

27
TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE TORONTO

MAGDALENE ASYLUM :

OR

Industrial House of Refuge.

JANUARY, 1881.

TORONTO :

DUDLEY & BURNS, PRINTERS, 11 COLBORNE STREET

1881.

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TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TORONTO MAGDALENE ASYLUM,
OR,
INDUSTRIAL HOUSE OF REFUGE.

FEBRUARY, 1881.

The friends and supporters of this Institution have a just claim to an annual report, which we now cheerfully render, and, in regard to statistics, we trust it will be found satisfactory. Our machinery moves on successfully ; our work bears and solicits inspection ; our treasury has not been exhausted ; neither have our efforts been relaxed, nor have our prayers ceased. All this is so far well, and will probably be all that is expected from the general public, whose representative agents we are, in the interests of morality, virtue and reformation. The Managers again thank the subscribers for their continued support, the more gratefully acknowledged, inasmuch as the results may not appear to be commensurate with the money contributed. What good has been done, or what is now doing, equivalent to expenditure and labour involved? the question is very reasonable, but most difficult to answer, requiring great caution and limitation. We ask our friends, therefore, while we lay our report before them, that they will kindly consider the nature of our work, and sympathize with us in its difficulties and discouragements. We appeal very specially to the Christian people of the city to hold up our hands by prayer, and to relieve us of anxiety in regard to pecuniary support. The present is the twenty-sixth annual report, and is this Institution less needful than it was a quarter of a century ago? Is immorality less flagrant? Is vice less dangerous? Have the causes and temptations been farther removed as our city extended its limits, and its suburbs have become populous? May we now close our subscription list, shut the door of our Asylum, convert our building into a district school, and use the balance in our treasurer's hands to erect a monument over buried evil ; an enemy conquered, and the land purified? Alas ! alas ! the dark shadow

still spreads over our city and province, larger rather than smaller; increasing population, and, (shall we say,) increasing prosperity have not held back or narrowed the onward tide of moral disease, but have rather made it flow more rapidly, so that we must not cease to raise barriers even higher and stronger than before. If past results have been scanty, compared to the extent of efforts and means, let us consider whether our faith has not been lacking. Have we trusted in God's faithfulness to His promises, and to the omnipotence of His word and Spirit? Have we believed that His mercy is free to receive such outcasts; that it is rich enough for their forgiveness, and sufficiently mighty for their conversion? During these past years of experience, we have learned no new way of reformation. While everything should be done to press upon the inmates the temporal evils of vice, and benefits of virtue, the duties they owe to God and to society, the possibility of regaining the esteem of others, and their own self-respect, still this would be only half way, or a beginning at the wrong end, failure would prove how defective the plan. It is the Gospel and *its* message that is to change the heart, and the Bible way of getting at the heart is to tell the story of the Cross, to exhibit its terrors, and attractions in all their Divine simplicity; to hold forth day after day the boundless love of a sin-hating, but sin-pardoning God; the preciousness of a Divine Saviour; the efficacy of His blood, and the unfettered, universal freedom of His grace. It is this omnipotence of love, this mighty, melting power of the Cross that can soften the hardest heart, and convert "the chief of sinners." In glancing over the different ages of those who have been sheltered, what various phases we have of female delinquency; the calendar is a sad one; in one, we have crime in its incipient form, in another, the verdict is "habit and repute," while a third marks confirmed hardness and almost hopeless degradation; but whether we receive the younger or the older, it is satisfactory to know that not one comes under the roof, without being brought into contact with influences favourable to reform, while such as are persuaded to remain for a year or longer, on probation, are the most likely to regain their health, or form stability of purpose, habits of industry, and with the blessing of God, to find their place in society, not as *burdens*, but as useful members. Compliance with our probationary term tests the sincerity of the applicant, and it is on our part a guarantee we owe to those who employ them.

