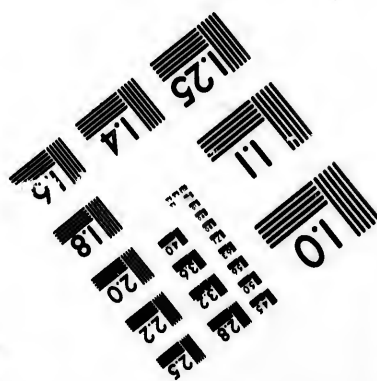
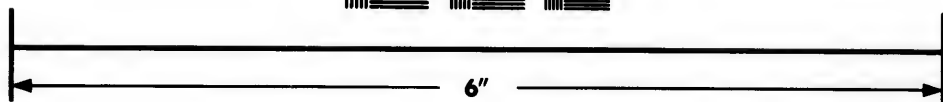
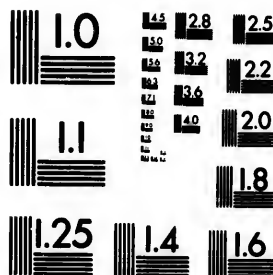


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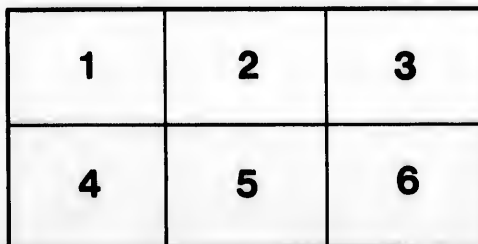
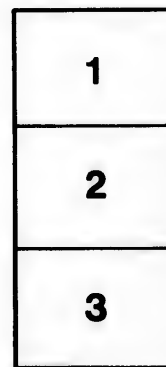
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FIRST
REPORT

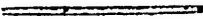
OF THE

MONTREAD

Infant School Society,

FOR

1830



MONTREAL:

PRINTED BY WORKMAN AND BOWMAN,

Canadian Courant Office.



1831.

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REPORT.

THAT the human mind is capable of receiving instruction, and of forming associations of ideas, at a very early period of its existence, must be evident to all who have paid attention to the first developement of the mental powers. The earliest impressions which the mind receives are vivid in their effects, and lasting in their influence over moral action. We have daily opportunities of observing the powerful agency which early vicious habits continue to have over the morals of their unfortunate victims, and few there are who cannot trace to early periods of their life, the origin of some wrong impressions, which have afterwards influenced their conduct, and led their minds into error. Since then, the human mind so early becomes the active recipient of impressions, it becomes an important matter to provide early means of preventing vice from introducing itself, and, whilst the mind is yet in the beginning of its intellectual career, to lay the foundation of those principles, upon which the superstructure of truth, rectitude and piety may be raised in all their intrinsic worth and beauty.

The history of the rise and progress of Infant School instruction, would afford the most ample confirmation of these general principles; were proof of such self-evident truths necessary. In the last eleven years, more has been done in the British dominions to rescue the young from the snares of vice, than in any previous period of equal extent, and it has not been without its good consequences, by turning into the paths of virtue, many, who from all appearances, would have fallen into crime, and finally into disgrace and ruin.

In Great Britain, within whose bounds so many philanthropic Institutions have originated, Infant Schools were first established. The intentions of their first founders seem to have been merely the negative benefit of preventing the beginnings of evil, by collecting the children of the labouring classes together, and keeping them from vicious practices and bad company, whilst their parents, who were necessarily

called away by their daily labour, could not have them under their own immediate inspection. It was however soon found, that the time during which these children were assembled together, could be profitably employed, and much instruction given ; whilst at the same time, the irksomeness of the severe restraints of common-school discipline could be dispensed with, and the whole duty rendered at once profitable and delightful to the young mind. Fortunately the experiment has been crowned with entire success, and Infant Schools have now been established in various parts of the world, and have, in all instances, been attended with the most salutary influence in the formation of human character. In the general march of benevolence, it is a matter of congratulation to your Committee, and to every member of this Society, that Montreal was not passed over, and that the exertions which have been made, have produced very evident advantages to those who have been brought within the sphere of their influence.

In the autumn of 1827, the attention of several Ladies in this City was called to the subject of Infant Schools, and the utility of these Institutions having been established by numerous experiments, both in Europe and America, a meeting of a few, friendly to the undertaking, was held in the month of April, 1828, and after due consideration, it was resolved to open an Infant School in St. Dominique Street, in the house then occupied in part by the School of Industry.

