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REPORT

OF THE

FEMALE HOME SOCIETY.



REPORT

WOMAN'S HOME SOCIETY

THE "HOME."

480 UPPER SEIGNEURS STREET,

MONTREAL, MAY 25th, 1872.

The present is Report for the fourth year of the "Home," ending April 30th, and for its earlier history reference may be made to its former Reports, which may be obtained from Mr. F. E. Grafton.

The Inmates Register records 81 as the total number of admission from May, 1871, to May, 1872. Of these the final record is:

- 30 Gone to service.
- 13 Restored home to friends.
- 3 Infants born in the "Home."
- 1 Adopted by a respectable family in the country.
- 3 Died in Hospital.
- 1 Sent to lunatic ward of jail.
- 18 Left of their own accord.
- 12 Remaining in the Home.

81

Occupations of these previously—

- 34 Domestic servants.
- 14 Married women and widows.
- 5 Dressmakers and milliners.
- 6 Farm servants.
- 2 Factory girls.
- 20 No occupation.

81

Number admitted from the opening of the Home till now, 313.

Of the ladies who were, at the outset of the work, asked to be a Ladies' Visiting and Advising Committee, Mrs. T. M. Thomson

alone has continued from then till now in this position; and the following may serve to record her opinion of the Home and its work:—

April 22nd, 1872.

MY DEAR MRS. GOWAN,

As I am about leaving the city, and also the congenial work of visiting the Female Home, in which for many years I have felt deeply interested, I desire for your encouragement to say a word which may, perhaps, cheer and strengthen you in the arduous work which you have undertaken.

The unremitting care and attention you have shown to the unfortunates placed under your charge, and the vigilant manner in which the affairs of the Home have been managed with economy and success since under your supervision, merit much more than my feeble praise.—

There is ONE however who knows all about this work, with its difficulties and trials, and true service rendered to Him cannot be forgotten:

It is very blessed to know that He has graciously acknowledged the efforts put forth for Him at the Female Home, and that so many of those wrecked ones have been restored to their families and to society, some too, giving evidence of a new life, rejoicing in the pardoning mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May the smile of that Blessed One rest on you always, dear friend, and the work be more and more prospered under your care!

Believe me to be always, sincerely yours,

(Signed,)

E. A. THOMSON.

A well known lady, much engaged in Christian work, who knows the Home well, but does not wish her name published, writes as follows:

"MY DEAR MRS. GOWAN,—I write to thank you for having received without any hesitation three unhappy women I sent to your door; one of whom came to thank me when she was leaving Montreal to return to her father's house, clothed and in her right mind, for having sent her to you. I am exceedingly gratified to learn that the others are doing well. It is to your patient persevering in well doing, and to your Christian love for perishing souls that, with God's blessing accompanying, your efforts have been the means of saving these and others, as I have opportunity of knowing, and can testify to their regarding you as their mother and best friend. Trusting it may please God long to spare you to the great work He has allotted you, which is, as I may say, both arduous and painful, and that He will continue to give you many and ever increasing number of souls, as your reward, is the earnest wish of your sincere friend."

It is our hope that Mrs. Thomson may be spared safely to return from her travels in Europe, and resume the useful work

of visitation of the Home, which has been of so much benefit to the inmates and of encouragement to the Matron; and it may here be added that Mrs. Gowan, as Matron, and Miss Gowan as assistant, have continued to carry on their difficult and important work to our entire satisfaction. The conduct of the inmates has again to be spoken of as good and satisfactory; indeed the order and quiet that prevail is remarkable. The health, also, of the inmates has been good; no disease of any kind has broken out. A few cases of worn out constitutions have been sent to the General Hospital, and those needing its benefits have, for the most part, been sent to the University Lying-in Hospital, and of the latter 3 have died: As last year, so again now it is to be regretted, both on account of the Home and of the girls themselves, that, owing to the demand for female servants, the time of stay in the Home is in many cases very much too brief:

From the Matron's Journal the following extracts are taken:—

No. 234.—A very smart little girl, who was seduced while at school in Massachusetts. Her sister, a dressmaker, paid her way here to hide her shame at home. She has been restored to her friends, and is doing well.

No. 237.—Sent here from the Infants' Home, on account of her having an impediment in her speech. She was in great grief at having to part with her child, who died a few days after she left it in the nursery. I wrote to her father, who gladly came for her. He was overjoyed to get her again, as she was his only child, and he told me her mother died when she was born. She was a very pretty girl. I had a letter from her expressing gratitude to the Home.

