

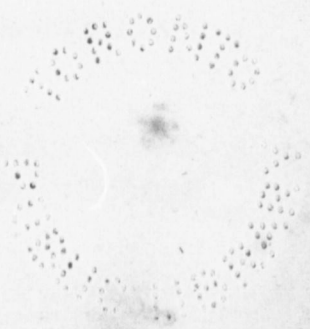
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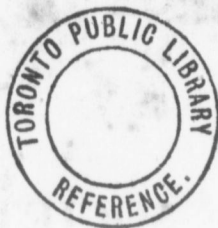
**REPORT**  
**OF THE PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE**  
**FEMALE SOCIETY**  
**FOR THE RELIEF OF**  
**POOR WOMEN IN CHILD-BIRTH,**  
**OF WHICH**  
**LADY SARAH MAITLAND,**  
**IS**  
**PATRONESS.**

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YORK.  
1825.



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## REPORT.

**A**T a Meeting of the GOVERNESSES of the SOCIETY for the relief of poor women during their confinement, held at the Government House on the 19th of January, it appeared from examining the books, that since the commencement of this benevolent institution four years ago, fifty poor women had been comfortably attended during their confinement. Having been subjected to none of those hardships and privations on this anxious occasion to which, from their extreme poverty, they must have been otherwise exposed.

Of this number, thirty-eight were the wives of emigrants newly arrived in the province, who had exhausted their little means in travelling from their native country, and who were so totally destitute before they reached York, that but for the seasonable interference of this charity, many of them must have perished. It were easy indeed to relate several affecting instances of the saving of life by the prompt relief administered by the members of the Society.

Twelve or thirteen of those relieved, were the wives of the inhabitants of the province who have

been reduced by various causes, to great need, and on claiming the assistance of this society were readily admitted to participate in its bounty.

It is very pleasing to remark that there have been only two deaths among the mothers, and few or none among the 54 children, 26 boys and 28 girls, that have been born, owing in a great measure to the care of the attending nurse, and to the necessary comforts which she was enabled by the institution to administer. Nor does the benevolent care of the Society terminate with the confinement, for proofs of its bounty may, for a long time, be seen in the warm and comfortable clothing left by the superintending Governess for the mother and the child.

TREASURERS ACCOUNT from the 22d Decr. 1823,  
to the 22d Decr. 1824.

1824	<i>Cr.</i>	
Jany. 30th—By cash deposited in the		
Bank, - - - - -		£ 62 2 10
By sundry subscriptions		
paid in during the year,		11 15 0
		£ 73 17 10
	<i>Dr.</i>	
Decr. 22d—To the ordinary expenses		
for the year, - - -		£ 29 19 8

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To the nursing of two Orphans, Morrison & Smith,  
 one year, - - - - - 24 0 0

Total expenes for the year, £ 53 19 8

Balance in Treasurers' hands, £ 19 18 2

Amount of subscriptions paid  
 in this day, - - - - - 31 10 0

Actual state of the funds on  
 the 22d of Decr. 1824. £ 51 8 2

From this account it appears that the ordinary expences of the Society for the year, amounted only to £ 29 19 8, and as there were twelve confinements, they scarcely average ten dollars each, including the comfortable clothing given to the mother and child.

The charge for nursing two Orphans forms a very heavy item on the Society's Funds, but which will gradually diminish as the children grow up: indeed, a very considerable reduction will be effected during the current year. These Orphans were left by the death of the two women alluded to, under circumstances so very distressing, that the Society found it absolutely necessary to adopt them till they should become sufficiently old to be bound out.

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Decr. 1823,

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£ 73 17 10

£ 29 19 8

Mrs. MORRISON, the mother of the elder of the two, emigrated from Ireland, with her husband and four children some years ago. Soon after they reached York, Mr. Morrison got sick, from exposure to wet and cold; and being of an anxious and industrious turn of mind he fretted exceedingly at not being able to labour. This solicitude increased his disorder, and at length threw him into a consumption, of which he died, after lingering many weeks. His wife, during his illness, had suffered much from watching him at night, and from labouring hard by day to support her little family, and being confined soon after his death, never recovered, leaving several children without a friend to protect them in a foreign land. To adopt the infant, became in the opinion of the Society an imperious duty.

The parents of Smith came to York in the summer of 1823, with seven children, one a daughter grown up and married. They purchased a small house in the east end of the town, and spent almost all they possessed in rendering it comfortable. In the month of August ensuing, John Smith, the Father, caught a dangerous fever, and died early in September. His wife had been only two days confined when this melancholy event happened. Being unfortunately left alone on the third day, she got up in a delirium and went to

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see her married daughter who lived in a cottage a few yards distant, and had been confined that morning; she was brought back immediately, but soon after expired, leaving a helpless babe three days old. The other children were variously disposed of among the neighbours and country people, and the infant was put to nurse at the charge of this Society.

From this short statement, it is certainly manifest that very few charities are more useful than this, and that much substantial good is done at a very small expense. It possesses this advantage over all other benevolent institutions, that it never steps in but at a moment of great and immediate distress, and is therefore certain of conferring some benefit. This reflection, so pleasing and delightful to all the Subscribers, encourages the Governesses to hope that some who have fallen away will return, and that others who have been hitherto ignorant of its claim to public favour, will hasten to support it.

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