

THE
FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HALIFAX ASSOCIATION

FOR

Improving the Condition of the Poor

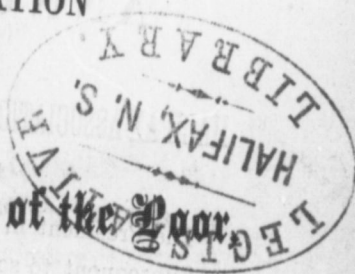
FOR THE YEAR 1867

WITH THE

BY-LAWS AND NAMES OF MANAGERS, VISITORS, &C!

ORGANIZED Decr. 27, 1866.

HALIFAX, N. S.:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM MACNAB,
1867.



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PROCEEDINGS
 AT THE
ANNUAL MEETING
 OF THE
HALIFAX ASSOCIATION FOR IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF THE POOR
 Held 29th November, 1867.

The President in the Chair.
 Subsequent to some preliminary remarks by the Chairman,
 The Report of the Central Board of Directors was read by the
 Secretary.

It was then

RESOLVED, That the Report just read be accepted, printed, and circulated
 under the direction of the Central Board.

The Association then proceeded to the election of the Officers,
 Managers, and Advisory Committees.

A vote of thanks was moved, seconded, and passed unani-
 mously, to the President and Office-bearers of the Association;
 and a special vote was accorded to E. D. Meynell, Esq., for his
 gratuitous performance of the duties of Secretary in the past year.

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- J. F. Avery,
- Geo. H. Starr,
- Jas. Thompson
- P. C. Hill,
- W. H. Neal,

The follo
services:

THE
HALIFAX ASSOCIATION

FOR

Improving the Condition of the Poor.

OFFICE-BEARERS.

President.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR.

Vice-President.

CAPTAIN DUNLOP, R. A.

Members of the Central Board.

J. F. AVERY, Esq., M. D., | JOHN DOULL, Esq.
 JOHN NAYLOR, Esq. | C. C. VAUX, Esq.

Treasurer.

W. S. STIRLING, Esq.

Honorary Secretary.

M. H. RICHEY, Esq.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

The first in order is the Chairman of each District Committee.

FIRST DISTRICT.	SECOND DISTRICT.	THIRD DISTRICT.	FOURTH DISTRICT.
<i>Wards One and Two</i>	<i>Wards Three & Four</i>	<i>Ward Four.</i>	<i>Ward Five.</i>
J. F. Avery, M. D. Geo. H. Starr, Jas. Thompson, P. C. Hill, W. H. Neal,	John Doull, A. Hattie, M. D. S. Selden, Hon. D. M. Parker. F. C. Mahon,	John Naylor, J. D. Longard, R. W. Fraser, Thomas Wesley, W. H. Harrington.	C. C. Vaux, M. H. Richey, E. Harrington, Jeremiah Northup, W. A. Hendry,

The following medical gentlemen have kindly volunteered their services:

DRS. BLACK,
 HATTIE,
 COWIE.

GOSSIP,
 THOS. ALMON.

VISITORS

Appointed by the Advisory Committees for the ensuing year.

FIRST DISTRICT.

Wm. Caldwell, junr.
R. N. Beckwith.
Dr. Woodill.
E. H. Reeves.
George McLean.
Samuel Noble.
John C. More
George Mitchell, junr.
W. D. Sutherland.
Capt. Dunlop, R. A.
Charles Stayner.
Clement Reynolds,
A. C. Cogswell.
Wm. Duffus.
John Watt.

SECOND DISTRICT.

Henry Sutherland.

B. H. Eaton.
George S. Bolton.
Joseph Townsend.
E. D. King.
F. C. Mahon.
Samuel Jordan.
J. McLaughlin
G. D. Martin.
M. Payne.
Lawson Fenerty.
John Fraser.
— Hetherington.
Shuben Woodill.
E. Morrison.

THIRD DISTRICT.

G. G. Grey.
D. Ellis.
John D. Longard.
George Bowes.

J. S. Richardson.
W. H. Harrington.
T. W. Johns.
W. N. Reeves.
J. S. McDonald.
John Thompson.
E. Jost.
T. Wesley.
W. Roche, junr.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

W. J. Marvin.
Peter Pierce,
H. Y. Clarke.
D. M. Sterns.
S. H. Harrington.
E. G. W. Greenwood.
J. F. Edwards.
D. H. Starr.
— Petterson.

