

THE  
SECOND REPORT  
OF THE  
BOARD OF MANAGERS  
OF THE  
HALIFAX ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND,  
TOGETHER WITH THE  
ACT OF INCORPORATION  
AND  
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

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HALIFAX, N. S.,  
PRINTED BY COMPTON & CO.,  
30 & 32 BEDFORD ROW.  
1873.

# HALIFAX ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

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INCORPORATED IN THE YEAR 1867.

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## MANAGERS FOR 1873.

JAMES F. AVERY, M. D., *President*,  
 JOHN S. MACLEAN, *Vice President*,  
 GEO. P. MITCHELL, *Treasurer*,  
 M. H. RICHEY, *Corresponding Secretary*,  
 CHAS. FLETCHER, *Recording Secretary*,  
 JOHN DUFFUS,  
 W. C. SILVER,  
 S. A. WHITE,  
 W. H. NEAL,  
 STEPHEN TOBIN,  
 EDWARD SMITH,  
 CHAS. MURDOCH.

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### Teachers.

MISS ROSS, *Superintendent*,  
 MISS DWYER, *Assistant*.

### Steward and Matron.

MR. and MRS. DILWORTH.

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VISITING DAYS: Any day except Saturday and Sunday,  
 at the hours of 10 to 12 a.m., and 2 to 4 p.m.

## Halifax Asylum for the Blind.

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For the founding of this Institution a debt of gratitude is due by the people of this Province to the late William Murdoch, Esq., who died in London in 1867, having a few years previously taken up his residence there, after a long, useful and successful life as a merchant of this city. In his Will he bequeathed, in addition to various other charities, the munificent sum of £5,000 N. S. Cy., towards the endowment of an Asylum for the Blind, on condition that a suitable building would be secured at a cost of not less than £3,000. An amount was raised by subscription shortly after his decease, sufficient for this purpose, and an eligible site having been procured gratuitously from the City on the South Common, arrangements were at once made, and a suitable brick building was erected, capable of accommodating about 40 pupils.

As a Report of the Directors, lately submitted at the Annual Meeting is annexed, it is unnecessary to make further remarks than to express the hope that the blessing of God may attend this Institution, and that it may do all the good that the benevolent founder had in view in his kindly endeavours to increase the happiness and usefulness of this hitherto neglected class of our fellow beings in this Province.

*Halifax, January, 1873.*

## An Act to Incorporate the Halifax Asylum for the Blind.

(Passed the 7th day of May, A. D. 1867.)

Preamble.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Act to commence when \$12,000 subscribed. Incorporation.</li> <li>2. Board of Managers.</li> <li>3. Officers—how elected.</li> </ol> |  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. By-Laws.</li> <li>5. City may convey lands, &amp;c.</li> <li>6. Managers shall report to Governor in Council.</li> </ol> |
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Whereas it has been proposed that an institution for the reception, maintenance, and education of blind persons, should be established in the City of Halifax, and it is desirable that such institution should be founded and carried on by individual enterprise and voluntary association.

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council, and Assembly, as follows:

1. When it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the Governor in Council that not less than twelve persons have associated themselves for the above object, and have subscribed the sum of twelve thousand dollars, and paid thereon into the hands of the treasurer, by them appointed, the sum of two thousand dollars, the Governor in Council shall, by proclamation, declare this act to have come into operation, and thereupon immediately thereafter, such persons, and all such other persons as shall from time to time become associated with them, their successors and assigns, shall be and are hereby incorporated into a company and declared to be a body corporate by the name of the "Halifax Asylum for the Blind," and by that name shall and may have succession and be capable of suing and being sued, pleading and being impleaded, defending and being defended in all courts and places whatsoever, in all manner of actions, suits, matters, complaints, and causes whatsoever, and may have and use a common seal, and may change and alter the same at their pleasure, and shall be capable in law of purchasing, holding and conveying any real and personal estate for the purposes of this incorporation and none other, which shall not exceed the annual value of ten thousand dollars.

