

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TORONTO

MAGDALENE ASYLUM,

OR

FEMALE HOUSE OF REFUGE.

JANUARY, 1871.

TORONTO:

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1871.

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JANUARY, 1871.

In presenting the Sixteenth Annual Report of this Female House of Refuge, it is surely not necessary to press the claims of the Institution. The continued and enlarged support received from the benevolent is a sufficient testimony to the place it now holds among the charities of the city. In looking back to the first movement in this direction, we have to say it was "the day of small things." Under the divine blessing, we have every year been privileged to mark progress, and we humbly trust that no year has been without its fruit. Not a few of its earlier friends have been removed from cheerful service here to blessed reward in heaven. Amid the realities of eternity, they can now fully estimate the priceless value of an immortal soul, and from the heights of glory would cheer on their surviving fellow-laborers in the same cause, with this word of encouragement—"There is joy in heaven over *one* sinner that repenteth." An institution such as this occupies a very different place from that of an hospital for the sick, an asylum for the aged, or a home for the orphan. These plead their own cause, and never fail to meet with a hearty response. This house is overshadowed by the dark cloud of sin, rather than of misfortune, and, therefore, its claims upon Christian compassion are quite peculiar. In its operations, manifold difficulties have to be encountered—difficulties only to be overcome by prayerful effort, and unflinching love; yea, nothing short of the "whole armour of God" can secure success. It is a sad startling fact that as population and prosperity increase so do vice and crime; although we do not pretend to reach the fountain head to prevent the evil, we are

thankful for any breakwater against the flood of iniquity that is coming in. It would be a stigma upon our Christianity if we made no provision for the fallen and the friendless. Satan boldly sets up his strong-holds in our very midst. The theatre, the tavern, the disreputable lodging-house, meet the eye in every corner. He goes about openly "as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour;" or slyly, by his enticing wiles, creeps in among our young stranger emigrants, our servants out of place, or our homeless shop girls; and should the friends of Christ be afraid to make an inroad on his wide domain, in order to rescue some victims from his soul-destroying grasp? The police, cell and the prison ward are essential to the punishment of crime and the safety of the citizens; and to these every lover of morality and justice must respond a hearty amen. The law must have its frowning Ebal, whose enforcements must thunder in the ear of the unhappy transgressor; but it is the essence and privilege of the Gospel to have its Gerizzim or "Hill of Blessing" to open a door of hope in the valley of Achor, and with her still small voice, to direct the desponding, the penitent, and even the almost hardened criminal to an asylum of mercy. The objection has sometimes (though not very often) met us that such an institution only encourages vice and shields the guilty. We can only reply in the words of the Apostle—"Where sin abounded grace did much more abound;" and if under the Mosaic dispensation cities of refuge were a divine appointment, to any of which the man-slayer might flee for protection from the avenger of blood, how much more, under the Gospel, should we have a place of refuge for the self-destroyer, or trembling outcast?—that as soon as the prison-gate opens for her exit, and before the tempter again ensnares her, or before she can retrace her steps to the haunts of sin, or it may be perish amid the winter's snow, she may be met with these accents of tenderness, "Turn to this stronghold, thou prisoner of hope." As in the case of the fugitive hastening to the city of refuge, every obstacle was taken out of his way, and even finger-posts erected to guide him on his flight, so with our Refuge prompt admission is given to every applicant, and none are coldly turned away from this door of mercy. The inscription we would put upon the finger posts and threshold would be, "Stop and think." Whether we invite the prisoner from the jail, or the outcast from the street, we can offer not only a home, but a welcome to it. A year's probation is the only condition, and this is both necessary and beneficial—necessary to the undoing of the past, and the regaining of a state of mind favorable to habits of industry. Stop and think—reflect and re-

