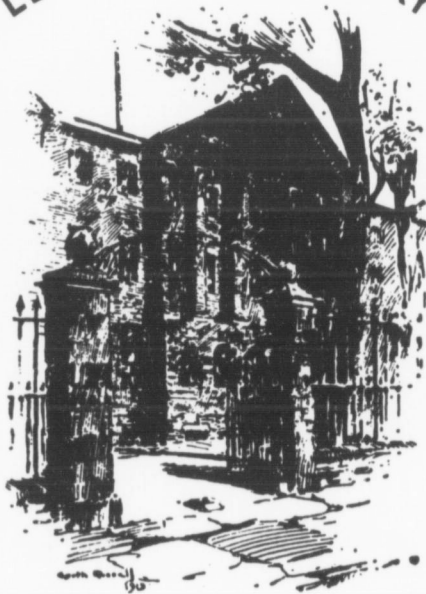


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PROVINCE HOUSE

FIRST  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
HALIFAX INFANTS' HOME,  
FOR THE  
Year Ending January 31st, 1875

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HALIFAX, N. S. :  
NOVA SCOTIA PRINTING COMPANY,  
1876.

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MRS. ALEX. ANDERSON,	MRS. J. SCOTT HUTTON, <i>Sec'y.</i>

### Physicians.

DR. T. R. ALMON,		DR. JOHN F. BLACK.
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### Consulting Physicians.

HON. DR. PARKER,		DR. W. J. ALMON.
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### Advisory Committee.

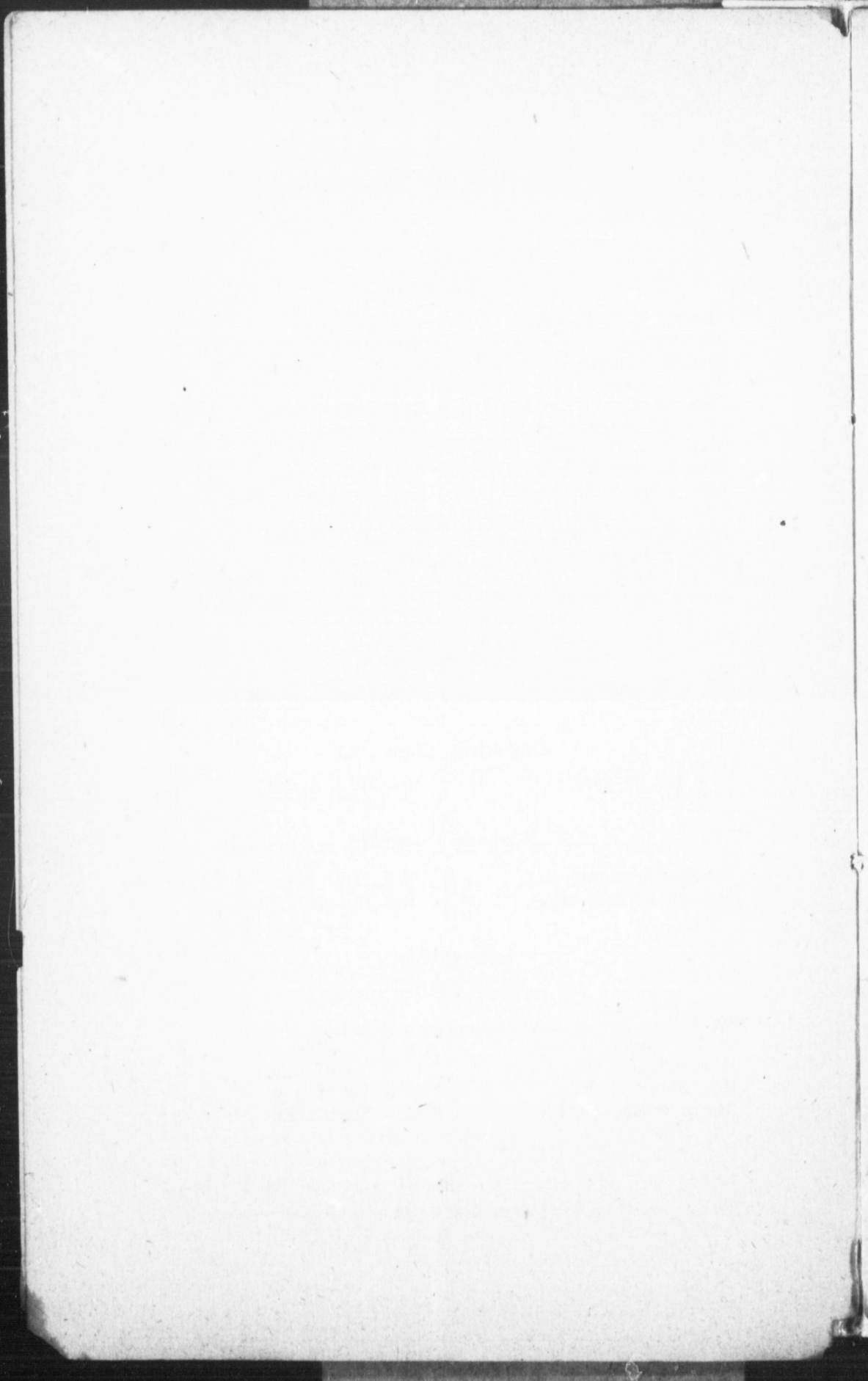
WILLIAM ACKHURST, ESQ.,		R. I. HART, ESQ.,
JAMES FARQUHAR, ESQ.,		REV. ROBERT MURRAY.

