REPORT

OF THE

HALIFAX

Protesum. Industrial School,

1865-66.

PRINTED BY JAMES BOWES & SONS, HOLLIS STREET.
1866.



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PROTESTANT INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

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HALIFAX

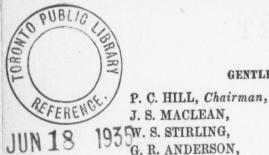
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HALIFAX, N. S.
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1866.

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PROTESTANT INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,



GENTLEMEN'S COMMITTEE.

J. S. MACLEAN, 1935w. s. stirling, G. R. ANDERSON, REV. GEO. W. HILL, REV. DR. PRYOR,

REV. MR. BOTTEREL,

W. H. WADDELL, CAPT. LYTTLETON, W. H. NEAL, A. K. DOULL, REV. GEO. M. GRANT, REV. W. MAXWELL, E. D. MEYNELL.

LADIES' COMMITTEE.

MRS. HOWE, MRS. R. TREMAIN, MISS COGSWELL, Assisted by other Ladies.

TREASURER.

RICHARD TREMAIN, ESQ.

SECRETARY.

J. S. BELCHER, ESQ.

SURGEON.

DR. HATTIE.

SUB-COMMITTEES.

Finance Committee, REV. G. M. GRANT and J. S. MACLEAN, Esq. Clothing Committee, G. R. ANDERSON and A. K. DOULL, Esqs. Committee on Shoe Class, J. S. MACLEAN and A. K. DOULL, Esqs. Building Committee, E. D. MEYNELL and J. S. BELCHER, Esqs.

> Superintendent, MR. JOHN GRIERSON. Matron, MRS. GRIERSON. Manager of Shoe Department, MR. JOEL LYONS.

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REPORT.

As Reports are a literature not much read even by those to whom they are sent, little encouragement is given to those who draw them up. We are therefore afraid to go very deeply into the subject of Reformatories and Industrial Schools, as it would probably be love's labour lost. But one thing we must do, and as clearly and briefly as possible. We must tell our friends of what is actually done in Halifax now by means of the school they maintain, for the reclamation of boys to the paths of industry and virtue, and give them some idea of what remains to be done.

Why was our Institution established? What does it aim at accomplishing? Is there a need, and is this a wise way of meeting this need? If Christian men and women are satisfied on these points, there will be a hearty response made to our every call, and so all that we now ask of them is to examine.

The prime aim of our Institution is the prevention of crime by cutting off the supply. Two great questions in social science seem to be taxing all the wisdom and energy of modern civilization. What shall we do with our pauper class, and what shall we do with our criminals, are the questions asked by Churches and States, by philanthropists, Societies, and Parliaments. For those are two terrible cancers eating into the very heart of the body politic, and—if not eradicated or at least checked—threatening its very life. With the first we have not to deal specially now, though there is a relation between the two that makes it impossible to touch the one without the other feeling it. But the second is black enough and big enough to engage all our attention at present.

For a long time the only method society took of fighting crime was by punishment. The prison, the hulks, the lash,

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the penal settlement were employed. This plan had two defects. First, it laid hold of the actual criminal, but did not dam or dry up the sources of crime. These continued to pour forth their ordinary streams, and society could have no hope that its wretched weary war was ever to end. Secondly, the reformation of the prisoners, or convicts, was seldom effected, and as they could not be confined all their lifetime, they returned periodically to freedom more hardened and vicious than ever. Besides the plan was too rough and ready to be just. It had the one same way of dealing with young and old, the weak and the strong, those who were criminal from choice and those who were criminal from necessity. In fact it was beginning at the wrong end. From this view of the case it was that Industrial Schools and Reformatories sprang up. Our little institution may be called the one or the other, for it is both. It is a Reformatory for criminal boys, an Industrial School for vagrants and waifs.

