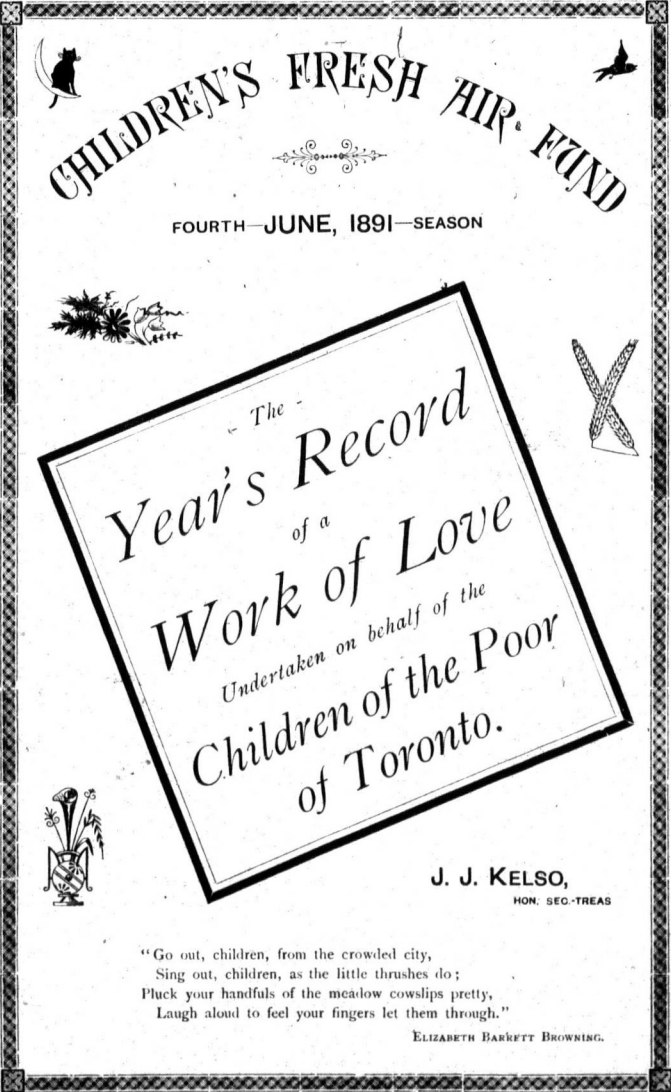




CHILDREN'S FRESH AIR FUND

FOURTH—JUNE, 1891—SEASON



The
Year's Record
of a
Work of Love
Undertaken on behalf of the
Children of the Poor
of Toronto.



J. J. KELSO,
HON. SEC.-TREAS

"Go out, children, from the crowded city,
Sing out, children, as the little thrushes do;
Pluck your handfuls of the meadow cowslips pretty,
Laugh aloud to feel your fingers let them through."

ELIZABETH BARRETT BROWNING.



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CHILDREN'S FRESH AIR FUND

TO PROVIDE
FREE SUMMER EXCURSIONS
FOR
POOR CHILDREN.

Account of the work carried on during the Season
of 1890.

With a Statement of the Poor Children's
Christmas Fund.

J. J. KELSO,

Hon. Secy. & Treas.

Communications should be addressed to the Humane Office, 108 Bay
Street, where any information concerning this work
can be obtained.



Does this work for poor children commend itself to you? Then do not fail
to give it your encouragement and support.



Toronto:
THE BUDGET PRESS, 27 MELINDA STREET.
1891.

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Children's Fresh Air Fund.

TORONTO, June 5th, 1891.



IT is with a good deal of pleasure that we again bring the subject of the Children's Fresh Air Fund to the attention of the citizens of Toronto. We have reason to know that this fund to provide enjoyment and healthful recreation for poor children during the summer is accomplishing grand results, and the movement has won many warm friends among those who love little children. The Fresh Air Fund means to hundreds of little ones sunshine and happiness. It receives the poorest and most ragged child with open arms and provides it with all the requisites to innocent and whole-souled enjoyment. These little ones look forward to the Fresh Air Excursions with delighted anticipation, and when the day is ended they have a store of happy memories to lighten the hardships of their lot. Many mothers, also, are invited to participate in the excursions, and to these it comes as a welcome and much-needed boon.

Altogether there were, as near as can be calculated, 7,258 excursionists on the twenty-nine trips given during the season of 1890. Of this number about 1,000 were mothers. Many of the children went to two, three, and even four of the excursions, so that the actual number of children benefitted would be about 3,000. The total number of lunches disposed of was in the neighborhood of 12,000, and the quantity of

milk, 568 gallons. It might be mentioned here that this large quantity of milk was furnished gratuitously by Messrs. Clark Bros., of the Semi-Centennial Dairy, Yonge Street. They not only gave the milk but delivered it free of charge and called for the cans after the excursions. This is the third season in which they have exercised this praiseworthy generosity. The lunches were all contracted for at a rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ and 4c. each.

The first excursion was held on June 11th at Centre Island, Mr. Thos. Davies having very kindly offered the free use of the Steamer Chicoutimi for the occasion. Several trips were made between ten and one o'clock, and as many as 1,600 youngsters, with a large number of mothers, were given a day's outing. The precautions taken against hunger were ample, 3,000 bags of eatables and 64 gallons of milk being distributed during the day. No accident of any kind occurred, and although rain fell very heavily before the children were safely returned to their homes it did not seem to have any depressing or marring effect.