### Life Members.

(By payment of \$50 or upwards.)

Sir William Young, Chief Justice.	Mrs. R. I. Hart,
Rt. Rev. Bishop Binney,	Mrs. W. C. Moir,
Edward Binney, Esq.,	Rev. Robert Murray,
Hon. Robert Boak,	Mrs. Robert Murray,
Alexander Macleod, Esq.,	John A. Sinclair, Esq.





## REPORT.

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Early in January, 1875, the claims of destitute infancy were brought before the people of Halifax, and the response was worthy of the reputation of our citizens for charity and liberality. At a meeting held in the Y. M. C. A. Rooms on the 13th January, Hon. Dr. Parker in the chair, it was resolved to establish a Home for Destitute Infants, and arrangements were made for carrying this resolution into effect. In February a Home was opened, and operations were commenced. Difficulties incident to new enterprises were encountered and happily overcome; and your committee have to thank God for a measure of success in saving infant life and alleviating infant suffering, far exceeding what they dared to anticipate.

We have admitted since the Home was opened fifty-five (55) infants, ranging in age from a few hours to nearly two years. Of these, eighteen (18) died; nine (9) were removed by their parents when able to provide for them; two (2) were removed to the Orphans' Home; one has been adopted. The rest twenty-five (25) are now in the Home.

The mortality in the Home has been comparatively small. Probably a better result can seldom be found in any similar institution. For example, in the Grey Nuns establishment, Montreal, the mortality is reported as high as 90 per cent. In the New York Institutions the mortality has ranged as high as 80 per cent. In the Report of the Montreal Protestant Infants' Home, in 1873, the Physician says: "136 infants were under my care during the past 12 months; the deaths were 52, or a fraction above 39 per cent of the whole number. This percentage of mortality is much lower than that of the first year of the existence of the Home, but is a little higher than that of the second, in which the percentage of deaths was only 32."

In our Home the percentage is a little less than 33½. This is all the more gratifying from the fact that we have had cholera infantum, whooping-cough, mumps and chicken pox in the institution in succession. The whooping-cough was particularly trying—so large a proportion of the children being very young.

The deaths occurred in the different months, as follows: March 2; July 3; August 6; September 3; October 3; December 1.

Dr. Lawson was physician to the Home till the 1st May. From that date till the present Drs. Thomas R. Almon and John F. Black have kindly given their services. To these gentlemen and to Dr. W. J. Almon and Hon. Dr. Parker, the most cordial thanks of the Committee are due.

Our thanks are very specially due to the press of the city, Daily and Weekly, for ready and generous aid. We have also to thank the clergymen of the city for unfailing kindness and readiness to give their services whenever required.

The Committee have given their personal attention to the Home with unwearied assiduity, ladies spending nights as well as days in nursing the sick and supplying their wants.