Tables showing the boundaries of the several sections, with the name and address of the Visitor appointed to each, can be had by members at the office of the Secretary of the Association, 227 Hollis Street.

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REPORT.

THE Board of Directors of THE HALIFAX ASSOCIATION FOR IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF THE POOR, submit the First Annual Report of the operations of the Society with gratitude to God that in the past year so many have been led to unite with them in the Christian work of ameliorating the condition of the poor among us.

With heartfelt satisfaction they express their belief that the plan of systematic beneficence adopted and faithfully pursued in the first, and experimental, year of the Society's existence, has been attended with encouraging success; and they now feel justified in making an earnest appeal to the benevolent of every name to rally to the support of an Institution which has proved itself so well adapted in its arrangements to conduct the streams of liberality,—hitherto flowing freely, but in varied and irregular courses—into a channel where their united volume may be much more powerful and efficacious for good.

This Association was originated at a meeting held in the Young Men's Christian Association Rooms, on the 27th of December last, which was attended by a number of clergymen and laymen who felt the need of an organization to seek out and relieve the temporary distress of the deserving poor, and at the same time to operate as a check upon the vicious in their too generally successful schemes of imposture, and to repress the many evils which result from indiscriminate almsgiving. A resolution was there adopted, "That this meeting having had submitted to it the rules of a Society in New York for the relief of the Poor, resolve to establish an Association in Halifax on similar principles; that the city be divided into four Districts, and that there

be a local committee of five gentlemen and the clergymen of the Churches in the district as an Advisory Committee for each district; that a Central Board be appointed, consisting of a President, Vice President, and Treasurer, along with the Chairman of each Advisory Committee; and that in the meantime Revs. G. M. Grant, G. W. Hill, F. Almon, Dr. Pryor, R. A. Temple, and Captain Lyttleton be appointed a Committee to draft and print a Constitution for the Halifax Society; to secure suitable persons for the local committees, and a sufficient number of Visitors,—said committee and visitors to meet here with the President, Vice President, and Treasurer of the Central Board, on Friday, January 4th, 1867, at 8 o'clock p. m., to set the Society in working order." The Mayor was then requested to act as President of the Association; Captain Lyttleton as Vice President; W. Sawers Stirling, Esq., as Treasurer; and E. D. Meynell, Esq., as Honorary Secretary.

In accordance with the foregoing resolution, the committee and officers so appointed met on the 4th of January with a number of gentlemen who had signified their willingness to act either upon the Advisory Committees or as Visitors, and, before they separated, the Constitution, a copy of which is annexed, was adopted; and the Society was fully organized and prepared to go immediately into active operation.

The City was divided into four districts pursuant to Article VI. of the Constitution: the *first* district embracing Wards 1 and 2; the *second*, Wards 3 and 4; the *third*, Ward 5; and the *fourth*, Ward 6; each with an Advisory Committee consisting of gentlemen whose names appear in an appended list. A corps of nearly fifty Visitors volunteered for service and were at once apportioned among the several districts, and arrangements were formed with bakers, grocers, and dealers in fuel, in various parts of the city, to honor the orders of the Visitors for supplies. These orders are given upon blank forms issued by the Central Board and are at the end of each month checked by the Advisory Committee; to which each Visitor returns a schedule of the names of all persons relieved by him during the preceding month, with residence, occupation, character, and amount of relief given. These returns are brought before the Central Board at its month-

ly meeting, and voted in accordance with the Advisory Committee's report issued to the Society, under the name and address of the name and address of the professing deservent applicant, the ticket, the amount, and, if found deficient, added to the circuit given, a return of it is plain that the woes of his fellow-criminate donors yet has not the examine carefully his bounty while so comparatively few charities, if he fellow men accept.

The amount of the Society, a comparative of the goods regarded, is yet relief in the number particularly in compared with community now that has been established for the past year, and eighty unavoidably delayed printing and Visitors to afford ing wants of more than two thousand visits were paid.

ly meeting, and an appropriation for the ensuing month is then voted in accordance with a scale submitted by the Chairmen of the Advisory Committees. There are also printed cards or slips issued to the subscribers, with blanks which they fill up with the name and address of any applicant to them for relief, and with the name and address of the visitor in whose section the person professing destitution may live, and this being handed to the applicant, the member can rest assured that, upon presentation of the ticket, the case will be promptly and properly investigated, and, if found deserving of consideration, the kind of relief adapted to the circumstances will be at once afforded. If no relief be given, a return of the reason will be made. By means like these, it is plain that he who has it in his power to mitigate the woes of his fellow beings, but justly shrinks from making indiscriminate donations, lest he become the victim of deception, and yet has not the opportunity, and perhaps not the inclination, to examine carefully every case for himself, may be secure of having his bounty worthily dispensed. He is surely left without excuse, while so complete an organization exists for distributing his charities, if he fail to contribute to the wants of his less favored fellow men according as the Lord hath prospered him.