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solve—believe and live. Some measure of self-respect must be acquired before the women can either be trusted, or trust themselves beyond the place of security. Including those that were in the refuge at the beginning of this year, about a hundred have enjoyed its benefit for a larger or shorter time. We cannot expect that under the circumstances, every promise will be kept, or every resolution confirmed. No. Instability and dislike of restraint (however gentle) characterize the class; and, while we rejoice that so many make out the full term of probation—becoming not only reconciled to, but happy in the home, we need not be surprised if, on the other hand, there are not a few who stand thus marked in our record, “runaway” or “left.” We find also the term “re-admitted” connected with the names of a large number of the inmates. This mark is significant—it tells its own tale. Does it not prove to us that though in a moment of excitement or discontent, the tempted may have removed herself from the protection of the home, or the responsibilities of the situation in which she may have been placed, still, in finding her way back to her former asylum, does she not show that she knows something of its value?—that, in regard to herself, hope is not entirely extinguished—that, though fallen, she may yet rise again, and that, amid all the darkness of the guilty past, she can yet descry, not beyond her reach, a light to guide her to the “covert from the tempest, and the hiding from the storm.” She is not afraid of either a cold look, or a cruel upbraiding word. The very act of coming or returning is hopeful: it may be only the first breathings of repentance—the first step towards the only safe but “narrow way.” Nevertheless, if “seven times a day” the offender turns again to thee, “thou shalt forgive.” Who knows but that this oft and much forgiven penitent may not be brought, by means of Gospel teaching and Christian influence, to place herself under the care of the Saviour, and, in the overflowing of her love, Mary-like, anoint His feet with her tears, and wipe them with the hair of her head:—“She loved much because much was forgiven.” In no former year have there been so many inmates. At the close of the year there were 50, and we believe every one of them speaks of the care and kindness of the matron with the deepest gratitude. Mrs. Aikens seems to act upon the principle “that kindness is the key to the human heart,” and so, by her genial manner and ready sympathy she very easily secures their confidence and submission. Here, if anywhere, “kindness must be the law of the house,” and either in look or in word it has a mighty influence over the erring and the sorrowing. On the walls of one of the rooms

of the institution, these lines are very appropriately placed; let us all catch their spirit:—

Speak gently to the erring one, ye know not of the power
With which the dark temptation came, some unsuspected hour;
Ye may not know how earnestly she struggled, and how well,
Until the hour of weakness came, and sadly thus she fell.

Speak gently to the erring one, oh, do not thou forget,
However darkly stained by sin, she is thy sister yet;
Heir of the self-same heritage, child of the self-same God,
She hath but stumbled in the path thou hast in weakness trod.

Thou yet may'st lead her back again, with holy words of love,
From misery's dark and thorny path, to heaven's bright home above:
Forget not thou hast often sinned, and sinful yet may be;
Deal gently with the erring one, as God has dealt with thee.

Mrs. Aikens has been assisted in her labor by Miss Drennan, who, for six months, has held the situation of sub-matron, and her calm, Christian bearing, and constant attendance in the work-room have had a very happy influence there. Under the care of those two excellent superintendents, much comfort and harmony have prevailed in the establishment.

The proceeds of work,—sewing, knitting and washing amounts to nearly eight hundred dollars, and considering that there is no sewing machine but the fingers, the sum is very creditable. The pecuniary result, however, is a very secondary object with the friends of the cause. Work is essential as part of the machinery; it forms a primary element in the system of training and reformation, but the financial results should have comparatively little weight in estimating the good done by the Institution. Reformation of personal character, reconciliation with parents, restoration to some position in society, the future life of virtue and happiness—these are the fruits we aim at; and some of these we have been privileged to gather. It is earnestly hoped that in the course of another year a building more suitable for the comfortable management and successful results of the Refuge will be in progress. With so many inmates at present, and so little convenience, we have cause to be thankful that there has been so little confusion. Every one must be aware how important it is not only to have ample room for the work of the laundry, the kitchen, and the sewing department, but also for classification according to different terms of probation; also for a sick ward when removal to the hospital may either be unne-

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cessary or inexpedient. Some provision ought also to be made for out-door exercise; it would be conducive both to health and personal enjoyment. We are happy to say that the Treasurer has now in hand about \$3000 for the Building Fund. During the year fifteen have gone to service, one was married, one died, one became insane, and two were restored to friends. Several of the present inmates are efficient helps in the house. They have been steady for years, and have proved themselves reliable. The Committee return their sincere thanks to the friends who, by money, goods and other kind services, have supported this institution. May all the gifts be sanctified, and the giver be doubly blessed in lending to the Lord. To our kind friend Dr. Robinson, we still continue to be indebted for ready medical attendance and advice. Every Sabbath the inmates have the privilege of religious services and other exercises, conducted by clergymen or Christian laymen, who include these visits among their labours of love. Several of the girls are attenders at the house of God. Meetings for Bible instruction are held by some of the ladies during the week, and on these occasions, when the "old story of the cross" is read, and when the listening ear is greeted, or memory roused by such appeals as "home," "mother," "Saviour," the scene is sometimes a very solemn and suggestive one. In some cases the ready and correct answers given to the questions put, prove that the early seed sown, perhaps at the Sabbath School, has not been altogether choked by the "tares of the enemy," and that, although the broken vitiated heart is sadly out of tune, there is still a chord that can vibrate to the tones of sympathy and love. One of the ladies most kindly undertook the work of teaching all who were willing, reading and writing; and under her excellent tuition, these pupils have made good progress. Our library has been considerably enlarged by a liberal donation of suitable books from the Tract Society, and from James Campbell, Esq., and Bibles, Testaments and Hymn Books have been kindly supplied by the Bible Society. We trust our friends will receive this Report, not so much as a mere numerical statement, than as a grateful retrospect of the past, that at the beginning of a new year we may be prepared to raise our Ebenezer, and go on our way not faint while pursuing.