In all large cities there is a number of boys and girls growing up under influences that mould and shape them for evil and not for good. Some are orphans: some houseless and homeless. Some have parents who are criminals or hopelessly vicious. Some are predisposed to vagrancy and sin. Some are forced to beg, lie, and steal, and to be at war with society from the first. Most of this class are uneduca-Most breathe an unwholesome atmosphere. And the general training and associations of all are such that only by a special miracle in each case, can they ever become good citizens or christian men and women. These are the heathen at our own doors, and worse than the heathen; Arabs in the city; the standing reproach to our christianity. These form the dangerous class in every community: the various forms of crime are their profession; and they in their turn educate the next generation into all evil and all unnameable abominations. And so the black tide rolls on and increases, and threatens to poison the springs of national health. And yet in how many cases, can these poor lads stand up and say "it was not our own fault, we had not fair play."

Well it is now acknowledged that justice to this class demands that homes be provided for them, where their evil habits may be corrected and good ones formed in them. It crime was by punishment. The prison, the hulks, the lash

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is also clear that thus and thus only do we meet and combat the evil at the fountain head. And so in Germany, France, Britain, the United States, and other countries, institutions have been established with this end in view. Scarcely had the idea been started than it was caught up everywhere and worked out with a oneness of consent that was extraordinary. Voluntary effort was soon backed by State aid, and the movement grew so important and extended during the last twenty years, that legislation became necessary to systematize and regulate it. There is now scarcely a city or county in Great Britain without its Reformatory for juveniles, and it is admitted by every one that were it not for these, the criminal population would be immensely larger and more dangerous than it is

The broad difference between these institutions in Britain and the United States, is that in the former country the view is to keep the boy long enough to school him, teach him a trade, and build up a sound character in him, while in the latter the aim is to send him as soon as possible out to some home in the Great West where all that may be done for him. Thus, in Britain the boys remain in Reformatories from three to seven years; in the States, perhaps not as many months. Any one who understands the facts of the two countries, must see that this difference is just what was to be expected and what must continue to exist. Of course it follows that much more is accomplished in the States with the same money. The amount spent on the training of one boy in an English Reformatory would be sufficient to lay hold of five in New York, give them a little preparatory drill and instruction and settle them in the West, where there are always hundreds of farmers ready to receive them and adopt them into their own families.

In Halifax we do not closely follow either one or the other of these methods. We have our own peculiar difficulties, and we cannot grapple with them in any cut and dried way, and so we try to adapt our method to the facts of our case. Our aim at first was to take in the worst boys, no matter what their creed, and do them what good we could. This did not work. The religious instruction given to the boys we considered simple christian teaching, and so it might be

called, but with equal propriety it could be called Protestant, and therefore the school was set down as a sheer engine for proselytising and angry feelings were excited. At the beginning of this year some new names were added to the committee, and this difficulty was brought up and faced. It was felt that we should at once take our choice between two courses. We ought to abandon the idea of giving the boys any religious education at all, or we ought to confine our efforts to one-half of the population of the city and call our institution the Protestant Industrial School. We chose the latter course; and now we apply only for professedly Protestant criminals: and tho' as long as there are vacancies we will refuse none, yet every one knows what the religious influences of the place are, and if a boy does not like them he can leave.

Another difficulty started by some was that as the city was too small to afford an institution for young vagrants, and those likely to find their way to Rockhead, and a separate one for actual offenders, we would have to bring together the two classes, and that the influence of the latter on the former would be positively injurious. We can now unhesitatingly state that there is not the slightest ground for apprehending any such consequences. There are at present 28 boys in our school, of whom 16 have been at different times in the City Prison, some of them oftener than once, and not only is their conduct as good as that of the others, but it is impossible to distinguish the one class from the other. In fact the character of all the boys is much the same, for all have been exposed to similar influences, and it is quite accidental that only some of them have been convicted in the Police Court. And yet what better proof can be given that all those boys are naturally no worse than others than the present state of the Institution. We dislike parading names or giving details of the sensational kind, but we ask those who are sceptical to visit and examine for themselves, or to speak to the superintendent, and he will give them particulars that can be verified and that are sure to interest and delight every christian heart. And not only are all the boys much alike in character, but they themselves feel that they are so, and there is no such thing as one considering himself on a higher platform than another.