As it was considered desirable not to hold out any inducements for the children to desert school the second excursion was not held until June 27th, when 500 children were taken to

Lorne Park. The Steamer Greyhound was given free for the occasion, and it left Yonge Street wharf at ten o'clock with as merry and light-hearted a load as ever set out for a day's enjoyment. The weather was perfect and the park was in its best summer dress, affording the children rapturous enjoyment as they sported on the lake shore, gathered wild flowers and ferns in the underbrush, or indulged in games familiar to childhood. The party was recruited in the St. John's Ward district and was under the special charge of Miss How.

Just about this time an unexpected but very welcome vein of success opened up to us. We wrote to the Toronto Ferry Company (Limited), asking what arrangements they could make for a few trips to the Island and the occasional use of one of their boats for an afternoon's cruise on the lake. A very gracious reply was received from Mr. R. A. Smith, secretary-treasurer, stating that the company would be prepared to assist to almost any reasonable extent, and in subsequent conversation the fact came out that the directors of the company, Messrs. E. B. Osler and T. C. Hammond, were warm friends of the poor children of Toronto, and not only willing but anxious to do something to make the long summer days happier and brighter for them. They allowed the Management of the Fund to issue tickets for parties of one hundred on any slack days during the season, and gave the free use of the Steamer Sadie for three afternoons. Nine of these small Island excursions were given, the number of children benefitted being 975, and on the three lake trips 1,700 children were taken out. The fund was further assisted by a subscription from Mr. Osler.



READING ABOUT THE EXCURSIONS.

Arrangements were made with the Long Branch Pleasure Resort Company whereby a reduced rate was granted, and during the season eleven excursions, each averaging 125 children, took place to this delightful watering place.

The Steamer Chicoutimi was chartered for four afternoons, on each occasion about 450 children being treated to a lake trip as far as Victoria Park.

THE LAKESIDE HOME.

Our labors on behalf of the children were not confined to day excursions. We have from the first recognized the desirability of giving these youngsters, especially those in delicate health, a fortnight's sojourn in the green fields of the country, but the lack of funds has prevented us in carrying out any scheme in this direction. Arrangements were made, however, for the reception of delicate poor children at the Lakeside Home, in connection with the Sick Children's Hospital, and we were enabled to send nineteen children during the season for a total of 284 days. For the maintenance of these children at the Lakeside we paid \$2.50 per week or \$101.25 in all. Of this amount \$60 was provided by Mr. H. C. Dixon's Bible Class at the Church of the Ascension.

FINANCIAL.

Owing to the large number of excursions it was found necessary to draw on the reserve fund, the income not being equal to the expenditure. At the beginning of the season, May, 1890, there was a balance of \$297.29, while in September, after all accounts had been paid

for the season, the amount was reduced to \$128.39. The receipts for the year amounted to \$780.84, and the expenditure was \$952.37, a detailed statement being appended. For financial assistance we desire especially to thank Mr. E. E. Sheppard, of *Saturday Night*, Mrs. Stuart W. Johnston, the City Council, "Kit," of the *Mail*, J. S. Robertson, of the *Advance*, H. C. Dixon's Bible Class, Miss Mara, who arranged "garden party," Wm. Bayley and the Island Amateur Aquatic Association.

CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT.

The annual Christmas entertainment for poor children, which is undertaken as an auxiliary to the Fresh Air Fund, was not forgotten last year, and in addition the Christmas distribution of packages of candy, each containing five new coppers, was handed over to us by Mr. H. C. Dixon's Bible Class. The entertainment was held on Christmas Eve from 5.30 until 8.30 in Victoria Hall, and besides an abundance of good cheer a capital musical entertainment was provided by James Fax, humorous vocalist; Prof. F. H. Torrington, pianist; Eddie Reburn, soloist, and the Broadway Orchestra. Outside entirely of the entertainment, and to different children, one thousand presents were distributed, each package containing half a pound of candy and also five new cents. It is hardly necessary to add that these gifts were greatly appreciated by the little ones and their gratified parents.

The contributions to the Christmas Fund, chiefly through Mayor Clarke, amounted to \$210.05, and the expenditure to \$205.60, leaving a balance of \$4.45. This, added to the balance from the summer's Fresh Air Fund work, gave a total of \$132.81. Subsequently Mr. W. D. Grand very kindly and generously gave a Horse Show in aid of the Fund, the amount realized, after expenses, being in the neighborhood of \$300.

DEVOTED WORKERS.

No mere words printed here can record or acknowledge in any adequate manner the services of those who gave their time during the summer to looking after and ministering to the wants of the children on the excursions. One of the chief advantages of the Fresh Air Fund is that it gathers under its banners many noble-hearted women who love poor children, and are glad to labor in any cause that seeks to ameliorate their condition and bring pleasure to their lives. We have many such, and so gentle and patient are they with their turbulent little charges that one never hears from them any angry, hasty word, nor even sees in their countenances the expressions of annoyance or anger. In fact, "kindness to the children" is the strictest rule known in the management of the excursions, though no word has ever been spoken or printed to that effect. Sometimes it has been hard for workers to hide signs of vexation at the unruliness of which all children will be guilty at times, but they have managed somehow to maintain discipline without resorting to any iron rod. We do not attempt to do more than acknowledge their devotion, because we know that they have all been amply compensated in witnessing the pleasure and happiness of the children.