Before closing, we are reminded that we are called to notice the death of the first on our list of office-bearers, Mrs. John S. Baldwin, who, for a number of years presided at our meetings here, and took a deep interest in the progress of the Institution. One of the inmates

has also died after an illness of a few months. There was hope in her death. One soweth, another reapeth, one giveth, another receiveth; and if that honored mother in Israel, and the much-forgiven penitent are now rejoicing together, and casting their blood bought crowns at the feet of Jesus, who, among us, would not continue to labor in that blessed service which eternity will record?—the Father will honor, and the Saviour himself amply reward—"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." May those who now form our Committee be truly awake to their responsibility, and, by mutual counsel, co-operation and prayer strengthen one another's hands, and so grapple with the difficulties that necessarily arise from direct attacks upon the great enemy's territory. The work is one of infinite moment. If by your combined efforts you can arrest one unfortunate on her downward path, or cement anew the tender parental tie which sin had broken, or brighten again the darkened prospects of a once happy home, and, above all, bring the erring one to the feet of Jesus, that He may place her as a jewel in His crown, will you not in thus "saving a soul cover a multitude of sins."

We may be allowed to quote the words of the late Rev. Dr. Wardlaw, of Glasgow, in regard to the right way of dealing with the class before us, he says:—"In regard to the very worst and most ignorant among them, the Bible way of getting at the heart, of reaching the very root of the evil, is to take the tale of the cross: it has the same power as ever. Under the teaching of God's spirit there is no hardness which it cannot soften; no power of sin which it cannot subdue; no impurity which it cannot cleanse; no length and strength of habits of evil which it cannot counteract and rectify; no fears that it cannot quell; no broken spirit that it cannot heal." "Is there no balm in Gilead, is there no physician there? Why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?"

E. B. BURNS,
Secretary.

SUBSC

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Blake, Kerr & B
Jones Bros. . . .
John Forrest . . .
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H. Thompson . . .
H. J. Mason . . .
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T. J. McNab . . .
C. S. Gamble . . .
Mr. Shaw
Mrs. John Kerr
Miss Brown . . .
John Nasmith . . .
Mrs. Grasett . . .
W. McLean
A Friend
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Brown, Bros. . . .
W. T. Boyd

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Lady Parker . . .
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LIST OF
SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

FROM JULY, 1869, TO JANUARY, 1871.

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Blake, Kerr & Boyd	\$20 00	Mrs. Ashall.....	\$1 00
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John Forrest.....	2 00	A. McLean Howard.....	2 00
W. T. Mason.....	1 00	Fred. Jarvis.....	1 00
H. Thompson.....	2 00	T. H. Kingstone.....	1 00
H. J. Mason.....	1 00	Notman & Fraser.....	1 00
H. Mathieson.....	2 00	J. Severn.....	2 00
Blaikie & Alexander.....	2 00	John Eastwood.....	1 00
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" Jas. McDonell.....	5 00	" Hague.....	1 00
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Bishop of Toronto.....	4 00	" Caley.....	1 00
Mrs. Dixon (Grange).....	4 00	" Crickmore.....	1 00
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" D. Wilson.....	4 00	" Kerr.....	1 00
" Kingston.....	2 00	" Connor.....	1 00
" Muter.....	2 00	" N. Dickey.....	1 00
" John Boulton.....	2 00	" Neil.....	0 50
" Diehl.....	2 00	" Dill.....	0 50
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" Cumberland.....	2 00		
" E. A. Smith.....	2 00		

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B. BURNS,
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A Friend.....	0 50	A Friend.....	0 50
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 2 00