2. For the better carrying into effect the objects of the said incorporation, there shall be annually elected twelve persons, who shall constitute a Board of Managers and have power to conduct and manage all its concerns, the managers to be elected by ballot at an annual meeting of the members

of the society, to hold their office for one year, or until they be elected in their place: the said election to be held at such times and places as the said corporation shall, by their bye-laws, from time to time appoint and direct; the aforesaid managers shall be elected by a majority of the members present at such election; and in case of any vacancy or vacancies in the said Board of Managers, by death, resignation, or otherwise, then the said Board shall have power to fill such vacancy or vacancies until the next annual election.

3. The Board of Managers shall, as soon after the annual election as may be convenient, proceed to elect, by ballot, from among their own number, a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, and two Secretaries, who shall serve for one year or until others be elected in their room; and the first election of managers and officers shall take place on a day to be fixed by the Governor in Council in the proclamation aforesaid.

4. The Board of Managers, so elected as aforesaid, shall have full power to make such bye-laws as may from time to time be necessary, relative to the management, disposition of the estate and concerns of the said corporation, and regulation of the persons exercising the offices aforesaid, not contrary to law, and may appoint such other agents and servants as may be deemed necessary to transact the business of the said corporation and designate their duties.

5. It shall be lawful for the City of Halifax to transfer by deed, duly executed, to the "Halifax Asylum for the Blind," and either by way of gift or for valuable consideration, any land or hereditaments now vested in the said city of Halifax, either by act of this Province or by purchase, so that the value of such land and hereditaments shall not exceed in the whole the sum of twelve thousand dollars.

6. The managers of the said institution shall, on or before the first day of February in each year, make a full report to the Governor in Council of their proceedings.



## The Second Report of the Managers of the Halifax Asylum for the Blind—1872.

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The Managers of the Halifax Asylum for the Blind, have much pleasure in again meeting the Members of this Institution, and in submitting to them a Report of its progress, and statement of its finances, for the year now drawing to its close.

They are pleased to say that a gradual increase has taken place in the number of its pupils, as great as they had at its commencement any reason to expect. From six in all, at the first of the year, there are now 8 males and 3 females, all of whom have been as attentive and devoted to their studies, as could be found in any Institution; their conduct has also in every respect, been most exemplary, which has been a great source of pleasure, and satisfaction, to the various Committees and Teachers, who have had the oversight of them. It is pleasant to reflect that those who in the Providence of God have not enjoyed the blessing of sight, can be so instructed, and benefitted by education, that their lives can be made pleasant to them, and that they can be taught such duties as will enable them to do something toward their own support.

In addition to bead and wool work, a commencement has been made this year, in cane seating chairs, the material for which is furnished by Messrs. Alex. Stephen & Son, of this City; most of the pupils can do this neatly, but as only two hours a day can be spared for it, from their studies, no great amount can be accomplished, or much earned at it, this will shortly be followed by other manufactures, such as brooms, brushes, &c., so that as each pupil leaves the Institution, he will have a knowledge of what will be useful, and may probably give him his living in the future.

Several pupils give promise of a talent for music, and every care is taken to cultivate it; in addition to the Lady Teachers, they are now enjoying the advantages of lessons from Mr. Saffery, Teacher of Music, who kindly and generously devotes two evenings in the week to their improvement, from which good results are anticipated. Satisfactory progress is being made in Vocal, as well as Instrumental Music.

The Lady Teachers have been most attentive to their duties. It was deemed advisable by the Board, to obtain for Superintendent, the services of a lady somewhat more experienced than the first employed in that office. Miss

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Catherine Ross was appointed and entered upon the duties, at the expiration of the summer holidays; her experience in teaching, as well as her natural talent eminently qualifying her for the efficient discharge of her duties. Miss Reynolds retired with the best wishes of the Managers. Miss Mary Dwyer, the Blind Assistant from Philadelphia has continued to give, in every respect, the greatest satisfaction to all connected with the Institution, and is well qualified to impart instruction to those similarly afflicted like herself.

The Domestic arrangements have been conducted by the Steward and Matron, Mr. and Mrs. Dilworth, with equal satisfaction. While the food supply has been good in quality, and ample in quantity, it has not exceeded 20 cents per day for each inmate, which shows that every care and economy has been used by them, and the Managers have every reason to believe that as much happiness and content exists under this roof, as falls to the lot of any similar Institution.