"LITTLE SISTER AND ME."

CHILDREN'S SUMMER HOME.

We look forward to the establishment of a poor children's vacation home in the country within ten or fifteen miles of the city, and, if possible, on the lake shore, with close railway facilities. This would not interfere with the day excursions, but it would be a much more permanent and satisfactory benefit to the children, as a holiday of two weeks' duration would give them a reasonable opportunity of enjoying the beauties of nature and of recovering or storing up health for the ensuing winter. It was thought at first that an enlargement of the Lakeside Home for Children would obviate the necessity for another institution of an almost similar character, but it has been found impracticable to have healthy or slightly-ailing children in the same building with those who are actually suffering, as the noise and confusion of romping and happy youngsters has a very bad effect on the sick. *To the friends of poor children we commend this need of a summer vacation home*, with spacious and wooded grounds attached. It should be easy to raise money for such a noble purpose. Garden parties, concerts and other entertainments would be liberally supported, and donations or bequests will be at all times most welcome. A few young people can by their united efforts raise from \$100 to \$200 easily, and have the life-long satisfaction of knowing that they have done a Christ-like deed.

SUCCESSFUL GARDEN PARTY.

The following is a copy of the ticket issued for a garden party got up by Miss Mara, assisted by Miss Closson. A large number were sold and the total proceeds amounted to \$35. We would be glad to see many others follow this example.

GARDEN PARTY

IN AID OF THE

"FRESH AIR FUND,"

TO BE HELD

ON THE GROUNDS OF THE

LATE JUDGE DUCAN, CORNER BEVERLEY AND BALDWIN STREETS,

Friday Evening, July 11th, at 8 o'clock.

ADMISSION, - - 10 CENTS.

REFRESHMENTS ON THE GROUNDS.



CHILDREN'S FRESH AIR FUND.

RECEIPTS, 1890.

On hand	\$297 29	Mrs. C. C. Dalton	\$ 5 00
Friend	5 00	Wm. Bayley, (Sherbourne Street)	25 00
Mrs. Grasett	1 00	Miss Dalton, (462 Bloor Street W.)	2 00
J. I. Davidson, (per Mrs. Johnston)	5 00	"Kit" of the Mail	2 00
Mrs. W. J. Henry	5 00	Mrs. Stupart	1 00
Mrs. W. J. Bayley	5 00	Miss Lou Mackenzie	1 00
Dr. J. K. Trout	5 00	H. C. Dixon's Bible Class Subscription	60 00
Mrs. Becher, (Rosedale)	5 00	Lady Friend	5 00
Miss Macklem	1 00	Friend of the Children	1 25
Mrs. J. Boulton	1 00	Proceeds of Garden Party, (per Miss Mara and Miss Closson)	35 00
R. T. Condy	1 00	E. B.	5 00
Mrs. E. Baldwin	2 00	H. M. & C. B. M.	1 00
H. Sherris' Children	5 00	Mrs. Gibson	1 00
W. G. P. Cassels	10 00	Mrs. Biffin	5 00
Mrs. H. L. H.	2 00	L. Beale, (Brooklin), and T. H. N.	2 00
Mrs. R. W. Laird	5 00	John O. Anderson	5 00
Mrs. Jarvis, (per Mrs. Johnston)	5 00	Miss Patton	5 00
J. S. Willison	1 00	Mr. Beatty, (per Miss Goldstone)	2 00
J. E. Atkinson	1 00	Mrs. Woodbridge	2 00
Anon.	1 00	Sympathy, (per "Kit.")	1 00
Anon., (per Mrs. Johnston)	10 00	Lilac, (per "Kit.")	5 00
"For the Children."	1 00	Garnet, (per "Kit.")	1 00
An Invalid	4 00	Corbett Locke	15 00
Miss Wilson	5 00	Irish, (per "Kit.")	2 00
From Paris	5 00	R. H. Draper	10 00
Miss Jarvis	5 00	Mrs. James Price	5 00
H.	10 00	R. W. Spence	3 00
Aikenhead & Crombie	5 00	City Council Grant, (per City Treasurer)	50 00
B. S. Gurd, (Garnet)	5 00	Laura's Birthday Gift	20 00
Mrs. Duncan Clark	5 00	Chas. Thompson	1 00
Mrs. T.	5 00	Mrs. McL.	5 00
Friend	5 00	Sympathy	1 00
Friend	2 00	Friend	1 00
E. F. H.	5 00	Sympathy, (per Mr. Hall)	1 00
W. W. Seymour	5 00	Mr. Lefroy, (per Mrs. L. Gordon)	10 00
Balfour	1 00	Unknown	5 00
H. Kingston, (Penetang)	5 00	E. B. Osler	10 00
H. Pellat, (Orillia)	20 00	Sale of Milk	64
E. F. Clarke, M.P.P.	5 00	Mrs. H. Gooderham	5 00
H. J. Lytle, (Cambray)	5 00	Guelph, (per Mr. H. Dixon)	2 00
Mrs. Henry Gooderham	5 00	Saturday Night Collection	20 50
Chas. Cockshutt	5 00	Island Aquatic Association	75 00
A. C. Browning, B.A.	5 00	Mrs. J. Patterson's S. S. Class of Little Girls:—Muriel Follett, Maud Brett, Annie Sutherland, Jennie Ryrie Allen, Carveth, Meta Ryrie, Ethel Patterson, Eva McLean and Edna Follett.	4 00
Frank E. Hodgins	5 00	Kilgour Bros	20 00
A. Sampson	5 00	Saturday Night	7 00
H. Norris	2 00		\$1,078 13
Well Wisher	1 00		
Mrs. Vankoughnet	1 00		
Miss Cosens	1 00		
Anon.	1 00		
Anon.	1 00		
Mrs. R. R. Davis	1 00		
Chief Justice Hagarty	5 00		
Grandchildren	20		
Friend, (per Mrs. Jean Donald)	5 00		
Miss Philpots	1 00		
Mrs. Pryce	1 00		
Thos. Urquhart	2 00		
Mrs. B. E. Walker	5 00		
Mrs. Jacques, (Beverly Street)	5 00		
Mrs. Lewis	5 00		
Friend	1 00		
R. S. Thompson	1 00		
Mrs. Lawson, (Church Street)	1 00		
Anon.	2 00		
Contributions to Saturday Night	47 25		
" " Canadian Advance	10 00		
A Lady, (Wellesley Street)	15 00		