The whole amount of money received to date has been \$2,447 62 The expenditure amounts to \$2,205.23. The Committee have studied the strictest economy consistent with the welfare of the precious little ones under their care. For particulars of expenditure, &c., we refer to the Treasurer's statement.

Wherever possible, the parents of the children in the Home have contributed more or less to their support. The services of nurses have been secured on the most economical terms.

As might be expected under the Providence of a merciful God, the best way of saving the little ones is also the best way of saving their mothers. We cannot do justice to the children without also doing permanent and incalculable good to those who nurse them. We invite special attention to the fact that hitherto no mother in the Home has lost her own child: or let us state it in another way,—no child nursed by its own mother has died: This cannot be expected to be always so; but it is a rule drawn from universal experience that the children who have the benefit of wet nursing, and especially of being nursed and cared for by their own mothers, are by far the most likely to escape or survive the attacks of infantile disease.

Religious Services in connection with the Home have been conducted by clergymen and others connected with the Episcopal, the Methodist, the Baptist and the Presbyterian Churches. Besides the Sunday-afternoon service, a service chiefly of sacred song, is held on Thursday evenings, by ladies of the Committee.

While we acknowledge with the deepest gratitude, that many precious lives have been saved during the year, we have to state that we are not yet in a position to grapple successfully with the giant evil of baby-farming and baby-murder. No ordinary house which our

funds will enable us to rent is large enough to accommodate all the destitute babes that could under more favorable circumstances be rescued from cruel or neglectful hands. We want large and roomy premises. Especially, we want a house with room enough for a hospital or sick ward, so that when any case of contagious or infectious disease occurs it may be isolated. We know and feel that we are asking much of the public, but we have faith to ask, and to count on receiving what we require. The work is God's, not ours. It is not the will of our Heavenly Father that one of these little ones should perish. In the Name of our Father we appeal to *all*, the poor as well as the rich, for aid. And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward. Christ who took little children in his arms and put his hands on them and blessed them, declaring that of such is the Kingdom of Heaven, will reward an hundred fold the self-sacrifice of those who will give out of their poverty or out of their abundance, to aid the Christ-like work. "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in Heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in Heaven." These are the words of the Lord Jesus. Confident of His blessing, we again appeal to the christian public for the money necessary to carry on our work. The wail of suffering and starving infancy, the pale, wan faces, the wasted forms, the feeble limbs, the pinched features, transferred, when death comes, from the cold comfortless crib to a scarcely colder grave, these appeal to you as no words of ours can. Seeing is believing; we testify that which we have witnessed.

We desire as soon as possible to purchase a permanent Home, where needed improvements can be made from year to year. Of course, we cannot move faster than the bounty of the public will permit us.

The first twelve months of our Home are now before the public. Precious lives have been saved. An amount of suffering that is altogether unspeakable has been prevented. We are going forward in the name of the Tender Shepherd who gave His life for the little ones. Every one who reads this Report can help the work, and we trust every one *will*. We require NOT LESS than we received last year; we could well employ much more.

Donors and subscribers would confer a great favour by sending their contributions to the Treasurer as soon as convenient.



Every reader of these words will please consider this a personal appeal to him or her for such aid as he or she can render. We appeal not merely to the city but to the country. Already gifts have come from Wallace, Shelburne County, Cornwallis, Maitland, Stewiacke, Merigonish, and Montreal. Still we know that our chief reliance under God, must be upon the benevolence of the good people of Halifax, who have an opportunity of seeing the work which we are doing.

Our hope is that ere long, through the generosity of town and country, our Home will be so enlarged and so conducted as that there shall be no more need for even one poor little baby to perish in the hands of baby-farmers in the City of Halifax.

#### PHYSICIANS' REPORT.

*To the Committee of the Halifax Infants' Home :*

LADIES.—We have much pleasure in presenting to you the following brief statement in regard to the medical management of the Institution under your charge.

We regret that the shortness of time at our disposal since you notified us of the advisability of a Medical Report prevents our making any extended remarks.