Miss Skinner..... \$1 00
 Mrs. Rose..... 0 35
 " Ferguson..... 1 00
 " Douglas..... 1 00
 " Thompson..... 0 25
 " Middlemas..... 0 50
 " Hillock..... 1 00
 Rev. D. Savage..... 1 00
 M. Mills..... 0 50
 Archibald McDonald..... 2 00
 Mrs. Forbes..... 0 50
 — Robinson..... 0 25
 Mr. Gearing..... 1 00
 P. Carroll..... 0 25
 Mrs. Fowler..... 0 50
 " W. B. Butler..... 1 00
 A. Bell..... 0 50
 M. H. Tempest..... 1 00
 Mrs. Fulton..... 0 25
 " Webb..... 1 00
 H. H..... 0 25
 W. Ashall..... 1 00
 E. Sutherland..... 0 50
 E. J. Miller..... 0 25
 George Smith..... 1 00
 D. Prentice..... 0 25
 Mrs. Piddington..... 0 50
 J. Copley..... 1 00
 Mr. Bethell..... 1 00
 Robert Lawson & Co..... 1 00
 George Noble..... 0 50
 Frisby & Bartlett..... 0 50
 J. F. Pannell..... 1 00
 P. Merryfield..... 0 80

Mrs. Holmes... \$1 00
 R. Jaffrey..... 1 00
 Toronto Tea Co..... 1 00
 Mrs. Cathcart..... 0 50
 Edward Beckett..... 1 00
 J. Clarkson..... 0 50
 Mrs. Millichamp..... 1 00
 " Jardine..... 1 00
 L. A. Aikens..... 2 00
 Wm. Latch..... 1 00
 Mrs. Muirhead..... 1 00
 " Taylor..... 2 00
 Sums under 25 cents..... 1 10
 G. H. Ycung..... 0 50
 J. Morris..... 0 25
 — Dolton..... 0 25
 — Donavan..... 0 10
 — Hutchrin..... 0 20
 — Holms..... 0 25
 — Worret..... 0 25
 \$40 30

Received in Goods.

R. Stanley (boots)..... \$1 10
 D. Thompson, druggist..... 0 50
 J. Fleming (seeds)..... 1 00
 Mrs. Shipway (brushes)..... 0 50
 M. Baillie..... 0 40
 J. Ward (beef)..... 2 00
 W. West & Co..... 0 70
 — McSymon..... 1 20
 — Brimstin..... 0 25
 \$7 65

BRAITH.
 \$1 00
 1 00
 1 00
 1 00
 2 00
 1 00
 0 50
 0 50
 0 50
 1 00
 1 00
 1 00
 1 00
 1 00
 2 00
 1 00
 1 00
 1 00
 1 00
 0 25
 0 25
 2 00
 \$81 50

COLLECTED BY MISS MOORE AND MISS BALES.

Miss Moore..... \$2 00
 Mrs. Edwin Snider..... 1 00
 " McBride..... 0 50
 " Rennie..... 1 00
 " Norris..... 0 50
 " Ward..... 1 00
 " William Jackes..... 0 50
 " Baker..... 0 25
 " Edw. Snider..... 1 00
 " Sheppard..... 0 50
 " Cheeseborough..... 2 00
 " R. Moore..... 1 00
 " F. Langrill..... 0 50
 " R. Rundle..... 0 50
 " McCann..... 0 20
 " Johnston..... 0 34
 " Stibbard..... 0 20
 " H. Nightingale..... 1 00
 Mr. A. F. McDonald..... 0 50
 Mrs. William Langrill..... 0 50
 " W. Douglass..... 0 25

Miss Ramsay..... \$0 25
 " Farr..... 0 25
 Mrs. Joseph Davies..... 0 25
 " West..... 0 50
 " Forsyth..... 1 00
 Mr. John Finch..... 1 00
 A Friend..... 0 25
 Mrs. Burns..... 0 20
 " J. Lauder..... 1 00
 " James Taylor..... 0 25
 " John Dingle..... 1 00
 Mr. John Davis..... 0 50
 Mrs. J. S. Stibbard..... 0 25
 " Isaac Robinson..... 1 00
 Miss Jones..... 0 25
 Mrs. Campbell..... 0 50
 \$23 69

Goods.

Chas. Moore & Co. (a bag rice)..... \$10 50
 Elias Snider (2 bags potatoes)..... 1 50

COLLECTED BY MRS. McMURRICH AND MISS LASH.