The grounds, which were in a very rough state when the building was first occupied, are now nearly completed; a further expenditure will be required for these, and to complete the garden already laid out, which will be a future saving in furnishing the house with vegetables. Trees have been planted all round the lot, but a few more will be required, and additional walks may have to be laid out.

Should the number of pupils continue to increase as they have done the past year, and which, it is hoped, will be the case, an increase of income will be necessary for the efficient working of the Institution; and the Managers would respectfully appeal to its friends throughout the country to aid them as a few have already done, and which they take much pleasure in now acknowledging, viz:—

A Legacy received this year, from the Executors of the late R. Noble, Esq., who, among numerous other charities, left us .. .. .	\$100 00
A second Donation from M. H. Richey, Esq., Corresponding Secretary .. .. .	50 00
Proceeds of Bazaar held by Miss C. Donaldson and Pupils in Queen Street .. .. .	33 00
Collection made by Rev. Mr. Tweedy, Parsboro'	1 60
Collection made by Rev. Mr. Wyllier's congregation, Lower Londonderry, .. .. .	8 70
Subscription from Judge Marshall .. .. .	5 00
Subscription of \$1 each from fifteen members of the Institution .. .. .	15 00

The parents of the blind throughout our Province, being generally poor, cannot contribute much towards their education.

The Treasurer's account, duly audited, shows Receipts this year from all sources to have been \$2,802 26, and Expenditure \$2,640 53; leaving a balance to credit of the Asylum in the year, of \$161 73, which will be absorbed in the payment for Books just received, and of a few outstanding accounts.

The Managers have to express their thanks to Dr. Dodge for his kindly attention to the pupils, who, they are happy to say, enjoyed excellent health generally during the year; also, to Dr. A. C. Cogswell, Dentist, who placed at their disposal his gratuitous services when needed in his department. They have also to record their high appreciation of the services of their Recording Secretary, Mr. Chas. Fletcher, who has devoted much time and labor for the benefit of the Institution gratuitously this year. The Corresponding Secretary has also done them good service. Thanks are also due to Mr. Chapin, Superintendent of Blind Asylum of Philadelphia, for procuring books; and to C. A. DeWolf, Esq., of Baltimore, and Messrs. S. Cunard & Co., of this city, for forwarding and delivering to us per steamer free of any charge; and to Messrs. Taylor, Carvell, and Innis, Railway Superintendents, for free tickets for the Pupils to their homes in the Midsummer and Christmas holidays.

Religious services have been weekly conducted by Mr. Theakston, City Missionary, and other friends, which have been highly enjoyed by the inmates, and are, doubtless, of much benefit to them.

On concluding their labors for the present year, the Board of Managers entertain the hope, that whoever may be their successors, the same cordiality and good feeling which now exists, may continue to characterise all connected with the Institution, and that it may ever make rapid progress in bringing *light*, happiness, and usefulness to this hitherto helpless and interesting class of our fellow beings.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAS. F. AVERY, PRESIDENT.

Halifax, N. S.,  
27th December, 1872.

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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF THE  
HALIFAX ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

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CONSTITUTION.

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ARTICLE I—NAME.

This Association shall, conformably to the Act of Incorporation, 30 Victoria, C. 50, be styled "THE HALIFAX ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND."

ARTICLE II—MEMBERSHIP.

All original subscribers to the fund for erecting the Asylum for the Blind within the city of Halifax shall be and continue members of this Association so long as they contribute the sum of one dollar or upwards towards the support of the Institution.

Any subscriber to the funds of the Institution to the amount of five dollars or upwards, may be constituted a member on motion of a member of the Board of Managers at one of their regular monthly meetings, and so continue during his annual payment of five dollars.

Donors of fifty dollars at one time, and members who have served the office of Manager not less than three consecutive years, shall thereby be constituted life members of the Association.

Payment of five hundred dollars at one time shall constitute a patron of the Institution.

Patrons and members shall have the right of voting at the annual election of Managers, and shall themselves be eligible.