The amount received by the Treasurer since the formation of the Society, although affording great encouragement as indicative of the good-will with which the Association has been regarded, is yet small compared with what is needed to ensure relief in the numerous cases of temporary distress always arising, particularly in the winter season, in the City of Halifax; small compared with what we anticipate from the liberality of the community now that the proof of the beneficial working of the Society has been established. The sum total of the Treasurer's receipts for the past year (or eleven months) was one thousand five hundred and eighty-seven dollars and ninety cents. This amount was unavoidably drawn upon to a certain extent to meet the cost of printing and other incidental expenses. It has enabled our Visitors to afford at different times some alleviation of the pressing wants of nearly six hundred families, comprehending above two thousand persons, to whom on an average three distinct visits were paid.

The amount contributed by members and others has been mostly expended in the purchase of fuel and provisions for the needy; and the vouchers for the several payments are in the hands of the Treasurer. Donations in cash are discountenanced, we should say forbidden; but exceptional cases have presented themselves which seemed to justify a deviation from the rule, and relief in cash was in some instances afforded, amounting altogether to the sum of \$79.55. During the summer months the calls upon our funds have been few; but within the past month the necessity for the vigorous renewal of our benevolent enterprize has been made apparent, and further sums have consequently been allotted to the several local committees to carry them through the financial year.

The exact financial position of the Society will be learned from the accompanying statement by the Treasurer; and the jealous care which has been exercised in regulating the expenditure, so as always to preserve a balance in hand, will, no doubt, be regarded with satisfaction.

By the Constitution of the Society it is provided that the Annual Meeting of the Members shall be held in the month of November. The Directors have deemed it desirable that, after the present year, that meeting should be held as early in the month as possible, and have passed a by-law naming the 1st of November as the day for the Annual Meeting, except when that day falls on a Sunday, when the meeting will take place on the second of the month.

The Directors and Officers, who have cheerfully served the Association during the past year, now retire from their respective offices. In doing so, the Board desire to record their appreciation of the manner in which the Visitors have discharged those important duties, upon the energetic and judicious performance of which the success of the Association most largely depends. They would, in conclusion, urge upon all who are interested in works of benevolence to assist in procuring as large an augmentation of the funds of the Society, and as early, as possible, for the tokens are deepening around us that there will be from many a cot the cry for help.

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Halifax, 28th

Of old time God gave command to his ancient people, combined with a promise, to which it may be well that we take heed: "Thou shalt surely give thy poor brother, and thy heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him; because that for this thing the Lord thy God will bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thy hand unto."

For and on behalf of the Central Board,

M. H. RICHEY, *President.*

E. D. MEYNELL, *Secretary.*

Halifax, 28th November, 1867.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Dr. *Halifax Association, for improving the condition of the Poor, in account with W. S. Stirling, Hon. Trea.* Cr.

1867. February, To Payments per Vouchers.....\$238.69 March, " " " ".....313.04 April, " " " ".....443.31 May, " " " ".....191.38 June, " " " ".....53.85 July, " " " ".....42.00 August, " " " ".....23.60 September, " " " ".....8.00 Oct. & Nov. " " " ".....21.23 Nov. 22. To balance in hand.....	1867. Nov. 22	By contributions to date, commencing Jan'y 1st.....\$1587.90
\$1587.90 <hr style="border-top: 3px double black;"/> \$1587.90	By balance brought down.....	252.80 W. S. STIRLING, <i>Honorary Treasurer</i>

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BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

Every person who becomes an annual subscriber of one pound currency, or upwards, or a Visitor, shall be a Member of the Association. Donations of smaller sums will be thankfully received.

ARTICLE II.

The President and all officers, except the Secretary, of the Association, shall perform such duties as usually pertain to their office, gratuitously.

ARTICLE III.

The Treasurer shall take in charge all funds of the Association; keep an account of all receipts and disbursements, and pay all duly authorized demands. At the Annual meeting, to be held in November, when a Report of its proceedings will be submitted, and officers and Directors chosen, he shall render a particular and correct statement of his receipts and disbursements to the Association. He shall exhibit a summary report to the Board of Directors at their stated meetings whenever called upon for that purpose.