EXPENSES, 1890.

Stationery	\$ 2 45
Postage	4 73
Printing	42 75
Cartage	34 10
Lunches	526 94
Thos. Davies (Chicoutimi)	100 00
Long Branch	67 80
Lakeside Home	161 25
Office	25 00
General expenses	12 55
Distributing circulars	8 00
	\$925 57

POOR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS FUND.

RECEIPTS, 1890.

In hand.....	\$ 3 45
Friend.....	1 00
"Kit," Mail.....	2 00
Mrs. Price.....	1 00
Mr. R. Kilgour.....	5 00
J. I. Davidson.....	10 00
Miss Macklem.....	2 00
H. V.....	2 00
J. A. Donaldson.....	1 00
M. C. Elliott.....	1 00
Mrs. Burton.....	1 00
Mrs. Bayley, (270 Sherbourne Street).....	5 00
Marjorie and Kathie.....	1 00
Mrs. S. Heward.....	5 00
"Amicus".....	50
Friend.....	1 00
Janet S. Anderson.....	1 00
Madge O. Anderson.....	1 00
Geo. W. Anderson.....	1 00
J. O. and Mrs. Anderson.....	2 00
Mr. F. H. Maulson.....	2 00
K. S.....	1 00
W. A. Sampson.....	2 00
Miss Butler.....	1 65
Mrs. H. Gooderham.....	5 00
Mrs. Jacques.....	5 00
Mrs. E. Baldwin.....	2 00
Cosgrave & Co.....	5 00
Mrs. Neville.....	5 00
Mr. C. Robinson, (Hon.).....	5 00
Mrs. O. Mowat.....	2 00
Mrs. Boyce.....	1 00
E. C.....	50
Mr. Robert Cassels.....	1 75
Laurence L. Gibb.....	5 00
E. A.....	2 00
Friend.....	1 00
M. A. J.....	1 00
D. H. Gibson }.....	1 00
N. R. Gibson }.....	1 00
E. P.....	1 00
Mrs. Becher.....	5 00
A. Gunther.....	5 00
H.....	5 00
Meer Bahni.....	2 00
Anno.....	1 00
Beverly Jones.....	1 00
Dr. J. K. Trout.....	2 00
Auguste Bolte.....	2 00
Wm. Ince.....	5 00
Jas. L. Morrison.....	5 00
Robert Sears.....	1 00
Mrs. J. Patton, (McCauley Street).....	2 00
Mrs. Bishop.....	2 00

Miss Warner.....	\$ 50
J. S. Willison.....	1 00
Miss McMaster.....	1 00
Mrs. Hertzberg.....	1 00
Friend.....	75
Mrs. H.....	2 00
Rice Lewis & Son.....	5 00
The Misses Carty.....	5 00
John Pugsley.....	5 00
Eby, Blain & Co.....	5 00
Five children.....	5 00
Mrs. E. J. Clark.....	5 00
C. H. Sproule.....	5 00
E. F. H.....	2 50
Mat and Evelyn.....	2 00
Anon.....	2 00
Mrs. Wm. Garside.....	2 00
Mrs. J. A. Nesbitt.....	1 00
J. W. H. M.....	1 00
A. B.....	1 00
Florence Bell.....	1 00
M.....	1 00
Geo. A. Stinson.....	1 00
Friend.....	1 00
Mac.....	1 00
Gordon and Sampson.....	1 00
"Little Esie".....	1 00
Mrs. Williston.....	1 00
A Widows Mite.....	1 00
Bert Brace, (age 13, own savings).....	25
Nameless friend.....	5 00
Mrs. Brenner.....	1 00
H. C. Dixon.....	5 20
Mrs. Wm. Workman.....	1 00

\$210 05

EXPENSES.

Stationery.....	2 90
Lunches.....	27 00
Inland revenue, (5,000 coppers).....	50 00
Victoria Hall.....	15 00
Musicians.....	7 00
Printing.....	12 75
Candy.....	57 10
Oranges.....	6 50
Humane Society.....	15 00
Street car tickets.....	2 00
Crockery.....	1 60
Candy boxes.....	6 00
General.....	1 75
Express.....	1 00

\$205 60



PRESS COMMENTS.

Fresh Air for Children.