ARTICLE III—MANAGEMENT.

The management of the Institution shall be entrusted to a Board of twelve members, who shall choose from their own number a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary.

An annual meeting for the election of the Board of Management shall be held on such day in the last week of the year as the Board of Managers may appoint, due notice thereof being given in two at least of the Halifax newspapers. Any number of per-

sons present at the expiration of a half hour from the time named in such notice shall be a quorum for the election of Managers, and the transaction of any business to be passed upon at such annual meeting; but any five members then present may, if they shall deem the business to require it, demand an adjournment of said meeting to some other day and hour within one week therefrom, and the same shall stand adjourned accordingly, and the business so postponed shall at such adjourned meeting be first taken up and finally disposed of.

If for any reason the election of Managers be, pursuant to the foregoing provision, or otherwise, postponed, the Managers of the preceding year shall hold office until the new Board be elected.

The Board of Managers shall have power to supply vacancies occurring therein between the periods of the annual elections.

At the annual meeting the votes shall be taken by ballot, and the first twelve persons named on a list made in the order of the number of votes given for them respectively, beginning with the largest number of votes and so on to the least, shall constitute the Board of Managers.

#### ARTICLE IV.—BY-LAWS, &c.

The power of making, amending, and repealing by-laws, and regulations for their own guidance and the government of the Institution, and the appointment and removal of all officers, and regarding salaries and allowances, is vested in the Board of Management; but no by-law once passed shall be altered or repealed except upon a vote of two thirds of the members of the Board present at a regular monthly meeting thereof, and after notice of such alteration or repeal given at the next preceding monthly meeting.

#### ARTICLE V.—AMENDMENTS, &c.

The foregoing articles, together with the provisions contained in the Act of Incorporation, are declared to be the Constitution of the "Halifax Asylum for the Blind," and no alteration shall be made therein except by a vote of two-thirds of the persons present at an annual meeting of the Corporation upon the recommendation of the Board of Managers, of which at least one month's notice in writing shall have been given to the Patrons and Members individually, by letter addressed to the Patron or Member, and mailed at Halifax or left at his place of business or abode.

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**BY-LAWS.****BOARD OF MANAGERS—MEETINGS.****I—STATED MEETING.**

The Board shall hold a stated meeting at the Institution on the first Monday of every month, except when such Monday shall fall on a public holiday, then on the day following, and at such hour as they may from time to time appoint.

**II—SPECIAL MEETINGS.**

Special meetings may be convened by request of the President or three members of the Board, the time, place, and object to be specified in such request, and inserted in the notice of meeting by the Secretary.

At least twenty-four hours' notice of a special meeting shall be given, and no business other than that specified in the notice shall be transacted.

**III—QUORUM.**

Five of the Managers shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

**IV—PRESIDING OFFICER.**

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board at which he may be present, and he shall be ex-officio member of all standing committees. In his absence the Vice-President shall represent him as well on standing committees as at the Board. In the absence of both President and Vice-President from any meeting of the Board the chair shall be taken by the first named on the list of Managers present at the hour for commencing business.

**V—COMMITTEES.**

The following Standing Committees shall be appointed by the Board of Managers at their first meeting in each year:—

**(1) Finance—**

A Committee of Finance, consisting of the President, Treasurer, and four members of the Board, whose duty it shall be to devise and recommend ways and means for securing and preserving the financial prosperity of the Institution, to examine and certify the correctness of the Treasurer's annual report, and at the end of every year prepare and submit a full and clear report of the financial condition of the Institution.

Every Standing Committee shall from time to time furnish the Committee of Finance with such information as they may require, and in particular before the close of every year with a full inventory of all the property in their respective departments.

(2) *Instruction*—

A Committee on Instruction, consisting of four members of the Board who shall have supervision of the Educational Department and shall enquire from time to time into the methods pursued in the instruction of the blind in other places, and recommend such improvements as may appear proper.

(3) *Manufactures*—

A Committee of three on Manufactures to supervise the Manufacturing Department, supply that department with raw material, and dispose of the articles manufactured.

