

FOURTH REPORT

OF THE

MAGDALEN ASYLUM

AND

INDUSTRIAL HOUSE OF REFUGE

FOR FEMALES.

TORONTO, JULY 1st, 1858.

TORONTO:

CLELAND'S PRINTING HOUSE, 18 KING STREET EAST.

OFFICE BEARERS.

Directresses.

MRS. McCUTCHEON,
MRS. DUNLOP,
MRS. J. BALDWIN.

Treasurer.

MRS. DICK.

Minute Secretary.

MRS. BURNS.

DR. ROBINSON, VISITING PHYSICIAN.

Visiting Committee.

MRS. J. BALDWIN,
MRS. McCUTCHEON,
MRS. DUNLOP,
MRS. DICK,
MRS. BURNS,
~~MRS. E. BALDWIN,~~
MRS. BLAKE,
MRS. FREELAND,
MRS. W. REID,
MRS. R. GILMOR,
MRS. ALCORN,
X MRS. J. G. HODGINS,
MISS WILSON,

MRS. WILSON,
~~MRS. BADGLEY,~~
MRS. WATSON,
MRS. MULHOLLAND,
MRS. MOWAT,
~~MRS. ELLERBY,~~
MRS. JAS. SHAW,
~~MRS. HAGARTY,~~
MRS. THOMPSON,
~~MRS. S. E. TAYLOR,~~
MRS. J. McDONALD,
MRS. MATHERS.
MRS. JOHN RIDOU

REPORT.

The past year of this Society's labors has been one of trial, as well as of encouragement. It commenced with the funds in a low state, and the Collectors felt much hesitation in applying to the public for aid, on account of the severe monetary depression; but, with a deeper consciousness than ever of their dependence on the Giver of all Good for his blessing on their efforts, they went forth and asked assistance from those who had not before been asked to contribute, and on whom the commercial crisis pressed the least, and they happily succeeded in obtaining sufficient, when added to the grant of \$300 from the City and the proceeds of the work done by the inmates, to pay the expenses of the current year, while many of the former donors contributed liberally in money and provisions.

The Committee desire to record their thanks to those benevolent friends who have so cheerfully and generously assisted in supporting this important reformatory institution: also to the Corporation, for its liberal donation of money. This was given from the consideration that, in proportion as the institution prospered, the amount of crime in the city would be lessened, and much would be prevented; consequently, the expenses of the prosecution and punishment of the unhappy victims of drunkenness, &c., would be proportionably diminished.

Each year shows more and more the need of such a refuge, not only for this growing city, but also for the surrounding country, for with regret the Committee have to state that some of the inmates who have been restored to their friends were persons who had been enticed from their quiet and comfortable homes in the country, by the promise of a life of gaiety, ease and pleasure in the city, and their friends had lost all trace of them; while others had come to the city friendless, to hide their disgrace, who, by the instrumentality of this Society, have been reconciled to their friends, or provided with situations in which they could earn an honest living.

The number of inmates for the past year has been thirty-three. Of these, seven are still in the house, one was sent to the General Hospital, two left of their own accord without the consent of the Committee, four were dismissed, seven were sent to friends, and twelve were sent to service. The Committee have reason to think that all of the latter class are doing well. In regard to three of them it may be interesting to state some particulars. One is an elderly woman, who was married when

young, and respectably brought up a family of children, but of late years had been frequently in the jail for drunkenness; while there she heard of the Refuge, and after her last release she came and asked to be admitted. The ladies received her, notwithstanding their doubts about permanent good being done, on account of her advanced years and violent temper. Her face bore the marks of violence, and her whole person shewed the state of degradation to which she had been reduced by intemperance. Gradually she gained the confidence of the Committee, and proved one of the most industrious inmates, doing her needlework very neatly, and seeking the good of the institution. After a trial of a year and eight months, she was sent to service, where she gives satisfaction, and shews her gratitude for the benefits she received at the Refuge by spending much of her wages in assisting the institution.

The other two are comfortably married, after having candidly caused information to be given to their intended partners in regard to their former faults. One of them deposited her wages in the Matron's hands every month until her marriage, and she and her husband have continued in the service of their employer to fulfil their engagements, intending to remove to land of their own in the fall. The other has removed with her husband, who is a good mechanic, to a foreign country, and both have every prospect of happiness.

It is the wish of the Committee to keep trace of all the inmates who are sent to service, though as years pass away, and they change their residence, it is found hard to keep sight of them. The following incident occurred last summer, and tended very much to encourage the Committee, and lead them to hope that others whom they have not heard from for a long time are doing as well.