Here is a fine opportunity for a generous man or woman to spend a little money where it is sure to do good. Five dollars sent to Mr. Kelso, secretary of the Fresh Air Fund, or to Mayor Clarke, will give 25 children a day's holiday at one of the lakeside parks, with two substantial meals. The same sum will support two delicate children at the Lakeside Home for one week each. Many people will prefer the latter plan, as, although it benefits a smaller number of children, the benefit is greater and more lasting. Both, however, are exceedingly good and worthy objects. The lot of poor children in a large city like Toronto in summer is far from being happy. Their houses are small and stuffy, and many of them have practically no playground but the street, and without such assistance as the Fresh Air Fund gives, their chances of a trip into the country or a sail on the lake are few indeed. And as for those who are not only poor but sickly—well, if any of our readers do not realise how sad their cases, they should go and visit some of them. —*Globe*.

From Grateful Children.

The children in Miss Thorburn's mission class in St. Andrew's Institute decided on Sunday last to give the money they had collected during the quarter, amounting to \$4, to the Children's Fresh Air Fund, as a return for the free excursions which many of them had enjoyed during the summer. —*Mail*.

A Plea for Little Children.

Do we think of them as often as we might these long, hot days, when we are all apt to be more cross and cranky and selfish than at other times? Do we think of the children of the very poor? There are so many of them, so many weary mothers who have to live and work in the heat and noise and squalor of every big city; so many little children in the homes of the poor who never get a holiday save through the efforts of that most charitable of societies, the organization of the Children's Fresh Air Fund. Shall we not try to do a little kindness in memory of the Christ child who so loved little children? Many of us have known what it is to sit beside a little cot, and hold the wasted hand and watch the grey shadow of death creep over the thin, peaked face. Many a mother in a passion of grief has stormed Heaven with her tears and prayers to leave her baby at any cost, at any price. But the "gentle reaper" plucked the little flower and bore it in his breast to the great throne of God, and the mother sitting there in the desolate room, feels all the sunshine taken out of her heart as she looks at the empty cradle, the broken toy, the little, red shoe worn down at the heel, that will never go tapping over the floor again. Will you not help some poor mother who for lack of a few dollars must see her baby die in this most trying summer heat? Every little helps. Everyone who gives to the poor little ones is aiding, perhaps giving life and health, to some small sick wail, who otherwise will soon be tucked quietly away in a little coffin, leaving a great big hole in some poor woman's heart. A great many people have been authorized to receive contributions for the Fresh Air Fund, and anyone who will give \$5 will provide a holiday for twenty-five poor children, with two substantial meals, or will support two delicate little ones at the Lakeside Home for one week each. If any of my correspondents care to help on this most divine of charities, I will gladly

take the contributions and publish the names of the givers in these columns every week. —*KIT, in Mail*.

Workers in a Good Cause.

The little girls belonging to Mrs. Patterson's Sunday School class at Long Branch are greatly interested in the Children's Fresh Air Fund and some time ago decided to bring a contribution each Sunday to be devoted to this work. The sum collected, amounting to \$4, was yesterday paid over to Mr. Kelso, treasurer of the fund. The names of the little girls are Muriel Follett, Maud Brett, Jennie Ryrie, Annie Sutherland, Eva McLean, Ethel Patterson, Aileen Carveth, Edna Follett and Meta Ryrie. —*Globe*.

"Don." in Saturday Night.

The other day a friend of mine told me he was anxious to subscribe to the Poor Children's Fresh Air Fund and asked me where he should do it. I admitted my ignorance but told him I would take his money and see that it reached those interested in this benevolent and praise worthy scheme. Thus it happens I have \$5 to the credit of the little ones, and if others wish to contribute I will have a great deal of pleasure in receiving and crediting them with the amounts they may donate. If whoever has the matter in hand will communicate with me I shall be glad to forward the subscriptions. I think Mr. J. J. Kelso is treasurer of the fund—at any rate it will not be difficult to locate those who are endeavoring to give pleasure and fresh air to the little folks who are unable to obtain such luxuries without assistance. To you, who have taken your babies away to some watering-place, or who are camping in Muskoka, or are having a delightful time on the Island, it will be a small drain upon your resources to send a dollar or two to assist in taking out a ship load of the poor little beggars who never get a dime ahead for an outing. Toronto is becoming a big city, and its poor are increasing with its population. Poverty is a wretched, grinding thing, and those who have never felt itsangs cannot appreciate how little pleasure comes to relieve the dull monotony of daily hunger and perpetual squalor. Love of your own little ones is nothing but a broadened selfishness; philanthropy is but a love of your own species; when it is confined to those of your own city it is but an enlarged phase of the paternal regard for those who look to you for support, amusement and education. Few cities have so light a burden as Toronto in respect to the poor. That we are prosperous and that our burdens are light should make us more willing to help those among us who are neither well-fed, well-clad nor happy. If, as you sit in an easy chair on the Ciboia or Empress, you observe with pleasure the delight of your little ones as a fresh breeze strikes them, if your happiness is increased by noticing how they clap their little hands as the waves go by, how much more will you feel content in your prosperity if you have contributed something to make the babies of the poor enjoy some of Nature's luxuries so welcome to your own kin. Next week I will open a subscription list for the Fresh Air Fund and every donation, no matter how small, shall be acknowledged, not to give its sender an advertisement or his or her benevolence but simply as a receipt for the amount. When Christ took the little ones upon His knee and said "of such is the kingdom of Heaven," we who are so far away from that beautiful place, but desire to obtain a place in it, should feel that there is no better way of reaching the divine heart than