In this undertaking its first projectors were assisted by the Rev. Thaddeus Osgood, who placed at their disposal a set of lessons sent out by the Society in England for promoting Education and Industry among the Indians and destitute Settlers in Canada, and at the same time strenuously recommended the School to public notice. The School continued under the superintendance of a few Ladies till August, 1829, when the most pleasing results having been realized by actual experiment, it was determined to establish an Infant School Society. Accordingly on the 5th of August, 1829, a public meeting was called, at which Horatio Gates, Esq. presided ; a Society was organized, a Committee of management chosen, and the necessary measures taken to insure to the Institution public patronage and permanency. In the winter of 1828-9 one of the Ladies who took an active part in the management of the Infant School having found it necessary to provide for an orphan child at her individual charge, placed it as a boarder with the Instructress of the School. The change for the better, both in personal appearance and moral habits became so evident in this child, that a hope of making provisions for destitute children separate from the funds of the Infant School was entertained. A few friends of this additional undertaking were encouraged thereto by the cir-

cumstances that during the first year's existence of the Infant School, they had in the discharge of their duties as Managers, met with several destitute children, that could not be provided for in the manner which their necessities and privations called for from the funds of the School. As these children evidently possessed most urgent claims on the attention of the benevolent; and from their destitute situation, and their being exposed to the contamination of vice, seemed to call for some exertions to rescue them from their degraded condition; it was resolved at a meeting of a few Ladies, who assembled in April, 1829, to consider the matter, to establish in the same building with the Infant School, a boarding department, which should remain under the care of your Committee as long as might be deemed advisable, this department to be maintained by a separate fund, in which the children of destitute parents or those children who had been deprived of one parent by death, could be received at a moderate charge. This project, if successful, would, it was hoped, enable the managers to rescue many children from vice, and to educate them in the principles of piety and virtue, and consequently render them useful and honorable members of Society.

In the first experiments, the Managers in every practicable instance, made the beneficiaries not entirely objects of eleemosynary aid, but required payment in whole or in part from the surviving parent or friend. The results of these first attempts having realized the expectations of those who first had their attention called to the subject, permission was given to take up a public collection for the support of the boarding department, and if possible, to procure for it such patronage as would ensure its continuance, and it was thought it would be advisable to permit it to become an independent establishment, at the first of May last, and to be under the direction of a Committee of Management, chosen for its superintendance. The boarding establishment having been thus placed on a separate footing, the whole attention of your Committee will in future be given to the management and support of Infant Schools. Since the commencement of the boarding establishment, twenty destitute children have been received into it. Among these children, some who did not know their letters when they entered, can now read in the Testament; and their present clean and healthy condition, cannot fail to be delightful to every friend of mankind.

The whole cost of this establishment during the year ending 1st day of May last is	£96 19 6
Amount of board paid by parents,	£24 6 6
Amount of subscriptions and donations,	56 1 0
	<hr/>
	£80 7 6
	<hr/>
Remaining to be provided for,	£16 12 0

By this statement it will be seen that a balance of £16 12s. remains to be collected, in order to render the boarding department entirely free of the Infant School funds. It is however worthy of notice, that this sum is more than the actual drawback on the funds of your Society, inasmuch as it would have cost more for the boarding of the Teachers, had no boarding establishment been in existence. Moreover your Committee would have been obliged to engage a second Teacher, and to defray the whole expence of her salary and boarding out of your funds; but as it is now arranged, the second Teacher dividing her services between the School and boarding establishment, only one half of the expense incurred thereby, is chargeable to the funds of the Infant School. The boarding of each destitute child has been found not to exceed twelve shillings and six pence per month. As the boarding department has now been placed on a separate footing, the former good effects of this establishment, warrant your Committee in recommending it to public patronage.

In detailing the progress of the Infant School, it is necessary to premise that the undertaking was entirely new in this country. The School under the care of your Committee was the first established in Canada, and had all the difficulties to encounter that usually attend incipient enterprize. They are however, now much gratified to be enabled to state that not only has the increase in the attendance in the School immediately under the superintendance of your Committee been very encouraging; but they have now the pleasure of stating that another Infant School has been established in the St. Ann's Suburb in this City; and several private classes for infants have been opened.

Your Committee would here call the serious attention of their constituents and of the public generally, to the more extensive establishment of Infant Schools. The pupils who attend these Institutions, cannot, on account of their tender age go a great distance to School, hence the necessity of establishing Infant Schools in different parts of the city.— Though originally intended for the poorer classes, the system of instruction is equally calculated to produce correct principles in the children of all classes, and in the opinion of your Committee, highly calculated to be of great advantage to the young.

