

1873

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REPORT

OF THE

FEMALE HOME SOCIETY.

Please read and circulate.

REPORT

OF THE

FEMALE HOME SOCIETY.

Presented to the General Assembly of the
Synod of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America,
at its annual meeting, in the city of New York, on the 10th day of
October, 1854.

"THE HOME."

480 SEIGNEURS STREET,

Montreal, May 7th, 1873.

A brief review of the history of this Home is now proposed to show the nature and results of the work which has been carried on within its walls. It was opened on the second of May, 1868,—for two years previous to which date there had been no open door for fallen women, except to the institutions of the Roman Catholic community. For three years the individual who had collected the money and purchased the building carried on the work on his own responsibility, with the assistance to some extent of several ladies who were asked to be an advisory committee, and who have acted more or less as such. But very few indeed of these have continued regular visitation of the Home, which is open not only to them but at any time to any ladies who may call; and there has been no attempt personally to fill their places by others. It having been understood at the outset in the engagement of Mrs. Gowan that the internal administration of the Home should be very much committed to her; and experience and results having fully justified this confidence, it is due to her now to say that the very strong recommendations given in her favor have not been misapplied. Her daughter has proved a capable and devoted assistant in the work, which neither of them continues for the remuneration received—of which they are, in a good measure, independent, but out of deep sense of the importance of the work and of a felt call to it. The more they both are known the more they are valued. In as strong language therefore as it is proper to use it is desired to express satisfaction with the Matron, and to express also the hope that she may long be enabled and disposed to occupy her present post.

It became the desire of the individual referred to to be relieved from the charge and responsibility resting on him, and to give it over to others; accordingly two years ago the subscribers were organized as a society, pursuant to the seventy-first chapter of the

Consolidated Statutes of Canada, entitled an act respecting Charitable and Benevolent Associations, amended by the forty-third chapter (22 Victoria) of the Statutes of Canada. A committee was afterwards formed, and Mr. Taylor named president with the understanding and request that he should retain the management as previously, it being his conviction that with the aid of a really competent matron the work would be best carried on under the ultimate undivided responsibility of one person. So it has continued until this time, and this explanation accounts for the fact. He, of course, holds himself responsible to the Society, which is composed of the persons first associated by name, and of all other persons who have contributed fifty dollars each. During these four years three reports have been published and circulated, a few copies of which are on the table.

As to the year now ending more particular details have to be given, and at this time to this specially called assembly any inquiries will be answered, and the fullest possible information afforded, it being anxiously desired that the character and work and ways of the Home may be known, and that not only the subscribers of the money to carry it on, but the ladies of Montreal may have more knowledge of the really important and useful work which it is doing, so that there may be secured more of their sympathy and cooperation. To this end pray let it be quite understood that the Home will be always open to the visits of ladies, and the Matron will be always thankful for any useful suggestions or assistance which they may be good enough to afford. Sympathy and encouragement are really very much needed in a work so full of difficulty and discouragement as, in respect of many of its details, this work is, and needing so much delicacy of action, good judgment, tact and love, as well as decision and discipline on the part of those who carry it on.

There is no rule of exclusion of women who go away and seek to come in again, and there have been instances of their being received the third, fourth and fifth time; and much must depend upon the individual case in its character and circumstances; but admitting hardened ones who have been in and out several times is found hurtful to the less depraved. On the other hand there

have been good results of applying the principle of the words of the Saviour as to forgiveness "Until seventy times seven." How also to adjust and balance the claims and advantages, sometimes conflicting as they seem to be, of this and other institutions, to meet the best interests of cases as they arise of varied class and character is also difficult. Nor is any rule applied in these cases. Wisdom and grace are needed, and these, it is believed, are sought and obtained, and lead to the best results. It is therefore more a work of faith and labor of love, than of organization machinery and rules: though it is hoped that good judgment is applied.