One of the first inmates, upon whom the marks of a life of wretchedness were strikingly visible,—but who, after a year's probation, so gained the confidence of the Committee that they employed her to assist the Matron and convey messages through the city, and, by her faithfulness in this capacity, became known to most of the friends of the Society,—went to a country town and followed the business of tailoring, which she learned at the Refuge. The ladies heard favorable accounts of her from time to time, but for some time past lost trace of her, yet a short time ago she came to the city on business, looking so cheerful and respectable that a member of the Committee, who met her in the street, scarcely recognized her. She said she was comfortably married to a respectable man, to whom before marriage she had given a faithful account of her former life. They were happy, and, to use her own words, were living as Christians should live. She would have called on several of the ladies, but had to leave immediately by the cars.

It will be satisfactory for the friends of the institution to know that the young girl mentioned in the last Report, who more than two years ago, at the age of twelve years, was rescued by the police from her sisters, who were training her to a life of infamy, and whom the Police Magistrate sent to the Refuge, is giving great satisfaction, from her quiet and becoming behaviour, as well as her neatness and industry. She was in service for several months, but as the place was not suitable for her, the Committee allowed her to return to the Refuge and attend one of the Common Schools of the city; there she soon obtained the rudiments of an education. Being an excellent seamstress, she was sent to the dress-making business, but lives with the Matron of the Institution, to whom she is much attached. She attends a Sabbath School, and is completely separated from her sisters.

When it is considered that no inmate can be received without a promise to remain at least a year and obey the rules, and be willing to remain without leaving the premises on any pretence for some months; also that none are sent to service until they acquire habits of cleanliness and industry, as well as the confidence of the Committee that they are sincerely desirous of doing well, it will be seen that much time and forbearance are required to accomplish the end desired. Much discretion is necessary, on the part of the Committee, in deciding on the time required and the degree of restraint necessary for the reformation of each person; but they have no difficulty in this respect, and in some instances, when the evil habits are deeply rooted and the desire to reform sincere, there is no wish to go out when allowed, from a consciousness of self-degradation and proneness to yield to temptation.

The experience of the past shows that the most good is done by a system of discipline which teaches the unhappy outcast that she is yet capable of regaining her lost position and becoming respected and loved. While the government is founded on this principle, and there is no appearance of compulsion, it is found necessary to guard against any occasion to temptation or abuse of the kindness and shelter afforded by the Refuge.

The Committee would acknowledge the valuable services of the Matron, who, by her tender and judicious management, has relieved the Committee of many of their former difficulties and anxieties, while she has proved that the class of persons whom this Society seeks to reform can be governed by a system of discipline which combines a strict obedience to the rules of the Institution with the cultivation of self-respect, sympathy, and love. By her exertions the needlework has improved in neatness, and become an important item in defraying the expenses of the house.

The Committee would also record their grateful appreciation of the co-operation with them of the civil authorities in their benevolent designs, by sending to the Refuge those novices in crime whom they think will only be hardened by being sent to the jail, and who are willing to come to the Institution.

From the knowledge derived by the ladies from their visits to the jail, they know that the number of inmates at the Refuge might be greatly increased if extra efforts were made to procure them; but as the accommodation of the house and the limited funds at their disposal will not allow of more than ten inmates at one time, they have not used much exertion to induce persons to come. Whenever accommodation is provided for more inmates, the Committee will gladly form a plan for seeking out the fallen and degraded women for whom the Society was organized.

A deed of the four acres of land granted by the Corporation last year has been obtained; also a Charter from the Legislature.

The commercial distress of the past year has prevented the Committee from making any efforts to collect money for a building, but they still keep the object in view, and look to the Building Committee of gentlemen to use active exertions to procure the erection of a house, with suitable accommodation, as soon as the community are in circumstances to respond to the call.

With thankful acknowledgment of the Providential favors so far attendant on their feeble efforts, and an humble reliance on the same Divine aid in the future, the Committee recommend the cause to the zealous co-operation of the friends of the out-cast, and to the efficient management of their successors.

E. S. BRETT.

TORONTO, July 1st, 1858.

COLLECTED BY MRS. DUNLOP AND MRS. MULHOLLAND—(Continued).