(4) *House*—

A House Committee of three on supplies, repairs and improvements, to have supervision of all matters connected with the supply of provisions, clothing and other necessaries; the regulation of the domestic arrangements of the Institution, and the care of the building and grounds.

(5) *General Duties*—

Each standing Committee shall visit the Institution at least once a month, and arrange for one of their number to do so weekly. They shall have the entire and exclusive control, subject only to the full Board, over the department allotted to them; shall keep a book at the Institution in which all their proceedings shall be entered, and especially all requisitions, instructions, or orders given to the Superintendent or other officers shall be clearly set down therein for the prevention of any misunderstanding regarding the same. The Chairman shall be bound to see that the duties of his Committee are in every respect fully performed, and shall furnish the Board whenever required with the minutes of their proceedings and all other information desired.

#### VI.—DUTIES OF THE TREASURER.

The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds and securities belonging to the Institution, and shall be *ex-officio* a member of the Committee of Finance; shall deposit all moneys of the Institution, on receipt, in some bank approved by the Managers, to the credit of the Institution, and pay by cheques drawn thereon all bills certified by the Chairman of any standing Committee. He shall present at every stated meeting in each year a full report for the year, and in such form as the Board may prescribe.

#### VII.—DUTIES OF CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the general correspondence of the Institution, and submit the same at each stated meeting of the Board. He shall file at the Institution all letters

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received by him or the Board, and copies of all letters written by him, and keep the same under his charge for the exclusive use of the Board.

#### VIII.—DUTIES OF RECORDING SECRETARY.

The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Board, and enter the same in a book of Minutes; shall prepare and issue all notices required in conducting the business of the Institution; and communicate all resolutions of the Board to the Committee or officer affected thereby.

He shall have the custody of the seal, and use the same only as directed by the Board of Managers.

He shall see that all by-laws of the Institution are properly recorded in a book kept for that purpose; shall file at the Institution all reports and papers submitted to the Board or placed in his custody, and safely keep the same for the exclusive use of the Board.

Whenever the Secretary is mentioned in any by-law, resolution or other proceeding, it shall mean the Recording Secretary.

In his absence the Managers shall appoint one of their number to act *pro tempore*.

#### IX—ADMISSION OF PUPILS.

##### (1) *General Terms*—

Young blind persons of good moral character, between the ages of eight and eighteen may be admitted to the Institution by paying one hundred and twenty dollars per annum, the payments to be made by half-yearly instalments in advance. This sum shall cover all the expenses of board, washing, tuition, and medical attendance. The pupils must furnish their own clothing, and pay their own fares to and from the Institution.

Their friends may visit them at reasonable times under the regulations of the Board.

##### (2) *Special Cases*—

The Board of Managers may receive special applications for the admission of pupils who are in indigent circumstances, and grant or refuse the same from time to time as in their judgment may be consistent with the state of the funds of the Institution.

##### (3) *Day Scholars*—

The Board may, at their discretion, receive day scholars upon such terms and conditions as they may prescribe.

##### (4) *Forms, &c.*—

Applications for admission must be addressed to the Recording Secretary, at the Asylum, and made upon the forms and in accordance with the directions prescribed by the Board.



*Halifax Asylum for the Blind—In a/c with the Treasurer.*

		Dr.	
1872.	To paid	house expenses ... ..	\$ 981.53
	"	Coal and wood ... ..	204.79
	"	Furniture and bedding ... ..	328.02
	"	Salaries ... ..	430.00
	"	Labor at grounds ... ..	312.75
	"	Fire Insurance ... ..	42.25
	"	Repairs, Plumbers work for stovepipe, &c ... ..	144.95
	"	Books, printed notices, reports, &c ... ..	49.64
	"	Manufactures ... ..	9.15
	"	Investments ... ..	1699.45
	"	Miscellaneous ... ..	128.45
			\$4339.98

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1872.	Jan. 1st.	By balance due past years account...	\$2399.10	
		" Interest from investments ... ..	1326.62	
		" Provincial grant ... ..	1000.00	
		" Work sold done at Institution ... ..	34.34	
		" Board from pupils ... ..	220.00	
		" Donations ... ..	193.30	
		" Subscriptions ... ..	20.00	
		" Cash for Grass sold ... ..	8.00	2802.26
			5201.36	
			\$861.38	

Total amount invested, \$24,100.