A number of confinements, sometimes of necessity owing to the Lying-in-Hospital being closed, and in other cases by arrangement, have occurred here, and the services in this respect of Drs. Trenholme, F. W. Campbell, Bessey, Reed and Nelson are gratefully acknowledged. Several other medical men have attended in special cases which had been arranged previously by themselves. Dr. Nelson by his donation of \$50 has become a member of the Society, and Dr. Reed with a donation of \$10 writes—"Please accept the enclosed trifle for the Home from one who has seen the admirable management of the Institution."—These number 26 this year. There was one death from fever, which happily did not affect others. This has been the only death in the Home during the five years, though there have been 32 cases of child-birth. Indeed the health of the inmates has been remarkable. So also is their good conduct and their kindness generally to each other. There have been exceptions; but the wonder is that the Home itself and its retired street are so orderly and quiet. All these are ways in which we have to recognize God's gracious care of this Home.

The scarcity of domestic servants and the high wages offered draw many out too soon—the demand and high wages offered for wet nurses are a temptation to girls to go out in that capacity, whose reformation would be better accomplished if they stayed longer in the Home.

Sometimes women are sent out usefully for a few weeks or more when required in special exigencies in families. The following letter is from a gentleman in whose house one of the inmates spent a month as nurse.

She has been of very great service to us, and as all mortals are selfish, we will be sorry to see her go. She is a good-hearted, honest woman; she may have failings of a serious nature, but we have not seen them. I feel satisfied that if we had had servants of her stamp for the past few years, I would have had money saved. We are very much obliged to the *Home* authorities for being so kind as to allow us to have her valuable services in the time of sickness. I trust that she will never fall into her former habits; but if she should do so, I would be willing to do my best for her.

Here may come in part of a letter from Mrs. T. M. THOMSON, whose visits to the Home have this year been greatly missed, and who, writing to Mrs. Gowan from Lausanne, says:

"You may be sure I have been thinking of you and of the great work you are engaged in, many a time since I parted with you. Our good friend Mrs. F. has most kindly given me good news of you in her letter. I long to hear about the dear girls in the Home. Let me know about H—; does she continue her labor of love amongst the outcasts? Can you report to me any good thing of L—? Remember, we had great hopes of her this spring. Biddy comes next in my thoughts; talkative and plausible as she was, still we hoped that some good seed had got down. May be the one nearest my heart is our "old Molly," my soul yet goes after this poor sin-loving creature. I remember a good many of the others; give me some of their names and tell me of their doings, and be sure to tell me how you are strengthened to go on in this great work. Is it not the Lord's work you are engaged in and will he not fight your battles when the enemy comes in like a flood?

The following are extracts from the Matron's private journal, which is looked over every year for the purpose of making such extracts concerning the inmates.

No. 314.—A farm servant, who had been seduced, was afraid of her father's anger, fled from home and arrived in this city without a cent. The kind-hearted lady of the hotel she went to, kept her all night, and next day brought her here, paying her cab fare. This is the second girl this lady has brought in the same way.

No. 316.—Married woman, aged 34, who, on account of her drunken habits, was separated from her husband and family. She came from the jail, and was admitted here. Fearing she might have liquor with her, I made a search, and found in her pocket, a bottle of a vile compound labelled "Old Rye."—She remained for a short time and then left.

No. 318.—A very worthless woman who lives most of her time in prison. She said "she thought she would like to try the Home" Behaved very well indeed the first week, then began to be restless; at last said she "had to go out to see about her old mother who lived alone. She could stay in the Home and do well if mother was with her." I told her to bring her mother in the hope that her mind would be settled. She did so, but I found her such

a filthy-tongued depraved old woman, that I could not allow her to speak to the other young girls, and was very glad when she left.

No. 320.—A Governess who was brought to the Home. Seduced by her master. She wished to keep up a correspondence with him, which I could not allow here. She refused all Christian counsel, would not listen to the reading of God's Word, so that I told her I could not have her here merely to attend to her *bodily* wants. She was a very hardened girl, possessed with the demon of ill-temper; she raged at her "friend" for not coming to see her, and left the Home saying she "did not wish to be told of her sin as she had not sinned with her eyes shut."

323.—A young English widow, who, after her husband's death, came to this country, fell in with bad company and got sent to jail. I brought her from there to the Home. She was a well-behaved clever woman, her conduct was very good, is now in service, and has not the look of a "forlorn woman" now.

