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201 February 10 2007

A number of Ladies, deeply impressed with the destitute situation of the Poor in this place, and solicitous if possible to mitigate their sufferings, have formed a society for relieving Indigent Women with small Children, the sick, the aged, and the infirm.

This association shall be called the

FEMALE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY OF MONTREAL.

CONSTITUTION.

The funds shall be raised by Annuities, Subscriptions, and Donations.— Members will be admitted by paying Twenty-five Shillings annually into its funds. Ladies who do not wish to become Members, yet are willing “to feed the hungry, cloath the naked, and minister to the sick,” thro’ the medium of the Society, and Gentlemen, will be permitted to subscribe, and their names enrolled with pleasure in the list of Benefactors.

MANAGEMENT.

This shall be vested in a Directress, Secretary, and Treasurer; with twelve Managers; who shall be chosen annually by a plurality of ballots.

THE DIRECTRESS

Shall preside at meetings both of the Society and Managers, state questions, declare decisions, and in all equal elections have the casting vote.

THE SECRETARY

Shall be the organ of communication to and from the society; give notice of all meetings; regularly attend them, and record their proceedings; in her absence there shall be one chosen to supply her place.

THE TREASURER

Shall receive the Annuities and Donations, and keep a regular account of all collections and expenditures, in a book provided for that purpose, which, together with the books of the Secretary, shall be laid before the society at their stated meetings.

MANAGERS.

Two managers shall be appointed for each week, to visit the poor, enquire into their circumstances, administer necessary and appropriated relief, and endeavour to stir them up to industry, order, neatness, and economy—to make them useful to their families, and better members of society. And they shall give at the stated meetings, such information as they may acquire, respecting objects of charity particularly worthy their attention; and render an account of the manner of their distributions. They shall meet on the first Monday in every month—three shall be competent to proceed to business, and the Secretary and Treasurer shall have a seat at their Board.

THE SOCIETY

Shall meet twice in a year ; namely, on the first Tuesday in February, and the first Tuesday in September, the former to be considered the Anniversary of the society. Twelve members shall be sufficient to transact business—each member shall be at liberty to propose an object ; and when their character and situation are investigated, relief shall be afforded in necessaries and not in money. It shall be an object of the society to obtain and keep on hand, such stores of clothing and other necessaries as they shall judge most proper to be given, or lent, in cases of immediate necessity. Articles of wearing apparel, bed cloathing, provisions, or in fact any thing which can promote the grand object of the society, the comfort of the poor and destitute, will be thankfully received, and judiciously distributed. Should there be any surplus of donations or contributions remaining unexpended at the end of the year, it shall be appropriated as an increasing fund : the interest, (except in cases of peculiar demand) being added to the principle, until it become sufficient to establish and support a school ; where the children may be instructed in the most necessary branches of education—may be taught that “fear of God which is the beginning of wisdom,” and those habits of industry, order, and economy, which will best form them to become useful members of the community.

NAMES OF MEMBERS.

! NAMES OF DONORS. * * *

As there was found to be no regular surplus of funds remaining unexpended at the close of the year, the school is supported by a vote of the Society, from the current receipts of the Treasury.

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