to you, so that you will see her occasionally. I would be thankful to have her under your care in a strange country, and hope the Lord will bless her, and make her His child; and my prayer and desire is, that the Almighty God would bless you for your boundless kindness to my daughter. Please tell her we are all well and will be glad to hear from her again and although she is in a foreign land she will not forget home. Dear Mrs. Gowan, the Lord has far exceeded my expectations in directing her to your Home. I need not be wearying you with a long letter, but will just say in conclusion that all my family, father, sons and daughters, send their best love to Ann and best wishes to you, maam.

"P. W."

The Brother of No. —— writes:—

"I do feel very thankful and very much obliged to you for writing me at once about my unfortunate sister. God only knows the trouble she has given me for years. Of late I have been so pleased with you all for your watchful care over her, and now to think she has got away from such kind friends who have proved it to her.—Is it not too bad."

This one has left the Home several times, and has each time returned except the last. She is now in the jail but wishful to get back.

Letters concerning an old inmate who returned to the Home only to die.

"Northboro, Jany. 19, 1874.

"It seemed to-day when I received your letter that we could see how she (Maggie) had been cared for and led back to the place (the Home) and the friends to whom she seemed to cling more than to any others."

"East Walpole, Jany. 23, 1874.

"We were exceedingly surprised and pained to-day to hear of our poor Maggie's death. She must have suffered much more than we realized the last few weeks of her stay with us, but during all her illness I never heard an irritable word or saw an unpleasant expression. She was invariably kind, and tried to do her duty far, far beyond her strength. Her constant thought for a year has been of her future life in Montreal, but she is at rest, and I feel very thankful she could pass away at home and with you by her so peacefully. She wouldn't have been so happy here although we

would gladly have done all we could for her—whom we had become so much attached to. It would have been a great comfort to me could she have written once.

"Will not Maggie's relatives put up some simple stone to mark her grave?"

It may not be out of place to give an extract of a letter recently received from England from a lady worker for women to a lady interested in this Home, as it conveys the impressions of an intelligent observer.

"I wish you could send me a few more reports of your Home for fallen girls I forget what you call it, but you took me to it. I think Mrs. McGowan is the name of the lady in charge. Here in similar establishments the way of return is made so (it seems to me) needlessly hard that I want to plead the example of Montreal as to how things ought to be done. I am going to write an article for "women's work" and should like full information. I wonder if Mrs. McGowan could find time to send me a few lines here. I should be very glad for I was more cheered by my talk with her than with any other worker in that hard and sorrowful work.

"Weep over the erring one" is much easier than "to lift up the fallen."

The following figures are made up from the Home Registers by the Matron.

The Total number admitted since the Home opened 507
Total number admitted since May, 1873 100

OCCUPATIONS.

Married women and widows	6
Servants	36
Milliners	2
Saleswoman	1
Stewardess	1
Waitresses	2
Sewing girls	3
Weaver	1
Printer	1
School girls	2
Teachers	3
Actress	1
Of no occupation	11
Infants	30
	100

Sent to friends	10
" " Service	37
" " Hospitals	5
Died in Hospital	1
Left of their own accord	8
In the Home	9
Infants	30
	100

INCOME FOR THE YEAR.

Matron's accounts:

Received contributions	$ 24 50
" for board (from Inmates)	372 50
" " Work	112 16
" " Sales of Work	27 00
	$536 16

EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR.

Matron's accounts:

Paid for Cartage, &c	$ 12 00
" " Groceries	118 01
" " Provisions	95 03
" " Beef, &c	101 92
" " Milk	48 62
" " Clothing and Dry Goods	38 37
" " Repairs and Wages	39 60
" " Fuel and Light	46 30
" " Materials and Postage	5 47
" " Furniture, Putting up Stoves, &c	30 65
	$535 97
Balance in hand	19
	$536 16

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED AT THE HOME.

A Friend	$ 1 00
Mrs. Claxton	10 00
Dr. Nelson	5 50
Mrs. Caldecott	2 00
Inmate No. 248	2 00
Mrs. J. H. Moss	2 00
Mr. Mann	1 00
Mrs. Lucas	1 00
	$24 50

DONATIONS.

Messrs. D. Morice & Co., Supply of Ice for the Season 1873.
" John Dougall and Son, "*Daily Witness*" and "*New Dominion Monthly.*"
" Kenneth Campbell & Co., *Drugs.*
Mr. C. Alexander, *Cakes.*
Mr. Alex. Rough, *Cakes.*
Mrs. Durnford, *Cakes at Christmas.*
Mrs. Claxton, 2 *Turkeys.*
Mrs. Dougall, 3 *Iron Beds and Chairs.*
Mrs. T. M. Thomson, $5 *for Christmas Dinner.*

The following words of another well express our thoughts.

