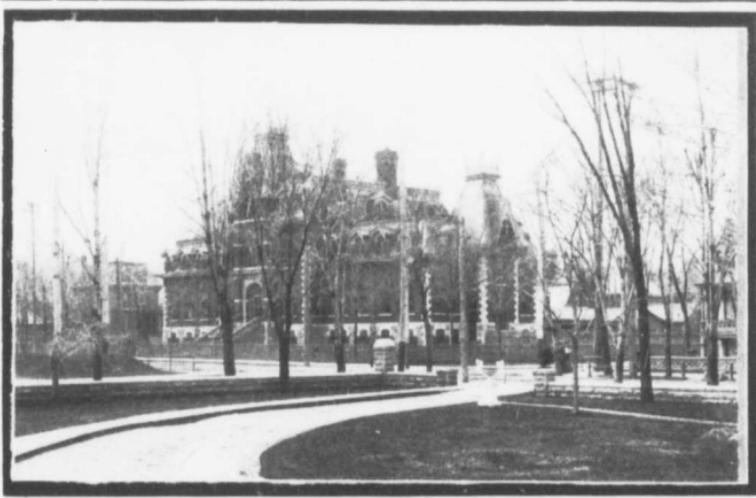


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OTTAWA

ORPHANS' HOME





THE ORPHANS' HOME
Elgin Street.

The Orphans' Home
of the **CITY OF OTTAWA**

SKETCH
OF
THE FIRST FORTY YEARS
1864-1904

By MARIA J. I. THORBURN
Late Recording Secretary

TORONTO
WILLIAM BRIGGS
1904

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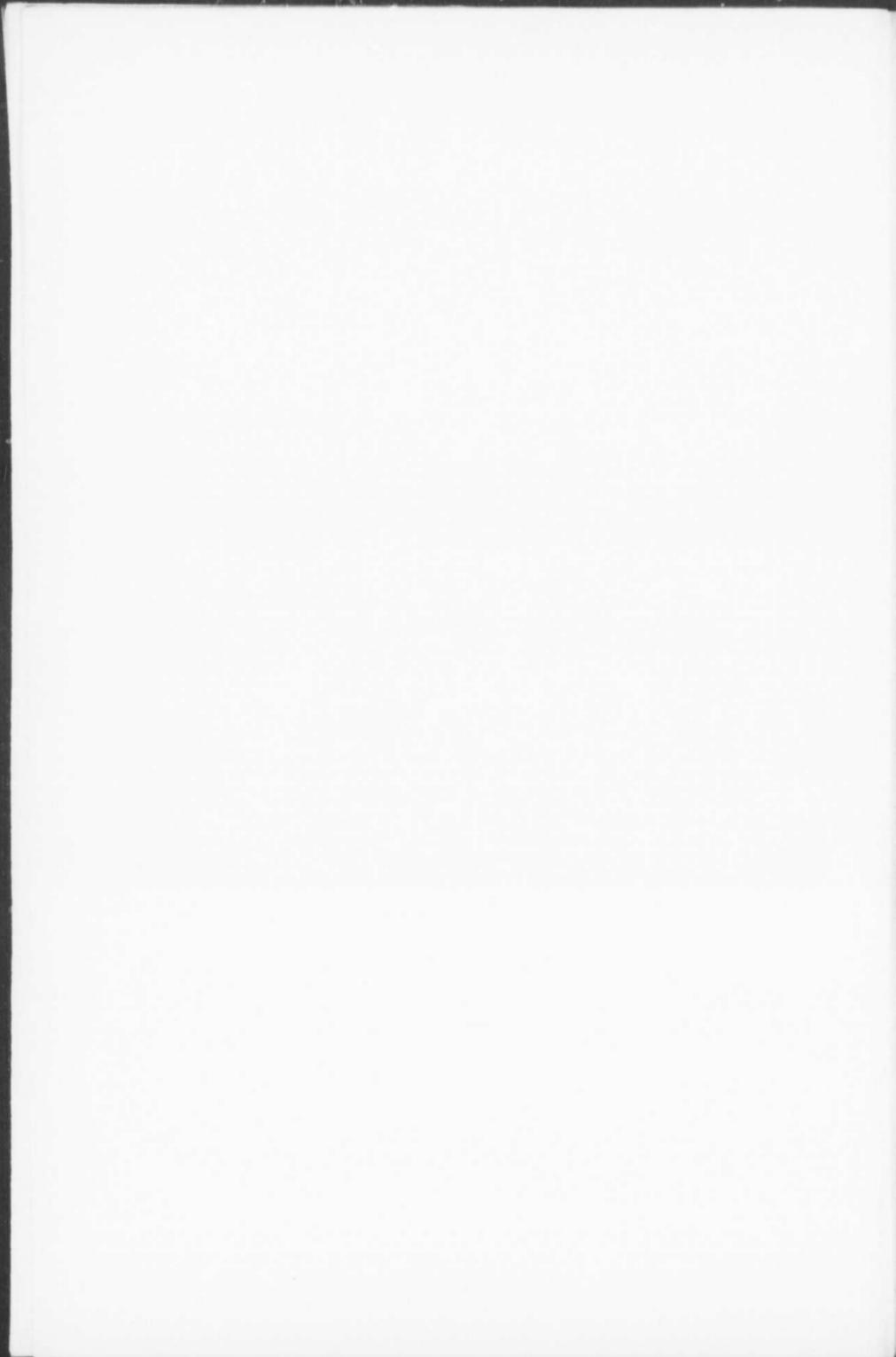
Mrs. W. J. Bronson

AND

MY FELLOW-WORKERS

ON

THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.



PREFACE.

To recall the beginnings of any institution or enterprise, to trace the growth of events which have led to its successful establishment, and to summon from the past the names, the forms, and faces of those whose services have been given to build up any cause, has always been to me an interesting study. This, together with the certainty that in a few more years all those who were the founders of this Home will have passed away, and with their departure many facts will be lost, has induced me to gather from the sources at my command some of the most interesting events connected with the "Orphans' Home of the City of Ottawa," from its foundation to the present time.

It has also seemed desirable to have the record of events in such a form as might be easily consulted at a glance, without the wearisome task of wading through much matter of no permanent value, with which the records of such an institution must necessarily be laden. My aim has not been to weave an entertaining story, but rather to give a plain statement of facts which, I trust, may be useful in the future.

Having been so long connected with the Home, and having spent so many happy hours with the

members of the Board, it has been to me a labor of love to gather up these memories of the past and to repeople it with those with whom I have so long lovingly held intercourse, many of whose beautiful lives have been to me an inspiration to better things and an incentive to renewed effort when discouragements have arisen or energies have flagged.

To all those who have in any way assisted me by furnishing facts, reminiscences or photographs, I desire to return my sincere thanks.

As nearly all the annual reports have been written by myself, I make no apology for quoting largely from them without acknowledgment.

M. J. I. T.

OTTAWA, November, 1904.

THE ORPHANS' HOME OF THE CITY OF OTTAWA.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

IT is a long look backward to the day, nearly forty years ago, that I took up the morning *Citizen* and saw an advertisement calling a meeting of ladies for the purpose of organizing an institution for the care of orphan children in this city of Ottawa. What changes since then! A very straggling place it was in those days—Upper Town, with its plain stone houses on Wellington Street, “Her Majesty’s Theatre,”* Doran’s Hotel;† the Chaudière, with its mills and slides, its suspension bridge and toll-house; Lower Town, with its shops on Sussex Street and on Rideau Street, as far up as “Dan Good’s corner;” Sandy Hill, with its cemeteries, its quiet streets and pretty residences, and the great common stretching off to the Rideau

* The site is now owned by the Bank of Montreal.

† Afterwards “The Cecil,” now Mortimer’s bookbinding and lithographic establishment.

River; and Centre Town, which in the old Bytown days had been an open space between Upper and Lower Towns, now struggling to assume a business-like aspect; while up on "the Hill" stood the unfinished Parliament Buildings, with the stone-cutters' sheds, the building materials, and all the unsightly accompaniments of such a great work lying scattered about the grounds. I remember the plain church buildings of those days, all now given place to handsome and stately edifices; the old City Hall, originally built for a market, with its outside stairs leading up to a platform or balcony, from which the newly-elected member harangued his constituents, and Campbell's Hotel, where now stands "The Russell."

The view from Parliament Hill looked not then, as afterwards, on huge lumber piles, or, as still later, on a fire-swept area and a railway bridge, but on the wooded banks of the river opposite, where two little churches nestled among the trees over at Hull. The Chaudière Falls were not crowded almost out of sight by projecting mills, nor disfigured with booms and bulkheads, but flowed in stately majesty over rocks which are now almost bare.

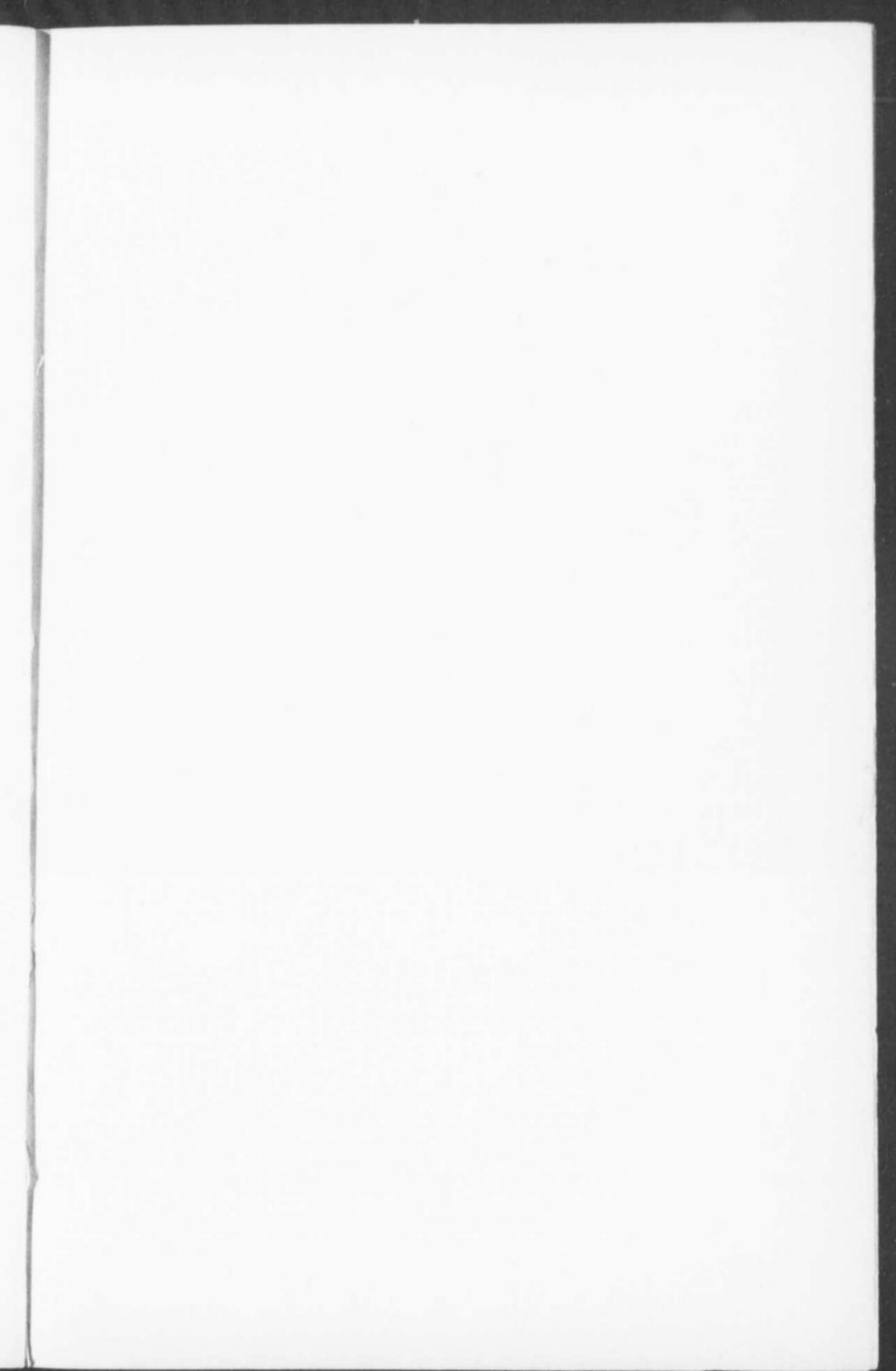
And what of the people who walked the streets of Ottawa in those days, forty years ago? Nearly all who were then engaged in the active life of the city have passed away. I meet now only a few, and they bear the marks of advancing age, but memory recalls their forms and faces: Mr. H. V.