No. 238.—A very gay, restless, fashionable bad girl, who drove to the door in a hack, and very affectedly asked me "if I could make anything good of *her*, as she had heard we made *fast* girls good." She was asked to remain and God would make her all she wanted to be.—She left, promising to call again, which she did, and stopped *one week*, but longed for the old life of gaiety again. She has since been imprisoned for breaking the windows of the St. Lawrence and Medical Halls. She was a tall, handsome, reckless girl, but was very gentle and respectful to me.

No. 239.—A very fine looking girl who had led a bad life for seven years. She was sent here by a young man of highly respectable family, and who purposed to marry her. Poor, foolish boy!—He gave me his solemn promise that he would not do so for two years, and leave her in our Home. He did so, and she would always write to him for money, although she needed none here, but she said she liked to "take all she could get out of him." I advised him to stop the supply, and he would see if her love was for him or his money.—He took my advice and was grateful for it. As she had no desire to *reform*, she went back to her old evil ways.

No. 240.—Sister of the above, a young widow. Had been married into a respectable family, and brought sorrow and ruin into it, as her husband became intemperate and died. She left here to live with her brother.

No. 241.—This woman, after being in the Home for some time, was sent to service in the family of a Christian lady, where every kindness was shown to her, but, like the generality of these old hardened drunkards, she fell back. We can do nothing so good for them, and the public in general, as to confine them for life. She went like a dog to his vomit again. How wearisome and trying to one's heart to labor amongst some of these hopeless creatures, trying them again and again, only to be disappointed.

No. 242.—A drunken, lazy widow, who preferred the jail to our Home, as she disliked anything like work. These lazy jail women are sad cases to deal with.

No. 243. A fashionably dressed young "lady," who, with her lap-dog, was brought here by a fashionable young gentleman. (?) He said, she was his cousin whom he found living a bad life, and he wished her kept in the Home till he could take her to her friends. She was admitted and, in conversation with her, I found she was kept by the "young gentleman," who was jealous of her, and wished her kept out of his rival's way. She was a very vain, ignorant girl, had been a waitress, and her mother a laundress in T. When she found she could not be allowed to go out to drive with him she left, as she had no idea of reformation.

No. 244.—A very genteel looking servant girl, who had been seduced under promise of marriage. The young man, her seducer, left B. where she lived. She followed him to Montreal, could not find him, and came to the Home, where she remained until she had her child. She is now in service doing well. Sergeant Neilson, of the Central Police Station, told me that this girl came to him seeking shelter, he brought her to St. Antoine Street, and showed her our Home on the hill, where she would be taken care of. He was very much pleased to tell me that some months after she called on him to thank him for taking her to the Home. He said she was so nicely dressed and looked quite like a lady that he did not know her, until she reminded him of his kindness. It is encouragement to me to know that we have the good wishes and every help that our worthy City Recorder and Chief Penton can give.

No. 246.—Sent from Quebec by the Rev. Mr. Sykes. She came from Dublin seeking her sister, fell into bad company, was sent to prison. She behaved well in the Home, went to service and, is still doing well. She found her sister in a remarkable way. One day, as she was walking with the children of her mistress, she looked in at a shop window, when the shop woman saw the face outside, she ran out to her and claimed her for her sister. She was overjoyed to find her. How wonderfully the Lord watches over the wanderings of these poor lost sheep.

No. 247.—Sent from Quebec by Rev. Mr. Sykes. A very industrious servant, but, as she confessed, "fond of old rye." After remaining here

some time, was tried in service. She did very well, and her employers all liked her, but one day on her way to the Home, with her wages and clothes, she met a bad woman and two rowdies in West Dorchester Street who enticed her to go with them to the Toll-gate, where they sat down to drink; very much against her will, she said, which was very doubtful. As might be expected, poor foolish No. 247 lost all her bundle of clothes and her month's wages, and crept back to that wonderful little porch at our Home door, that has sheltered so many wanderers, and the doorstep that has pillowed the aching heads of many a "mother's darling."—She was brought in. One day I saw a woman with her shawl and dress on, but I succeeded in getting them back for her. She is out in the world again, as ready to fall as ever, like every other poor drunkard who will not take the proffered hand of Jesus that alone can save them from sinking.

No. 257.—Sent by Rev. Mr. Sykes, Quebec. She has led a terrible life of sin, appears penitent, behaves very well, speaks more of getting her *beauty* back at the millennium than of her soul's salvation. Poor woman, she has destroyed the temple sadly, and needs yet to see herself as God sees her. She is very attentive to all I say, and I have hope of her.

No. 258.—An emigrant who left Dublin to hide her shame. She is now in service in a clergyman's family. Doing well.

No. 262.—A farm servant, seduced in the country; came to the door crying, she "had no home, friends, or money." Was admitted at once. After a while here she brightened up, and became a smart, nice girl; is now in service, and shows a very, very grateful heart, always sending money, etc., saying she will never forget how thankful she was to be taken into the "Home."