ARTICLE IV.

The Board of Directors shall have exclusive control of the funds of the Association, and authority to make By-Laws; to fill vacancies in its own body, subject to the approval of a general meeting of the Association; and generally to adopt such measures as the objects of the Institution may require. It shall meet for the transaction of business once every month.

ARTICLE V.

Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the Secretary, at the request of the President or Vice President, or on receiving a requisition signed by four members. Two days notice must be given of the time of this meeting.

ARTICLE VI.

The City shall be divided into four districts.

The 1st to include Wards 1 and 2.

2nd " " 3 and 4.

3rd " " 5.

4th " " 6.

Each District shall have an Advisory Committee, to consist of five Members, who shall divide their District into Sections.

ARTICLE VII.

It shall be the duty of the Advisory Committee to endeavor to obtain suitable Visitors for each Section, supply vacancies which may occur, apportion to each Visitor an adequate number of families requiring attention; make the necessary arrangements for placing at the disposal of the Visitors food, fuel, and clothing for distribution; and on some day in the first week of every month to convene all the Visitors of the Sections, for the purpose of receiving their returns, and conferring with them on the object of their mutual labours. The Committees shall be authorized to draw upon the Treasurer for such proportion of the Funds as may be appropriated to their Districts. They shall keep a strict account of all their disbursements, and only in extreme cases make donations of money. They shall monthly render an account of their expenditures to the Board of Directors, and in default of this duty, shall not be entitled to draw on the funds of the Association.

ARTICLE VIII.

DUTIES OF DISTRICT VISITORS.

It shall be the duty of each Visitor to confine his labours exclusively to the particular Section assigned him, so that no individual shall receive relief, except in the section where he is known, and to which he belongs. The Visitors shall carefully investigate all cases referred to them before granting relief; ascertain the condition, habits of life, and means of subsistence of the applicants; and extend to all, such kind services, counsel, and assistance, as a discriminating and judicious regard for their present and permanent welfare requires. And in cases of sickness, it will be their duty to inquire whether there is any medical or other attendance needed; whether relief is afforded by any religious or charitable Society. When no other assistance is provided or available, they may draw from the resources of the Association such articles of food, fuel, clothing, and similar supplies as the necessities of the case require.

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ARTICLE IX.

It shall be the duty of the Members of the Association to endeavor, in all suitable ways, to give practical effect to its principles; especially to discountenance indiscriminate alms-giving and street-begging; and instead of giving alms to unknown applicants, whose cases they cannot themselves investigate, to refer them to the Visitors of the Section in which the applicants reside, in order that such cases may be properly inquired into, and, if deserving, be relieved.

ARTICLE X.

The printed forms of Tickets and orders for relief shall be designed by the Board of Directors, and no others shall be used.

ABSTRACT OF THE FUNDAMENTAL RULES BY WHICH THE
ASSOCIATION IS TO BE GOVERNED.

1. To consider each applicant for relief as entitled to charity, until a careful examination proves the contrary.
2. To give relief only after a personal investigation of each case, by visitation and enquiry.
3. To relieve no one except through the Visitor of the Section in which the applicant lives.
4. To give necessary articles, and only what is immediately necessary.
5. To give what is least susceptible of abuse.
6. To give only in small quantities, and in proportion only to immediate need; and of coarser quality than might be procured by labour, except in cases of sickness.
7. To give assistance at the right moment; not to prolong it beyond the duration of the necessity which calls for it; but to extend, restrict, and modify relief according to that necessity.
8. To require of each beneficiary abstinence from intoxicating liquors as a drink; of such as have young children of a proper age, that they be kept at school, unless prevented by unavoidable circumstances; and that those of suitable years be apprenticed to some trade, or sent to service. The design being to make the poor a party to their own improvement and elevation, the wilful violation or disregard of these rules, shall debar them from further relief.
9. To give no aid to persons who, from infirmity, imbecility, old age, or any other cause, are likely to continue unable to earn their own support, and consequently to be permanently dependent, except in extreme cases for two or three days, or until they can be referred to the Commissioners of the Poor, or to the Churches to which they belong.
10. To discontinue relief to all who manifest a purpose to depend on alms, rather than on their own exertions for support, and whose further maintenance would be incompatible with their good and the objects of the Institution.