Noel, of the Quebec Bank; Mr. Harris, of the Montreal Bank; the handsome member for Carleton; the dignified minister of the "Old Kirk," and his wife, the kindly "Mistress of the Manse"; the rector of Christ Church, with his hearty greeting; the genial and lovable pastor of the Free Church; "Dr. Van," as he was always called, strolling along and laughingly snatching a cap from the head of some urchin; Dr. Hill, driving down to visit the Water Street Hospital; and Dr. (now Sir James) Grant, in the prime of life and the midst of a growing practice; Col. and Mrs. Coffin, too, coming up from their picturesque home at the foot of the Locks. These, and many, many more, I see in my mind's eye, as they walked the streets in the olden days, when Ottawa was young. Nor must I forget a well-known figure, "Copper Johnnie," sitting at the end of Sapper's Bridge, with his cheery cry of "Copper, please!" Though the sidewalk was narrow, no one seemed to find him in the way, but dropped a coin, or at any rate a pleasant greeting, for him on passing.

There were no street cars, no granolithic pavements, no bicycles, no automobiles—people walked leisurely along, greeting one another in kindly recognition, for we knew everyone in those days.

Though a city in name, Ottawa had much the appearance of a huge village, but to those of us who had made our homes here, it was very dear, and however poor might be the streets and houses,

nothing could detract from or mar the picturesqueness of its site. Beautiful for situation then as now, though not yet "crowned with towers," she stood, looking out upon the foaming Chaudière, or the more placid waters of the river at her feet, seeing, with prophetic vision, the grand future before her, and herself the fairest of the daughters of the great Dominion yet to be.





Mrs. W.F. Coffin



Lady Macdonald



Mrs. H.P. Bronson



Mrs. J. Tilton

PRESIDENTS.

CHAPTER II.

THE BEGINNINGS.

IN the early sixties, so far as I recollect, the only public charitable institutions in Ottawa were the two hospitals: the Protestant, at the extreme east end of Rideau Street, afterwards used for contagious diseases, and the Roman Catholic, on Water Street. As the city grew, however, it began to be borne in upon the minds of a number of the charitably disposed citizens that some provision should be made for orphans and destitute children. The first report of the Orphans' Home says: "An institution, having for its object the relief of destitute orphans and widows, had been long ardently desired by the charitable and philanthropic portion of the community." I have also been informed that Mrs. Bronson and Mrs. Spence, two ladies forward in every good work at that time, often talked over the matter together.

It is sometimes difficult to speak positively regarding the genesis of any movement of this kind. We know in a general way who were the founders and who attended the first meetings for organization, but in whose minds the thought originated, and who took the initiative, it is not so easy, after a lapse of time, to determine; but I think I am safe in saying that the drawing-room of Mrs. W. F. Coffin was the birthplace of the Orphans' Home. Mrs. Coffin had been closely associated with the

Orphan Asylum in Montreal, and it was natural that she should desire a similar institution for the city which was then her home. Dr. C. S. Sewell, one of the resident physicians of Ottawa at that time, a friend of Col. and Mrs. Coffin, a man warm-hearted and of a philanthropic spirit, had also been interested in such work. They therefore talked the matter over with some of their most intimate friends, and Mrs. Coffin called together, at her own house, a few of those who she thought would be likely to assist in carrying out this undertaking.* Whether the idea first originated with Dr. Sewell or Mrs. Coffin cannot now be positively determined. In a notice, in the *Daily Union*, of the meeting held December 9th, it says, "We believe the credit of this movement is due, in a great measure, if not entirely, to the philanthropic exertions of Dr. Sewell." Mrs. Coffin, who herself wrote the first Annual Report, calls Dr. Sewell the "promoter," and also uses the words, "Dr. Sewell succeeded in organizing a meeting of ladies of the different Protestant denominations"; but the late Mrs. Ed. Griffin, who was one of those present at the drawing-room meeting, always felt that to Mrs. Coffin belonged the credit of the first steps. In the absence of positive proof, it would seem but right that they should share alike in the honor.

It is evident from what followed that those who met at Mrs. Coffin's house decided on the desirability and feasibility of proceeding with the undertaking, consulted with others, and succeeded in interesting a still wider circle, prominent among

* The late Mrs. Ed. Griffin, who was present, is my authority for this statement. Mrs. H. V. Noel and Miss Coffin also remember this meeting.

whom were Mrs. H. F. Bronson and Mrs. Alex. Spence, wife of the pastor of St. Andrew's Church. In singling out these four names as the principal originators of this charity, I would not, for one moment, undervalue the services of many others who threw themselves heart and soul into this undertaking, and gave, when the Home was once organized, much of their time and talents to its interests; but I think we will all be ready to accord to those whose names I have mentioned the chief part in initiating and launching the scheme upon the charitable public of Ottawa.

From the following notice, which appeared in the local newspapers of the day, it is evident that the next step was to interest the wives of the pastors of the city and representative women from the various Protestant churches, after which a public meeting was called in the following terms:

“NOTICE.

“The ladies of the Protestant congregations of Ottawa are requested to meet at the lecture-room of the Mechanics' Institute, on Friday the 9th inst., at 2.30 p.m., to form a charitable association for the relief of destitute children and other kindred objects, as may be resolved on. Gentlemen sympathizing with the project are invited to attend.

“H. S. Lauder.
Elizabeth Spence.
Sarah Wardrope.
Anne G. Elliott.
Eliza M. Douse.
Susan C. Brown.
Hannah Langridge.
M. Coffin.

Isabella Sewell.
Rovina Skead.
Mary Pattée.
Marion E. Jamieson.
Amelia Hunton.
Elizabeth H. Crosby.
Julia A. Hay.
Annie Howell.

“OTTAWA, December 5th, 1864.”

The Mechanics' Institute and Atheneum, which afterwards amalgamated with the Natural History Society to form the present Literary and Scientific Society, occupied for their quarters at that time the upper story of an addition which Mr. Geo. Hay had made to his block, 58 and 60 Sparks Street.* In the absence of convenient places for holding meetings, this lecture hall was frequently sublet.† On this occasion it seems to have been given free by the kindness of H. J. Friel, Esq., President of the Mechanics' Institute. For those days it was a very roomy and convenient hall, with a platform at the Sparks Street end. I was present at this first meeting and have been at every annual meeting since.

Those present, as given in the minutes and in the report of the meeting in the *Citizen*, were Mesdames Spence, Sewell, Armstrong, Coffin, H. O. Burritt, A. Burritt, H. V. Noel, E. Griffin, J. Skead, Garvey, S. Howell, R. Skead, R. Lees, Hunton, A. Patrick, Durie, Stevenson, Clemow, Laver, Pattée, Patton, Perkins, Cox, Bronson, Blackburn, J. Thorburn, Rochester, Langrill, Cressall, McLean, Brennan, Robertson, Johnston, Sinclair, and Misses Skead, Smith, Clement, Grant, Foster, Foote, Garvey, Farish, Lyon, Helliwell and Wardrope. The gentlemen present were Rev. A. Spence, Rev. J. Elliott, Judge Armstrong, Dr. Sewell and Mr. G. H. Perry. Rev. Dr. Spence opened the meeting with prayer. Mr. G. H. Perry acted as secretary. It was not customary then for women to occupy places on platforms and carry on the business of

* Sold in 1903 to Messrs. Ahearn and Soper.

† It was in this room that Bank Street Presbyterian Church was organized, and here the Rev. Dr. Moore was ordained and inducted into his charge in 1866.

public meetings; on this occasion, therefore, it was entirely transacted by gentlemen, while the ladies modestly sat on the side benches.

Dr. Sewell occupied the chair and explained the purpose of the meeting, which was the forming a Ladies' Benevolent Association. Though the members who were to compose the Association were Protestants, their work of love, he said, was by no means to be confined to those belonging to the Protestant churches or to be restricted to any particular sect. The meeting was then briefly addressed by His Honor Judge Armstrong, Rev. Dr. Spence, and Rev. J. Elliott, after which it was moved by Mrs. Coffin, seconded by Mrs. Armstrong, and resolved, "That the ladies now present do form themselves into a society for the relief of destitute widows and children, especially orphans, to be called the 'Ladies' Protestant Benevolent Association of Ottawa.'"

A committee was then appointed, consisting of Rev. J. S. Lander, Rev. Dr. Spence, Rev. J. Elliott, Rev. T. Wardrope, Judge Armstrong, and Dr. Sewell, to draw up a constitution and by-laws and to report at a meeting to be held that day week, December 16th.

Evidently, before that date arrived, considerable interest had been awakened, for *in addition* to those present at the first meeting, I find these names: Mesdames Rod. Ross, W. A. Ross, J. Hall, Crosby, Elliott, G. Perry, N. Bethune, J. Hill, C. L. Bates, A. Keefer; Misses Coffin and Grier, and Rev. J. Wood, curate of Christ Church. I was present at this meeting also, and the whole scene is vividly impressed on my memory.

Dr. Sewell occupied the chair. The Rev. J. Elliott opened the meeting with prayer. The com-

mittee presented a draft of the constitution, which was adopted *pro tem*, subject to approval at the First Annual Meeting, shortly to be held.

The principal articles of the constitution remain at present very much as when adopted that day, having been found to work admirably. The membership of the Association was by the payment of \$4 annually, \$50 for life membership. The Board of Management was to consist of thirty ladies, chosen annually from the various Protestant denominations in proportion to the number of subscribers in each church,* but no church was to have more than ten. The officers were to be a President, First and Second Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, and Secretary. The Board was to meet monthly for the transaction of business, seven to form a quorum.

After the adoption of the constitution, the Association proceeded to elect officers. Mrs. W. F. Coffin was called to the chair, Mrs. Sewell appointed Secretary, and Mrs. Noel, Treasurer, *pro tem*. The following provisional Managing Committee was appointed: Mesdames H. F. Bronson, H. O. Burritt, C. T. Bate, Clemow, Cox, C. R. Cunningham, Durie, Garvey, S. Howell, Geo. Hay, J. Hill, A. Keefer, R. Lees, J. T. Pennock, G. H. Perry, Rod, Ross, Jas. Skead, Robt. Skead, Shouldis, A. Workman, W. H. Walker, and Miss Marion E. Jamieson. This did not complete the thirty members, but as the Annual Meeting was so soon to take place, it was probably not considered necessary to have the number complete.

* The method adopted at first to carry out this idea was to elect two from each church, and then to fill up the remaining places in proportion to subscribers.

At the close of this meeting a special "vote of thanks to Dr. Sewell for his aid and counsel, with very flattering encomiums, was passed unanimously."

An adjournment was made to December 20th, but there is no minute of this meeting.

On January 10th, 1865, another meeting was held, at which collectors were appointed and preparations made for the FIRST ANNUAL MEETING. At this Annual Meeting, held January 18th, in the Mechanics' Institute, Dr. Spence occupied the chair in the absence of Dr. Sewell; Rev. J. Elliott acted as Secretary.

Some important amendments to the constitution were made: (1) That the name of the Association be changed to "The Home";* (2) that there be two Secretaries; (3) that instead of President and two Vice-Presidents, there be First, Second and Third Directress. By-laws for the internal management of the Home were also adopted at this meeting. Some changes were made in the personnel of the Board, which finally stood as follows:

St. Andrew's Church	-	-	-	-	{ Mrs. Wm. Stewart.
					{ Mrs. Robert Lees.
Knox Church	-	-	-	-	{ Mrs. J. Durie.
					{ Mrs. Rod. Ross.
Wesleyan Methodist	-	-	-	-	{ Mrs. S. Howell.
					{ Mrs. Jas. Rochester.
Congregationalist	-	-	-	-	{ Mrs. J. Elliott.
					{ Mrs. J. Hill.
Baptist	-	-	-	-	Miss M. E. Jamieson.
Episcopal Methodist	-	-	-	-	Mrs. Shouldis.
Church of England	-	-	-	-	{ Mrs. C. S. Sewell.
					{ Mrs. Ed. Sherwood.

* Copied from minutes taken by Rev. J. Elliott; but in the regular minutes afterwards the words "Orphans' Home" are used. The first annual report only says, "The name of the Association was changed."

It was then agreed that the following eighteen be added, making thirty in all, viz.,

Mrs. R. Skead.	Mrs. Geo. May.
Mrs. J. A. Grant.	Mrs. A. Keefer.
Mrs. H. F. Bronson.	Mrs. J. Slater.
Mrs. F. G. Crosby.	Mrs. Munro.
Mrs. Ed. Griffin.	Mrs. C. T. Bate.
Mrs. Geo. Hay.	Mrs. H. O. Burritt.
Miss Billings.	Mrs. Wm. Hunton.
Mrs. R. Eaton.	Mrs. Cox.
Mrs. W. F. Coffin.	Mrs. Wm. Howe.*

From these thirty ladies the following officers were elected:

First Directress - - -	Mrs. W. F. Coffin.
Second Directress - - -	Mrs. H. F. Bronson.
Third Directress - - -	Mrs. J. Hill.
Joint Secretaries - - -	{ Mrs. C. S. Sewell.
	{ Mrs. R. Eaton.
Treasurer - - - -	Mrs. Ed. Griffin.

Being now prepared for business, it was felt to be most desirable to have the assistance of some gentlemen competent to advise the Board on all matters with which women were not supposed to be familiar. The following gentlemen were, therefore, chosen at the February meeting as the first Advisory Committee, namely: M. K. Dickinson, Hon. Jas. Skead, J. M. Currier, M.P.P., H. V. Noel, A. C. Kelty, C. S. Sewell, M.D., Geo. Hay, Allan Gilmour. The names of Col. Coffin and John Rochester were afterwards added.