No. 270.—A very pretty childish looking girl, came to the door one cold morning, she had on a thin muslin dress, and the icicles were hanging round it. Had gone to the Lying-in Hospital, but having no money, could not be admitted there "until she was sick." She could not find our Home, and went back to the Hospital, saying she expected to be sick in a day or two. She was not taken in, and after a great deal of wandering, found the Home. She was in a terrible state of exhaustion and cold. Our women were very kind to her, as they always are to a sister in distress; they stripped off all her frozen clothes and got her some hot tea. She had her child two days after. She had run away from home. I had a grateful letter from her father. She did not return home but took a situation in Montreal, and is doing well.

No. 275.—Another drunken widow, an excellent dressmaker. After eight months' probation was tried in a place, was sent to a Christian Lady, who was kind and indulgent to her, but "St. Patrick's pot" was too great a temptation for her to resist. She is now in jail.

No. 285.—A young girl brought here by her father, from Massachusetts. He was a gentleman in good circumstances, and wished to pay all expenses so that his daughter might be kept for some time in the Home, and not be permitted to write to or receive letters from her seducer, with whom, she

said, she had kept company for three years, and she only sixteen years of age! After being four months here, her mother came for her to take her to school. She was a mild, quiet girl, and I have every confidence that she humbly received the truth, and left the Home born again. She often expressed her thankfulness to the Lord for sending her to us. Her mother was very grateful also.

No. 286.—Came from S. A quiet simple girl, who declared she did not sin, as she "was forced by her master, and cried out." How kind of the Lord to direct this simple, innocent looking child, an orphan, penniless and friendless to our open door. Had she been "sent down to jail at her own request," as has been the only resource of many who have come from all quarters to Montreal, she would have been so contaminated that her next step would have been to become an inmate of some of the dens of infamy in the city: Thank God, who led the founders of this Institution to make a way of escape for the weak who are in danger of falling, and rescue for the penitent who, with dull heavy, hopeless expression of countenance have been only able to say. "For God's sake take me in, my heart's scalded."—The blessings of many who were ready to perish have been poured on those good men who, with the characteristic of their Master, received sinners and ate with them.

No. 289.—A woman who said she was sent by the Bishop's lady. The first afternoon she was here, I did not ask her to do any work; next day I wanted her to sew, she could not; "Then you can iron a little "I said," or I shall teach you to knit; you have to do something,—we are all busy here, cheerfully working, every one intent on doing the most she can to assist in paying for her board." Next day she left, saying the tea did not suit her; she liked strong tea, and wondered how I could have it on my conscience to give her weak tea. It is a meditation to me to know how to deal with a class of women who can hardly be got to do anything but indulge their inordinate appetites.

No. 290.—A young girl who has been in the Home before, did well, and was sent to service; was eleven months in her situation, went out to buy a dress, met another girl who was out on the same business. They treated themselves to a sleigh drive, and the end was that they and the carter got drunk, and were arrested. I happened to be seeing the Recorder on some other matters when Sergeant Neilson told me of a fine young girl who had been committed that day. I did not know her by the name she had given and went down to the cells to see her. I found poor foolish L., who was greatly ashamed to see me. The Recorder, with his usual magnanimity, after giving her sound advice, allowed me to take her away. I had other business to do before returning home, so I gave her a car ticket, saying:—"now, I trust to your honor, go straight to the Home." I found her there on my return. The thought came into mind that "even the true Christian though guaranteed against *falling away*, is not secure against *falls*;" so let us try to establish these weak reeds shaken by the wind, not by harshness or rebuke, but by gentle sympathy and persuasion. Poor girls they come through searching trials sometimes.

No. 292.—A denizen of many jails. It is a distressing perplexity to me to know what to say to those who come to the door that has been opened as often as five times to receive them and which they wilfully close against themselves. It has a bad influence over those who are content to remain to see women go out and be received again and again. In consonance with my own sense of what is just, they ought not to be admitted. I have had women who have gone in and out of jail for ten, twelve, and fifteen years committed almost every month. This proves the uselessness of short committals as a punishment. Punishment is not to *avenge*, but to *prevent*, so I think the prison should be decidedly less comfortable, and and the labor harder. Any one who sees the women in prison here would have no idea that they are undergoing *punishment*. Insufficiency of punishment weakens resistance to temptation. The only inconvenience these women feel is the confinement, and that is made quite pleasant by the daily arrivals of their companions, with all the news they care for; and when one goes out they often say "when will you be *home* again? don't be long." These are the "*pet prisoners*" who give me so much trouble. If they had constant, hard, *productive* labor, it would improve their moral condition and greatly reduce the percentage of crime.