GEO. P. MITCHELL,  
*Treasurer.*

Examined and found correct.

W. H. NEAL, }  
CHAS. FLETCHER, } Auditors.

*Halifax, 16th December, 1872.*

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Bishop  
Sir W  
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David St  
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## ORIGINAL SUBSCRIBERS

TO THE

HALIFAX ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.



Provincial Grant . . .	\$2,000 00	James Scott . . .	\$100 00
Hon. M. B. Almon . . .	2,000 00	Daniel Cronan . . .	100 00
“ E. Collins . . .	1,000 00	S. N. Binney . . .	100 00
Wm. Cunard, Esq. . . .	500 00	Joseph Wier . . .	100 00
Sir W. F. Williams . . .	500 00	J. & R. B. Seeton . . .	100 00
Sir Edward Kenny . . .	400 00	Jas. F. Avery . . .	100 00
A Friend, pr. M. H. Richey . . .	400 00	Geo. H. Starr . . .	100 00
Hon. A. Keith . . .	200 00	Jairus Hart . . .	100 00
“ J. H. Anderson . . .	200 00	Chas. Cogswell, M.D. . . .	100 00
James Donaldson . . .	200 00	C. D. Hunter . . .	100 00
Judge Bliss . . .	200 00	Ann Vass . . .	100 00
Lewis Bliss, Esq. . . .	200 00	S. A. White . . .	100 00
Bishop of Nova Scotia . . .	200 00	Hon. J. Cochran . . .	100 00
Sir Wm. Young . . .	200 00	George Esson . . .	100 00
W. J. Stairs, Esq. . . .	200 00	Geo. P. Mitchell . . .	100 00
J. Duffus, Jr., Esq. . . .	200 00	Edward Smith . . .	100 00
The Lieut. Governor . . .	200 00	John Brookfield . . .	80 00
W. P. West, Esq. . . .	200 00	E. K. Brown . . .	50 00
Edwd. Binney, Esq. . . .	200 00	Wm. Cogswell . . .	80 00
Wm. Hare . . .	100 00	Chas. Robson & Co. . . .	50 00
Edw. Albro . . .	100 00	E. W. Chipman . . .	50 00
Jeremiah Northup . . .	100 00	Wm. H. Neal . . .	50 00
Hon. J. W. Ritchie . . .	100 00	John Silver & Co. . . .	50 00
D. McN. Parker . . .	100 00	John S. McLean . . .	50 00
W. B. Hamilton . . .	100 00	Robert Morrow . . .	50 00
John Naylor . . .	100 00	G. C. Harvey . . .	50 00
John Doull . . .	100 00	John Taylor . . .	50 00
John Tobin . . .	100 00	W. C. Silver . . .	50 00
Archbishop Connolly . . .	100 00	W. Jordan & Co. . . .	50 00
Miss Cogswell . . .	100 00	Fraser, Paint & Co. . . .	50 00
James Forman . . .	100 00	Stephen Tobin . . .	50 00
John Stairs . . .	100 00	Thos. A. Brown . . .	50 00
Burns & Murray . . .	100 00	P. Lynch . . .	50 00
Esson & Co. . . .	100 00	J. & W. Compton . . .	50 00
Alex. McLeod . . .	100 00	John G. Marshall . . .	50 00
A. McLeod & Co . . .	100 00	John C. Haliburton . . .	40 00
W. M. Harrington . . .	100 00	J. B. Morrow . . .	40 00
Black Bros. & Co. . . .	100 00	S. L. Shannon . . .	30 00
David Starr & Sons . . .	100 00	John B. Campbell . . .	30 00
J. B. Bland . . .	100 00	Late R. S. Brookfield . . .	30 00
Bauld, Gibson & Co. . .	100 00	D. Murray & Co. . . .	25 00

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 9.98

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Lordly & Stimpson . . .	\$25 00	P. Walsh . . . . .	\$10 00
John L. Whytal . . .	25 00	John Lithgow . . . . .	10 00
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