* Copied from Mr. Elliott's minutes, but at the February monthly meeting, and from that time on, the name of Mrs. McIntyre appears. Mrs. E. Sherwood withdrew early in the year, and Mrs. G. H. Perry filled her place.

The institution was now fully equipped for carrying out the design for which it had been organized, but, alas! it had no fixed habitation in which to dwell, no roof to shelter the little ones it had undertaken to mother. Neither was there sufficient means to warrant definite steps being taken in that direction, though a certain amount had been collected in the city. Naturally, therefore, at the first meeting of the new Board, on January 25th, 1865, the very important subject of ways and means for raising money for the purchase of property was discussed. It seemed to be the opinion of the Board that more money could be raised by a bazaar than by any other means, the only objection being that it would be impolitic to spend money that had been collected for the use of the Home in purchasing materials for a bazaar. To obviate this difficulty, a promenade concert was suggested, the proceeds to be devoted to furnishing a bazaar. Great enthusiasm was shown at this meeting; the minutes end thus: "No dissenting voice was heard, and the ladies dispersed, their cheerful countenances indicating meanwhile a feeling of satisfaction with the proceedings of the meeting."

The decision arrived at was carried out, and a most successful concert was given on the evening of February 16th, in the ball-room of the British Hotel, corner of Sussex Street and George Street (now, 1904, the Geological Survey). This building, since enlarged, was at that time vacant, and was owned by Hon. Jas. Skead, who kindly gave the use of it on this occasion. The following notice is from the *Union*, February 10th, 1865:

A Grand Promenade Concert

In aid of the funds now being raised for the purpose of establishing an Orphans' Home in this city, will be given

AT THE BRITISH HOTEL

—ON—

Thursday, the 16th Instant

Tickets 37½ cents each; children under 14 years of age, 25 cents.—May be had at Messrs. C. T. Bate & Co., T. & W. Hunton, J. Durie, Centre Town; S. Howell, The "Tea Pot" Sussex and Rideau Streets, Lower Town; or of any member of the Committee.

Doors open at 7 o'clock; concert to commence at 8 o'clock precisely.

For further particulars, see large bills.

I. SEWELL, *Secretary.*

OTTAWA, February 8th, 1865.

The same paper, of February 16th, says:

"This evening, the commodious *salon* of the British Hotel will doubtless be crowded by the beauty and fashion of the city. A delightful evening is anticipated. The programme has been carefully prepared, and will, we are assured, give complete satisfaction. Apart from these considerations, it should not be forgotten that the promenade concert is for the benefit of a much-needed charitable institution, lately organized, the "Orphans' Home," and even a higher motive than mere enjoyment will draw many there."

One would like to see a programme of this concert. I think that the musical part was under the charge of Mr. H. R. Fripp, Organist of Christ Church, and that Mrs. Chas. O'Connor was the pianist. After the musical programme, refreshments were served in a room at the back of the ball-room, for which an extra charge was made. The price of tickets was 37½ cents, 25 cents for children under fourteen, 25 cents extra for refreshments. This was strictly a promenade concert, the seats not being arranged in order, but placed around the room, the centre left for those who wished to walk about, conversation and social intercourse filling the pauses in the music. A great many patronized the supper-room, and altogether it was considered a very successful affair. A report of the concert, given in the *Daily Union*, says: "The rooms were so crowded that promenading was a matter of some difficulty in these days of crinoline and amplitude. Dr. C. S. Sewell opened the proceedings by a short address, explanatory of the objects of the institution."

The expenses of an entertainment of this kind

were not great in those days; everyone who had any musical talent was ready to give his or her assistance to the cause, and all refreshments were donated, so that on this occasion, when all was over, it was found that the sum of \$303 had been realized.

This furnished ample means for the nucleus of a bazaar, and at the March meeting arrangements were made for carrying it out. The sum of one hundred and eighty dollars (\$180) was divided into six equal parts and entrusted to the six ladies who were to take charge of the fancy-work tables, for the purpose of purchasing materials, it being expressly provided that each lady guarantee to return to the funds of the institution, after the bazaar, *at least* the full sum entrusted to her. The six ladies appointed at this meeting, March 6th, were Mrs. H. F. Bronson, Mrs. R. Lees, Mrs. W. F. Coffin, Mrs. R. Skead, Mrs. J. Hill and Mrs. W. A. Ross. The following ladies agreed to assume the management of the refreshment table: Mrs. R. Eaton, Miss Bucke, Mrs. W. Howe, Mrs. McIntyre, Miss Jamieson. These ladies invited the co-operation of their friends; great interest was aroused. The forthcoming bazaar became the topic of conversation, and the furnishing of the tables the occupation of many busy fingers for the next three months. There were no other charitable institutions in those days carried on exclusively by women to interfere with interest in this, consequently efforts were more concentrated on one object than they could possibly be now. It was decided to hold the bazaar in June. The following advertisement, copied from the *Daily Union* of June 8th, 1865, furnishes some interesting particulars:

ORPHANS' HOME, OTTAWA

The ladies and gentlemen of Ottawa and its vicinity are respectfully informed that

A GRAND BAZAAR

WILL BE HELD IN

THE ROYAL VICTORIA HOTEL
WELLINGTON STREET

On Tuesday, the 20th of June

and the following days, in aid of the above
Charitable Institution.

A large collection of Useful and Ornamental Articles
will be exhibited for sale.

☛ GOWANS' BAND ☛

will be in attendance during the Evening Exhibition.

Contributions to their tables will be thankfully received and duly acknowledged by the undermentioned ladies:

Mrs. Coffin.	Mrs. Noel.	Mrs. Griffin.
Mrs. Bronson.	Mrs. Crosby.	Mrs. Wm. Hunton.
Mrs. R. Lees.	Mrs. Patterson.	Mrs. Preston.
Mrs. J. Hill.	Mrs. Shouldice.	Miss Bucke.
Mrs. R. Skead.	Mrs. Cameron.	Mrs. W. Ross.
Mrs. Augustus Keefer.	Mrs. Forrest.	Mrs. C. T. Bate.

REFRESHMENT TABLE.

Mrs. McIntyre.	Mrs. John Rochester.
Mrs. Wm. Stuart.	Mrs. C. L. Bates.
Miss Bucke.	Miss Jamieson.

Price of Admission - - - 12½ cents.

Doors open from 12 to 6 p.m. and from 8 to 10 p.m.

By order,

ISABELLA SEWELL,
ANNA J. EATON.

OTTAWA, June 7th, 1865.

The Royal Victoria Hotel (now Victoria Chambers), in which the bazaar was held, had been opened a few years before; it was here that our present sovereign, King Edward VII., then Prince of Wales, was entertained on the occasion of his visit to the city in 1860, to lay the corner-stone of the Parliament Buildings. The hotel had not proved a success, and at this time was unoccupied.

"The bazaar was opened on 20th June (1865) and conducted with great success till the closing, on Friday evening, 23rd. During the four days of its existence the very handsome sum of \$1,224 was realized." (First Annual Report.) Everyone, though very tired, was exceedingly pleased at the success which had crowned their efforts. The members of the Board felt that, with such a substantial sum in the treasury, they were warranted in taking steps to secure a building.

Early in 1865 the Home had become incorporated, so as to be in a position to purchase property, J. M. Currier, Esq., M.P.P., member for the city, undertaking the matter in the Provincial Parliament at Quebec. The names of those given as petitioning for the Act were: Mesdames Margaret Coffin, Editha P. Bronson, Eliza Hill, Maria Griffin, Terzah Patrick, Isabella Sewell, Anna J. Eaton, Louise Burritt, Minerva Thorp Bate. This Act was dated March 18th, 1865, the object, as stated, was "for the relief, support and education of orphans and other destitute children, and the relief and support of destitute widows, and for affording temporary refuge for female servants out of place." Power was given to the Corporation to hold property, to apprentice or bind out children, and otherwise transact business, under the corporate

name of "The Orphans' Home of the City of Ottawa."

The principal business before the Board during the first six months of 1865, besides the carrying out of the first promenade concert and the bazaar, was the procuring a site on which to erect a building.

In January, an unsuccessful solicitation was made to Mr. N. Sparks for a lot. In March, Mr. Ruggles Wright made an offer of a lot of land in Hull, on condition that the necessary buildings be erected thereon; but the offer was declined with thanks, as the site was outside the city limits.

In February, an offer was made through Mr. Augustus Keefer to sell some lots belonging to the Chapman Estate, on what is now Frank Street.* This offer was also declined. I can find no reason stated in minutes, probably the property was considered too far out of town. The price, \$300 a lot, was certainly very reasonable, looking at it from a present-day point of view. Finally, it was decided on the advice of the Advisory Committee, to purchase lots Nos. 11 and 12 on Sussex Street from the Ordinance Land Department for \$1,200, payable in ten annual instalments. They are the lots opposite Water Street, on which now stand a row of brick dwelling-houses.

When this property was purchased, it was the intention of the Board to erect thereon a temporary building, but it soon became apparent that the lots were not in a suitable locality for the purpose, as the city was then just beginning to move in a southerly and westerly direction. It was decided,

* One of the advantages stated in the offer was "that the reservoir for the waterworks, when completed, will be on the highest part Ashburnham Hill, almost in a line with these lots."

therefore, to defer building for the present, especially as several offers were made of more eligible properties.

In June, 1865, the Hon. George Sherwood offered two lots of land* on condition that a handsome building be placed thereon, but the terms precluded the acceptance of the offer.

In Aug., 1865, Hamilton Bros., of Hawkesbury, made an offer to exchange the lots on Sussex Street for six lots on "Besserer Hill." This property was probably that now occupied by Stadacona Hall, or immediately west of that. Mr. Noel and Mr. Geo. Hay examined these lots and reported that they "found them very pleasantly situated, but rather too far from the centre."

Some proposed building on hospital lots, east end of Rideau Street. There appears to have been a great deal of land running to waste around the hospital, which could have been procured on very low terms. The directors of that institution may congratulate themselves that it was not taken up at that time, as it was all needed at a later date for the present fine hospital buildings.

No satisfactory decision as to site could be arrived at. It was therefore thought advisable, both by the Board and the Advisory Committee, that, rather than delay the opening of a home any longer, a house should be rented for the purpose, so as to enable the Corporation to commence operations at once, and at the same time give ample opportunity for the consideration of the whole question of the site and the building.

* These lots must have been west of Concession Street and south of Lisgar.

This decision, of renting instead of building, was arrived at June 26th, 1865, concurred in by the Advisory Committee, and at the regular meeting, in July, a committee, composed of Mesdames Cox, Jas. Rochester, McIntyre, May, A. Keefer, Noel, Lees and Miss M. E. Jamieson, were appointed to visit the different wards of the city to ascertain if a suitable house could be leased. They recommended the Walkley house, and it was accordingly secured.

CHAPTER III.

THE WALKLEY HOUSE.

[1865-1867.]

THE house thus rented, having somewhat of an historical interest, a few details regarding it may not be out of place. It was built about 1833 by Enoch Walkley, one of Bytown's oldest residents, who owned a brick-yard where the Drill Hall and Militia Stores now stand, and made bricks, as did many others afterwards, from the clay dug up from the bottom of the Canal. At that time there was a "forced road" running through the Sparks property from where Parker's dye-house now stands, in a south-easterly direction, to where Laurier Ave. now crosses Bank Street. This road was afterwards called Elizabeth Street. On the west side of this road, Mr. Walkley bought land from Mr. N. Sparks on which to build his house, probably thinking it would always remain as it was; but when Bank Street was laid out at right angles to Sparks Street, and Elizabeth Street done away with, his house was out of line. Mr. Geo. Drummond, in his "Reminiscences of the Forties," says: "A solitary brick house stood prominently on a rising knoll on the vast common south of this (Sparks Street). It was a grand house in the olden time, and many a grand dinner party was given there." The Rogersons, Scotts, Grahams and others of Bytown's lead-

ing people occupied it at different times, but when I first knew it, its glory had departed.

It was, I believe, the first brick house in Bytown, certainly the first west of the Canal, was solidly built of square bricks, the lathing made of split wood, the nails wrought. It was of two stories, the door in the centre, with rooms on each side—the one on the right was used by us for a Board-room, on the left for a dining-room—a few bed-rooms upstairs. A plain verandah ran along the front, with steps of hewn logs down to the sidewalk. Bank Street was not then opened out in line farther than Maria Street (now Laurier Ave.), though there was a road somewhat farther to the east, which led to the Stewart property, on which were a few small houses; one or two of them may still be seen on east side of Bank Street. It was considered quite in the suburbs,* but that was no disadvantage for the purposes of a Home. This house, which stood on the west side of Bank Street, between Maria and Slater Streets, was demolished in December, 1890, and a row of brick stores was erected by Mr. Alex. Robertson on its site.

Having now secured a house, great energy and enthusiasm was displayed by the members of the Board of Management. Committees were appointed to solicit donations of furniture, bed-linen, and other household necessities. Advertisements were also inserted in the city papers, appealing for contributions. These were liberally responded to, and in a short time the house was plainly but comfortably furnished.

* This is incidentally brought out in the Minutes of February, 1866, where fault is found with the matron for "sending the children to town on errands."