by a little loving kindness to the babies to-day, to the children of misery, to the offspring of want, and to the heirs of poverty. Even a "cup of cold water, given for love of Him, or the babies He has blessed, will not lose its reward, and those with children of their own, those who have felt the touch of baby fingers upon their face, the caresses of infant hands, or have seen, amidst tears and grief almost unsupportable the dead faces of loved ones, or watched the mute agony of those who suffer, cannot refuse a little of something for Christ's sake and the sake of the babies cradled in misery and joyless in the springtime of life when joy should be supreme. I am a little bit late with this appeal. Perhaps, like myself you have not thought about it till just now. If not, do your own share and be your own judge of what is your part in this benevolent enterprise. Don't wait till you forget, or imagine if you forget that your carelessness will be forgiven. When you have finished reading this take a little something out of your pocket and put it in an envelope and address it to the Babies' Fresh Air Fund, *Saturday Night Office*.

If there is anything that justifies a sweet summer girl in asking \$15 for a hand-painted saucer at a lemonade festival, it is the fact that the proceeds are to go to swell the Children's Fresh Air Fund.

How the Fund Benefitted.

On Thursday evening last Mrs. Edward Boiseau, of 177 Sherbourne street, lost a handsome gold pin with five diamonds, valued at \$150. It was an old keepsake. That same evening Mr. William Bayley, of 270 Sherbourne street, was passing the corner of Sherbourne and Gerrard streets when he saw something glittering. He picked it up and found it was Mrs. Boiseau's pin.

By an advertisement in the *News* of Saturday offering \$25 for its recovery, he was enabled to return it to the owner to-day. Mr. Bayley, who with his wife takes a deep interest in the Children's Fresh Air Fund, received a check for \$25 which he has forwarded to Mr. J. J. Kelso.—*News*.

A Mission Worker Writes:

"Going on a tour of investigation, hunting up children for the next picnic, was a rare treat and just what we enjoyed. We were sure of a welcome wherever we went. Never have we found anything that has been of such help to us in our mission work as visiting for the Fresh Air Fund. Dobs which would otherwise have been slammed in our faces or opened but half an inch, were thrown wide

open, and we could go and come almost as we pleased, and everywhere we went could speak a word for Christ.

Active Little Girls.

A contribution sent to *Saturday Night* was accompanied by the following letter, a sympathetic tribute itself:

DEAR DON.—We five little girls held a children's bazar at 207 Wellesley street on Friday, June 27, and realized \$7.25 for the Fresh Air Fund. Wishing we had more to send, we remain, Yours truly, Violet Brent, Mabel Dinsmore, Alice Willmott, Addie Kensing, Maud Butt.

A Friend of the Waifs.

Mr. H. C. Hammond, president of the Toronto Ferry Company, is one of the real friends of the waifs who enjoy the fresh excursions. Yesterday a number of these poor children were taken over to Island Park by one of the company's steamers, and Mr. Hammond himself went over to see that the youngsters enjoyed themselves on the merry-go-rounds, etc. The company is going to carry out a big party of waifs on the lake Monday. The boats are given free of charge.—*World*.

The Work in Buffalo.

Speaking of the Fresh Air Fund, of Buffalo, the *Express* of that city says:

To fill little lungs with pure country air is the primary object of the Association. But perhaps this is the least of the benefits which poor children derive from such a work, especially in an airy city like Buffalo. The direct contract with nature as it can be found only in rural districts—the getting down to the ground undefined by pavements, to the sun unobscured by smoke, to trees and grass and shrubs and flowers, untouched by the gardener's hand, to the society of birds and animals and insects, to the personal knowledge of where eggs and milk come from, to all the joys of woods and fields and streams and pebbly beaches—all this is what the poor children of Buffalo and their jaded mothers are given, along with the "fresh air" which is made a text and a pretext for the benevolent work of the Fresh Air Mission.

There is no antidote to the moral poisons of a city like the scenes of the country. Along with the rural fresh air, the little beneficiaries of the Mission are drawing in a spiritual ozone that will help to protect them from the moral asphyxia which threatens them in their crowded city homes.



THE GAIN OF GIVING.

"He that findeth his life shall lose it," was the minister's text that day,
And Eleanor seemed to listen, though her thoughts were far away ;
In a week it would be vacation, and she longed for the time to come
That would take her away from the city to her beautiful seaside home.

"He that loseth his life shall find it." Though the words bore a meaning plain,
They had none for the child who heard them, with restless eyes and brain ;
But the sermon at last was ended, and the preacher slowly said :
"Our contribution this morning will be for the children's aid."

Eleanor's heart beat faster, her face wore a troubled look
As her hand closed softly over her little pocketbook,
Where she carried a birthday present, a bright, new piece of gold,
And the look of trouble deepened while her hand took a firmer hold.

"I can't give this," she was thinking, "though it's all I have to give,
And I wish that the children all could go to a pleasant place to live."
But she saw, with a little trembling sob, that the basket was on its way,
And when it passed her the gold piece in the midst of the silver lay.

'Twas an August day at the seashore, and Eleanor raced along
Where the heavy waves were rolling and the tide was running strong ;
She stooped for a sea shell lying on the hard and shining sand,
When a mighty breaker caught her and swept her away from land.