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But our real difficulties have been many. An institution on a large scale not being necessary, we could not afford the conveniences that are cheap to large establishments, but very dear when the inmates number only twenty or thirty. We could establish only one trade, and many of the boys are not suited or are disinclined to it. The whole expense from the beginning had to be met by voluntary effort, the only sum received from the city being a donation of \$100 this year, tho' we are saving the City and Province ten times that amount. Looking at the way in which Reformatories are supported in Britain by Privy Council Grants, and Burgh Assessments, we have a right to look for much more liberal treatment in the future, when the value of the work done is proved more fully and to the satisfaction of every citizen. And again, while on the one hand we have not a great West to send out boys to at once, on the other hand we cannot afford to keep them so long or give them so thorough a training as in Britain. And generally speaking, we have had our share of all the difficulties that are apt to hamper any new effort, and the persons who have been most ready to bring those up as reproaches against us, are persons who have assisted in the work little or not at all.

And now to speak somewhat on the past history and present position of our school, on its prospects and the hopes and fears of its Committee. We desire to be frank, to let the public know everything we know, to invite criticism, comment, or advice. Last year the institution was not in a satisfactory state, whether looked at from a financial or an educational point of view. The superintendent who had been brought out from Britain, did not seem able to adapt himself to the peculiar necessities of his position in this new country, or to exercise that steady discipline and unconscious moral influence that controls youths more than bars, bolts, or punishment. For consider the problem to be solved. Here are twenty-eight boys, between the ages of nine and nineteen, unaccustomed to obedience, regular habits, or steady work; untaught except in the tricks and license of a street and kennel life; impatient of restraint, because they had never seen it practised, and because they knew no law save the whim of the moment or downright coercion. And it was our aim to

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control and teach these boys, and habituate them to industry; to make them respect the rights of others and respect themselves; that they might grow up to be blessings and not curses to the state. And we aimed to do this without invoking the aid of the law; to do it by the force of religious training and example. Any one who has tried to rule an ordinary household will appreciate the magnitude of the task. And most thankful are we to God our Father that all this has been done in no small measure; and it is therefore easy now to look back on past troubles and failures, and confess them, and look for the sympathy of friends and ask them to

rejoice with us.

At the beginning of this year, we were in debt to the \$2400_amount of sesse, and spending more than our subscription list warranted. The boys were insubordinate and discontented, only half-a-dozen could read, and no progress seemed to be making except in a backward direction. whole place looked comfortless, and tho' money was needed we could hardly ask the public for it. The Press began to take notice of these facts, and the committee felt that the time had come to abandon the experiment, or to reorganize it entirely. It was resolved to make another trial. We had still the property purchased with the original donations, and felt that if we failed again we could sell it and pay back the subscribers their money. But instructed as we were by the experience of the past we were determined not to fail. This year then has been the most eventful in the history of the institution, and the story of it can be told in few words. We had two paid officials; the superintendent who received \$480 a year, and house room, fuel &c., and the master shoe maker, who received \$420 a year. We had twenty-six boys, only a few of whom could earn their own living, and to feed and clothe them and pay the other expenses of the establishment, we needed in addition to what they themselves would earn at least \$600. We were besides terribly And to meet all our liabilities we had a subscription list of less than \$800. Our first step was to dismiss the superintendent. We then applied to Mr. John Grierson, City Missionary, and asked him for love of the work to take a general oversight of it; to devote to it the hours morning

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and evening that he could spare from his proper duties; and to organize it as best he could till we looked round and got a competent person to assist him. In return for all the labour and harassment that such a position involved, we offered him only house-room in the building, fuel &c. He cheerfully complied with our request; and from that hour our prospects brightened, not only because of his tact and exertions, but also because Mrs. Grierson devoted herself to the duties of matron with a zeal and unselfishness that soon won both the affection and the respect of the boys. So much of Mr. Grierson's time was occupied however, that we found it would be unjust to the City Mission if he had to continue it; and we accordingly looked for a man who would not only teach the older boys shoemaking, but would devote his whole time and strength to the school, teaching the boys on Sundays and the evenings, and being head to it in Mr. Grierson's absence. Such a man we found in Mr. Jen Lyons, of Chippewa, Canada West, introduced to us first by Captain Lyttleton. As he proposed to enter on his duties before November, we dismissed the other master two months earlier and allowed the shoe class to go on with one of themselves acting as foreman, This has been found to work admirably and is of itself a noble testimony to the present discipline of the institution. And so when Mr. Lyons arrives we shall have two men at its head in whom we have every confidence, costing not much more than half of what was paid to the two in authority last year, and under whom we are bound to say the earnings of the boys will be considerably more than formerly. And feeling that when God had given us such men, we should not limit our work arbitrarily, but make it equal to the necessities of the city, we resolved to put up an additional building that we might have a larger workshop, and more dormitories, and so enable us to accommodate fifty oys. We believe that under our present arrangements, we an keep that number, if in addition to the sums earned by he boys themselves, we receive from all sources subscriptions to the amount of \$1600 per amum. That is, we estimate the expense to the public at an average of \$32 per annum for each boy, whereas in the English Reformatories, the expense as stated in last year's Blue Book was \$92, and in the Scotch