No. 324.—Aged 20, was brought here at midnight by a doctor. The Lying-in-Hospital was closed on account of fever there. She applied to him and he very humanely drove her here in a cab. I asked him to stay that night and attend her, which he did. A few hours after her child was born. The poor girl was quite destitute, having no money nor clothing for herself or child. Had spent all to support herself, and hoped to get into the Lying in-Hospital, when she found it shut. Had the unhappy creature found no open door, surely there would have been an accountability somewhere, if she had been found dead in some dark corner of our streets.

No. 326.—A destitute widow who was sent by a christian lady, from Quebec to the Home, in the hope that something could be done for her and her two children. The mother was placed in a situation and now pays for her children in the Infant's Home.

No. 331.—A very smart looking young girl of whom sergeant Nelson of the Police told me, was about to be sent to prison for a month, for the first time. I asked the Recorder to let me have her, and he kindly did so, after giving her some good advice. At that time we had a carpenter doing some work here, and when he saw her come in with me, he knew her, and after she had gone to her room, he told me he had seen her where he had been working a week before at a lady's house, where she was the servant. I went at once to the lady, who was overjoyed to find her, as she had been with her from a child, and had been allowed to go to a moonlight excursion, when she got into bad company. The lady came immediately to the Home, and then there was such a meeting. The poor girl wept and kissed my hands again and again, then went away joyfully with her kind mistress. I believe the Lord directed me to go to the Court that day.

No. 346.—A very gentle girl who came from the General Hospital, and during her stay here gave unmistakeable evidences of a renewed spirit. She has been restored to her parents, and is, I am sure, a true disciple of Jesus.

No. 348.—A drunken servant girl, whom the Recorder kindly gave to

me instead of sending her to prison. After a stay of some months in the Home, was sent to service, and did well for a few months, but has gone to "wallow in the mire again."

No. 356.—A country servant girl who was sent here from Ottawa,—was very quiet, had her child in the Home, and is now in service. Her friends write very gratefully for the interest and care we have taken in her well doing.

No. 358.—In the Home three times before. Still here.

No. 359.—A young married woman. Had been a respectable servant, and married a soldier, who, after taking all her savings, deserted her. She had worked as long as she could, and then had to sell her clothing for her support. Is a Roman Catholic. In her distress she was told by a woman to go to the Home, and she would not be turned away as she had been by her priest. When I took the poor dejected girl in, apparently oppressed by the languor of privation and ill health, I asked her who the woman was who sent her, and assured her of shelter here. She did not know, but I sent her next day to see the woman and ask her name. She came back saying the name was "Mrs. Thomson's Molly." How glad I was at this. I had lost sight of poor Molly, and had been seeking for her. Mrs. Thomson had been writing to me from Switzerland about several of the girls whose welfare she had at heart. "But nearest my heart is Molly, poor Molly, where is she?" she wrote. We are now able to tell that gentle and true friend of the unfortunate, that her protégé Molly is now the nurse in the Home, and the poor, heart-broken young woman she was the means of saving from starvation and perhaps worse, is our cook, and nursing her child here.

No. 360.—A quiet, simple girl who came here with a beautiful baby in her arms. As she wished to nurse it, I sent them to the Protestant Infants' Home. Shortly after she was sent from there back to her old mistress at Sorel, but the lady did not want the poor creature or her child, and sent them back to this city again. She came to me, and as she was sick I got her and the baby into the General Hospital. When she was well, Dr. Ross sent them again to the Infants' Home, where the child was taken but not the mother, who was sent to work out. The baby died soon after she left it. Seldom have I seen so much maternal love as was shown by this poor unfortunate girl for her offspring. She came back to our home again, and has been sent to her people. I am often sorry I sent her to the Infants' Home, as she begged me to let her stay here, and she would work for her board. Our want of room prevents me from complying with this request, which is often made. At one time we had nine women with infants, glad to be allowed to stay and nurse their own children, asking only their board and any little clothing I could give them, sewing and knitting too for the benefit of the Home. They took the cooking, washing, &c., by turns, were very agreeable, and I found the expense of keeping them comparatively light.