No. 293.—A young girl who was sent here with some others from the Lying-in-Hospital, on account of child-bed fever and deaths there.

No. 298.—A very bold bad girl, who left because I would not allow her to go out at night to church. (?)

No. 299.—A very nice young girl who had been seduced while at home. Her parents sent her here and she has since been restored to them.

No. 300.—A woman who came out of jail. She was dressed quite as a respectable servant, but had such an evil eye that I thought while looking at her, that she might be an amateur thief, and as if she had read my thought, she said, "I may as well tell you, I was sent down for *stealing* only a trifle, not worth speaking of. I cut up some linen sheets belonging to my mistress." I thanked the Lord for making her tell me, so that I might be watchful, as we have very valuable washings committed to our care, but, to God be the praise we never have anything stolen by the inmates. The laundress in charge is a Christian, full of simple faith and confidence in the Lord's care over all she daily commits to Him. She herself was one of the "weary ones" born again in our Home; a faithful industrious, useful girl to me. Anxious she was to learn to read, that she might be able to read the Bible to her fallen sisters; she knew the letters, and her anxiety to learn made teaching her a pleasant and easy work to me. Now she is able to read very well and spends every Saturday afternoon in the Lock-ward of the General Hospital giving God's message of love and mercy to the unfortunate girls there.

No. 308.—A young woman who was seduced under promise of marriage. Her seducer told her to follow him to New York city, and he would marry her there, she did so, and of course, could not find him. When she came to Montreal, she had no money left. Asked shelter at the Lying-in Hospital

but could not gain admittance there or in any other place. When she came to our door, before I had time to say "come in," she cried, "Oh for God's sake don't say no; every body says no, and I've been praying to God at the door, not to let you say no, too." Poor girl, I had no intention of saying no it is much against my will to say it, although I have had to do so sometimes, when a wretched creature will come in, and I find a bottle of whiskey nicely hid on her person—then if she will not let me take it from her, she and her bottle has to be refused. I have known them to go, and after drinking it come back, and oh, then, the frightful night we have. I have felt this to be the most trying of all the Christian work I ever had, but the curiously carved moral maxim I once read on an old door in Edinburgh often comes to my mind, it was this:

"He that tholes overcomes."

No. 310.—A very gentle, prepossessing girl, seduced by her lover and thrown aside,—the same old story "lovely woman stoops to folly, and finds too late that men betray." What a comfort to the wronged, crushed, credulous girls is the quiet of our retired, beautiful Home. The security they feel in not being looked at or talked to by many visitors is much valued, and the perfect confidence they have in knowing that their names, parentage, &c., &c., is never made known beyond the friends who give them shelter here.

No. 311.—This young woman was brought here by a Christian gentleman who got her as a servant at the Immigrants' Home. She was only two days with him when she got drunk. He brought her here at once; her mind seemed to be greatly troubled, when I begged her to tell me her sorrow, and she did so. She said she had, in company with some neighbor women, been drinking at her home in Belfast. Her husband quarrelled with her, and she went off and took passage in a ship going to Canada, leaving her baby thirteen months old. "Now she was sorry for it, and what would she do?" "Go home immediately" I said. She had nearly as much money as would pay her way home. I bought a ticket for her, and saw her away next day. She had nice clothing, and seemed to have been in good circumstances at home. Had she met with some of the low drunken women in this city, what a sad end she would have come to.

No. 313.—A young woman who had been seduced by her cousin, and left home unknown to her mother. She was in such a state of distress for her poor mother that she went back to her. Her brother advertised for her whereabouts.

This is the eighty-ninth young girl who has come to our "Home" in this way, ages ranging from 16 to 25, and over two-thirds of them without a cent in their pockets. Some of them found sitting in the Depot, crying, and not knowing where to go. Some have told me that they have wandered on the streets looking for a kind face, that they might ask for shelter, and were brought here. Had sixty of these eighty-nine girls, penniless and friendless been picked up by the police, (who are enemies to colloquy) and sent to jail for protection, as has been done before the opening of this Home, we may judge what the terrible results would have been. They

would have been allured into "fast houses," dressed in style by the mistresses, sent out to "fascinate" perhaps the young hopefuls of the very fathers who say "I will not give my money to the Home; you cannot reform the fallen." It is true that, without divine grace, there can be no change; reformation must come from the *heart* outwards—but the merciful spirit of the Gospel bids us try, and we *have* learned what the Holy Spirit can accomplish.

I would appeal to the *selfishness* as well as the benevolence of the community, for aid in the reclamation of the pests of the city, as it ought to be a matter of *personal* interest to every thoughtful parent.