The first Board meeting held in the new Home was on September 4th, 1865. Hitherto the meetings had been held in the session-room of St. Andrew's Church. The family, consisting of the matron, Miss Janet Lillicoe, and one child, went into residence about September 14th. The name of the first boy was Thos. McDowell, brother of "Copper Johnnie," already referred to; the first girl was Elizabeth Biggars.

About this time, the Home sustained a severe loss by the death of Dr. C. S. Sewell, which occurred October 24th, 1865. He had been one of the most devoted friends of the institution, and had done much to further its interests. He only lived long enough to see the Home opened and its work fairly commenced. At a special meeting, held Friday, October 27th, the following resolutions were adopted, "with due feeling and solemnity":

Whereas,—Dr. Sewell, one of the principal originators, as well as a constant friend and benefactor of the institution over which he presided, has been removed by death; and whereas we, either individually or officially, do sustain a most grievous loss in being thus deprived of a friend, adviser, and physician, therefore

Resolved,—That we, the officers and Board of Managers of the Orphans' Home, do most deeply lament the death of Dr. Sewell, and

Resolved,—That we, the representatives of the cause and institution of which he was so devoted an advocate, do publicly express our grief for the loss, and respect for the person of, the deceased, by attending the funeral service, to be held at Christ Church, at 2 o'clock this afternoon, and

Resolved,—That we further manifest our respect for the memory of the deceased by wearing an appropriate badge of mourning for a period of thirty days."

The words "over which he presided," in the above resolution, cannot refer to any official position which he held; it rather shows how closely he identified himself with every interest of the Home, one of the minutes noting his attendance at a monthly meeting and his assisting the ladies in the arrangement of their business.

Dr. Sewell certainly seems to have been greatly beloved. He had endured severe family affliction, having lost all his children (nine in number) while young. This had not embittered him or closed his heart; it had rather awakened in him ready and unselfish interest in others, especially little children, which he expressed by ready tokens of kindness and sympathy.

The authorities of the Home, having now a family under their charge, it was found necessary to appoint medical advisers. Dr. J. A. (now Sir James) Grant kindly consented to act as attending physician, and Dr. Hamnet Hill as consulting physician.

In December of this year (1865), Robt. Lees, Esq., County Attorney, was appointed legal adviser to the Corporation, a position which he held till his death, in 1892.

The Association being now a corporate body, Mr. Noel suggested that it was necessary to possess a seal. This suggestion was acted on, and a seal engraved by Mr. Geo. Cox. It is thus described: "The device shall be a loop or ring, with the words

'Orphans' Home, Ottawa,' between the outer and inner circles, and within the inner circle the representation of Faith, Hope, and Charity, and thereunder the date, 1864." From this wording, does not the intention appear to have been to have figures or symbolic representations of these virtues? What really was adopted was a scroll containing the three names. When, therefore, the By-laws were consolidated, in 1889, the wording was changed to read, "within the inner circle the words Faith, Hope, and Charity."

[1866.]

The SECOND ANNUAL MEETING was held in the lecture-room of the Mechanics' Institute, January 17th, 1866, at 12 a.m. Twelve o'clock noon seems an extraordinary hour for an annual meeting, but in those days the gentlemen of the city took a lively interest in our institution, and this hour was selected so that they might more conveniently attend, as being free from business engagements. They do not appear to have been very punctual in those days, for the meeting did not begin till 12.30. The names of fourteen gentlemen are given as present: Rev. Dr. Adamson, Rev. Dr. Spence, Rev. Jos. Elliott, Rev. Mr. Douse, Rev. Mr. McLardy; Messrs. John Rochester, Geo. Hay, Jas. Dyke, J. T. Pennock, Thos. Patterson, W. H. Walker, Robt. Lees, G. H. Perry, Hon. Malcolm Cameron.

At this meeting, Mrs. Coffin, the President, occupied the chair. Rev. Dr. Adamson, Parliamentary Chaplain and Librarian, opened the meeting with prayer. Mr. G. H. Perry, at the request of the President, read a carefully prepared report,

which she had herself written. It was, indeed, a history of the institution from its beginning, and it is to this report that I am indebted for much of my material. It has been strongly impressed on my mind how important it is that the beginnings of such undertakings should be fully set forth, *at the time*, by those who are actually engaged in the work, and how necessary it is that those who have charge of records and minutes should be correct, exact, and clear in statement.

At this meeting, the By-laws, as revised, were finally adopted, the Board of Management and officers for the ensuing year elected. It is not necessary to give their names, as they are in the printed report and preserved among the records of the institution. It may be noted that the term "joint secretaries" had been changed to "recording and corresponding secretaries." Mrs. Sewell had, owing to her husband's illness and death, been unable to attend to the Secretary's work during most of the previous year. Mrs. Edward Griffin had taken her place and performed the duties of Recording Secretary in addition to those of her own office, that of Treasurer. At this meeting she was elected Recording Secretary, a position for which she was eminently fitted, and Mrs. F. G. Hall was elected Treasurer in her place. Mrs. Hall, however, was unable to act, and at the meeting in March Miss Clegg was appointed Treasurer.

It is impossible to refer to every item in this First Report, but it is interesting to note that our first honorary life members were J. M. Carrier, Esq., M.P.P., and Alonzo Wright, Esq., M.P.P. These had been obtained by Mrs. Alfred Patrick

during the last session of Parliament, held in Quebec, she having, at that time, collected \$182, chiefly from members of Parliament. The first city collectors were:

Mrs. E. Griffin.	Mrs. G. H. Perry.	Mrs. Wm. Stewart.
Mrs. Sewell.	Mrs. A. Keefer.	Miss Durie.
Mrs. Shouldis.	Mrs. Jas. Skead.	Miss Howell.
Mrs. F. G. Hall.	Mrs. R. Skead.	Mrs. H. O. Burritt.
Mrs. Garvey.	Mrs. Bronson.	Mrs. Rod. Ross.
Mrs. R. Lees.	Miss Jamieson.	Mrs. John Hill.
Mrs. J. A. Grant.		

From that time to the present, collectors have annually canvassed the city and vicinity for subscriptions and donations, which form the chief source of our revenue.

The total receipts that first year were \$3,022.19½ (we had half-cent coinage then); expenditure, including first instalments on lots, fencing lots, money to start bazaar, printing, house-furnishing, household expenses for three months (including fuel, which was \$3.35), amounted in all to \$520.15—truly a very modest expenditure.

In this report are given the names of the seventy-nine ladies who at that time composed the Corporation, and much other information, all very interesting reading to anyone who resided in the city at that time.

The year 1866 seems to have been taken up (1) in caring for the family, (2) in devising ways and means.

The children, by the summer of that year, numbered fourteen. Regular visitors were appointed to attend to the wants of the household, two each

month. These were evidently at first chosen alphabetically, for we find them following in this order: Mrs. Bate and Mrs. Bates; Mrs. Cox and Mrs. Crosby; Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Howe; Mrs. Hay and Mrs. Hunton.

The first teacher engaged to instruct the children was Miss Annie Egleson, but after a few months it was decided to send them to the Wellington Ward Common School. This arrangement did not last, however. A teacher was again employed in the Home and paid by the Board, till 1884, when the school was taken in charge by the Public School Board of the city.

During this year, the first adult inmate was admitted, Mrs. Anne Griffin, who remained in the institution twenty-six years, till her death, in 1892.

As the family increased, the accommodation afforded by the Walkley house was found to be altogether inadequate, therefore it was considered wise to endeavor to increase our funds, so as to be ready for the purchase of property when any suitable opportunity should offer.

For this purpose two promenade concerts were given. The first, on February 28th, 1866, in the same building as was used the previous year, the British Hotel. The following advertisement is taken from the *Times* of that date:

Ottawa Protestant Orphans' Home**A GRAND PROMENADE CONCERT**

In aid of the above Charitable Institution, will
be held in

**ASSEMBLY ROOM OF BRITISH HOTEL,
SUSSEX STREET**

Which has been kindly lent for the occasion by
THE PROPRIETOR, THE HON. JAS. SKEAD,

On Wednesday Evening next, February 28th

—
AN INAUGURAL ADDRESS WILL BE DELIVERED.

—
GOWAN'S BRASS BAND WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE.
THE WHOLE WILL BE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
H. R. FRIPP, ESQ.

DOORS OPEN AT 7; CONCERT COMMENCES AT 8
O'CLOCK.

Entrance Tickets, 37½ cents each. Refreshments,
25 cents each. Can be had at Hope's Stationery
Store, Scott's Confectionery, Durie's Book Store,
Central Town; Hall's Confectionery, Wellington
Street; Howell's Grocery, Rideau Street; Poderick's
Confectionery, and the "Tea Pot," Sussex Street.

By order.

MARIA GRIFFIN, *Secretary.*

OTTAWA, Feb. 22nd, 1866.

On this occasion, besides musical selections, addresses were delivered by Hon. Malcolm Cameron, Prof. Webster, Dr. Grant, and R. Lees, Esq.

The second concert was held on July 19th in the Ottawa Skating Rink. This was the first skating rink built in Ottawa (opened in January, 1865), and stood between Maria and Slater Streets, near Elgin Street. When first erected the entrance was on Maria Street, but that was considered so much out of the way that another was opened from Slater Street, where the Woods building now stands.

Through the liberality of Messrs. Bronson, Perley & Pattée, Eddy, Booth and Young, the rink was floored expressly for this concert, and the lumber afterwards sold for \$45. The proceeds of the two entertainments amounted to \$462.

In November, 1866, the suggestion was made to buy the Walkley house and enlarge it, but after due consideration this idea was abandoned.

During this year Mrs. H. F. Bronson constituted herself the first life member of the Corporation.

The first legacy was also received, namely, that from the late Wm. Snook, of \$100.

CHAPTER IV.

THE ALBERT STREET HOME.

[1867-1886.]

At the first business meeting in 1867, the property on Albert Street, near Elgin Street, owned by Prof. Webster, and occupied by him as a school, was offered to the Home for \$8,000. The Advisory Committee did not approve of its purchase, as they considered it unwise for the institution to incur such a heavy debt. This opinion was concurred in by the Board, and the matter was dismissed for the time.

Then, during the spring, began another search for a suitable site. Lots on the By and Chapman estates, lots on Ashburnham Hill, lots on the side of the canal, lots in New Edinburgh,* were examined and reported on; indeed, there seemed to be no part of the city or suburbs that had not been visited for this purpose. The property that appeared best suited to the requirements of the Home consisted of two lots on Ashburnham Hill, owned by Phillip Thompson, but before any decision could be arrived at, Prof. Webster, in June, made a second offer of his property. This offer was for \$7,500: \$3,600 to be paid in cash, and the remainder secured by two mortgages, one of \$1,200, payable in two years, the other of \$2,700, payable in twenty years. Some friends of the institution were willing to subscribe certain amounts and canvass the city for subscrip-

*Stephenson property.



Mrs. E. Griffin



Mrs. C. S. Jewell



Mrs. J. Thorburn



Mrs. W. H. Walker



Mrs. H. K. Egan



Mrs. C. H. Thorburn

SECRETARIES.



tions, provided this property was purchased. On this ground, and on that of a reduction having been made, Mrs. Bronson urged the reconsideration of the matter. After some discussion on the relative merits of purchasing land with a view to building, or buying the Webster property, a vote was taken, and by a majority of sixteen to two those present were in favor of purchasing the Webster property. A resolution was then passed that this decision be laid before the Advisory Committee, along with a full statement of the proceedings of this meeting and their opinion solicited. "The Advisory Committee had not, however, an opportunity of again expressing an opinion on the subject, as this resolution was not forwarded to them with the minutes of the meeting." (Third Annual Report.)

The minority, though small, was very strongly opposed to the purchase, and another meeting was called for June 22nd, for reconsideration of the matter. At this meeting, the First Directress, Mrs. Coffin, read a voluminous document, in which she expressed the opinion that, according to the Act of Incorporation, the Corporation alone could authorize the purchase of real estate, and that the Board of Management had no power to apply the funds of the institution for such an object without the major part of the Corporation consenting thereto, and that before such purchase was completed a special meeting of the whole Corporation should be called. The question was referred to Mr. Lees, legal adviser. He "concurred in the opinion expressed by the First Directress; and at a special meeting called for the purpose a requisition, signed by twelve ladies of the Board, requesting

such meeting to be called, was presented to the First Directress, who, in compliance with the request, convened a meeting to be held on the 27th July, in the session-room of St. Andrew's Church" (Third Annual Report), "to consider and decide upon the propriety of purchasing for the use of the Protestant Orphans' Home a building, being the property of Prof. Webster, situated in Albert Street, in the City of Ottawa, at and for the price of \$7,500."* This requisition was signed by Editha P. Bronson, Barbara LeSueur, Ann J. Eaton, Maria Griffin, E. H. Bethune, Barbara C. V. Noel, Maria Grant, M. T. Bate, Eliza Hill, Jessie Ross, Ellen S. Clegg, and Elizabeth May.

At this meeting only twenty-eight out of a Corporation of 102 were present—probably the fact of its being held during the midsummer holidays may have accounted for this. The vote on the question of purchase was taken, with the following result: For, nineteen; against, nine; thus giving a majority of ten for the purchase.