No. 372.—A poor, unhappy girl who came here in a very weak state, and suffering terribly from rheumatism. Had been hiding from her

mother, and had slept in a dark cellar. She seemed to have been brought up by flagellation. I believe that too tight a hand is certain to engender a disposition to rebel and run riot. I have seen many painful illustrations of this truth. She had an unenviable temper, ready to do battle with every one who spoke to her; but kindness and patience made a wonderful change. The saving method was carefully administered, and in a few months she became, by the Lord's help, docile, earnest and eager to hear the Scripture stories I used to tell her. When asked what she would like us to do for her, she would say: "I am yours, do what you like, nobody every cared for me before, and I never was so happy as I am now." Like many others whom I have had here, she showed a lamentable deficiency of the commonest rudiments of education, for their intellectual culture is but seldom attended to at their homes.

No. 373.—A young girl who had fallen from virtue in the old country came out here, her seducer promising to follow her in the spring. She had no relatives living, the last who died was her mother, who, she said was a Christian, and that her family were consumptive. She had a child here, and died of puerperal fever.

This is the only adult who has died in the Home since it was opened five years ago. We had great hope and comfort at her happy and triumphant death.

No. 377.—A girl who had been in service and seduced under promise of marriage. Her child was born here. Her married sister took home. She was a quiet, nice looking, obliging girl, and I doubt much if the fellow who ruined her can ever get a better wife than she. By what scale can the villain be measured, who, in the guise of an accepted lover, and bound by the closest ties to the girl who has relied on his honor and affection, can rob her of her virtue and cast her off as a worthless thing. The thought of her love or her agony is nothing to him, and yet every day we hear of such wretches marrying into respectable families, *their* virtue unquestioned. The touching details of suffering, misery and privation that I have listened to from their loving, trusting, credulous victims, makes me very bitter towards them.

No. 381.—A mild-tempered girl who was led astray and left her home and friends to hide her shame. Her seducer told her to go away and he would send her money. He wrote to her, but sent her no help, so she applied to our Home. He was written to from here, and sent her money to pay her lying-in expenses.

This injured girl, I feel confident, has laid her sins and sorrows at the feet of Jesus, as she gave many evidences of a new heart. She is one of the many encouragements the Lord has been pleased to give us this year.

No. 384.—One who had been seduced in the country, and came to Montreal. The kind hearted woman who sheltered her had heard of this Home and sent her here. She was a young, good-looking girl, and what she told me will show how quickly these simple, homeless girls can be picked up by the "enemy." She was looking around for the Home, on

another street near by, when a finely dressed woman spoke to her, and found out her story. "Oh," she said, "I am going to take up house and you can live with me. I'm waiting here for my "friend." He is an old gentleman, and lives in that house (pointing to it). He gives me plenty of fine clothes and money. I don't need to work, and you can be kept and dressed as I am if you like." The girl said she got frightened, thinking she must be one of the city bad women she had heard about. She got rid of her by going into a shop, and the temptress left her, saying she would go up to the Club and wait for her "friend." This agent of Satan sowed a great deal of evil seed in that young girl's heart, and who can tell what may spring up from it. Had she not found shelter here, she might have been led still further astray, but thanks to the Good Shepherd who watches the wanderings of the stray sheep, she is safe at present.

No. 394.—A little girl who was brought from the country as a servant by a lady; one day when she was out, a man enticed her into a house and ruined her; she went to a doctor and told him of her trouble, he brought her here.

No. 397.—A nice quiet girl who was in service in this city, seduced by a man who promised to marry her. She came into the Home believing that he would fulfil his promise, which I urged him to do, but he refused, and married another a few weeks after. Who has the deeper sin, the tempter or the tempted?

No. 399.—An inmate of the Home, four years ago, who went to a situation near Boston. When I parted from her at the railway station, she said "If God spares me, I shall come back in three years and let you see me. She often wrote telling me of her welfare, and three years afterwards, as she promised, she came to see me, and "her old home." She staid two weeks, bought and made some useful clothing for herself, and gave a donation of seven dollars to the Home. She returned to her situation—This girl had led a reckless life for two years, but she had such a determined spirit and firmness of purpose, that I thought her an object worthy of our best efforts. We had some difficulty with her at first, but have learned almost not to know what a difficulty means. It was thought by some that she would be the last to reform, but He who said "The last shall be first and the first last," has been pleased to establish my hope in her future.