I am sorry at having to record the deaths particularly of two of our inmates; they were nearly four months in the Home. One was an English girl who had been a servant in this city; she was an affectionate and clever girl. When she was leaving to go to the Lying-in Hospital, she hung back and kept looking in my face without speaking. I asked her if she had forgotten anything, she said no, but still seemed loath to go. Then I said "You know you are coming back again Mary, and bring the baby." She seemed quite relieved, and went away more cheerfully. The other was, a quiet young girl from the Townships. Her uncle gave her into my care; she was very much loved in the Home, and was taken to the Lying-in Hospital, but was returned, as her sickness was not what we expected. She wanted "to make something to remember her by in the Home," and had just finished a mat for Mr. T., to kneel on at prayers, when she was taken back to the Hospital. I have much comfort in the assurance that this gentle girl was brought to Jesus. After the other girls (who show great sisterly kindness to each other) had dressed her, and tied up her little bundle of baby-clothes, and kissed her as they always do, weeping when they leave for that critical moment of life or death to them, she knelt at her bed (the others standing around her) and gave herself to God's will. Often has my heart yearned after them, when watching them go down the hill, to turn them again, regardless of our want of accommodation for that purpose, knowing that they would have kind, sympathizing nurses here among themselves. The nervousness they feel on going again among strangers at that time, must be injurious to them, when a kind word, or even look is such a comfort. When I sent a few days afterwards to inquire for this girl, the messenger was curtly told that "she is dead and buried." I have been so distressed, that I would entreat the managers of our Home to do something to help me to keep these poor girls in my own care, and, with the Lord's blessing, restore them to their friends.

The following are extracts from letters received during the year now reported:

A lady who took a girl from the Home a year ago, writes thus:—

'DEAR MRS. GOWAN,—It gives me much pleasure to inform you that the girl, K. S., whom I took from the "Home," is still with me, and continuing

to do well. She frequently speaks with gratitude of your kindness to her, and seems anxious to profit by the good advice she received while with you. I think she is truly desirous to do what is right, and I trust she may eventually become a sincere follower of the Saviour."

From another lady in Montreal :—

"DEAR MRS. GOWAN,—I am happy to inform you that Annie, the girl I got from the "Home," is getting on very well, and is going with me to the country. She entertains a kind recollection of the Home provided for her in the hour of need, and of your Christian kindness shown to her, and all the other inmates, during the eleven weeks that she was with you. I know, from personal observation, that Annie has a very warm affection for you, and your influence in this work cannot but be beneficial to all who are placed under your care."

Another lady writes :—

"DEAR MRS. GOWAN,—I would have called to see you before, but I thought you would like to see Mary herself. I have had great comfort with her, she is very quiet in the house, and has never asked to get out. She often speaks of your kindness to her, and says she will never forget you. I think she will be a credit to the "Home," and you ought to feel encouraged, for you are doing a good work. I hope you will be long spared to continue it."

A medical gentleman in another town, who sent several girls here who had gone to him for advice, writes as follows :—

"MY DEAR MADAM,—Enclosed are twenty-five dollars, the amount L. W. desired me to send her, for the purpose of defraying her expenses home, &c. I have not as yet delivered your kind letter to her mother. I do not know the person whom she says betrayed her. I trust she will on her return be frank and honest, and tell her mother the whole story of her folly and misfortune, and lead a life pure and correct always after this. I take this opportunity to thank you kindly for the care and sympathy you have bestowed upon this poor unfortunate girl, and to express my gratitude that humanity still preserves a "City of Refuge," for the unfortunate and outcast. That God may bless and preserve you in this, your most commendable employment, is the sincere prayer of your friend!"

From Rev. Mr. Sykes, Quebec :—

"DEAR MRS. GOWAN,—I went to post a letter to you yesterday, but, before doing so, I thought I would see what the mail had brought; and, to my joy, I found your kind letter, which contained all I wanted to know. I cannot tell you how glad I am to hear that the women are doing well, and that the last two reached the "Home" safely; one more has promised to come next week, may God give her grace to keep her word! Remember me kindly to them all and tell them I pray for them."

From the mother of No. 285 :—

"DEAR MRS. GOWAN,—I am glad to hear I—is happy. I am very anxious about her, but I feel she is better with you, and I think she will profit by

your instruction. Many thanks for the interest you take in her, and my prayer is that you may have your reward. I rejoice that there are some deserving the name of Christian, who, like their Master, are seeking to save the lost."