In dealing with the women, it is perhaps wise not to dwell much upon the past—minute details cannot be healthful (morally) to the narrator, nor edifying to the listener. Oh, that in each case it were a forgotten past! Let fall over the dark record, not a veil but a thick curtain. Perhaps the first kind appeal to the feeble remnant of self-respect, inspires a new hope, and a higher motive; no sooner is a fallen sister across the threshold of our Home than she

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is within the grasp of the helping hand of mercy and encouragement ; she inhales a purer atmosphere, and the moral waste may be repaired or restored.

On the 1st of January, 1880, there were 40 inmates under our care, including these, there have been 75 admissions, 8 re-admissions, making the total number 115. All these have had the benefit of shelter, protection and encouragement during the year, for a shorter or longer period. Thirty-six left of their own accord, 4 were dismissed, 1 to the Infants' Home, 1 to her friends, 2 to the Insane Asylum, 17 to service ; of these a good many have given satisfaction ; *three* were sent to the General Hospital, and *four* to the Burnside. There has always been difficulty in regard to receiving this latter class. Exceptional cases have been admitted, showing that the Board have exercised judgment, discrimination and kindness ; but this Institution was not intended for, neither is it adapted to, persons in such circumstances, who come to the *Home*, not for *reform*, but for *convenience* ; their admission exerts an unfavorable influence on those who are more directly the objects of the charity. This subject, however, is well worthy of continued consideration, and should not be laid aside or smothered. Let the wise Christian philanthropist look at it and suggest some suitable provision. Might the difficulty not be met by relaxing considerably the present regulations of the Burnside Institution, so as to give earlier admission to the applicants ? There are remaining in the Home 43. The greater number of the women have found their way from the city ; *two* foreigners are on our list ; others may be ranked as wanderers from some of the Provincial towns or neighborhood. The ages run from 13 to 63. Twenty-four above 40 ; twenty-four between 20 and 30. Such is the calendar of wasted lives ! We cannot appeal to public sympathy or benevolence, on the ground of merit or innocence, or providential dealings, or mental weakness, or bodily infirmity or sickness ! Alas, no ! *Nothing* in the way of commendation ! On the very contrary, we have to do with ignorance, and sin and vice and depravity, in many forms, more or less modified, and in taking hold of such unfortunate cases we have to view the work as the Saviour views it, with an eye of compassion, and, like Him, stretch down our hand to the lowest depth ; and, when the first step is taken upward, let us beware of "breaking the bruised reed, or quenching the smoking flax ;" for in lifting up, how much care and caution and guardianship are needed ! There is such a tendency to slip down again, to return to old familiar evil ways, even despite of all their bitter consequences ; and here, mark the benefit and necessity of having an Asylum provided, to which the poor wanderer may be transferred and welcomed, where, in a new atmosphere, under the rule of kindness, and patience and prayer, she may become acclimatized to what is good, and useful and healthful. This is the work of time, and hence our efforts to

make a term of probation. We owe something to the public, and do not feel warranted to recommend for situations those who have had only a few days, or weeks or even months, in the Institution. The liberty of going out and in might fill our Home with inmates, but would do nothing in the way of moral reform.

The efficiency and success of the Home have been greatly promoted by the regular weekly supervision of the Lady Visitors, whose advice and countenance are very helpful to the Matrons, as well as to the inmates. Let them not weary in this labor of love, implying, as it does, considerable inconvenience and self-denial. Let them always come in their Master's name with a tear of sympathy and a word in season of compassion. Some necessary repairs and improvements for the building laid a great deal of extra work on one or two members of the Board, and it is only due to them to thank them for their kind superintendence over the work, the successful execution of which required professional and mechanical skill.

To the lady collectors, as to the subscribers, we again render grateful thanks for their indispensable services; without these our machinery must stand still, for we are dependent upon effort and benevolence. Money oils the wheels, and helps us to work heartily, but in order to gather it, our friends have to spend a good many hours, and travel a good many steps. We are getting the benefit in the meantime; by-and-by they shall have their reward.