As to the number of those who are permanently reformed we would not speak definitely. Our only hope is in their conversion. The opinions of those engaged in the work often vary in regard to individual cases; we must take into account inherited traits of character, early training or rather the want of it, with all the evil associations connected therewith, then the power of habit on natures thus developed; these must all be considered, felt and understood, ere we are prepared to judge or deal faithfully with such poor ones.

Only as we realize the promises and encouragements in the word of God, with the blessed example of our Lord Jesus Christ, and feel in our own hearts the value of precious souls however low they may have sunk in the scale of humanity, are we fitted to carry on this work.

We know that He is faithful who has promised, and that all things are possible to him that believeth; so we look for blessing and expect success; at the same time seeking to rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him, leaving it to eternity alone fully to unfold the results.

We meet with much discouragement and our faith is often tried, yet we can point to many who have served their term, are doing well, and who we trust are permanently reformed, and others now in the Home are giving us much encouragement by their penitence and trust, and constant endeavors to overcome temptation.

Indeed, the temptations which some of these poor girls have to overcome seem, humanly speaking, to be almost overpowering.

For the first time in the internal history of the Home we havebeen grieved by evil tongues within. This was owing mainly to No. 455, who inflamed the minds of two others, and so caused mischief. Two left declaring they would

circulate evil stories about the Home which they knew to be untrue. One of them, the one that grieved us most, remained, and the Sunday after gave for her verse Ps. li. 17, and confessed to Mr. —— and Mrs. Gowan her sorrow and deep regret that she had allowed herself to be influenced to the utterance ofuntruths. The following Sunday she gave I John i. 8, and since leaving the Home has written to Mrs. Gowan as follows:

"March 27, 1874.

'To Mrs. Gowan:

"My Dear Friend,

"I arrived here on Thursday night very tired. I could not go on Monday as anticipated, we had to wait for information. Will you think it too much if I wish to hear from you. I shall *never, never* forget your wonderful kindness to me, who seemed so little deserving of it; and although I am sorry, sorry to say the change you would have liked to see in me did not take place, still I feel a much better girl than when I entered your house, and I will never cease to be grateful to yourself and good Mr. —— for the interest you both took in me.

"I would feel obliged to you, dear Mrs. Gowan, if you requested Mr. —— to remember me (in prayer) every Sunday in your house. Remember me to Sarah, good honest girl that she is, also to Mrs. M——.

"I am, yours gratefully,

"A. E. M.

"P.S.—I have not expressed myself as I wished to, or as I feel either to yourself or Mr. ——, but I shall try to *shew* my gratitude some way."

Thus we were delivered from this trial. Another writes:—

"I suppose you think I have forgotten you. O no, Mr. ——, I can never forget your Christian care over me in the Home. It was a home to me and a blessed home. O may God reward you and Mrs. Gowan for your kindness to me. I have suffered a good deal since I saw you, but God is good. I still trust in Him, and He supports me. O may He never let me go astray again.

"B."

THE FEMALE HOME SOCIETY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE ACTING TREASURER.

Dr. Paid out.		In addition to Matron's account.	
Provisions and Groceries		$24 35	
20 00	22 80	23 58	
102 71	23 18	17 78	
81 88	17 50		
	18 40	13 48	204 39
Water Tax		13 30	13 30
Mrs. Gowan	100 00		
	75 00	175 00	
Miss Gowan	50 00		
	50 00	100 00	
			275 00
Coals		84 93	
		47 80	
		4 94	137 67
			630 36
Cr. Received			
Interest on $3000 Bonds	$90 00	90 00	
			180 00
From a Brother for support of sister		88 00	
A. B. C		10 00	
Mr. Claxton		20 00	
Mr. Utting		4 00	
Mr. A. Clerk		20 00	
Mr. W. Macdougall		25 00	
F. W. T		10 00	
George Rogers		5 00	
Mr. G. W. Stephens		100 00	282 462 00
			168 36
Balance to Credit, May 1st, 1873			104 15
Balance of debt, May 1st, 1874			$64 21

The aggregate accounts thus shew—Income $998.16 and expenditure $1166.33: and these accounts for the first time shew a balance against the Society. Though the amount is small, namely, $64.21, there is occasion for the request to the friends of the Home to supply what is needed. This request, which is allowed to rest

entirely on the merits of the case and on the recognized usefulness of the Home, we trust will be favorably regarded. There is no agency for collection of funds, nor public appeal, while the Home is also without government aid or assistance from savings banks or other public distributors of funds to charities. All the more is it deserving of voluntary contributions, and its management would be sorry to have to resort to any other means of obtaining money.