From No. 285, after she left with her mother to go to school again :—

"DEAR MRS. GOWAN,—Mother and I arrived safely in R—after a beautiful journey through the Mohawk valley. She leaves me to-morrow morning for home, and I expect to be very lonesome for a few days, although I am boarding in a good Christian family. I would like much to have the benefit of Mr. T's instructions. I joined the Sabbath school, and attended church also. I may never see my friends in Montreal again on earth, but I am sure I shall meet them in heaven, and the crown that Mr. T. and yourself shall wear will not be a starless one. Please give my respects to Mr. T., and thank him for me for his good instructions, which I shall ever remember with a grateful heart. Do not forget to remember me in your prayers."

From the mother of No. 218 :—

"DEAR MRS. GOWAN,—I return you my sincere thanks for your kindness to my daughter in a strange land. I feel happy to think that she has met with such a kind friend to look to her, and I hope she will be obedient to you as you are a mother to her. I will not fret, now that she is so content."

From No. 237 :—

"My father paid my passage, and I came to him. He is living in Ottawa. He took a place, and I do his washing and cooking ; me and my father sends our thanks to you I will never forget your kindness to me, and bless the Institution you belong to. I would have been dead only for it and you. *Love to the girls, I hope to see you next summer.*

From the mistress of No. 306, enclosing \$5 from the girl :—

"Since Mary Anne came to live with us we are perfectly content with her conduct. I find her a quiet, gentle girl, and, if she continues as she is we will be perfectly satisfied."

From No. 233 :—

"I hope you will not think I have forgotten the Home, and the kind mother of the Home. I have not been very well since I came back. The lessons I learned in the Home I hope I will never forget. Remember me to to all the girls."

From the father of No. 270 :—

"We feel so thankful that our poor girl has found such a good home, and we hope she will be thankful to you for all the kindness she has received from you ; we hope the Lord will reward you for it. We think it is much better for her to remain in Montreal where she is unknown."

From No. 124 :—

"I have not much news to tell you, only that I am still doing well, and, with God's help, I intend to keep doing well. I still go regularly to church and Sabbath school, and the Wednesday prayer meetings. I think of you all very often, and consider you and Mr. T., the only friends I have in the world."

Again she writes :—

"I thank you for your kind letter ; you don't know how happy I am when I read your letters. I seem to see you, and hear you speak, and I am once more in the Home, listening to a voice that has always spoken to me in love and kindness. I have not forgotten dear Mrs. Thomson, nor her kind instructions, and I trust I am profiting by them now. Oh that there were more such ladies in the world ! With this mail I send you two volumes of Whittier's poems, and wish you all a merry Christmas."

In other letter she writes :—

"You wish to know if I am still in the same place, I am glad to tell you I am ; I was one year in it on the 4th of February last, so I shall let that speak for itself. Dear Mrs. Gowan, I have not forgotten you, nor never shall. Who would have thought, about a year and a half ago, that such a great change could be wrought in me. I am to-day a wonder to myself, and, next to God, I thank the 'Home' for being 'clothed and in my right mind.'

The sister of No. 234, writes :—

"I heard from Emma yesterday ; how grateful I feel to you for taking good care of her. I think you have a kind heart. I want her to come home."

From Rev. G. C. Robinson :—

"DEAR MADAM,—The poor deaf-mute, E. R., of whom I spoke to you in Nov. last, and whose case was subsequently brought under your notice by Mr. Widd, I believe, will be sent to your institution during the present week. The poor girl's uncle gave me the enclosed six dollars, as a small contribution towards the funds of the Institution. He regrets not being able to send more now, but thinks he may be able to do so at some future day. The girl is strong, and capable of doing a good deal of work if taught."

From No. 25 :—

"DEAR MOTHER,—I now sit down to tell you that I received your kind and welcome letter, which gave me much pleasure. I am as happy as the day is long, and that is happy. I get four dollars a week. I am cook for five of a family ; I have got to be quite a good cook. Would you be so kind as to tell Mr. T. that I am doing well since I came to a strange land. God was always with me ; I felt His presence with me in all my doings and undertakings. The prayers that were offered up for me in the good old

Home were heard, and I bless the day that I took my steps towards that precious mansion."

From No. 133 :—

"I received your welcome letter on Friday. I am still living with Mrs. S., and I do all the work of the family. I earn three dollars a week, and I am quite well and as fat as ever. I have joined the Episcopal Church, and go to Sabbath school regularly; the minister teaches the class I am in, and he is a dear blessed old man; his hair is as white as snow, and he speaks like dear Mr. T., so soft and kind. I read part of your letter to Mrs. S., she thinks it very kind of you to take such an interest in me, but if she knew *all*, she would think you too kind to me. Give my love to all the girls, and please write soon, dear mother. Remember me to Mr. T. and Mrs. Thomson."

Again she writes:—

"DEAR MOTHER,—I am sure the hand of the Lord is guiding me, and when He has kept me so far I know he won't forsake me now. Dear mother, if you love me write to me soon, for excepting God you are the only friend I have. Give my love to all the girls."