Our warmest thanks are due to Dr. Britton, for his gratuitous medical attendance and advice. There have been no special cases of sickness among the inmates, other than might be expected in such an Institution. No death has to be recorded.

The diet and internal comfort of the inmates have been attended to as far as the economical appropriation of the funds will admit of. The necessary repairs in the laundry, and the improvement of the ground have incurred some extra expense, but we have to bear in mind, that besides the direct benefit arising from *good order*, arrangement and efficient machinery; contact with all these healthful appliances must have an influence for good; therefore it is desirable that from the very threshold, all the surroundings should be calculated to subdue, to refine, to elevate, to cheer. The proceeds for the year's work washing and sewing amount to \$1358 34.

Our excellent Matrons, Mrs. Spence and Miss Drennan are still with us, assiduously labouring, waiting, watching, praying. We cannot really estimate the difficulties of their position; their daily routine of duties requires a very large measure of wisdom, patience, tact and observation; head and hands and heart being the regulating powers in the establishment, the experience of to-day may not serve for to-morrow, for each new case bears some different phase or accompaniment—modification or aggravation, requiring fresh energy and special treatment. The Committee have always found these

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ladies wise and ready co-operators, and to the inmates they have been kind and sympathizing friends.

It may easily be understood how much the peace and prosperity of the Institution depend upon the tone and temper of the internal government—mild but firm, compassionate but very discriminating—ever alert, never weary. Religious privileges are enjoyed on Sabbath and on week days. None come within these walls without hearing the gospel message. None leave without having incurred increased responsibility. To ministers and other Christian friends we desire to express our sense of their continued kindness in devoting an hour on the Lord's day and at other times, to speak a word in season to "the poor and needy." In sowing beside all waters, they know not in what corner the harvest will be found, but *this* they know, the word of God shall not return unto Him void, it shall accomplish that for which it was sent.

In regard to the continued usefulness of this Institution, and the maintaining of its proper place among the moral and religious appliances of our city, we desire to feel more than ever, that all our plans and efforts are of little avail unless God is working with us and we are working with God. If by the Divine blessing on our labours, one wanderer has been brought back, one heart softened, one fallen sister lifted up, one soul saved, "not unto us, not unto us, but unto God be the glory." Every new case lays upon us fresh responsibility, and without the Gospel in our hand, and the love of Christ in our heart, we need not begin the work of reformation. In dealing with vice in its varied colours and degrees, how much wisdom and patience and tenderness are needed! All things are possible with God; He alone can touch the conscience, lighten the burden, strengthen the weak purpose and forgive the blackest sin, and all this, is implied in the riches of sovereign grace and the triumphs of redeeming love.

The results of a year or more of probation have from time to time cheered us—excitement has been calmed down, the foul breath has been sweetened, the idle hands have become industrious, the poisoned ear and tongue have in some measure recovered their tone, and the troubled eye begins again to look around with subdued intelligence. The tinsel of vanity and rags of finery have been voluntarily laid aside and perhaps forgotten, while regained self-respect steadies the limb and nerves the arm, and a fellow-creature has been saved from moral wreck and eternal ruin.

ELZABETH B. BURNS,

Secretary.

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" Charles Dalton.....	1 00
" G. Morphy.....	1 00
" Rannie.....	1 00
" McCaul.....	1 00
" H. S. Northrop.....	1 00
" Robt. Ellis.....	50
" Murray.....	50
" Foggin.....	50
" J. Loman.....	5 00
" John Kerr.....	4 00
" Pat. Hughes.....	1 00
" Thompson.....	1 00

\$52 50

Collected by Mrs. Ewart.