No. 406.—A destitute girl who came from the country expecting to be taken into the Lying-in-Hospital. In that she was disappointed, and, when wandering about the streets with her carpet bag in hand not knowing where to go, was met by one of our former inmates, who had herself been in the same condition, and who brought the girl to the Home. Impulses of the most genuine kindness prevail among these girls, that is among those who have made only the first step on the path of dishonor. Those who are more degraded, show a satanic desire to drag others down as low as themselves.

The saving of these young women, seduced, deserted and friendless,

can only be effected by a provisional Home such as ours with "an open door and a welcome." Without it they would only have to commit themselves to prison, where nothing is wanting to complete their general depravity, and the rescuing of these from the terrible consequences resulting from imprisonment with the vilest of their sex must have a good influence on the future of the city. This thought will occur to the mind of every well-thinking person, so that the importance of our work need not be insisted on. There is neither expensiveness nor superficialism in our effort, which is steadily, faithfully and mercifully, "seeking to save the lost." From the character of our work we are comparatively shut out from popular sympathy, and labour in the shade, yet it is owned and blessed by the Lord of the vineyard, and the Sun of righteousness has shone here on many a dark and apathetic heart.

Extracts from letters which serve to shew the feelings of women and their friends toward the Home.

From the mother of No. 280 (to her daughter.)

"You must have come through many trials, but thank God that He has brought you through so far. Do respect that kind lady Mrs. Gowan. If it had not been for her you would have been lost. Give my best respects to her."

From the mother of No. 285.

"My trouble with her has nearly crazed me. I never expect to recover from it. You have my most sincere thanks for your kindness."

From No. 285.

"Not a day passes but I think of you and of your kind instructions. I hope I may be permitted to come and see you sometime. I would like to have your picture so much, and will send you mine. I remember you as you used to look, and wish I had wings that I might often come and look in on you. I never forgot to keep my promise, and read my precious Bible that you gave me. I sometimes wonder at the change that has come over me, and am thankful that I have strength through Jesus to overcome temptations. I often think of faithful H. Give my love to her, and tell her that her example of patience has had some effect."

From No. 25.

I hope to come and see you all next summer. Please let me know how my tree is growing that I planted at the window. I have been away four years now, and I wonder if I will see as great a change in it as you will see in me. What a comfort the Bible has been to me, that you gave me. The little hymn book is pretty well worn out. I have become very happy for I feel that the Lord has forgiven me my sins."

From No. 375.

"I was very kindly received in my new home; I am well satisfied, and like the place much, and feel very grateful to you and Mr. T—to whom please remember me."

From the sister of 356.

It is a great comfort to poor mother to know that poor Mary has such a kind friend in you, and that you will look after her as a mother. She says the Lord will bless you, and she hopes Mary will be grateful for your kindness to her. I cannot express what a relief it is to me that she is under your care. Mother shed tears of thankfulness over the letter, your kindness to my sister is the greatest comfort we can have at this trying time."

From No. 364.

"Dear Mrs. Gowan,—I received your letter in due time, and mother says it is no wonder that I long so for a letter, it is so cheering and comforting. Oh I feel so incompetent for that blessed work that my heart yearns to be engaged in. The 45th hymn in the Hymnal is a dear prayer to me.—I hope that you do not need to be up much at night, for you cannot stand that, but I have one comfort, I know that the Lord is always with you to bless you, and do you good. Please accept my sincerest affection and interest in the Home, dear to many a sin-stricken girl."

From No. 346 to No. 360.

"Dear Maggie,—I think of you every day, and often I wonder when I am in bed at night if Maggie has gone to sleep casting all her cares and sorrows on Jesus, who is mighty to save to the uttermost all who come unto Him. "Be ye followers of God as dear children." Remember that is the last verse you and I said together in the Home. If Mrs. Gowan has not time to write for you to me, you might get B. to write. Give my love to all the girls."

From the sister of No. 356.

"Dear Mrs. Gowan, I received your note last evening. In my last letter I advised Mary to remain in Montreal, and I do so still. Mother thinks it is best for her to stay there, she says it makes her trouble lighter to know that Mary has such a friend in you, and I feel thankful that the Almighty has cast her lot under your care, and I sincerely pray that she will be grateful for your kindness to her, and hope she will ask your advice in everything before she acts."