Of course, that settled the question so far as the purchase of the property was concerned, but it made a split in our ranks; several of our best workers withdrew from the Board, either then or at the end of the year. But though these ladies felt constrained to leave the active work of the institution they all remained, and those who are living still remain, good friends of the Home and generous donors to its funds. Mrs. Coffin, the First Directress, resigned at that meeting, very much to the regret of the Board. To quote from the Report of that year, "She had filled the office with dignity

* Notice of meeting.

and impartiality since the establishment of the institution, and to her zeal and untiring energy in this charitable cause is owing much of the success and prosperity which has hitherto attended the efforts of the Society."

The next important step in the affairs of the Home, after the acquisition of this property, was the removal of the family to the new Home on Albert Street, on August 20th, 1867. The first Board meeting was held there on the 17th of that month.

This property adjoined the Congregationalist Church on Albert Street, and was really two houses with a door of communication between, one of which had been occupied by the late owner for a dwelling, the other for a school. The portion of building used for a school had, on the second floor, a large lecture hall, and as there was a felt want in Ottawa of a suitable room for the holding of public meetings, it was reserved for that purpose, the Board hoping to make the renting of it a source of revenue. They also decided to rent part of the dwelling-house to Rev. Jos. Elliott for the present, till the increasing number of inmates should necessitate increased accommodation. The lecture hall was used at different times by the following societies: The Natural Historical Society, Plymouth Brethren, Y.M.C.A., Ladies' Benevolent Society, Church of England, Knox Church Sewing Society, and W.C.T.U.

As the work in the new Home was much greater than in the smaller house, it was found necessary to engage a younger and more active woman to take charge of domestic affairs. The first Matron, Miss Lillicoe, who had served faithfully since the

opening of the Home, was therefore retired, with kindly appreciation from the Board and a present in money.

On September 27th, a "literary and musical evening" was given in the skating rink, conducted by Mr. H. R. Fripp, and presided over by Robt. Lyon, Esq., who was mayor of the city that year. The Hon. Wm. McDougall, Hon. Malcolm Cameron, and Robt. Lees, Esq., delivered "admirable addresses." On this occasion the ladies did not undertake the providing of refreshments as heretofore. This was done by Mrs. Proderick, one of the leading confectioners at that time. One hundred and forty-seven dollars was realized from this concert.

It was a new experience in Ottawa to have an institution for the care of children, and it seemed to appeal strongly to the sympathies of the young people of the community, for in the Report and minutes of 1867, we find many notices of bazaars and entertainments, held by girls or boys, \$227 having been added to the funds by this means. It is interesting to note the names of those, now heads of families themselves, who took part in these entertainments. These juvenile bazaars have been continued at intervals ever since that time.

Towards the purchase of the Webster property, Mr. Frank Bronson collected this year (1867), \$964.30.

[1868.]

At the first meeting in 1868, Mrs. E. Griffin, Rec. Sec., and Miss Clegg, Treasurer, resigned their offices. There were now three vacancies in the list of officers, and it became a matter of serious

consideration how these vacancies could be filled, especially that of the First Directress.

At a preliminary meeting for making arrangements for the annual, Mrs. Bronson stated that she had felt that the success of the institution required the most influential name that could be procured in Ottawa, and it afforded her much pleasure to state to the ladies present that the consent of Lady Macdonald to fill that office had been obtained. Lady Macdonald was, therefore, unanimously elected at the Annual Meeting, held on January 15th, 1868. Mrs. J. Thorburn was elected Rec. Sec., and Mrs. W. Smillie, Treasurer.

The break in our ranks, incident upon the disagreement about the purchase of the Webster property, had been severely felt by the Board, especially as those leaving were among the founders and earliest friends of the institution. It was a crisis in the affairs of the Home, and but for the tact, wisdom, and fine spirit of the Second Directress, Mrs. Bronson, might have resulted disastrously; but the crisis was safely passed, and with the new building, new matron, and increased number of inmates, came increased energy.

Lady Macdonald took her seat for the first time at the regular monthly meeting in February, 1868, and for seven years, amid all the calls on her time, and notwithstanding all the social engagements belonging to her position as wife of the Premier of Canada, she carried on, with rare ability and a whole-hearted energy, so characteristic of her, the administration of the affairs of this institution.

Nothing requiring special notice occurred during the next six years. By great economy, by renting of lecture hall and other rooms, by various enter-

tainments and lectures,* by obtaining, for the first time (1870) a grant from the Ontario Government, and by the sale of the Sussex Street property, the managers were enabled, at the beginning of 1871, to entirely liquidate the debt on the Albert Street property. This was felt to be a great relief. The Sussex Street property was sold to Thos. Reynolds, Esq., for the sum of \$1,827.

Inside the Home, the work which came to our hands was the care of the inmates, the receiving and placing out of children, and all the little things which go to make up the life of a charitable institution.

[1874.]

Though the Albert Street building had been a great advance from the small rented house on Bank Street, yet, not having been built for a public institution, it was found to be inconvenient and ill adapted for the requirements of the Home, and in November, 1873, the question was mooted whether it would not be advisable to secure some good lots of land, so that a suitable building might be erected when the Corporation was in a financial condition to do so, especially as the government inspector reported unfavorably on the present house. Centre Town was being built on, property was rising in value, and it was felt that there should be no delay in the matter.

At a monthly meeting, held April 27th, 1874, it was decided that Messrs. H. V. Noel, C. T. Bate,

* In connection with the subject of lectures, it may be interesting to note that on April 18th, 1868, the Hon. D'Arcy Magee was to have delivered a lecture in aid of the Home. Committees were appointed to engage the theatre and issue tickets, but on the morning of April 7th he was assassinated at the door of his lodgings as he was returning from a late sitting of Parliament.

and C. Magee be requested to act as a committee to make inquiries respecting the price of land in a central locality, with the view of securing a site for the erection of a new Home. This they kindly consented to do, and at the September meeting Mr. C. T. Bate, who had taken a deep interest in the matter, was present, and submitted the following report of the committee:

“ OTTAWA, September 28th, 1874.

“ The undersigned beg to inform the lady managers of the Protestant Orphans' Home that they have selected a site for the erection of a new Home at some future day. After viewing several, they are of opinion that the one on the south-west corner of Bidly* and continuation of Elgin Street is the most eligible, and they recommend that the offer of one acre on that corner, offered by the agent of the By Estate for £1,000 stg., payable one quarter down, balance in ten yearly instalments, with interest, be accepted.

“ (Signed) H. V. NOEL,
CHAS. T. BATE,
CHAS. MAGEE.”

It was immediately decided to accept this offer, and a special meeting was called for October 1st to take the final steps. On that day, before arriving at a final decision, it was suggested that the members present adjourn to view the lots.

I remember distinctly going out Elgin Street that day, in company with Lady Macdonald and a party of ladies, to what seemed quite the outskirts of the city. Open fields, where cows pastured, lay all around, with here and there houses placed at

* Now Lisgar Street.

wide intervals. Near the canal the Collegiate Institute was rearing its walls, while close at hand the Normal School was taking shape. Cooper Street was scarcely in existence. Elgin Street was not opened up farther than Cooper till the next year. Where the Normal School was building had only lately been covered with cedar bushes. For the purpose required, the open spaces were no disadvantage, and the ladies were fully satisfied that it was a most desirable property.

At the beginning of the new year (1875), the question of a new building was broached, but a wave of financial depression passing over Ottawa during that and the next few years, the managers decided it would not be wise to attempt anything of the kind. Two years later, 1877, Mrs. Scott suggested the starting of a building fund as a first step in the direction aimed at. The Advisory Committee were again consulted, but they still strongly advised deferring operations for the present, one member giving it as his opinion that no building should be undertaken until the land was paid for. So things remained for the next four years, with the exception of one pleasing and encouraging event.

In May, 1878, the Countess of Dufferin, whose husband at that time was Governor-General of Canada, hearing that the managers of the Home were desirous of erecting a new building, donated the sum of \$500 as the nucleus of a building fund, that being the amount left over from a children's bazaar held by her at Government House, in aid of St. Bartholomew's Church.

[1881.]

By the beginning of 1881, the financial condition of the country began to brighten, and at the

Annual Meeting, January 19th, several of the gentlemen present expressed the opinion that an effort should be made to pay off the debt on the land; they felt sure of a generous response from the public. Encouraged by these assurances, steps were at once taken to carry out this suggestion. Again the Advisory Committee came to our assistance, recommending that the trustees of the By Estate, in England, be memorialized for a reduction in the amount still due to them, which by this time had been reduced to \$1,825.

This was done, and an answer received that the heirs of the By Estate would forego one instalment (\$365) provided the entire debt was discharged within the current year.

In September, Mr. C. T. Bate, who had ever shown much interest in the Home, offered to assist the Board in raising money, and with Messrs. Ed. Seybold, and Jas. Cunningham, entered upon a vigorous canvass of the city, and before the next Annual Meeting, January, 1882, they reported subscriptions to the amount of \$4,425. This put at rest all doubts as to the payment of the debt to the By Estate, and brought into view the erection of a new Home. The managers took up the work of the year with light hearts, for the institution was once more free from debt and with a surplus in the treasury.

In the autumn of 1883, the lots were fenced and planted with trees.

[1883.]

It will be seen, from the foregoing dates, that the property on Elgin Street had now been in the possession of the Corporation of the Orphans' Home

for some nine years, and yet we seemed no nearer than ever to the erection of a new building. Constantly was the subject referred to, and earnestly was the project discussed; but the Board was timid about embarking on an undertaking which would bring such heavy pecuniary responsibilities, till, at the November meeting, 1883—I remember it very well—just as we were near the close of our business, Mrs. Donaldson asked if any action was to be taken about a new building. She spoke very earnestly and enthusiastically, and urged that we *at once* proceed to take some practical steps in the matter, as we had *talked* about it long enough. She thought a commencement was all that was needed; funds would be forthcoming, if we undertook the work in faith.

It only required something like this to stir the latent energies of the members of the Board. The response was immediate. Before that meeting closed the matter was decided, and a resolution passed, appointing a committee composed of Mrs. Bronson, Mrs. Durie, Mrs. A. Scott, Mrs. T. Ross, and Mrs. A. J. Stephens, to procure plans for a new Home. And so the long-desired building was really set on foot, and there could now be no retreat.

The committee used commendable diligence, and after various meetings and consultations with the Advisory Committee, Mr. Jas. Mather, Architect, was employed to draw up plans for the new building.

It was at first intended to build of stone, and a resolution to that effect was passed at the April meeting, 1884; but when it was found that such a building, according to the plans presented, would

cost \$26,505, this resolution was rescinded. It was finally decided to build of red brick, with facings and basement of stone, cost not to exceed \$20,000. The plans submitted by Mr. Mather were accepted December 16th, 1884, and we were very much pleased to be able to exhibit them at our Annual Meeting, January 21st, 1885.

[1885.]

Early in 1885 tenders were called for, when to our dismay it was found that the very lowest amount required would be \$22,500. Mr. H. F. Bronson had previously made a successful canvass for funds, and had sent in a subscription list of \$4,635, but even with this and the sale of the Albert Street property, the sum of \$6,000 and over would be required. Nothing daunted, some of the ladies made a further canvass, which resulted in an additional \$1,121, with promises of more.

Thus encouraged, the work was proceeded with, and after due consideration the following tenders were accepted: Stone and brickwork, R. Lester, \$7,646; carpenter work, Ashe & Shore, \$5,000; lathing and plastering, C. J. Devlin, \$1,780; plumbing and heating, Wm. Johnstone, \$2,600; painting and glazing, Wm. Howe, \$947.63; roofing and slating, Herbert & Son, \$945; iron work and cresting, McFarlane, \$350. John Rowat was employed on behalf of the Board to oversee the mason and brickwork.

At a special meeting, held March 11th, 1885, a deputation from a proposed home for aged and infirm men appeared before the Board to ascertain if the ladies could make some arrangement by

which the two institutions could be amalgamated. They had not yet purchased property, and they asked that the Board enlarge their proposed building, so as to accommodate the infirm and aged of both sexes. The matter was taken into serious consideration, and the proposal declined for the following reasons: (1) This object, the care of aged and infirm *men*, is not included in our Act of Incorporation; (2) the subscriptions for the new building have been given for a home for women and children; (3) in the plans for the new building, no provision has been made for men; (4) it is not considered a suitable work for the lady managers of the Orphans' Home.

It was at first intended to lay the corner-stone with all the accustomed formalities, but it was found that the expense involved would be such as to make this inadvisable; moreover, the weather was exceedingly warm, and many of the members of the Board were out of town; it was decided, therefore, to perform the act quietly, and leave any further demonstration till the building was formally opened.

To our great disappointment, Mrs. Bronson, First Directress, was ill, and could not be present to lay the corner-stone, but she was represented by her daughter, Mrs. Crannell, who was not at that time a member of the Board, and the stone was "well and truly laid" by Mrs. A. Christie, Third Directress, on July 20th, 1885. The ladies of the Board present were: Mrs. Alex. Christie, Third Directress; Mrs. J. Tilton, Second Directress; Mrs. J. Thorburn, Rec. Sec.; Mrs. Alison Scott, Treasurer.