The services of Doctors Reid, Nelson and Alloway are acknowledged and these gentlemen are regarded as the present attending physicians of the Home; Dr. Reddy being from the time of the opening of the Home its consulting physician.

Mrs. Gowan continues at her post of Matron, one of toil and anxiety, yet one also of useful service which has its rewards. She gives us every satisfaction. Her daughter, who has been for some years her assistant has left the Home to take the less disagreeable work of teaching music and painting. We consider that the Home has been much indebted to her good influence.

The experience of another year having further shown the need of a clear understanding of the relation of this Home to other institutions, the following report of a meeting of ladies specially convened at the Home in May of last year, which was inserted in last year's report, is inserted here also.

There were present: Mesdames Moffatt, Durnford, John McLennan, Claxton, Molson, G. Ferrier, Baylis, Scott, Lovell, C. Brown, Taylor, Nelson, Hatton and Shaw, Miss Hervey and others. In conversation which followed the reading of the Report, some of these ladies expressed regret that there had not been more sending out to the Lying-in-Hospital instead of allowing so many confinements in the Home. Others, that infants and their mothers, also, were

not more frequently sent to the Protestant Infants' Home. Others, again, that the Home was not more open to women from the jail which hindered the Bible woman's work for that class. These ladies were connected with these three several Institutions and efforts, whose objects they were naturally desirous of promoting.

It was replied as to the *first* of these, that several times when the Lying-in-Hospital had been closed women had been obliged to come to the Home; that the greater privacy of the Home was desired by the younger women; that the influence of the Home over them was more complete by allowing their confinement within its walls; and that the choice of the women was to be allowed if they were able to pay for medical attendance, which they did in most cases; but that, nevertheless, as this was only an incidental part of the Home work, it would be quite the desire of the Home to send cases to the Lying-in-Hospital without applying any invariable rule either way.

As to the *second*, it was replied that if children of nominally Roman Catholic women as well as Protestants would be received at the Protestant Infants' Home it would probably be advantageous to both institutions. It would certainly be a relief and comfort to the Matron of this Home, and the ladies of the Protestant Infants' Home were asked if they would consent to receive *all children* that might be sent from the Female Home. This suggestion they promised to consider.

As to the *third*, it was replied that the Female Home was open in its true sense to all. There were instances of second, third, and fourth admissions: but that in some instances jail women, hardened and hurtful to the others, could not be admitted again. The interests and good discipline of the Home required this decision. If there are jail women of this known character, or others of them unwilling to come to the Home, the fault is their own; but if there are any considerable number of these who could be gathered into another Home, that would be a good reason for opening one in the

East-end of the town, and it would be a worthy effort to do so. We would wish it all success. And this Home would go on in its own quiet way, doing what its management judges to be wisest and best.

All that now need be added to the foregoing is,—

1st. That the ladies of the P. I. H. informed the Home that they must abide by their constitution and take none but the infants of Protestant parents,—Article 9, section 8, of their By-Laws requiring that persons wishing to place children in the P. I. H. must bring written testimonials from a responsible person that the parents are Protestants.

2nd. It had been the practice of the Infants Home in most cases to apply its rule that infants would not be received under eight days old. By note of the 10th March, 1874, the Home was informed that the P. I. H. would not receive any infants under ten days old.

Thus the ladies of the Infant's Home have found themselves unable to ameliorate their rules in favor of children from the Female Home, as they had been asked to do. This is a matter of very deep regret, as it imposes on this Home the necessity of sending infants in sadly too many instances to the nunnery. To know what is to be done with infants born in the Home is indeed a question of much difficulty, and it is greatly to be deprecated that they could not *all* be admitted to the Protestant Infants' Home to avoid the sad necessity of sending *any* of them to the nunnery.

The Annual Meeting was called by the following notice :—

"Notice! The Annual Meeting of the Female Home Society will be held at the Home, 480 Upper Seigneurs st., on Tuesday, the 26th inst., at 4 p.m. All subscribers are earnestly requested to attend.

THOS. M. TAYLOR,
President.

Montreal, May 16th, 1874."

And was held accordingly; but the attendance was very small, only ten persons in all being present, when the foregoing Report was read, and accepted with the expression of earnest desire that it should be printed, and be perused by all interested in the work of restoration of the fallen.