To No. 376 from her sister.

"My Dear sister,—I have just received a letter from Miss B., she says you are well and look happy, I am so glad to get such good news. How shall I thank God enough for sending you such a kind friend as Mrs. Gowan, and when she gets you a place in the spring, do try and stop, and see what a credit you can be to her yet. Please give my love to the kind lady who is caring for you."

THE TOTAL number admitted since the Home opened.....407
 Total number admitted since May, 1872..... 94

OCCUPATIONS.

Married women and widows.....	9
Domestic servants.....	37
Farm ".....	3
Factory girl.....	1
Seamstress.....	2
Stewardess.....	1
Weaver.....	1
Governess.....	1
Infants.....	26
Imbecile, 1 ; Deaf mute 1.....	2
Of no occupation.....	11
	<hr/>
	94
	<hr/>
Sent to friends.....	13
" " Service.....	30
" " General Hospital.....	2
" " Deaf Mute Institution.....	1
Left of their own accord.....	10
Expelled.....	1
Died	1
In the Home.....	10
Infants of Inmates.....	26
	<hr/>
	94

INCOME FOR THE YEAR.

According to Matron's accounts:

Received contributions.....	\$ 52 00
" for board (from Inmates.).....	238 50
" " Work.....	325 00
" " Sales of work.....	24 25
	<hr/>
	\$639 75

EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR.

According to Matron's accounts:

Paid for Cartage.....	\$ 7 15
" " Groceries.....	59 59
" " Provisions.....	84 70
" " Beef, &c.....	103 22
" " Milk.....	29 26
" " Clothing and Dry goods.....	38 35
" " Repairs, \$9.43 ; wages, \$44.45.....	53 88
" " Fuel and light.....	137 05

Paid for Materials and Postage.....	5 21
“ “ Furniture.....	42 10
“ Treasurer, Cash*.....	79 24
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	\$639 75

*This includes Mr. Moseley's contribution given to Mrs. Gowan, but acknowledged separately in the Treasurer's account.

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED BY MRS. GOWAN AT THE "HOME."

CASH.

Mrs. Alexander MacDougall.....	\$ 2 00
Dr. F. W. Campbell.....	2 00
No. 252, inmate.....	2 00
Messrs. H. Shorey & Co.....	5 00
Mrs. D. Sinclair.....	1 00
Mrs. James Moodie.....	2 00
Mrs. Jamieson.....	1 00
Mr. E. V. Moseley.....	20 00
Dr.R. { "Wellwisher".....	5 00
{ "A Friend".....	5 00
Inmate No. 399.....	7 00
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	\$52 00

DONATIONS.

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

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

T. U., 200 lbs *Beef*.

Mr. Alex. Rough, *Cakes and Buns*.

Mr. C. Alexander, a *Turkey*.

Mrs. Durnford, *Cakes at Christmas*.

Mrs. Claxton, 2 *Turkeys and Pork*.

Mrs. John Dougall, *Sofa, Invalid Chair and Carpets*.

Mrs. J. D. Dougall, a *Couch*.

Mrs. T. M. Taylor, *Chickens*.

Mrs. T. M. Thomson, \$5 for *Christmas Dinner*.

Mr. Lovell's liberality in printing this report, as former ones, without charge, is gratefully acknowledged.

Two girls leaving the Home this year wrote as follows to the writer of this Report:

Montreal, Feb. 14th, 1873.

I now return my sincere thanks to you for your kindness to me both spiritual and temporal. I have experienced great happiness and benefit from your Sunday instructions and poor girls can never be thankful enough for this dear home that hides them from the world, and where they can reform

and learn the way of the truth and life eternal. O! what a blessing that God put it into your hearts to open such a Home as this. I can speak from five months experience, I can assure you that it is not dear Mrs. Gowan's fault if girls do not reform here. She does read the word of God and explain it so plain and warn us so sincerely; that I believe any one leaving here and forgetting her instructions that their condemnation is sure indeed. Pen cannot describe what a happy experience I have had here of the Lord's long-suffering, not willing that any should perish, and now I leave here with my hope built on nothing less than Jesus, blood and righteousness. And in a temporal respect I have been very comfortable in every respect; indeed there is nothing but perfect order and peace here, and nothing else would be allowed, and this house being built on the rock, Jesus Christ being the chief corner stone, is the grand secret of all the peace and joy that is experienced here.