The following articles were deposited in the corner-stone: Short historical sketch of Orphans' Home, by Rec. Sec.; copies of *Citizen* and *Free Press* of date; a copy of the *New York Evangelist*, by special request of the First Directress, who had taken this paper for nearly fifty years; and silver and copper current coinage. Besides these, there was a memorandum, written on the spot, and signed by those present, containing names of architect and contractors, date of laying of corner-stone, current local events, such as the proroguing of Parliament that afternoon, troops returning from the North-West, etc., etc.

In November, 1885, an offer of \$5,000 cash was made by Mr. John Graham, proprietor of the Grand Union Hotel, for the Albert Street property. It was not accepted. In December, he made a second offer of \$6,000, payable on receiving possession. In the meantime he was willing to advance such sums as would be required for building purposes, at 6 per cent interest, from the time received till date of handing over property.

Seven thousand five hundred dollars had been paid for the property twenty-two years before, and the Board did not like the idea of what seemed like sacrificing it now; but as there appeared to be very small demand for real estate just then, as there was such urgent need of funds, and as it did not necessitate the vacating of the premises till such time as the new building was ready for occupation, it was finally decided to accept the offer. Three thousand dollars were paid at once, the remainder as required. The deed of conveyance to Mr. Graham was executed October, 1886, when he took possession.

CHAPTER V.

THE NEW HOME.

[1886-1904.]

DURING many months the members of the Board watched with great interest the progress of the new building, and by June, 1886, operations were so far advanced as to warrant the formation of a committee to undertake the whole matter of furnishing. The following ladies were appointed: Mrs. L. Crannell, Mrs. C. MacNab, Mrs. Walker Powell, Mrs. W. M. Matheson, Mrs. A. J. Stephens, Mrs. E. Griffin, Secretary. This committee advised new furnishing throughout the entire building, and a busy time ensued, the next few months being fully occupied with the purchasing of new furniture and other requisites.

Although the internal arrangements had not been entirely completed, the family was removed to the new Home, September 28th, 1886, and the first monthly meeting of the Board was held there on October 25th.

To those who gave so much of their time and thought to the erection of this Home, the brief account here given will seem to afford but a very inadequate idea of all the labor connected with it. Those who were on the various committees can read between the lines, and fill in much of interest to themselves, which to the general public would not be of special value. They can recall the many meetings, the consultations, the discussions, the visits to the half-finished building "to see how



TREASURERS.



things were getting on," the sinking of heart when something went wrong, as, for example, when water was found to be coming into the furnace-room; the delight when a good subscription was received; the furnishing; the removal of the family; the settling of things into their proper places, and all the little matters incident to such an undertaking. We can recall the very atmosphere of the day on which the corner-stone was laid; the thermometer climbing into the nineties; can hear the booming of the cannon as the Governor-General drove in state that day from the proroguing of Parliament, and the sound of the band playing a welcome to the "returning braves" from the North-West, where they had helped to quell the second Riel rebellion.

Mrs. Fraser, who had held the position of matron for twelve years, and had given much valuable service to the Home, felt that the care of a larger house and family would entail more labor and responsibility than she could undertake, and had therefore sent in her resignation, which was accepted by the Board, and Miss Horne appointed in her place. As a mark of the high esteem in which she was held by the Board, and as a testimony to her faithful and valuable services, Mrs. Fraser was, on the occasion of her severing her connection with the institution, presented with a small silver tea service.

[1887.]

The year 1886 had nearly closed before everything was in readiness for a formal opening, and as the Annual Meeting, which was then held in January, was so near, it was decided that both

should take place on the same day, and that His Excellency the Governor-General and the Marchioness of Lansdowne be invited to be present and formally open the new Home, to which request they graciously assented.

Committees were appointed to see that everything was properly arranged and carried out for this Annual Meeting, which was held on Wednesday, January 19th, 1887. The Arrangement and Programme Committee was composed of Mrs. E. Griffin, Mrs. W. H. Walker, Mrs. Ed. Seybold, and Mrs. J. M. Courtney. As it was decided to throw the whole building open to the public, and serve tea after the meeting, the following ladies were appointed a Refreshment Committee: Mrs. C. MacNab, Mrs. L. Crannell, Mrs. A. J. Stephens, and the two visiting ladies, Mrs. Courtney and Mrs. Sandford Fleming. The Recording Secretary had charge of the business part of the meeting. Mr. W. H. Walker kindly donated pretty programmes, on which were also printed, in gilt lettering, the hymn to be sung. Mrs. Alison Scott presented each member of the Board with a white ribbon badge, with suitable gilt lettering, in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee, which took place that year, and of the opening of the new building.

The school-room was decorated with flags, and everything looked very bright and pretty. A small platform, covered with fur rugs, was placed at the western side of the room, for the vice-regal party, in front of which was placed a table, for the chairman and some of the officers.

It had been intended to have the business part of the proceedings begin at 3 p.m., and completed before the hour of 'Their Excellencies' arrival, which

was fixed for 4 o'clock, but His Excellency sent word that he would be pleased to be present during the whole of the business, if agreeable to the Board. His Worship the Mayor, McLeod Stewart, Esq., had been requested to preside, but was called away from the city, and Erskine Bronson, Esq., M.P.P., was invited to fill his place.

At 3 p.m. Their Excellencies arrived, accompanied by their daughters, Lady Evelyn and Lady Beatrix Fitzmaurice, Lady Frances Churchill, and Hon. H. J. Anson, A.D.C. They were met at the outer door by Dr. Grant and Mr. Robt. Lees, our legal and medical advisers, to whom the Board had delegated this duty. At the inner door they were met by Mrs. Bronson and Mrs. Tilton, First and Second Directresses, and escorted to the platform, "God Save the Queen" being sung.

The Venerable Archdeacon Lauder opened the meeting with prayer; the minutes and Annual Report were read by the Recording Secretary, Mrs. J. Thorburn, the report going somewhat into detail regarding the early history of the institution. His Excellency seemed much interested, leaning forward and listening attentively. Mr. Lees read the Treasurer's report, and the rest of the business was put through rapidly, after which the chairman invited His Excellency to address the meeting.

After complimenting the ladies on the business-like character of the proceedings, and expressing his sympathy with their efforts, he drew attention to the fact that this year marked the fiftieth year of our beloved Queen's reign, and that during those years no cause had made more rapid advance than the great cause of humanity, a cause which the personal conduct and example of the Queen had,

beyond question, done much to promote. He also contrasted the manner in which private and spontaneous organizations, such as this, are carried on in this country with that of the Old Land, where poverty is so largely relieved by taxation, and continued. "As to the particular form of charity which is specially recognized within these walls, the relief of those who, owing to the loss of husband or of parents, find themselves destitute of the means of support, it is enough to say that it is one which is specially enjoined upon us by the highest and most solemn mandates of Christianity. There is, I suppose, no more striking or pregnant passage in inspired writings than that which tells us, in effect, that of the duties inculcated by the religion which we profess, one-half may be adequately summarized in the words which bid us to 'visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction.'

"As to the success which has been achieved by this institution, we have the two-fold evidence, first from the number of persons who have year after year found relief and assistance at your hands, as evidenced by the reports of the Home, and secondly, in the fact that you have been able to erect, on one of the leading thoroughfares of the city, a building in every way worthy of the site and of the national capital. Only those who are behind the scenes can be aware of the amount of real hard work which has to be done in order to carry on the affairs of such an institution as this." He concluded an eloquent and forceful address in these words: "I have now only to wish a long and successful career to the Home, or, I might almost say, to predict such a career for it, because, looking at what has been done within a comparatively short space of

time, looking at these excellent and handsome buildings, and looking not less at the public estimation in which the Home is held by the people of this city, we can scarcely venture to doubt that its success is assured, and that, as long as the City of Ottawa lasts, so long will the Home continue to give help and comfort to that class of the community which stands most in need of both."

He then declared the new Home opened. The whole assemblage, led by a choir, under the charge of Miss Denzil, united in singing the Doxology, and Rev. W. T. Herridge offered the dedicatory prayer. Sir H. W. Baker's beautiful and appropriate hymn was then sung:

"O praise our God to-day,
His constant mercy bless,
Whose love has helped us on our way
And granted us success.

.
"God of the widow, hear,
Our work of mercy bless ;
God of the fatherless, be near,
And grant us good success.

The meeting was brought to a close by prayer and the benediction by Rev. W. W. Carson.

Their Excellencies and suite, accompanied by Mr. E. H. Bronson, Mrs. Bronson, and other members of the Board, then repaired to the girls' sitting-room, where refreshments were served, and afterwards made a tour of inspection of the whole building, going first into the day-nursery, where the children were assembled. One of the little ones presented Lady Lansdowne with a basket of flowers, all the children singing "God Save the Queen."

The whole building was thronged with visitors,

who seemed interested and delighted with all they saw. The opening was indeed a great success, and the members of the Board rejoiced greatly at the consummation of their hopes and desires, and that the institution had at last a building erected for the purpose, and in every way suitable for its requirements for many years to come.

His Excellency shortly after sent a cheque for \$50, with the request that his name be added to the list of honorary life members.

The entrance into a new Home seemed a suitable time for making some desired changes. The presiding officers had been known by the title of Directresses. Mrs. Bronson suggested that a change be made to President and Vice-Presidents; Mrs. Thorburn suggested the creation of a new office, that of Registrar, whose duty it should be to attend to all matters relating to the registration of inmates. The first of these suggestions was adopted at this Annual Meeting, the second two years later, when the By-laws were revised and consolidated. Other changes made were enlargement of power for the adoption of children, by the addition of a By-law in 1887, and an amendment of the Act of Incorporation, in 1888, to facilitate the borrowing of money.

To their much-loved President, Mrs. H. F. Bronson, who for so many years had devoted her best energies to the work of the Home, the Board felt that they were under deep obligation, and that this was a fitting time to express their love and esteem, and their gratification that she had consented to retain the office of President, though she had expressed her desire to be relieved from it, now

that the object so dear to her heart had been accomplished. The lady managers, therefore, at their first regular meeting, in 1887, presented her with the following address:

“Dear Mrs. Bronson,—We, your associates on the Board of Management of the Orphans’ Home for 1887, avail ourselves of the opportunity presented at our first monthly meeting of the new year to express our sincere gratification at your willingness to continue as our President, and our high appreciation of your long-continued labors in behalf of this institution.

“We feel that it must be to you, as it is to us, a matter of devout thankfulness that you have been spared to see the completion, and to be present at the dedication, of the new Home, a work in which, from the first, you have taken so warm and active an interest. During the twenty-two years you have been connected with the Home, you have not only set us all an example of faithful service by your ‘patient continuance in well-doing,’ but also by your kind and gentle Christian character you have won the esteem and love of every member of the Board.

“That Mr. Bronson and yourself may long be spared to strengthen the hands of the weak and to befriend the needy in the future as you have done in the past, that God in His grace may fill your hearts with all the blessings which He has promised to them that love Him; that His service may still be your delight, His favor your reward, and that finally, when done with earthly labors, you may have a joyful and abundant entrance into His home

of many mansions, is the earnest prayer of your sincere friends.

“ (Signed) ROBERTA E. TILTON, 1st V.-Pres.
 SUSAN CHRISTIE, 2nd V.-Pres.
 MARIA J. I. THORBURN, Rec.-Sec.
 MARY ELIZABETH WALKER, Cor.-Sec.
 ALISON SCOTT, Treasurer.”

(And the other members of the Board.)

This address was engrossed and enclosed in a cover of Russia leather.

It may not be amiss to pause here and record the names of the members of the Board of Management at the time of the opening of the new Home on Elgin Street, for it certainly was an important and interesting epoch in the history of the Orphans' Home.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT FOR 1887.

President - - - - -	Mrs. H. F. Bronson.
1st Vice-President - - - - -	Mrs. J. Tilton.
2nd Vice-President - - - - -	Mrs. A. Christie.
Recording Secretary - - - - -	Mrs. J. Thorburn.
Corresponding Secretary - - - - -	Mrs. W. H. Walker.
Treasurer - - - - -	Mrs. Alison Scott.

Mrs. A. Anderson.	Mrs. W. M. Matheson.
Mrs. A. Burritt.	Mrs. C. MacNab.
Mrs. Robert Brown.	Mrs. Walker Powell.
Mrs. J. M. Courtney.	Mrs. M. M. Pyke.
Mrs. George Cox.	Mrs. W. A. Ross.
Mrs. L. Crannell.	Mrs. T. Ross.
Mrs. J. Durie.	Mrs. W. Stewart.
Mrs. B. Donaldson.	Mrs. Ed. Seybold.
Mrs. Sandford Fleming.	Mrs. A. J. Stephens.
Mrs. Ed. Griffin.	Mrs. W. H. Tracy.
Mrs. R. Lyon.	Mrs. Z. Wilson.
Mrs. P. Larmonth.	Mrs. Robt. Watson.