But, before she could cry or struggle, she was seized by a little lad,
Who dragged her out of the water with all the strength he had ;
And he said to her look of wonder, as soon as he'd breath to speak :
"I'm one of the Fresh Air children, a-stayin' here a week."

Eleanor thought of the gold piece she had sadly given away ;
"Why, perhaps if I'd kept that money he wouldn't be here to-day !"
"Weren't you afraid of drowning ?" He slowly shook his head,
I didn't think of myself at all, but of saving you," he said.

And she suddenly thought of the sermon ; its meaning grew clear and plain—
About the finding and the losing, the giving that's greatest gain ;
That the life which is lived for others is the only life to lead,
And, instead of our vain self-seeking, we should care for another's need.

CAROLINE B. LEROW.

"Thousands of little hearts can be gladdened
and lifted and made beautiful by the silver key
that unlocks the good things of present life."

HAPPY CHILDREN.

THE GOOD WORK OF THE FRESH AIR FUND.

FREE EXCURSIONS FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE POOR—VACATION HOMES FOR DELICATE LITTLE ONES.

(From the Toronto Globe.)



GOING TO THE BOAT.

and aggravating. They enjoy so few of the advantages, the comforts or luxuries, in which this world abounds. They have all the capacity and desire for innocent and healthful enjoyment but none of the opportunities.

The child of the wealthy man is humored in every craving of the childish heart, and in sickness the best medical skill is at hand, and everything that wisdom can suggest or money can buy is forthcoming. How is it with the poor man's little ones? If a doctor is called in he suggests a change of air, but where is the money to come from? A change of air would mean a fresh lease of life. It would fill out their lungs, put color in their faces, brightness in their eyes and strength in their muscles. But the money—that is the question which puzzles the anxious mother who has already had struggle enough providing the actual necessities. What the family treasury cannot do the Children's Fresh Air Fund undertakes. It says to the jaded, careworn mother, "We will provide free day excursions for your little ones, and, where possible, will give them the week or ten days change of scene and air which is necessary to restore and build up the feeble constitution."

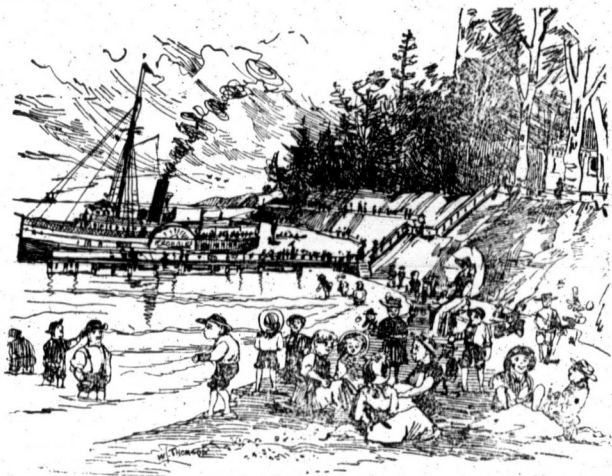
IN these hot days one's thoughts turn almost without an effort to a contemplation of the delights of the country or seaside. Even when supposed to be occupied with prosaic work in a stuffy office, the mind is revelling in the bright sunshine, the rustling leaves and fragrant flowers, the ceaseless lapping of the waves on the shore, and all the other beauties of the summer season. About this time, too, hundreds of citizens are flitting away to cool lakeside retreats—to the Atlantic, to Murray Bay, the Thousand Islands, old Niagara Town, the Canadian Chautauqua, Muskoka, Long Branch, the Grimsby Camp, Lorne Park, Lake Simcoe, the Island, and other abodes of summer shade and happiness. For the fortunate ones who can afford a seaside residence or frequent boating expeditions, the summer has no terrors, but to the poor in their crowded homes, it offers very few attractions. To the children of the poor, especially, the hot weather is trying



IN QUEST OF TICKETS.

There is no philanthropic movement which appeals more forcibly to generous people than the Fresh Air Fund. It makes no distinction of creed or race, but seeks to bring happiness and health to all the little people who need assistance. There is no city of any pretensions but has its Fresh Air Mission. In New York over 8,000 tenement and slum children are sent out as fortnightly guests to the farmers of the State, over \$20,000 being spent annually in the work. In Montreal over 2,000 children are given a week's holiday at the Fresh Air Home at Chambly, and in Buffalo there is a Fresh Air Fund which is annually increasing the scope of its operations.

Toronto has not as many poor children as either of the last-named cities, but it has a thriving Fresh Air Fund which manages in a quiet way to diffuse a great deal of happiness among the little people of St. John's Ward and other localities where the poorer classes live. It has confined itself during the past two years to providing free excursions to the various lakeside parks, but in future will endeavor to find summer vacation homes for poor children, especially those in delicate health. The promoters of Toronto's Fresh



ONE OF THE DAY EXCURSIONS.

Air Fund have never sought to exaggerate the number or the poverty of its little proteges. The very poor are not yet a numerous class in this city, and there are no tenement alleys, but these things always come with increased population, and it is well to have an organization ready to meet all the needs of the future. Many of the Fresh Air Fund children take in an occasional Sunday school picnic it is true, but anyone familiar with the wretchedness of their home life would never think of objecting to their getting one or two or a dozen picnics during the summer. There is no easier or surer way of introducing Gospel teaching, with all its attendant blessings of cleanliness, higher moral tone, cheerfulness, contentment, etc., than by means of these trips, at which the poor are enabled to realize that they are not wholly forgotten or neglected in their poverty and wretchedness, but there are those who wish them well and desire to aid and benefit them.