Since the time at which we assumed medical control of the Home (May 1st), a considerable amount of sickness has occurred, necessitating an average attendance of three or four visits weekly. The diseases have been those usually prevalent in similar Institutions elsewhere. The following is a Tabulated Statement of the causes of death :

DISEASES.	July.	Aug <sup>st</sup>	Sept <sup>r</sup>	Oct <sup>r</sup>	Dec <sup>r</sup>
Bronchitis—Capillary .....		3	2		
Convulsions .....	1			1	
Enteritis .....		1	1	1	
Hydrocephalus .....				1	
Inanition .....		1			
Pneumonia .....					1
Syphilis—Congenital .....	2	1			
Total .....	3	6	3	3	1

Taking into consideration the large mortality among children

during the last summer and autumn and the condition of many of the Infants when admitted, this apparently large death-rate is not by any means surprising. An epidemic of Hooping Cough which prevailed during the most trying season of the year affected, with scarcely an exception, every one of the children, and to the sequelæ of this disease a large number of the deaths are attributable.

The Home has also been visited by an epidemic of mumps, and also one of chickenpox, but no fatal cases have occurred.

We desire to call your attention to the fact that no provision exists for the isolation of children suffering from contagious diseases. A room for this purpose as well as for the treatment of cases of ordinary sickness, is exceedingly desirable; but with your present accommodation we do not see how this is feasible.

In conclusion we beg to tender our thanks to the Committee, and also to the Matron, for the readiness and efficiency with which they have always seconded our efforts.

We remain yours respectfully,

T. R. ALMON, M. D.,

J. F. BLACK, M. D.,

*Attending Physicians.*

January 27, 1876.

## CONSTITUTION.

### ARTICLE I.

The name of this institution shall be the HALIFAX INFANTS' HOME.

### II.

The object of the Infants' Home shall be to receive and tenderly care for destitute infants.

### III.

The parent or parents of children admitted into the Home shall contribute to its funds such amount as shall be decided upon by the Committee in charge. In case of total inability of parent or parents to pay any money their babies shall be admitted free.

### IV.

Persons who take an interest in the work of the Home and contribute annually the amount of Three Dollars or upwards to its funds shall be members; and any person paying Fifty Dollars at one time shall become a life member.

### V.

The entire management of the Home shall be vested in a Committee of at least twelve ladies assisted by an Advisory Committee of three or more gentlemen, and the Committee shall elect their own Presiding Officer, and a Treasurer and Secretary out of their own number.

### VI.

The Funds necessary for supporting this Home shall be secured by annual subscriptions, donations, collections from churches, &c.

### VII.

The Annual Meeting of the Home shall be held on the Third Thursday of January or as near that date as practicable.

### VIII.

This Constitution shall not be changed except at a General Meeting and after at least a month's notice given to the Committee at the Home.

**BYE-LAWS.****I.**

The Managing Committee shall meet monthly or oftener if required :—shall elect their own presiding officer for a year (it being understood that in her absence any member of Committee may be called to the chair)—shall see to the proper treatment of the children, and secure the proper discharge of their respective duties by the matron, nurses and servants,—shall have full power to engage and dismiss matron, nurses and servants, and regulate their wages.

**II.**

The Secretary shall keep a full record of proceedings, summon meetings, and discharge the duties generally that pertain to the office of Secretary,—under the direction of the Committee.

**III.**

The Treasurer shall receive all moneys for the use of the Institution, deposit the same in a chartered bank of the city, keep an accurate account of receipts and expenditures and pay out money on the order of the Committee.

**IV.**

The Physician or Physicians of the Home shall be appointed by the Managing Committee, and shall have the entire medical control of the Home. No child or wet nurse shall be received permanently without his examination and approval. He shall record the sanatory condition of each child for future reference.

**V.**

There shall be a ward for the temporary reception of babies until inspected by the Medical officer.

**VI.**

No child shall be admitted into the Home while suffering under any infectious or contagious disease.

**VII.**

The Home shall be provided with as many healthy wet nurses as possible, each wet nurse to be entrusted with two infants.

**VIII.**

Only a certain number of babies shall be admitted into the Home to be cared for at the same time,—the number to be determined beforehand by the Medical officer.

**IX.**

These Bye laws shall not be changed without a month's previous notice to the Managing Committee.



# HALIFAX INFANTS' HOME IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TREASURER.

From January 31st, 1875, to January 31st, 1876.