In the change from the inconvenient and uncomfortable quarters on Albert Street to the bright and commodious building on Elgin Street our anticipations of increased pleasure in carrying on the work were fully realized. The enlarged accommodation and the convenient arrangements made it possible to keep the institution in good running order with much less labor than formerly. Especially was this the case in the Aged Women's Department. They now occupied the south wing, and were entirely separated from the children. In November, 1888, Mr. E. H. Bronson, who was at that time member for Ottawa in the Ontario Legislature, kindly undertook to have this department set apart by the Ontario Government, under the name of "The Refuge Branch," whereby an additional grant would be received annually. For some years, the Refuge Branch was carried on under the charge of Miss Horne, in addition to her duties in the Children's Department; but in 1892 an assistant matron was appointed to the exclusive care of the aged women, as it was felt that their feeble condition demanded more attention than Miss Horne, with the care of the house and little children, could be expected to give them. Miss Merrick was the first appointed to this position, which she occupied for twelve years.

It was found, when all available subscriptions to the building fund were gathered in, that there would still be needed over \$4,000 to liquidate all outstanding debts and put the grounds in order; \$4,500 was, therefore, borrowed for this purpose in June, 1888.

[1889.]

The year 1889 was sadly marked by the sudden deaths of two of the best friends of the institution, Mr. H. F. Bronson and Mr. C. T. Bate. Mr. Bronson was a member of the Advisory Committee, and had from its earliest days been deeply interested in the welfare of the Home. His hand had been open to every call for assistance, and it was largely owing to the exertions of himself and family that the property on Albert Street had been purchased. For the erection of the new building, also, he had not only given liberally himself, but had induced others to give. It did, indeed, seem to be a most fitting monument, "more enduring than brass," when his heirs decided, in his memory, to liquidate the debt of \$4,500, feeling, as they did, that such an action on their part would have been in full accord with Mr. Bronson's wishes. Such an act of generosity on the part of a family whose name has ever been interwoven with the history of the Orphans' Home called forth gratitude from every member of the Board.

Mr. C. T. Bate, also a member of the Advisory Committee, had always shown, by his ready response to our appeals, whether for money or for business advice, that he was one of our most earnest supporters. In the choice and purchase of the Elgin Street property, and in the sale of that on Albert Street, he gave the managers most valuable assistance. Nothing seemed to be too much trouble to him, if by any means he could further the interests of the Home, and for many years his help was greatly missed.

The deaths of Mr. Bronson and Mr. Bate left two

vacancies on the Advisory Committee, which were filled by Mr. H. N. Bate and Mr. Levi Crannell.

There occurred, also, in 1889, the first break in our ranks by death* since the days, long ago, when we met in the old Walkley house in Bank Street.† This, we think, is a most remarkable record. It is true that Mrs. Wm. Macdougall died while a member of the Board, but owing to illness soon after her election she had never attended a meeting.

QUIET YEARS.

The next few years were uneventful ones, spent in the quiet routine of duties and in the enjoyment of the prosperity which the Lord had bestowed upon us, the only change being the introduction of the kindergarten in 1890, Miss Isobel Alexander being the first teacher. This department was taken in charge by the Public School Board in 1898.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Bronson once more resigned the Presidentship of the Board of Management; but so greatly was she beloved, the members felt that they could not part with her, and begged her to allow her name to remain, Mrs. Tilton kindly undertaking to perform her duties. From that time to the present Mrs. Tilton has been the acting President, a position which she has filled to the utmost satisfaction of the Board, presiding at all meetings and otherwise filling the place of President with marked ability. Mrs. Bronson, however, keeps a lively interest in the affairs of the Home, and by many acts of kindness and generosity shows how dear the institution is to her heart.

* Mrs. Robt. Brown died December 14th, 1889.

† When Mrs. C. L. Bates died, May 31st, 1866.

One event of a pleasing nature took place in 1890, which though scarcely part of the history of the Home, nevertheless is one showing the kindly relations existing between the members of the Board, and stands in our minutes as a pleasant reminder of the same. The golden wedding of Mrs. Durie, one of the founders of the Home, and then on the Board, fell on the same day as the monthly meeting, and as the occasion was a unique one it was proposed that a presentation should be made to her. For that purpose, the meeting adjourned at 4.30, the ladies driving to the residence of Mrs. Durie, Richmond Road, and presenting her with the following address, accompanied by the gift of a silver cream and sugar service:

Dear Mrs. Durie,—We, the members of the Board of Management of the Orphans' Home, with most of whom you have been associated for many years, extend to you our most sincere congratulations and good wishes on this the occasion of your golden wedding.

“You have been identified with the management of the Home since its inception; for a quarter of a century you have given to it faithful and unstinted service. Few have been the meetings of the Board without your presence, and the members have always felt that they could, in all their deliberations, rely upon your wise and judicious counsel. During all these years our intercourse with you has been of the most cordial and affectionate nature; it has endeared you to us in no ordinary degree, and we ask your acceptance of the accompanying gift as a small token of this esteem and affection.

“To very few is it given to reach the extended term of wedded life which has been accorded to

you and your respected husband. May the remaining years of your lives be not a descent into a dark valley, but rather an ascent to the higher and brighter regions of love and joy. May your pathway lead ever upward, shining more and more unto the perfect day. There, in that Beulah-land of waiting, may your 'ears be filled with heavenly noises and your eyes with celestial visions,' until at last you behold the golden light of the New Jerusalem, and enter in at the gates into the city, to behold the King in His beauty, and to hear the 'Well done, good and faithful servants, enter ye into the joy of your Lord.'

"On behalf of the Board of Management.

"MARIA J. I. THORBURN,
Recording Secretary.

"October 27th, 1890."

In 1893 an important change was made in the date of the Annual Meeting. Hitherto it had been held in January, but October being the month when all government returns had to be sent in, it was felt it would simplify business greatly if the Annual Meeting were held in that month. A By-law was, therefore, adopted to make legal this change, the financial year to end September 30th.

In October of the same year, the institution lost by death its first legal adviser, Robt. Lees, Esq., who had held that position for nearly thirty years, and who had only once been absent from an Annual Meeting. A faithful friend we always felt we had in Mr. Lees, and one ever ready to advise and assist us. John Christie, Esq., was appointed in his place.

In 1893 two new societies were organized in Ottawa, the "National Council of Women," and

the "Children's Aid Society," with both of which the Orphans' Home formed connections; with the former the connection was that of affiliation, with the latter that of affording a shelter for children rescued from cruel treatment or vicious surroundings. Representatives from the Orphans' Home occupy places on the executives of both these societies.

[1898.]

Mrs. Alison Scott, who had held the office of Corresponding Secretary for two years, and that of Treasurer for twenty-two and a half years, felt constrained, owing to ill-health, to resign her office, October, 1898. The Board regretted exceedingly Mrs. Scott's decision, and at the Annual Meeting, held October 12th, passed the following resolution, moved by Mrs. T. Ross, seconded by Mrs. J. Thorburn:

"That the Corporation and Board of Management of the Orphans' Home desire to place on record their great regret that failing health causes the resignation from office of their much-valued Treasurer, Mrs. Alison Scott, and at the same time to express their warmest appreciation of her business qualifications, and of the unfailing kindness and gentleness she has brought to the performance of her responsible duties, which made it a pleasure to everyone coming in contact with her in her official capacity. Identified with this institution almost from its beginning, she has, for nearly a quarter of a century, controlled its finances, and it may be laid to her forethought and care that the Home is in as flourishing a condition as it is to-

day. It is gratifying to know that Mrs. Scott still continues her connection with the Board."

This resolution was engrossed on parchment, signed by Editha P. Bronson, President; Roberta E. Tilton, First Vice-President; Maria J. I. Thorburn, Rec. Sec., placed in a cover of dark morocco, and presented to Mrs. Scott as a Christmas gift.

Between the years 1871-1900, several of those who might be considered founders of the institution were called away by death. They had all attended those first meetings in the old lecture hall of the Mechanics' Institute, and had all continued to devote much earnest effort and much valuable time to the interests of the Home. Whether it was as visitors, collectors, or attendants at the meetings, they were always at their posts, until advancing years and failing health laid them aside. They all lived to see the fruition of long-cherished hopes regarding the new building, and three of them left behind them daughters who are filling their mothers' places at this day. They were Mrs. A. Christie, Mrs. W. A. Ross, Mrs. Durie, and Mrs. Wm. Stewart.

Dr. Hill and Mr. H. V. Noel, who had been identified with the Home from its organization, also died this year, and in 1899 we heard of the death of our first President, Mrs. Coffin, in Montreal, where she passed away at the ripe age of eighty-eight. "Her works do follow her."

There have been many legacies left to the Home during the past forty years. The two largest were from the late Mr. John Roberts, in 1892, and the late Col. Allan Gilmour, in 1895, of \$5,000 each; the former was conditioned upon being expended for some special object approved by the executors.

As there was no special undertaking on hand at the time the money has been funded, to be used when required.

The year 1900-1 was one of great anxiety to the Board, and of additional care to those employed in the Home. In November, 1900, the dreaded scarlet fever appeared, and during the next few months there were thirty cases. The disease was very prevalent in the city, and the small Hospital for Contagious Diseases, then in existence, was not large enough to receive all the patients requiring isolation, consequently most of our cases had to be kept and nursed in the institution. The Home was quarantined for six months, during which time the meetings of the Board were held in the lecture hall of the Y.W.C.A. No death occurred among the children, which was great cause for gratitude, but the heavy expenses incurred were seriously felt for some time after.

During all these years, the Home has often been honored by visits from the Vice-Regal occupants of Government House. I can find no record of visits from Their Excellencies the Earl and Countess of Dufferin, nor from Lord and Lady Lisgar, but from the Countess of Dufferin, as already stated, came \$500, the first amount received for the building fund, a very tangible evidence of interest.

The first visit I find recorded was when Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise, accompanied by His Excellency the Governor-General, made an inspection of the Home, then located on Albert Street. They were received by the ladies of the Board, and conducted through the different portions of the building. Greatly delighted were the old women to

see the daughter of their beloved Queen, and to have a word of kindly greeting from her.

To Their Excellencies the Marquis and Marchioness of Lansdowne, the Board felt under special obligation, as they so kindly graced the opening of the new Home with their presence, His Excellency's admirable address adding so much to the interest of the occasion.

Her Excellency Lady Stanley of Preston, after her arrival in Canada, showed great interest in the Home, visiting the Refuge Branch weekly, reading to and conversing with the old women. It can readily be understood with what pleasure they looked forward to these visits, and how the kindly spoken words were treasured in their hearts.

Their Excellencies the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen, and Her Excellency the Countess of Minto, also showed their interest in the good work carried on in the institution by officially visiting and inspecting the Home.

At the Annual Meeting, in October, 1902, the writer of this sketch retired from the office of Recording Secretary. The report of that year ended with the following paragraph:

"In closing this report your Recording Secretary may be permitted a word of personal reference. For nearly thirty-five years she has acted as your Honorary Recording Secretary, and now, on retiring from the office, she desires to express the pleasure she has ever felt in the prosecution of her duties, and the warm affection she has entertained for all the members of the Board with whom she has been associated. No one could be so long and so intimately connected with any institution without feeling a strong love for, and a warm interest in

all that pertains to it; no one could give so much of one's life-force to any undertaking without its becoming a very part of one's self. This love and this interest she hopes will continue, but the duties of her office she hands over to another, with the hope that her successor may have the same pleasure in her work, and the same happy experience, when she, in her turn, retires from office."

At the same meeting, the following resolution was adopted:

Moved by Mrs. Edward Griffin, seconded by Mrs. Wm. Hutchinson, "That the Corporation of the Orphans' Home of the City of Ottawa desires to place upon record its grateful acknowledgment and appreciation of the long and faithful service rendered to the Corporation during the thirty-five years that Mrs. Thorburn has filled the position of Recording Secretary of the Board of Management.

"It further desires to express its sincere regret that Mrs. Thorburn should feel obliged to retire from the special duty that has been congenial to herself and acceptable to those with whom she has been so long associated.

"The Corporation trusts that the Board may continue to have the benefit of Mrs. Thorburn's long experience and ripened judgment in the management of the Orphans' Home."

This resolution was afterwards beautifully illuminated in book form, two pages being devoted to photographs of Mrs. Bronson and the Home, was bound with morroco cover, signed by Editha P. Bronson, President; Roberta E. Tilton, Vice-President; Elizabeth Watson, Vice-President; H. Augusta Egan, Corresponding Secretary; Ella W.

Thorburn, Recording Secretary; G. E. Crannell, Treasurer; S. B. Seybold, Registrar, and presented to Mrs. Thorburn at the regular monthly meeting, December 29th, 1902. Mrs. C. H. Thorburn was elected in her place.

In 1903, there passed away from among us the last of those whose names were on the first Board, and who had been *actively* connected with the Home since that time.* I refer to Mrs. Ed. Griffin, who died in Montreal, on Christmas Day. She had been present at the drawing-room meeting in Mrs. Coffin's house in 1864, and one of the last conscious acts of her life was sending loving greetings to her co-workers in response to a gift of flowers sent to her on Christmas morning. Most of the members of the Board attended her funeral service, after which, at a meeting held on the same day, the following resolution was passed: Moved by Mrs. John Thorburn, seconded by Mrs. Robt. Blackburn, "That we, as members of the Board of Management of the Orphans' Home, desire to express the deep sorrow we feel at the loss of one of our most beloved members, Mrs. Edward Griffin, which occurred on Christmas Day, after a comparatively short illness, and to record our high appreciation of the many services which she was enabled to render to the institution during a long term of years.