Archd. Cameron.....	£0 10 0	Mr. Speaker.....	£1 5 0
W. Piper.....	0 5 0	A Friend.....	0 10 0
Mrs. Stainer.....	0 10 0	John F. Taylor.....	0 10 0
A. Mercer.....	1 0 0	A. Laternad.....	0 10 0
M. Lumley.....	0 5 0	W. Boulton.....	0 5 0
F. J. Parson.....	0 5 0	A Friend.....	0 10 0
W. Campbell.....	0 5 0	C. Cambie.....	0 2 6
A Friend.....	0 5 0	Thomas Crewse.....	0 1 3
Mr. J. Battsby.....	1 0 0	T. Paterson.....	0 1 3
Rev. E. M. Stuart.....	0 5 0	C. C. Neville.....	1 3 0
Mrs. Battersby.....	0 10 0	John Dresdale.....	0 5 0
Mrs. John Baldwin.....	1 0 0	Wm. W. Dickenson...	0 5 0
Mrs. E. Baldwin.....	1 0 0	Mr. Taibot, M. P.....	0 10 0
Mrs. G. Goldsmith.....	0 5 0	John R. Nash.....	0 5 0
Mrs. Mulholland.....	1 5 0	John White.....	0 5 0
Mrs. M.....	0 5 0	A. Clownay.....	0 2 6
Mrs. Cameron.....	0 5 0	Mr. Hogan.....	0 5 0
A Friend.....	0 1 6	A Friend.....	0 2 6
Mrs. Barnard.....	0 5 0	Cash.....	0 2 6
Mrs. Wickstead.....	0 5 0	Mr. Papineau.....	0 2 6
Mrs. Bisco.....	0 5 0	John Copeland.....	0 1 3
Mr. J. Harrison.....	0 5 0	A Friend.....	0 2 6
Mrs. Mullaney.....	1 0 0	Cash.....	0 1 3
Mrs. Armstrong.....	0 5 0	A Friend.....	0 2 6
A. H. Joseph.....	1 5 0	Cash.....	0 1 3
George Brown.....	1 10 0	Mr. Lemoine.....	0 5 0
Mrs. Dunlop.....	1 0 0		
			£51 18 9

COLLECTED BY MRS. O. MOWAT AND MRS. DANIEL WILSON.

Mrs. Killaby.....	£1 0 0	Miss Ballerd.....	£0 5 0
Mrs. Gamble.....	0 10 0	Miss Rankin.....	0 5 0
A. McCord.....	1 5 0	J W M.....	0 0 3
Mrs. Arthurs.....	1 0 0	Mrs Smith.....	0 2 6
Mrs. Hugh Miller.....	0 5 0	Mrs Shaver.....	0 5 0
Captain Scott.....	0 7 6	Mrs. Bowden.....	0 2 6
Mrs. Hodgins.....	0 10 0	Mrs Taylor.....	0 0 7 ¹ / ₂
Thomas Galt.....	1 5 0	Mrs Cherriman.....	0 2 6
Mrs. Dr. McCaul.....	0 10 0	Mrs Buckland.....	0 2 6
Mrs. Allan Howard.....	0 10 0	Mrs Pierson.....	0 1 3
Mrs. Wood.....	0 5 0	Mrs Mair.....	0 5 0
Mrs. G. M. Jarvis.....	0 10 0	Mrs Lesslie.....	1 5 0
Mrs John McDougal.....	0 5 0	Mrs Brunskill.....	0 11 3
Mrs Badenach.....	0 5 0	James Brown.....	0 5 0
J. C. Dick.....	0 5 0	Cash.....	0 0 6
Mrs. Thom.....	0 5 0	Mrs Lilly.....	0 5 0
Mrs Snarr.....	0 5 0	Mrs. Chas. Robertson...	0 4 9
Mrs Ellis.....	0 5 0		
Mrs Carruthers.....	0 5 0		£13 16 1 ¹ / ₂

COLLECTED BY MRS ALCORN AND MRS REID.

Mrs Alcorn.....	£1 0 0	Mrs. Bostwick Senr.....	0 10 0
Joseph Blower, Esq.....	0 10 0	Mrs Sleign.....	0 2 6
A Friend.....	0 2 6	Mrs Thomson.....	0 2 6
Ditto.....	0 1 3	Mrs McKenzie.....	0 5 0
Mrs Bostwick.....	0 2 6	Mrs Preston.....	0 2 6

ABSTRACT of the Treasurer's Account with the Toronto Magdalen Asylum and Industrial House of Refuge.

	£	s.	d.
July 1.			
To Balance of Cash from last year	46	14	0
“ Subscriptions rec'd from Collectors	111	3	10½
“ Grant from City Corporation	75	0	0
“ Grant from Boarding Inmates	12	11	0
“ Amount rec'd for work done	21	7	11½
“ Cash received for material made up	17	15	3½
“ Cash received for material made up	1	0	6
“ Cash for Interests and Discounts			
	<u>£285</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>7½</u>
By Cash for House Rent			
“ Fuel	50	0	0
“ Salary of Matron	21	18	9
“ House Expenses	40	0	0
“ Material for making up	141	11	6½
“ Printing Report	14	2	8
“ Advertising	5	0	0
By balance on hand	4	12	4
	<u>£285</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>7½</u>

Amount of Donations in Goods, Provisions, &c., from 1st July, 1857, to 1st July, 1858 £59 12 3½

Having audited the Treasurer's books, I hereby certify the same to be correct.

J. McMURRICH.