Since the commencement of the School under the care of your Committee, 210 pupils have been admitted, of whom 106 have been withdrawn. Of those withdrawn, some are dead, some have been removed to the United States and to Upper Canada, some to England, and some to various parts of this Province. A few have been removed to other Schools, and some have been placed in the other Infant School lately

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commenced. From the parents of such children as were in circumstances that enabled them to pay for the instruction of their children, payment has been received. Of those children at present in the School, twenty-six pay for their instructions, and seventy-eight are taught gratuitously. The whole number at present in attendance is one hundred and four.

The amount received as School fees during the year, ending 1st May, 1830, was £15 14 9.

Amount received for ditto, during the three months ending, 1st August, 1830, was £4 4 3½.

As the children of the poor are often prevented from attending School, from an insufficiency of clothing, your Committee turned their attention to the means of finding garments for destitute children, and in this they are happy to acknowledge the valuable assistance they received from the Dorcas Society of this city. The following is a statement of the garments distributed:—

40 garments given by the Dorcas Society.

53 distributed by a few ladies who met for the purpose in February last.

45 sent to the Institution by the same ladies.

A number of garments besides those above enumerated, has been sent by various persons and distributed, and there are yet many in want of assistance in clothing, who would attend, were they not prevented by this circumstance.

The actual expense of the School for the year ending, 1st May last is £78 12 9½, and for the quarter ending, 1st Aug. 1830, £20 8 3. To meet these, there have been collected, £72 0 4½, leaving the sum of £7 7 7 to be provided for by future contributions.

Your Committee have great pleasure in stating that throughout the year, the Teachers have diligently discharged the arduous duties which devolved upon them.

Thus have your Committee discharged the trust reposed in them, acting at all times for the promotion of Infant Schools generally, and for the School more particularly under their care. Whatever they have attempted, has been done only with a desire to ameliorate the condition of those who are early exposed to vice, or to give to the young mind a greater store of purer and more enlarged ideas, and should their efforts meet with the approbation of their constituents, and of the public, they will consider themselves amply repaid for their exertions.

DR. MONTREAL INFANT SCHOOL SOCIETY, IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TREASURER, CR.

1880.		£	s.	d.	1829.		£	s.	d.
May	1.—To House Rent for one year	24	0	0	May	1.—Balance on hand	4	17	0½
July	31.— " Salary to Instructress, 15 months, a 30s.	22	10	0	Nov.	2.—By Subscriptions and Donations paid at General Meeting	9	1	1½
	" " Superintendent of Boarding Department and Assistant Teacher, 15 months, a 20s.	15	0	0	30.—	Collected by Miss McLane for the School, Amount of Sales of sundry articles belonging to the Society for promoting Education and Industry in Canada	4	2	0
	" " House Servant, 12 months, a 10s.	6	0	0	Dec.	31.— Mrs. Ayers' Subscription to Boarding Department, allowed upon Bill	0	14	3
	" " Wood for the School	5	8	8		Mrs. Ayers' Subscription for School, allowed on Bill	0	12	11
	" " Boarding Department, from Oct. 1, 1829, to May 1, 1830,	6	5	0		Mr. Ayers' Donation to Boarding Department, ditto	0	3	9
	" Board of Instructress and Assistant, 3 months, since May 1, a 27s. 6d. each per month,	8	5	0			0	10	0
	" Fitting up School Room	6	11	10	May	1.— Received during the year from the Pupils, Do. from Boarders during the year, Do. since May 1, from Pupils, Cash taken from Box in the School Room, Collected by Mrs. Bancroft and Miss Gates for the School	15	14	9
	" Painting Sign	0	11	6	July	31.— Do. by Miss McLane, for the Boarding Department	24	6	6
	" Printing Circulars in 1829	0	12	6		By Balance due Treasurer	7	7	7
	" Paper for Circulars in 1830	0	5	0			£195	19	6½
	" Baize, Checked Cotton, and Cotton Wool	3	6	8					
	" Rent of Stoves, Dumb Stove, Stove Pipes, Repairing House, Cleaning House, and other family expences, including some necessary utensils and furniture for keeping House	94	13	4½					
	" Rent of House, 3 months, since 1st May	2	10	0					
		£195	19	6½					

Errors excepted.

M. A. BANCROFT,
Acting Treasurer.

Montreal, July 31, 1830.

Acting Treasurer.

Montreal, July 31, 1880.