\$81 per boy; and the British people think that a much cheaper way of checking crime than by sending juveniles to Bridewells, or Rockheads, to live there awhile at a heavier cost and then to be sent back into society hardened and desperate, because they had been associated with irreclaimable criminals, or it may be brought under the authoritative teaching of an older convict in a

so-called Prison Reformatory!

What then have we done this year? We have cleared off our debt. thanks chiefly to the ladies who got up a bazaar for the purpose, and to some half-dozen liberal friends who completed the work. We have paid our way up to this date, and \$200 more will bring us to the end of our year-January 31st, without being in debt for the working expenses, and in a position to begin next year's operations quite unincumbered. We are erecting a new building, which will be finished in November, at a cost of \$600, the greater part of which we expect to get from a sale of fancy work that the ladies intend holding in the Mason Hall a few days before Christmas. As far as money is concerned, all that we now ask is that God would put it into the hearts of His people to send us about \$300 additional, and we would feel that nothing was lacking, and that our most sanguine hopes were more than realized; for we thought that we would do well this year if we held our own, whereas we could then say that we had cleared off the liabilities of the past, met all the demands of the present, and laid a broader foundation for the future. But we have done far more this year than get into a sound financial condition. Our Reformatory has become one in fact as well as name. The material, intellectual, and moral improvement of the boys is positively wonderful. Take this threefold aspect of the case and consider what has been effected. In the first place we desire to make men of them; not to coddle them as in a hothouse, nor to enforce a rigid machine-like uniformity in little things, but to make them reliant and handy. So while the twelve oldest learn shoemaking, they are not confined to that. They are called on to assist the others at times in gardening, in doing the work of the house, in making little repairs &c. The other boys are employed in various ways; some are hired out by the week, day, or hour to run errands or do jobs about houses, and in every case these are required to be back at the Home in time for the evening school; others assist in the house work, cleaning their own

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rooms and doing what Mrs. Grierson requires; others keep the premises outside in order, whitewashing, mending: others are gardeners, and the extent to which this is carried may be judged from the fact that this year the whole of the flower and vegetable gardening that covered so large a space in front of the building and that was done so thoroughly was their work. A coal shed The committee got the lumber and the boys put was required. The cellar required flooring. It was done by the up the shed. boys. If a window pane was broken, they put in a new one. And half the work on the new building is being done by them, so that it will cost at least \$250 less than it otherwise would. The boys are thus fitted for actual life, for they are ready to

turn their hands to anything.