Dr.	Cr.
By amount collected up to March 1st, 1875...\$1,871 77	To House Rent.....\$ 306 00
Received since that date:—	“ Furniture and Clothing..... 181 38
Donations..... 423 90	“ Matron's Salary and Servant's Wages..... 458 72
Board..... 106 50	“ Fuel..... 200 00
Interest on Deposit..... 45 45	“ Groceries..... 830 43
	“ Milk..... 128 00
	“ Gas..... 53 10
	“ Water..... 16 60
	“ Dr. Lawson, cab hire..... 7 00
	“ Funeral Expenses ..... 24 00
	<u>\$2,205 23</u>
<u>\$2,447 62</u>	By Balance..... <u>\$242 39</u>
	A. NORDBECK, Treasurer.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS.

(Collected by Mrs. J. Smith and Mrs. G. Esson.)

Hon W. Annand	...	\$5 00
A. E. H.	...	3 00
Adam Burns	...	25 00
A. B. ...	...	1 00
Dr. Cogswell	...	5 00
Mrs. A. H. Crowe	...	5 00
Dr. Delaney	...	5 00
George Esson, Senr.	...	10 00
Mrs. George Esson	...	5 00
Mrs. J. T. Fraser	...	2 00
Mrs. G. M. Grant, (Yearly)	...	10 00
Mrs. Alpine Grant	...	10 00
Hon. P. C. Hill	...	25 00
Mrs. John Harvey	...	5 00
Mrs. Harry King	...	5 00
W. C. Menzies	...	10 00
G. P. Mitchell	...	20 00
Mrs. G. Mitchell	...	4 00
George McLean	...	2 00
J. C. Robertson	...	5 00
Mrs. G. Thompson	...	5 00
Cathcart Thompson	...	5 00
S. A. White	...	10 00
The Lieut. Governor	...	20 00
The Lord Bishop	...	50 00
James Thomsom	...	25 00

(Collected by Mrs. J. S. MacLean.)

J. S. McLean, (Annual)	...	25 00
Mrs. W. S. Stirling	...	10 00
Mrs W. J. Harrington	...	10 00
Mrs. H. Poole	...	5 00
Mrs W. A. Henry	...	3 00
St. Andrews S. School	...	20 00

(Collected by Mrs. Allison Smith.)

Edward Binney	...	100 00
Mrs. R. I. Hart	...	50 00
Dr. Avery	...	25 00
Levi Hart	...	10 00
Mrs. John Taylor...	...	5 00
A Friend	...	1 00
A Friend	...	2 00
Allison Smith	...	20 00
A Friend	...	5 00
J. Scott	...	10 00
Mrs. Wiley Smith	...	4 00
Mabel Smith...	...	75
D. Falconer	...	20 00
S. S. B. Smith	...	10 00
E. G. W. Greenwood	...	5 00
Mrs. J. W. Young	...	10 00
Edward Albro	...	20 00
S. Howard & Son	...	10 00

Miss Metzler	...	\$ 2 00
Mrs. E. Farrell	...	1 00
A Friend	...	50
L. Power	...	4 00
George Fraser	...	5 00
Mrs S. N. Binney	...	20 00
S. H. Black...	...	10 00
A Friend	...	25

(Collected by Mrs C. Romans & Mrs W. Murray.)

C. & W. Anderson	...	5 00
M. B. Almon	...	5 00
Hon. R. Boak	...	50 00
W. Bauld	...	10 00
J. Bayne	...	5 00
T. A. Brown	...	5 00
Mrs. J. Burton	...	5 00
Miss Burton	...	2 00
H. P. Burton	...	5 00
F. H. Baker	...	5 00
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J. Cornelius	...	5 00
Chipman Bros.	...	10 00
Dr. Dodge	...	5 00
J. Duggun	...	2 00
A Friend	...	2 00
H. H. Fuller	...	5 00
A Friend	...	5 00
A Friend	...	1 00
W. Fraser	...	5 00
Gordon & Keith	...	10 00
C. Graham	...	10 00
Rev. G. W. Hill	...	10 00
J. Haliburton	...	8 00
H. Hesson	...	2 00
J. Kelly	...	4 00
W. Kendrick	...	4 00
C. Kaizer	...	5 00
T. & E. Kenny	...	10 00
W. L. Lowell...	...	5 00
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Alex. McLeod	...	50 00
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J. MacNab...	...	10 00
J. C. MacKintosh	...	10 00
W. H. Neal	...	20 00
T. M. Neal	...	10 00
T. S. Peters	...	10 00
Peter Ross	...	5 00
T. A. Ritchie	...	10 00
W. Robertson	...	10 00
J. H. Symons	...	5 00
A. Stephen	...	5 00