Mrs. George Brown.....	\$10 00	S. A. Oliver	\$1 00
" McMurrich	5 00	A. W. Godson.....	1 00
" Beardmore.....	5 00	Mrs. Craig.....	1 00
" Wm. Clark.....	5 00	" Rogers	1 00
" Howland	5 00	" Harvie.....	1 00
" Gordon Brown.....	5 00	" Kerr.....	1 00
" Stephen Heward.....	4 00	" Moberly.....	1 00
" John Duggan	2 06	" J. Kean.....	1 00
" Topp.....	2 00	" A. J. Gustin	1 00
S. B. Smith.....	2 00	" McDonald	1 00
Mrs. Charles Magrath.....	2 00	" Workman	1 00
" Betley	2 00	" Mara	0 50
" T. Smith	2 00	A Friend.....	0 50
" C. J. Campbell.....	1 00	Mrs. Jarvis	1 00
Miss Hamilton	1 00	" Hornby	1 00
Mrs. Livingstone.....	1 00		
" H. Godson	1 00		\$69 00

COLLECTED BY MRS. CUMMING AND MRS. GEORGE DUGGAN.

Mrs. George Duggan.....	\$4 00	Mrs. Davidson	\$1 00
" Gooderham, sen.,	2 00	" J. Morphy.....	1 00
" John Leys, sen.,	1 00	Miss Birchall.....	1 00
" H. Gooderham	1 00	Mr. A. Hamilton.....	1 00
" Worts.....	2 00	Mrs. Sutherland Stayner	2 00
" G. Gooderham.....	2 00	" Clarke.....	2 00
" Clarkson	2 00	" Cumming	1 00
Miss Helliwell.....	2 00		
Mrs. R. J. Gooderham.....	1 00		\$27 00
" J. Ross.....	1 00		

SUMS PAID DIRECT TO TREASURER.

Donation, Mrs. Spencer.....	\$1 00	Donation, Mr. J. Mitchell (Eglin- ton).....	2 00
" Miss Mitchell.....	1 00	Donation, Mrs. John Gartshore (Toronto)	4 00
Subscription, Mrs. Paterson (Dundas).....	5 00	Mrs. James Lesslie.....	5 00
Subscription, Mrs. Parker (Dun- das).....	5 00		
			\$23 00

GENERAL DONATIONS.

Mrs. Gunther, vegetables.	Mr. Cayley, barrel of fish.
" Hodgins, milk and Christmas presents.	" Chaffey, a cord of wood.
" M. McDonald, vegetables.	" Rattray, bread.
" Beckett, a bag potatoes.	" Joseph Lesslie, vegetables.
Mr. Grainger, roast of beef and shanks, and a goose.	" McPherson, a turkey and two geese.
Mrs. Lesslie, goose, cake, milk, apples, and vegetables.	Mrs. Beardmore, two geese.
Mr. E. Lawson, fruit and spice.	Mr. Jos. Gibson, a goose.
" Ward, beef.	Mrs. Kerr, a goose and sugar.
" Galbraith, barrel of barley.	Mr. Wilkes, a variety of Christmas presents.

ABSTRACT OF THE TREASURER'S ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY, 1871.

Dr.

To Balance from last year	\$2,823 53
" Subscriptions and Donations	1,033 57
" Grant from Ontario Government	480 00
" Do. from City Council	400 00
" Do. from County Council	100 00
" Gross proceeds of Labour	746 61
" Cash paid direct to Treasurer	23 00
" Cash from former Inmates	3 00
" Donation from the Grand Jury of the Assizes	12 00
" Cash received for Line Fence	38 75
" Cash for Cow, &c.	45 00
" Interest on Deposits	171 32
	<hr/>
	\$5,876 78

Cr.

By Groceries and Provisions	\$1,072 10
" Clothing and Materials	317 70
" Salaries	294 96
" Fuel	142 86
" Insurance	25 00
" Miscellaneous Accounts	284 72
" Balance, viz:	
In Building Society for Build'g Fund \$3,000 00	
Current Expenses	625 71
Cash in hand	113 73
	<hr/>
	3,739 44
	<hr/>
	\$5,876 78

To Balance

\$3,739 44

Audited and found correct; shewing to the credit of the Account the sum of three thousand seven hundred and thirty-nine dollars and forty-four cents.

Toronto April 20, 1871.

A. CHRISTIE,
Auditor.