And then what a happy lot the little ones are as they hurry to the boat! How grateful they feel to those whose generosity has provided the treat! They bustle about as if this



THE FRESH AIR FUND BRINGS HAPPINESS.

day were the most important and the most enjoyable in their lives, and to many of them the most enjoyable it is, Happy children!

What a transformation from the scenes of discomfort in the city! What a breaking forth of smiles and laughter! All is animation at the very prospect of getting away from the hot city, the festering backyards, the stifling houses, the odors and evidences of decay. The very sun looks brighter, the world looks happier, the pulses of the little ones beat faster, and to the faces of many worn-out mothers comes a smile—faces that do not often wear smiles now, but which to-day reflect the happiness of the little ones. As the boat sails out with its hundreds of children of all sizes and ages, from fifteen years down to six



SOME OF THE CANDIDATES.

months, it presents a novel and interesting study. There you see old faces on young shoulders, and little prattlers who view everything with amazement. Here are sick children with drooping and listless manner, white faces and pain-saddened eyes. One look at them arouses at once your sympathy and compassion, and you long for the gift of healing that you might restore them to the laughter and gaiety of robust health.

The little picnickers are dressed in clothes of many colors and designs, some of the garments being very badly the worse for wear, while others carefully display all the finery they could lay hands on for the occasion. It is impossible at these excursions to judge the condition of the children by their clothes, as so much depends on the taste and thrift of the mother. Some mothers of dissolute habits take no interest or pride in their little ones, while others, though starv'ingly poor, will stay up half the night to wash and iron the



A HAPPY PARTY.

little dresses and pinafores. One feels like pitying the poor toiling mothers even more than the children sometimes. Theirs is such a hard lot, and in the majority of cases they are cursed with husbands who are an incumbrance rather than a help. It is so easy for a man to neglect or desert his family, and once drink takes possession of a laborer or mechanic he is sure to do one or both. The law unwittingly assists in this, for many of the poor women who go on the excursions have husbands who are kept busy all the year serving out sentences of thirty days in gaol.

It is surprising how a thrifty woman will keep together and rear up a large family. On one of these excursions last year there were two women, one with ten children, all under fifteen, and the other with eight little stepping-stones. Both these women supported themselves and families by washing.

A prominent feature of the children's excursion parties is the "eldest girl," who attends as the representative of her mother in the guardianship of the younger brothers and sisters. She is usually a hard-working, conscientious girl of fifteen or sixteen, of prematurely old disposition. Very often one meets with a girl of this kind who is as truly a heroine as any woman in history, but her merits are never fully recognized or appreciated.

Very touching instances of brotherly love are often met with among poor children. On a fresh air excursion one frequently sees an outwardly ragged and unkempt youth watching

over a little sister with all a mother's solicitude. The spirit of thoughtfulness and self-denial is a grand thing in any person, but it is doubly grand when we meet with it among the little social pariahs who have none of the advantages of refinement or education.

One of the guests at a fresh air picnic the other day was a married woman, aged 16, with her two months old baby. Notwithstanding her dignity as a mother, she was a mere child in appearance, with a slight undeveloped figure, and dress not reaching to the top of her boots. Poor child, one cannot help feeling sorry that she should so early take upon herself the responsibilities of life. The best that can be hoped for is that she may never have cause to repent the step.



"AT HOME."

she was able to do something for others.

Then, in conclusion, a word about the workers. One can never admire too much the unselfish spirit displayed by the young ladies who visit for the Fresh Air Fund, and who go along with the excursions to help the little ones enjoy themselves. Many of them are employed all day in offices or shops, or are engaged in the city schools, and the hours which they spend in the service of the little ones are the hours usually allotted to rest and recreation. It is the old proverb verified, that "the poor help the poor," as few of the workers have more than their time and deep-felt interest to give. And these, after all, are the great essentials, for all the money in the world could accomplish nothing without a sympathetic and loving spirit manifesting itself in every word and action.

The following might be given as an instance of the good that is in many of the children. On the first excursion, two summers ago, was a newsgirl, about 14 years of age, who was very wild and unmannerly, but who was gradually softened and improved by kindness. One day when an excursion party of 700 children was enjoying a sail on the lake she approached in a timid way a worker who was very busily engaged lading out milk to a collection of thirsty youngsters. She offered to assist by carrying round the cups when filled, and made herself wonderfully useful. For over half an hour she hurried to and fro allaying the thirst of the little ones, and taking care to see that the babies and toddlers were served first. The feeling that she was of service wrought a wonderful change in her appearance and manner. Her eyes sparkled with pleasure, and there was a happy eagerness in every action. Looking at her, one could almost imagine her whispering to herself, "at last I have found my true vocation." When all the milk was gone and the boat was approaching the shore, she came over and said:

"Do you know, Mr. Kelso, I never got a drink myself and I was very thirsty?"

"I am very glad of that," he said in reply.

"Why?" she asked in a surprised tone.

"Not glad that you didn't get a drink," was the answer, "but glad that you were so busy making others happy that you forgot about yourself."

"Yes indeed," she said, half musingly "I, never thought about myself," and later on she repeated how happy it made her to know that