Mrs. Gooderham, Senr.....	\$ 3 00
" John Leys, Junr.....	2 00
" Henry Gooderham.....	3 00
" Geo. Gooderham.....	2 00
" W. G. Gooderham.....	2 00
" E. Baldwin.....	2 00
" Oldwright.....	2 00
" Thomas Ewart.....	2 00
J. & J. Taylor.....	2 00
H. Christie.....	2 00
Swan Bros.....	2 00
W. & H.....	2 00
Mrs. Sanson.....	1 00
" Bryce.....	1 00
" Casley.....	1 00

Mrs. Worts.....	1 00
" J. Ross.....	1 00
W. J. Whitten & Co.....	1 00
F. A. Sherriff.....	1 00
Ross & Allen.....	1 00
Mrs. J. R. Lee.....	50
J. Davids.....	50
A Friend.....	50
A. Wheeler.....	50
— McIntosh.....	25

\$36 25

Collected by Mrs. Vandersmissen and Mrs. Ewart.

Mrs. J. H. Richardson.....	\$ 2 00
" Jos. Robinson.....	2 00
" John Bugg.....	2 00
Miss Vandersmitsen.....	2 00
Mrs. H. W. Baird.....	1 00
" Baldwin.....	1 00
" Vandersmitsen.....	1 00
" McGee.....	1 00
" John Downey.....	1 00
" C. Bain.....	1 00
" Fraser.....	1 00
" Cassels.....	1 00
" Millar.....	1 00
" M. Mitchell.....	1 00
" Treble.....	1 00
" J. D. Laidlaw.....	1 00
" Dr. Ellis.....	1 00
" C. Bain.....	1 00
" Craig.....	50
" Willson.....	50
M. E. Burnside.....	50
Mrs. Jennings.....	50
" Watson.....	50
" H. E. Hamilton.....	50
" Foster.....	50
" Taylor.....	50
" Newman.....	50
" Plummer.....	50
" Louden.....	50
" Dunning.....	50
A Friend.....	50
A Friend.....	50
Mr. T. H. Johnson.....	50
" Tolehard.....	50
Mrs. Graham.....	25
" Tompson.....	25
" C. Bansley.....	25
" Young.....	25
" Phillips.....	25
" R. Stark.....	25
" Munro.....	25
" Nikin.....	25

Miss Mathew	
A Friend..	
"	
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Collected by M

Mrs. D. Rich	
E. M. Lee..	
A friend ...	
J. Cotile...	
A. Noble...	
A friend...	
F. Claxton...	
Jas. Samo...	
Mrs. Telfer..	
Mrs. Taylor.	
Mrs. Caven.	
Mrs. Bowes..	
Mrs. Steiner.	
Mrs. Ryerson	
A friend....	
Mrs. Hall...	
Mrs. Dr. Aiki	
Miss Greig .	
A friend....	
Mrs. Potts...	
Mrs. Fred. Pl	
Mrs. W. H. V	
A friend....	
Mrs. Blain..	
Mrs. W. B. H	
Mrs. Coverto	
Mrs. W. Beat	
Mrs. D. M. I	
A friend....	
Mrs. Wilkes.	
Mrs. W. R. O	
Mrs. Morrison	
Mrs. Yorke .	
Dr. Workman	
Mrs. Inglis..	
Mrs. Heath..	
Mrs. Beament	
Mrs. Adam W	
A friend....	
G. Pearsall..	
A. Stevens..	
S. G.	
A friend....	
Mrs. Ankee..	
Dr. Geikie..	

Collected by Mrs. McGee.

Mrs. Byron Walker.....	\$ 1 00
" Woodbridge.....	1 00
" F. Richardson.....	5 00
A Friend.....	0 25
Mrs. Henderson.....	0 50
" Eastwood.....	0 50
" McKenzie.....	0 25
" Henry Howland.....	1 00
" Andrews.....	0 50
A Friend.....	0 50
Mrs. Maclean Howard.....	1 00
" Patton.....	1 00
Mr. McCaffray.....	0 25
Mrs. James Hughes.....	1 00
" Samuel Rose.....	0 50
" E. Stephenson.....	1 00
A Friend.....	0 50
Mrs. Legge.....	0 50
" E. H. Dewart.....	1 00
" H. Clark.....	1 00
" Winans.....	0 50
" J. Damer.....	0 50
" Boddy.....	0 50
" Shaw.....	0 50
" James Lobb.....	1 00
" Robert McGee.....	1 00
" Cooper.....	0 25
" Robert McLean.....	1 00
Mr. W. Copland.....	0 50
Miss Howard.....	2 00
Mrs. McGee.....	5 00
" Whitt.....	1 00
	<hr/>
	\$32 00

Collected by Miss Lumsden and Mrs. Gunther.