In all cases of want coming to the knowledge of the Visitors, they will be expected to perform the same duties, although no application has been made. It shall be their duty, moreover, to render a written report of their labours, and also an account of their disbursements, to their respective Committees, at the stated monthly meeting. No Visitor neglecting these duties will be entitled to draw on the funds of the Association.

Most of the Rules will, doubtless, commend themselves at once to approval. As it respects others, the propriety of which may appear less obvious, the following brief explanations are offered.

In the 9th ed as proper to be relieved exhausted in objects—the Poor—be def which is far p

The 10th perized in spi or so debase them to self-indolence, an

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In the 9th Rule, the permanently dependent are not regarded as proper subjects for relief, because, if they should continue to be relieved, the entire funds of the Association would soon be exhausted in the support of a permanent list; and its primary objects—the elevation of the moral and physical condition of the Poor—be defeated. Such persons should become a public charge, which is far preferable to reliance on incidental relief.

The 10th Rule refers to those who have become so pauperized in spirit by long-continued vagrancy or gratuitous relief, or so debased by other causes, that there is no hope of inciting them to self-support, and to aid whom would encourage sin and indolence, and foster a great social evil.

The complaints of unrelieved applicants who have been sent to the Association should not be listened to, until they have produced a card from the Visitor, *for a card assigning the reason of refusal should always be given to the unrelieved applicant*, which, if produced, will show why he was not relieved; and, if unproduced, a proof that he has been attended to. In either case, the Member will thus be made acquainted with the action of the Visitor, and the reason for it.

Two or three important results involved in the observance of the foregoing rules deserve notice. First: by refusing aid to the persons described, none are necessarily left to suffer. Even those who obstinately persist in their vicious courses, and cannot be relieved without injury to them and the community, still have a resource in the legal relief provided by the Commissioners of the Poor; so that all are cared for. Second: The Association does not supersede existing charities, but, so far as is practicable, makes them available to those for whom they are designed.—Third: That it is governed by such humane and economical considerations as have most important moral and social bearings on the individuals concerned, and the public.

☛ Visitors, in complying with the foregoing Rules, should carefully direct their attention to such particulars bearing on the different classes indicated therein, as will qualify them for an intelligent and judicious discharge of their highly important and responsible duties.

☛ The attention of Members is also called to the said Rules, and their co-operation with the Visitors most earnestly solicited, for, without it, the great and difficult work in which the Association proposes to engage cannot be effectually accomplished.

REMARKS.

In order to carry out successfully the objects for which this enterprise is projected, it is evident that what is needed is the concerted action of a General Association, so comprehensive, ubiquitous, and minute, and governed by such well considered and universal principles that all the poverty here shall be understood and systematically provided for. Such a system, it is believed, will avoid the evils inseparable from isolated and independent action and will diminish the chances of imposition, ascertain the exact amount of charity given to each person, and secure a judicious distribution of alms to the needy. "Moral means" and appliances moreover must also be introduced as fundamental to the system. Hence the Constitution adopted declares the design of the Association to be "The elevation of the moral and physical condition of the indigent; and, so far as is compatible with these objects, the relief of their necessities." These means are included, because no others are adequate of themselves to produce the results which the character of the poor and the designs of the Institution require. For the aim should not merely be the alleviation of wretchedness, but the reformation of character, and, as far as possible, the extermination of the very germs of pauperism. It is apparent that the growth of this City renders a more ample charitable fund, and a different system of supervision and distribution necessary. The return of every winter has hitherto been attended with an incalculable amount of real or fictitious distress that has put in requisition "Soup-Kitchens," "Potato Rations," and "Relief Committees," but, notwithstanding, the benevolent were still harassed with applications, and importunate impostors constantly obtained the aid which was designed only for the needy and deserving.

To remedy this, and to obtain the desired results, it need here be only added that the measures must be preventive rather than remedial. Its primary and direct action is to discountenance indiscriminate almsgiving; to visit the poor at their dwellings; to give them counsel; to aid them when practicable in obtaining employment; to inspire them with self-reliance and self-respect; to inculcate habits of industry, economy, cleanliness, and temperance; to care for the instruction of their children; and, whenever necessary, to provide such relief as may be suitable to their wants. In social evils of long standing a change from wrong to right, even when the right has been ascertained, cannot always be readily effected. A cautious and deliberate course will be pursued, in order to avoid the adoption of any principles or modes of action that are opposed by facts and experience.