"Mrs. Griffin was one of the founders of the Orphans' Home in 1864, and, with the exception of a few years, she has been closely identified with all its interests. Elected at the first Annual Meeting, in 1865, as its first Treasurer, she subsequently

* Mrs. Bronson was one of the first members and is still on the Board, but advancing years have for some time prevented her from taking an active part in its proceedings.

occupied the position of Recording Secretary from 1866-69, and of Registrar from 1889-95, the duties of all which offices she filled with exceptional ability. She was also a most efficient member of the various important standing committees: at one time Secretary of the Supervisory Committee, at another of the Repairs Committee, her calm judgment and long experience making her counsel and advice most valued by her co-workers. As a visitor and collector she was punctual and exact in the performance of her duties, and won, among her fellow-workers on the Board, that most enviable reputation of always being depended upon.

"But, after all, it was not altogether, or indeed principally, for her faithful work that she won the love and esteem of us all, rather for her qualities of heart and mind. Many women have done nobly for this Home, but few with the grace of spirit which shone forth in all Mrs. Griffin's work and in her intercourse with others. Truly lovely in her life she has left behind her a fragrant memory, and has taught us how an unswerving devotion to duty may be combined with grace of manner, delicacy of feeling, and retiring modesty. She passed away as she had lived, quietly and calmly, to the enjoyment of those better things which God has prepared for them that love Him."

The personnel of the Board of Management has so entirely changed that it may be well to give the names of the members as they stand at the close of forty years:

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, 1904-05.

President	- - - - -	Mrs. H. F. Bronson.
1st Vice-President	- - - - -	Mrs. John Tilton.
2nd Vice-President	- - - - -	Mrs. Robert Watson.
Recording Secretary	- - - - -	Mrs. C. H. Thorburn.
Corresponding Secretary	- - - - -	Mrs. H. K. Egan.
Treasurer	- - - - -	Mrs. L. Crannell.
Registrar	- - - - -	Mrs. Ed. Seybold.

Mrs. A. Anderson.	Mrs. P. Larmonth.
Mrs. Robert Blackburn.	Mrs. Hugh Lewis.
Mrs. A. Burritt.	Mrs. D. B. MacTavish.
Mrs. Newell Bate.	Mrs. A. E. Matthews.
Mrs. Douglas Cameron.	Mrs. H. C. Monk.
Mrs. B. Donaldson.	Mrs. P. D. Ross.
Mrs. C. A. Douglas.	Mrs. A. J. Stephens.
Mrs. F. T. Graves.	Mrs. J. Thorburn.
Mrs. G. B. Greene.	Mrs. W. H. Tracy.
Mrs. H. P. Hill.	Mrs. C. F. Whitley.
Miss H. E. Durie.	Miss Stewart.

Miss Whelen.

Matrons	- - - - -	{ Miss Horne.
		{ Miss Moffat.
Teachers	- - - - -	{ Miss M. Robertson.
		{ Miss Ready.

At the monthly meeting held in September, 1904, it was suggested that December 9th, being the fortieth anniversary of the first meeting held to organize this charity, an effort be made to celebrate the event in some fitting and special manner. On October 31st the following ladies were appointed a committee to take steps for the carrying out of this suggestion, namely, Mesdames P. Larmonth, J. Tilton, L. Crannell, H. K. Egan, H. P. Hill, E. Seybold, C. A. Douglas, D. B. MacTavish, F. T. Graves, G. B. Greene, and C. H. Thorburn, Sec.

CONCLUSION.

And now, in conclusion, we would refer briefly to the work done within the walls of this institution. During the forty years of its existence a refuge has been afforded to the aged and care-worn who have borne the burden and heat of the day, and who seek a shelter in their declining years; care and training have been given to the little children who have found here a happy home. Many of these children now occupy respectable and useful places in the community; many have found homes where they are loved, cared for, and trained up as members of the family; many are heads of families themselves. It is almost impossible to estimate the good that has been done, or the labor that has been expended in the doing of it. There have been times of sore trial, when the children have been prostrated with illness and the matron worn with much anxiety and watching; still, it may be safely said that it is a happy family that is domiciled under the friendly roof of the Orphans' Home. It is the aim of the managers and of the matron that there should be as little of the "institution look" about the establishment as possible. No uniform is worn, nor are the children hedged about with such observances as tend to make them feel that they are charity bred. As for the old people—well, if they are not happy in their bright, cheerful rooms, with all their wants supplied, it is because, poor souls, they have, many of them, been so tossed about by the storms

of life as to embitter them and render them querulous and discontented.

The following extracts from two of the city newspapers give a true picture of the kind of life enjoyed by the inmates of the Home.

From the *Evening Journal*, January 16th, 1891:

“A heavy fall of snow was in progress, a cold wind blowing, and all the world was dark and dreary, when a *Journal* scribe turned into the Orphans' Home on Elgin Street. No sooner had the door closed behind him than all was changed. The air became warm and comfortable, whilst the sound of healthy children's voices, as they romped freely, stole upon the ear. Miss Horne was quickly with the reporter, and escorted him around the whole establishment. In one room a number of children were playing happily and making the air resonant with merry laughter. In another, Miss Rea was holding school with a number of happy-looking little ones, whilst in another room Miss Alexander had just dismissed the kindergarten class, and was preparing to amuse some of the other children with a singing lesson. From room to room, Miss Horne took the reporter, showing him all the 'ins' and 'outs' of the establishment. Throughout the whole it was evident that the greatest happiness prevailed, and that matron, teachers, and inmates were all on terms of the most loving friendship.”

From *Free Press*, February 9th, 1895:

“It was afternoon when a *Free Press* man dropped into the handsome building on Elgin Street, unexpectedly, and found Miss Horne and her num-

erous family the exact picture of health and happiness. The merry laughter of the little ones as they romped hither and thither in joyful glee, was veritable music.

"School was 'in,' in the spacious school-room, and a small class was being assiduously taught the 'three R's,' but there was no evidence of cramming—the diminutive brains appeared to be taking it all in, and enjoying the process. From the door-bell knob to the attic ceiling, everything was clean and brilliant. There was no unusual noise, everything was method and decorum. It was a huge, happy family. Genuine sympathy cannot fail to be enlisted by a visit at any time to this model institution, the noble work of which goes quietly, unassumingly on, without blare or bluster, but effectively."

The religious wants of the inmates have always been attended to, many of the clergymen of the city having, at one time or another, given regular services in the Aged Women's Department. The children go regularly to church and Sunday School, and family worship is maintained in the Home.

For some years past a Mission Band has been in existence, under the presidency of the matron, the boys or girls holding the other offices themselves. They have more than once sent a complete suit of clothing to some poor Indian boy in the North-West, and every year a creditable sum of money to the society with which they are affiliated, all from their own earnings or savings.

So I bring to a close these recollections of by-gone days, leaving to some other hand to chronicle the events of the days that are to come. As, in

taking up my pen to write this sketch, the forms of those who walked the streets of Ottawa forty years ago rose before my mental vision, so, in laying it down, do the faces of the dear friends with whom I was so long associated on the Orphans' Home Board meet me with their pleasant smiles and greetings. Once again, in imagination, I seem to be sitting in my old place beside the President, listening to the discussions and deliberations; again I see, in a circle around me, each in her accustomed seat, those who, with their earnest endeavors, first guided the affairs of this institution, not one of whom bears me company to-day. They are all gone, called now to higher service. But, though they have passed away, I see to-day many of the daughters of my dear, old friends, who have risen up to fill the vacant places. It shows the strong hold this institution had upon the affections of its early promoters, to find that so many of the second generation have esteemed it a pleasure and a privilege, in their turn, to take up the work as it dropped from their mothers' hands.

Many changes has time wrought, both in the City of Ottawa and in our Orphans' Home, but amid them all the good hand of the Lord has been with us. Shall we not, then, remember the motto of our association, and in "Faith, hope, and charity," go forward in the work set before us, feeling assured that "as Christ ever cometh with the coming years," so He will give even richer blessings in the future than have been vouchsafed in the past.

APPENDIX

LIST OF OFFICERS.

[1864-1904.]

PRESIDENTS.

Mrs. W. F. Coffin	- -	Elected December 16th, 1864.
Lady Macdonald	- -	" January 15th, 1868.
Mrs. H. F. Bronson	- -	" January 20th, 1875.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Mrs. H. F. Bronson	- -	Elected January 18th, 1865.
Mrs. E. B. Eddy	- -	" January 20th, 1875.
Mrs. J. Tilton	- -	" January 21st, 1880.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Mrs. J. Hill	- - -	Elected January 18th, 1865.
Mrs. P. LeSueur	- -	" January 17th, 1866.
Mrs. E. B. Eddy	- -	" January 19th, 1870.
Mrs. A. Christie	- -	" January 20th, 1875.
Mrs. W. H. Walker	- -	" January 20th, 1892.
Mrs. R. Watson	- -	" October 13th, 1897.

RECORDING SECRETARIES.

Mrs. C. S. Sewell	- -	Elected December 16th, 1864.
Mrs. Edward Griffin	- -	" January 17th, 1866.
Mrs. John Thorburn	- -	" January 15th, 1868.
Mrs. Chas. H. Thorburn	- -	" October 8th, 1902.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES.

Mrs. R. Eaton	-	-	-	Elected	January 18th, 1865.
Mrs. Thos. Ross	-	-	-	"	January 18th, 1871.
Mrs. Jas. Birkett	-	-	-	"	January 17th, 1872.
Mrs. Alison Scott	-	-	-	"	January 21st, 1874.
Mrs. J. Tilton	-	-	-	"	January 19th, 1876.
Mrs. W. H. Walker	-	-	-	"	January 21st, 1880.
Mrs. H. K. Egan	-	-	-	"	January 20th, 1892.

TREASURERS.

Mrs. Edward Griffin	-	-	-	Elected	January 18th, 1865.
Miss Clegg	-	-	-	"	March 26th, 1866.
Mrs. Smillie	-	-	-	"	January 15th, 1868.
Mrs. Thos. Ross	-	-	-	"	January 17th, 1872.
Mrs. Alison Scott	-	-	-	"	January 19th, 1876.
Mrs. J. M. Courtney	-	-	-	"	October 12th, 1898.
Mrs. L. Crannell	-	-	-	"	October 10th, 1900.

REGISTRARS.

Mrs. Edward Griffin	-	-	-	Elected	January 16th, 1889.
Mrs. L. Crannell	-	-	-	"	October 14th, 1896.
Mrs. Edward Seybold	-	-	-	"	October 10th, 1900.

PHYSICIANS.

C. S. Sewell, M.D.					
H. Hill, M.D.	-	-	-	-	Appointed 1865.
Sir J. A. Grant, M.D.	-	-	-	-	" 1865.
E. C. Malloch, M.D.	-	-	-	-	" 1872.
D. A. Carmichael, M.D.	-	-	-	-	" 1876.
A. Rogers, M.D.	-	-	-	-	" 1879.
J. W. Whiteford, M.D.	-	-	-	-	" 1880.
T. B. Bentley, M.D.	-	-	-	-	" 1881.
H. B. Small, M.D.	-	-	-	-	" 1882.
R. Powell, M.D.	-	-	-	-	" 1882.
J. A. Grant, jun., M.D.	-	-	-	-	" 1892.
Geo. S. MacCarthy, M.D.	-	-	-	-	" 1901.
Fred. Birkett, M.D.	-	-	-	-	" 1903.

LEGAL ADVISERS.

Robert Lees, Esq.	-	-	-	-	-	Appointed 1865.
John Christie, Esq.	-	-	-	-	-	“ 1893.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

[1864-1904.]

C. S. Sewell, M.D.	Col. F. W. Coffin.	A. Drummond.
H. V. Noel.	John Rochester.	E. McGillivray.
M. K. Dickinson.	F. G. Crosby.	C. T. Bate.
Hon. Jas. Skead.	Phillip Thompson.	R. Lees.
J. M. Currier, M.P.	H. F. Bronson.	E. H. Bronson.
A. C. Kelty.	C. W. Bangs.	Sir Sandford Flem-
Geo. Hay.	J. G. Robinson.	H. N. Bate. [ing.
Col. Allan Gilmour.	G. May.	L. Crannell.

MATRONS.

Miss Janet Lillicoe	-	-	-	-	-	Appointed 1865.
Mrs. Vandusen	-	-	-	-	-	“ 1867.
Mrs. McCormick	-	-	-	-	-	“ 1868.
Miss M. Wilson	-	-	-	-	-	“ 1870.
Miss Gear	-	-	-	-	-	“ 1871.
Mrs. Longley	-	-	-	-	-	“ 1872.
Mrs. Fraser	-	-	-	-	-	“ 1874.
Miss S. Horne	-	-	-	-	-	“ 1887.
Miss Merrick (assistant)	-	-	-	-	-	“ 1892.
Miss Symmes	“	-	-	-	-	“ 1903.
Miss Moffat	“	-	-	-	-	“ 1904.