I now bid you farewell hoping to meet you and dear Mrs. Gowan in heaven, with crowns of glory filled with Jewels and all the redeemed of the Lord.

Accept my sincere thanks, and the Lord's blessing rest with you and your family for ever and ever.

The other:

"As I expect to leave here before another Sunday, I write to thank you for your kind advice and instruction to all in the Home, and I pray God will bless it in the future as he has done in the past, and all connected with it. This is the experience of one about to leave it to contend with sin and temptation, but with hope in the Lord to strengthen me."

Funds.—The financial position is—Building, paid for, \$3000 in City Bonds—which it is every way desirable should be untouched. The account for the present year (just closed) is as follows, and it is matter of gratitude that when money is needed and asked for it is obtained.

THE FEMALE HOME SOCIETY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE
TREASURER.

CR.		
1872.		
May 1.	Balance as reported this day.....	\$168 34
July	Mr. T. M. Thomson	\$100 00
	C. A.....	5 41
	R. B.....	2 50
	Mrs. Redpath... .	50 00
Sept.	J. Date	20 00
1873.		
Jan.	A. B. C.	10 00
	H. Utting	4 00
Feb.	Mr. John McLennan	25 00
	Mr. E. V. Moseley.....	20 00

April	Mr. Gilbert Scott	100 00	
	Mr. Hugh McLennan.....	50 00	
	C. A.	5 00	
	Wolfred Nelson, M.D.	50 00	
	Mr. Laird Paton	24 00	
		<u> </u>	465 91
	From a Brother for the support of his Sister		96 00
	Coupons, being Interest on Bonds.....		90 00
	From the Matron	30 00	
		24 00	
		5 24	
		<u> </u>	59 24
			<u> </u>
			\$379 49
—			
Dr.	Water Tax		\$18 00
	Mr. Date's account for plumbing.....		19 53
	Provisions, J. D. & Co.....	57 45	
		10 40	
		10 30	
		3 40	
		24 50	
		<u> </u>	106 05
	Groceries, J. K.....	126 95	
		14 40	
		22 53	
		50 00	
		<u> </u>	213 88
	Insurance	4 00	
	Do. for two years	24 13	
		<u> </u>	28 13
	Repairs to House		48 00
	Coals		36 75
	Cooking Stove		30 00
	Mrs. Gowan	50 00	
		125 00	
		<u> </u>	175 00
	Miss Gowan.....	50 00	
		50 00	
		<u> </u>	100 00
			<u> </u>
			275 00
			<u> </u>
			\$775 34
	Balance in Treasurer's hands.....		104 15
			<u> </u>
			\$879 49

Montreal, April 30, 1873.

It is a part of this work to follow the girls wherever they go with interest and sympathy, so as to perpetuate in their experience the benefits of the "Home" influence; if, therefore, they go to the Lying-in-Hospital, or the General Hospital, or the Infants' Home, or to situations in town or country or back to their own homes, it is desired that their connection with this Home should not, in their minds, be severed. That many of them have affection for the Home, which continues long after they have left, is proved by letters and by messages and visits. Extracts from some of these letters are printed, but it must not be supposed that extracts are made from all the letters received, for there is so much sameness in them that it would be tedious to read them all. Moreover many of the women are unable to write, and many of course pass entirely out of knowledge. But even with those whose whereabouts is known, correspondence of this kind, onerous but useful, is a considerable part of the matron's labors.

The number who remain in the Home for any considerable length of time is now not large, owing mainly to the demand for female servants, but the number passing through is not decreasing, nor is there any falling off in interest and value of the work.

The first two years there were reported.....	134
The third year.....	81
The fourth do.....	83
The fifth do.....	94
	<hr/>
	392
Including infants, to which also add readmissions.....	15
	<hr/>
	407

According to the Matron's Register.