In the evening they all meet in the school-room to be instructed in the ordinary branches of English Education. are young gentlemen from the city who have volunteered for the work, one or two of them going every evening, and the others occasionally. Messrs. John Watt, Bushel, Alexander Bremner, C. Lindsay have persevered in this duty for the last six months with a forgetfulness of self that is above mere praise, and one of the results of their labour is that more than twenty of their pupils can now take part in the Scripture reading at family worship. On Sunday morning all march to St. Paul's Church, tho' any boy is permitted to go to any other Church, if the superintendent finds that a seat will be given him in it. On Sunday afternoon there is a school taught by several volunteer teachers. It is the unanimous testimony of all the teachers that they never had scholars so eager to be instructed, so respectful and obedient. And here we put in an earnest plea to young men who could spare an hour for two or three evenings in the week to come and help us; for we are going to receive more inmates, and besides it is only fair that the present teachers should be occasionally relieved. We ought to have at least three other young men soon, because it is impossible to form large classes, so far behind are the boys that come to us and so short is the time allowed for instruction. Another thing from which much benefit was derived was Mr. Fultz coming an evening in the week for many months to give them military drill. This improved their gait, appearance, and health. On Sunday afternoon at 5 o'clock, the boys are permitted to go into the city to see their friends, and we know of several instances, in which however it would be out of place to give names, where they have acted as young missionaries in their old homes or haunts. And could anything show better their new tone and spirit than the fact that these boys, many of whom used to be restless vagabonds or idle loafers, now never ask to go into the city; and that when sent on the Sunday afternoons as we have mentioned, every one of them is sure to meet Mr. Grierson at the Inglis School, at 7 o'clock, to attend his Sunday evening meeting, and thereafter march back with him to There is no yoke on them but the moral and spiritual. We could give other proofs of the growth of character in them that has convinced us that our Reformatory is now such, as far as the influence of one boy over another is concerned, that the most respectable man in Halifax, might send his children to it as safely as to any educational establishment in the city. Take this for instance: The garden had a good deal of fruit in it and the boys are left to themselves during great part of the day; but because they were told not to take it as a proper share was intended for themselves when it was ripe, and because they were left on honor, not a currant was stolen except once, and in that case confession was made almost immediately after. We are entitled to ask with some pride, of how many schools could such a testimony be borne!

We do not wish to lengthen this Report, or it would be easy to give the story of the year with many interesting details. While referring to our difficulties and our needs, we have scarcely alluded to the many warm friends who have cheered and helped us, and whose kindness nerved us to go forward when otherwise we would have desponded. We cannot omit this opportunity of thanking Dr. Hattie for the gratuitous services which he has always so readily given; and from many of our merchants and citizens generally we have received donations in kind that have been of the utmost value. A list of those given for our new building is appended. The ladies interested in the institution have especially devoted themselves to do anything that would contribute to its welfare and efficiency. And we would be ungrateful did we not publicly acknowledge that on contrasting our present position with what it was a year ago, we see clearly that God's blessing has been with us. He has established the work of our hands, so that it can no longer be regarded as a mere

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experiment. Constrained by the love of Christ, from a desire to be fellow-labourers with Him, we are doing this work and feel therefore that it is His, and that we ought not to be daunted by any opposition, or any failures. As a Committee we are doing our best and we therefore confidently appeal to our fellow citizens for sympathy and co-operation. We meet every Monday to consult and act as the occasion may require, and we have now a small financial committee through whose hands every bill must We can confidently state then that any monies placed at our disposal will be expended as judiciously as possible, and that we shall be delighted to receive counsel from any quarter. Trials of our faith we of course anticipate, but we believe they will be overruled for good. We had a proof of this in the only case of discipline that came before us this year. It may be remembered that the newspapers some time in the summer informed the public that two boys had run away from the school, taking away some clothing not their own. That was true. And we may now tell the rest of the story: The boys were apprehended, and thereafter in the presence of their companions were expelled as the greatest punishment we could inflict upon them. They keenly felt the disgrace, but admitted its justice, and all in school were so affected by it that we need not apprehend any similar case occurring. On inquiry we found that one of the boys was far less guilty than the other, and that one after a couple of months exclusion we received back, he having repeatedly begged for re-admission, and now there is not a better boy in the school. We hope then to hear no more of the absurd nonsense of our bribing boys to come to us. Why instead of that we have always a dozen urgently begging to be received, and we would take them to-morrow if our funds permitted, for we know that they are almost certain to drift into crime if we do not receive them. And we may also be allowed to express the hope that the city authorities will recognize the policy of handing over Protestant juvenile first offenders to the Industrial School, instead of to Rockhead where the influences on character must be bad and bad only; and if our Roman Catholic brethren think that Rockhead is the better place for those of their creed, we shall not interfere.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditures for 1866.