On her leaving to go to another situation, her mistress wrote thus of her :—

"In all the time (about two years) she has been with me, she was faithful about her work, and I could have trusted her with untold gold."

From No. 197 :—

"I write to you to let you know that I got home safe. I found my folks all well, and they were very glad to see me. I was afraid my mother would be dead before I would see her, but I thank God I found her better than I left her. I was like the prodigal son; my folks thought I was dead, and they were glad when I came to them again. I do believe that Mr. T.'s last prayer with me was answered, for I got along as well as I wished, for God was good to me; He cheered me all my journey through. When I told my mother how good you were to me, she wished she was near to you. Tell Mr. T. not to forget me in his Sunday meetings, (in the "Home"), and think of me in prayer."

The following is an abstract of the Matron's Money Registers, April 30th, 1872 :

INCOME for the year.

Received contributions.....	\$12 00
“ for Board, (from inmates).....	143 50
“ “ Work.....	484 11
“ “ Sales of work.....	11 25
	<hr/>
	\$650 86

Expenditure for the year.

Paid for Cartage.....	\$5 53
" " Groceries.....	37 07
" " Provisions.....	65 31
" " Beef, &c.....	88 29
" " Milk.....	29 56
" " Clothing.....	26 20
" " Repairs \$4.55. Wages \$28.....	32 55
" " Fuel and Light.....	38 95
" " Materials and Postage.....	9 15
" " Furniture.....	24 78
" " Cash to Treasurer.....	293 47
	<hr/>
	\$650 86

THE FEMALE HOME SOCIETY IN ACCOUNT WITH C. ALEX-
ANDER, TREASURER.

1871. Cr

May 4. Cash Balance received from Mr. Taylor.....	\$540 95
" " " from Col. Haultain.....	5 00
" " " Mr. Taylor.....	24 00

This money was received from others, whose names
the Treasurer has not retained.

Mr. Claxton.....	\$20 00
Mrs. Claxton.....	20 00
Judge Torrance.....	10 00
Mrs. Utting.....	4 00
Mr. John McLennan.....	20 00
	<hr/>
	\$103 00

Cash from Mrs. Gowan.....	\$293 47
Interest on Bonds.....	180 00
Interest on Savings Bank.....	23 75
Brother for Sister.....	96 00
	<hr/>
	\$1237 17

Dr.

Provisions, J. D. & Co.....	\$39 00
	33 00
	55 74
	28 82
	<hr/>
	\$156 56
Range, &c., Meilleur & Co.....	\$110 00
Dry Goods, G. W. & Co.....	75 18
Groceries, K. & B.....	194 75
	75 00
	<hr/>
	\$269 75

Coal, C. & Co.....	\$60 00	
	36 00	
	54 59	
	<hr/>	\$150 59
Water tax.....	\$18 00	
Repairs	8 00	
Insurance	23 20	
Sundries	7 63	
Mrs. Gowan.....	175 00	
Miss Gowan.....	75 00	1068 83
		<hr/>
Balance on hand.....		\$168 34

The invested Funds are, as last year reported, namely, \$3000, in City Bonds, besides \$110.13 in the Savings Bank, to pay balance owing minors on the property, to justify the property being reported fully paid. But the cash balance of \$540.95, as shown by the accounts of April 30, 1871, has been reduced, which shows, what should be matter of much regret, that the Funds are falling behind. The balance now in hand, per Treasurer's Account, is \$168.34, and there is a small amount of accounts to be paid.

This is owing to neglect of the Committee to ask for money, and omission of friends to send it in unasked, and not to increased expenditure, for the income of the Home itself as compared with expenditure, as shown by the Matron's accounts, is better than last year.

Friends of this effort are asked to read this Report and judge for themselves of its claims on them for support.

Let it be added that the amount of contributions for the year is only \$103, as acknowledged in the Treasurer's Account.

Acknowledgment is to be made to Mr. Lovell for his liberality in printing the Annual Report which is a very considerable service.

Of co-operators in this rescue work outside of Montreal we especially mention the Rev. Mr. Sykes, chaplain of Quebec Jail, who, knowing the Home well, seeks to bring under its influences women who may be leaving Quebec. This acknowledgment should have been made in an earlier part of the report.

OUR RELATIONS WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

It has ever been our desire that this Home should be in friendly, intimate and reciprocal relations with kindred Institutions, but it is not always easy to maintain these. For instance, it was judged every way best that women from the Home should, in time of need, be sent to the Lying-in Hospital, rather than be laid up in the Home, but this is attended with difficulty and friction between the Institutions. At first it was considered that women were sent to the Lying-in too soon. Hence the following note :

"It was decided at a meeting of the Lying-in Hospital on the 6th March, that patients sent from the Home can only be received on the same terms as other patients, only just when they are to be confined. None can be received before the time. S. F., Secretary."