They have come of their own accord from town and country; some sent by ladies, and some by doctors. Some are sent by the Recorder instead of being sent to jail: the younger and less hardened, such as he feels need the Home rather than the jail. Some are brought by parents, others by their seducers. Some have fled across the sea, or from the States, and brought hither by kind policemen or cabmen, have found this a home when they had none other. Occasionally one comes from houses of ill-fame, or from the lock ward of the hospital. They seek our door, some by

day, and some by night. There are many instances of failure and discouragement—hard cases as well as softer ones—some difficult to deal with, and others easy. Imperfect material and imperfect workers! there must in some cases be mistake and failure and disappointment. But encouragements do indeed abound. It is our desire to acknowledge God as working in grace to accomplish these. And to Him be the praise of any real blessing which poor fallen ones—in a double sense fallen ones—have obtained within these doors.

This report is made to serve for the special meeting of ladies held under the following notice, the object of which is to give the fullest possible information of the work of the Home, and more fully to engage their interest therein: Notice—a Meeting of Ladies interested in the work of the Female Home, will be held at the "Home," 480 Upper Seigneurs Street, on Wednesday afternoon, the 7th May, at three o'clock. All are invited. And also for the proper annual meeting of subscribers to the Home, and members of the Female Home Society, held under a similar notice, both signed by the President.

The Home card is:

The Female Home, a Refuge for young women, Mrs. GOWAN Matron, 480 Upper Seigneur Street—off Dorchester street, West. An open door and a welcome.

As to the meeting of ladies it may be said in addition to the following notice of the *Witness* reporter:

THE FEMALE HOME.—A meeting of ladies interested in the work of the Female Home was held at the Home yesterday afternoon: The attendance was fair. Several ladies connected with other kindred institutions were also present. Mr. T. M. Taylor occupied the chair and read the report of the work for the past year. At the close of the meeting, those present were invited to look over the Buildings. Everything seems to be in good order, reflecting much credit on the matron.

That there were present: Mesdames Moffatt, Durnford, John McLennan, Claxton, Molson, G. Ferrier, Baylis, Scott, Lovell, C. Brown, Taylor, Nelson, Hatton and Shaw, Miss Hervey and others. In conversation which followed the reading of this Report, some of these ladies expressed regret that there had not been more sending out to the Lying-in-Hospital instead of

allowing so many confinements in the Home. Others, that infants and their mothers, also, were not more frequently sent to the Protestant Infants' Home. Others, again, that the Home was not more open to women from the jail which hindered the Bible woman's work for that class. These ladies were connected with these three Institutions and efforts, whose objects they were naturally desirous of promoting.

It was replied as to the *first* of these, that several times when the Lying-in-Hospital had been closed women had been obliged to come to the Home; that the greater privacy of the Home was desired by the younger women: that the influence of the Home over them was more complete by allowing their confinement within its walls; and that the choice of the women was to be allowed if they were able to pay for medical attendance, which they did in most cases; but that, nevertheless, as this was only an incidental part of the Home work, it would be quite the desire of the Home to send cases to the Lying-in-Hospital without applying any invariable rule either way.

As to the *second*, it was replied that if children of nominally Roman Catholic women as well as Protestants would be received at the Protestant Infants' Home it would probably be advantageous to both institutions. It would certainly be a relief and comfort to the matron of this Home, and the ladies of the Protestant Infants' Home were asked if they would consent to receive *all children* that might be sent from the Female Home. This suggestion they promised to consider.

As to the *third*, it was replied that the Female Home was open in its true sense to all. There were instances of second, third, and fourth admissions; but that in some instances jail women, hardened and hurtful to the others, could not be admitted again. The interests and good discipline of the Home required this decision. If there are jail women of this known character, or others of them unwilling to come to the Home, the fault is their own; but if there are any considerable number of these who could be gathered into a Home, that would be a good reason for opening one in the East-end of the town, and it would be a worthy effort to do so. We would wish it all success. And this Home would go on in its own

quiet way doing what its management judges to be wisest and best.

The annual meeting of the members of the Society called upon the following notice: The annual meeting of the members of the Female Home Society will be held in the Committee room of the Mechanics' Hall, on Saturday, 10th May, at three o'clock. Signed by the President, (Montreal, May 5, 1873), was held at the hour and place intimated, but only Messrs. John McLennan, T. J. Claxton, and T. M. Taylor were present. No formal meeting was held. The Management therefore remains as last year:

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