Mrs. Hugh Macdonald.....	\$ 2 00
" Topp.....	2 00
" S. Heward.....	5 00
" Betley.....	2 00
" Burton.....	1 00
Miss Noverre.....	0 50
" Craig.....	1 00
Mrs. Mackenzie.....	1 00

" Riddell.....	2 00
Miss Lumsden.....	1 00
	<hr/>
	\$17 50

Received since the accounts were closed.

Collected by Mrs. Powis.

C. Page & Sons.....	\$ 2 00
R. Merryfield.....	1 00
W. W. & Co.....	1 00
L. C.....	1 00
A Friend.....	1 00
Mrs. A. Reddington.....	1 00
" T. Webb.....	1 00
James Vanevar.....	1 00
Mrs. Dr. Ball.....	1 00
" Torrington.....	1 00
R. Jaffray.....	1 00
Rev. John Pearson.....	1 00
Mrs. Bell.....	0 25
" Morrison.....	0 50
" Douglas.....	1 00
" Fleming.....	1 00
" J. W. Drummond.....	7 00
Wm. Raylor.....	1 00
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	\$17 75
D. L. Thompson (Goods).....	1 00

DONATIONS.

Mr. Brown, basket of grapes.	
Miss Brown, vinegar and jar pickles.	
Mrs. Macdonald, basket of apples.	
" Kingsmill, apples and tomatoes.	
" Gunther barrel of apples.	
" D. L. Macpherson, turkey and goose.	
" John Kerr, goose and apples.	
" James Lesslie, barrel of apples.	
Mr. Tait, currant loaf and shortbread.	
" Huddy, pair of fowls.	
R. Walker & Sons, jacket and hoods.	
With Mrs. Milroy's compliments	\$5 00
One who wishes you God speed.	3 00
A former inmate (B. H.).....	1 00

..... 2 00
 1 00
 \$17 50

..... \$ 2 00
 1 00
 1 00
 1 00
 1 00
 1 00
 1 00
 1 00
 1 00
 1 00
 1 00
 0 25
 0 50
 1 00
 1 00
 7 00
 1 00

\$17 75
 1 00

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 turkey and
 apples.
 of apples.
 shortbread.

and hoods.
 nents \$5 00
 eed. 3 00
 1 00

ABSTRACT OF THE TREASURER'S ACCOUNT FROM 1ST JANUARY, 1880, TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1880.

19

<p>DR.</p> <p>To Balance from last year.....\$1,714 14 " Proceeds of Work..... 1,358 34 " Government and City Grants..... 848 48 " Subscriptions..... 1,313 62 " Interest on Bank Account..... 24 47 " Miscellaneous Income..... 130 05</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">\$5,389 10</p>	<p>CR.</p> <p>By Salary and Wages.....\$ 496 92 " Fuel..... 436 45 " Groceries and Provisions..... 1,752 13 " Dry Goods..... 231 70 " Boots and Shoes..... 60 02 " Balance of Mortgage paid off..... 400 00 " Water Rate..... 35 00 " Medicines..... 38 14 " Insurance..... 30 00 " Improvements and Repairs..... 443 73 " Furniture..... 39 81 " Sundries..... 240 61 " Balance..... 1,184 59</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: right;">\$5,389 10</p>
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Examined and found correct, showing a Balance of eleven hundred and eighty-four dollars and fifty-nine cents at the credit of the Institution on the 31st December, 1880.

DAVID MCGEE, Auditor.