Now on the contrary it is said they are sent too late. But the Home has neither a resident accoucheur to pronounce the impending final hour, nor a coachman and carriage to send out with the women, so if by day one must be sent off, she is accompanied by one of the inmates of the Home, and if by night by two ; and many an anxious hour the matron and her two assistants in this work have had to strike the happy medium desired by all : without always succeeding. The question arises should not lying-in, under some circumstances, be allowed in the Home, the more especially as several times when fever had broken out in the Lying-in, women have been sent to the Home.

There are also points of friction with the Infants' Home, which Institution has pronounced its regrets thus :

"We regret that, in another Institution, these same women are engaged as wet nurses before their children are born, thereby drawing away the mother's affection from the child. As that Institution is not under the supervision of any Ladies' Committee, there is no means of counteracting the evil."

We suppose this Home is referred to. But be it known that this system of wet nursing is the very thing the Home disfavors, as far as it can, as being opposed in its tendency to the reformation of the women. Yet it is difficult to resist the wish of some of the women, and the appeals of ladies, aided by their

doctors. In one instance the attending physician of the Infants' Home itself writes to our matron :

I want the woman to go to K—, where she will be comfortable, well paid. She dislikes going from Montreal, and the Home where she has been so comfortable under your eye. She says she will consult you and decide. I trust you will aid me in securing her, and thus lay under a heavy debt of obligation."

What, then is the Home to do?—just do as it has done, aim at nothing short of the restoration of the fallen ones who come under its care. And the instructions of her Directors to Mrs. Gowan, is to go on with her work, not following any set of rules, nor the perhaps ill considered counsel of inexperienced persons who may offer it; but realizing need of wisdom, ask Him who giveth liberally and upbraideth not, and doing practically to other Institutions and individuals as we would wish them to do to ourselves.

The fact however is, all good efforts have their weak and possibly evil side. The Home itself is not an unmixed good, nor the Lying-in hospital, nor the Infants Home, and still less the system of wet nursing, though they may be intended to do good. Indeed we do not know in what direction to look for perfection in even Christian benevolent work, and seeing that we have to work upon imperfect material, and are imperfect workers, we must needs be content with something short of perfection in results. But as rescue and reformation are the objects aimed at in the admission and treatment of the inmates of the Home, it is for this reason that abrupt and entire removal, by going to other Institutions, from the influences with which it is sought to surround the inmates of the Home, is not favored by its Directors.

The good feeling and kindliness of the inmates to each other is remarkable. No year before has had so much trial coming to the Home from without, nor any year before so much blessing vouchsafed to it within. Christians will know what is meant when we say that this year even more than former years, we believe, souls have been born again in the Home.

So that, in view of all, we can raise our Ebenezer and say "hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

The following donations were received at the Home during the year, for the *Inmates*.

John Dougall and Son, "*Daily Witness*" and "*New Dominion Monthly*."

Mr. T. M. Thomson, *Books, &c., for Library.*

Mr. John McLennan, illustrated copy of "*The Pilgrim's Progress*" and *other books.*

Mrs. Robt. Warren of Chicago, per Mr. C. Alexander, \$5, *for Christmas dinner.*

Mrs. T. M. Thomson, *for a tea and presents* \$4.50

Mrs. E. V. Mosely, *22 Bushels Potatoes.*

Mrs. A. Buntin, *Beef, Tongue, Potatoes, Apples, Cake, &c.*

Mrs. C. Alexander, *Cake and Candy at Christmas.*

Mrs. Baylis, *Pudding and Cakes.*

Mrs. R. Drake, *a Goose.*

Mrs. George Winks, *Provisions for a tea, and pieces for quilts.*

Mrs. R. Forsyth, *a tea to inmates.*

Mrs. G. Stephen, *Puddings, Cakes and Fruit.*

Mrs. Durnford, *Cakes at Christmas.*

From four former *Inmates, Goose, Chickens and Cakes at Christmas.*

Messrs. Kenneth Campbell & Co., *Drugs.*

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, the 25th May, 1872, in the Committee Room of the Mechanics Hall, the President in the Chair, who read the legal notice calling the meeting.

The Annual Report of the President and the Treasurer's accounts were presented.

Both were, on motion, accepted to be printed, under direction of the Chairman.

The following officers were then appointed:

Mr. T. M. Taylor, President; Mr. John McLennan, Treasurer; Messrs G. Alexander, John Dougall, George Moffatt, T. M. Thomson, T. J. Claxton and A. M. Foster, Committee.