1866	Dr.	and the same
Jan. 1	To Cash on hand Sums received to liquidate the debts of 1864 and 1865, viz:	\$200.20
a web	Nett proceeds of Bazaar at the Rink in July1866	
	Donation from Lieut. Webber 20 Donations by list	
	in 1866 230.25	2.182.44
	Subscriptions for 1866 as # list Donations ""	903.00 54.50
	Donation from City Council Nett earnings of Shoe Class, 9 mos. to	100.00
	30th September, 1866 Earnings of Errand Beys, 9 mos. to do. Received from Miss Lawson toward sup-	715.31 116.49
	port of additional boy	20.00
		\$4,291.94
CR.	By amount paid for debts of 1864 and 1865.	\$2,122.16
	raid for ordinary expenses, viz; Clothing\$131.79 Dietary	
	Fuel and Gas	
	Insurance	
odt seen	Amount paid for boots damaged in making, now on hand and available for	
	the use of the boys 29.40	1,981.83
	Balance on hand 30th September, 1866	187.95
		\$4,291.94
	RICHARD TREMAIN.	Treasurer.

Audited by Finance Committee, HALIFAX, Sept. 30, 1866. W. J. Stair Chas. S Sil Lordly & St D. Starr & John. Silve Jeremiah N James Scot Wm. Cuna Brenton. H P. C. Hill . Major Dell Black, Bro J. W. Merl Bell & An Hon. J. H. Maclean C S. A. Whi J. C. Allis E. K. Bro J. B. Mor Jno. Gibse A. G. Jon G. A. V. J S. F. Bas Robt. Bos A. K. Do Edwd. Al S. H. Bla Thomson, Jno. Stain D. C. Mc Geo. P. M J. B. Ox

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS 1866.

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		Jeremiah Northup20.00 W. D. Harrington	
.00		Tames Scott	
00		Wm Cunard	
22		Brenton, H. Collins20.00 340. Naylor	
00		P. C. Hill	
		Major DeHaviland20.00 Lawson, Harrington g Co	(
.25	2.182.44	Black, Bros & Co 10.00 Han. J. W. Kitchie	(
and life		J. W. Merkel	1
	903.00	Bell & Anderson20.00 Joe. Section	1
	54.50	Hon. J. H. Anderson20.00 M. H. Kichey	1
	100.00	Madean Campbell & Co . 20.00 Thos. Fennerty	J
	100.00	G A White 10.00 W. M. Gray 4.00	U
	715.31	T. G. Allicon 4.00 Salter & Twining20.0	U
	116.49	5 K Brown 4.00 Moir & Co	U
	1.10.49	T B Morrow 4.00 Mrs. Jno. Esson	U
	20.00	20.00 Forms & Murray	U
	20.00	A G Tones 20.00 Sandford Fleming20.0	U
	\$4,291.94	G A V Pow 4.00 R Noble	1)
	φ4,291.94	5.00 Miss Cogswell	IU
	-	Polt Posts 20.00 Rev. Mr. Henning	N
	00 100 10	20.00 Wm. Hare	N
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0		S. H. Black)(
9		S. H. Black)(
1		Thomson, Abbott & Co10.00 Chas. Robson & Co12.0 Uno. Stairs20.00 W. Cogswell20.00	00
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5		D. C. McNutt)(
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3		J. B. Oxley 4.00	
2		Plant the parameters when	
		TOTAL TENED ANTINO DEPOND OF 1984.6	N.
	soft mint	DONATIONS TOWARDS LIQUIDATING DEBTS OF 1864-6	9
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		John Stars. 10.00 Chas. Robson, and Co. 15.00 J. & E. Longard. 10.00	
	\$4,291.94	J. & E. Longard	
	-,	J. & E. Longard	
***	Treasurer.	Tr. t. N.	
N,	reasurer.	W. Cunard, Esq	
		\$275.00	

\$275.00

DONATIONS AS PER ACCOUNT.

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Bowes & Sons, 250 copies of Report.

DONATIONS IN AID OF NEW BUILDING.

Estimated cost of Building	.\$600.00
J. Duffus, Esq\$100.	.00
Jos. Wier, Esq. 2 boxes of glass	
Messrs. Hosterman, 2 kegs of nails	
" D. Starr & Sons, 1 keg of nails	
"Black, Bros. & Co. 2 boxes of glass	
Wm. Stairs, Esq. 1 keg of paint	

The labour of erecting and finishing, (except Plumber's and Mason's work,) is entirely perfored by the Boys of the Institution under the able superintendance of Mr. Grierson, at an estimated saving of \$250 to \$300.