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Universalist ... ..	2 00	Mrs. W. Boake ... ..	5 00
W. L. Whytal ... ..	5 00	Friend ... ..	1 00
W. Wilson... ..	2 00	Mrs. H. Flowers ... ..	1 00
P. Walsh ... ..	5 00	Friend ... ..	1 00
J. E. Wilson ... ..	5 00	C. S. Harding ... ..	1 00
Sir W. Young, Chief Justice ... ..	50 00	Mrs. W. Holloway ... ..	2 00
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Anderson, Billing & Co. ... ..	\$25 00	Mrs. R. M. King ... ..	1 00
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Mrs. C. H. M. Black ... ..	20 00	G. MacDonald ... ..	50
M. P. Black ... ..	20 00	Mrs. W. C. Moir ... ..	50 00
Miss Celia Black ... ..	5 00	Mrs. Shand ... ..	1 00
Mrs. W. L. Black ... ..	4 00	Mrs. A. L. Wood ... ..	2 00
Mrs. Capt. Bingham ... ..	1 00	C. L. Weeks... ..	4 00
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M. Fordham... ..	5 00	Mrs. A. Piers ... ..	1 00
A Friend ... ..	50	W. Woodill ... ..	2 00
A Friend ... ..	2 00	R. Jennings ... ..	5 00
Mrs. Fitch ... ..	4 00	A Friend ... ..	1 00
A Friend ... ..	25	J. P. Healey... ..	2 00
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Mrs. Hutchens ... ..	60	Wm. Muir ... ..	2 00
Mrs. Hutton ... ..	1 00	P. Power... ..	2 00
Mrs. Liswell... ..	5 00	S. Baker ... ..	1 00
Peter Jack ... ..	2 00	A Friend ... ..	1 00
J. B. Morrow ... ..	20 00	A Friend ... ..	1 00
Mrs. John Marvin ... ..	2 00	Edward Harris ... ..	1 00
Hon Jeremiah Northup ... ..	20 00	W. J. Harris ... ..	1 00
Mrs. McKie ... ..	5 00	W. M. Notman ... ..	3 00
Mrs. McQueen ... ..	1 00	J. P. Frecker ... ..	5 00
Mrs. O Donnell ... ..	1 00	Thomas Robinson ... ..	50
Mrs. Robert Pickford ... ..	10 00	Miss Morse ... ..	2 00
John Parker ... ..	1 00	Alexander Smith ... ..	50
Mrs. M. H. Richey ... ..	4 00	Mrs. Wallace ... ..	50
Mrs. Sedgwick ... ..	10 00	Charles F. Mott... ..	2 00
Mrs. Taylor ... ..	1 00	Mrs. Sutherland ... ..	1 00
Rev. J. B. Uniacke ... ..	5 00	Mrs. Wite ... ..	1 00
Mrs. J. B. Uniacke... ..	5 00	G. W. C. ... ..	5 00
C. F. Vose ... ..	2 00	E. Bourdilliant ... ..	1 00
T. V. Woolrich ... ..	1 00	A Friend ... ..	50
Mrs. Warner ... ..	1 00	J. Chisholm ... ..	50
Mrs. N. West ... ..	5 00	E. Kelley ... ..	50
Mr. N. West ... ..	10 00	A Friend... ..	25
Mrs. John Woodill... ..	1 00	W. Allen ... ..	50
Mrs. Lewis ... ..	10 00	L. Houillet ... ..	5 00
Captain Mackenzie... ..	20 00	W. Macalister ... ..	5 00
Mrs. W. L. Woodill ... ..	5 00	Brockley & Co. ... ..	1 00
Mrs. Higginson ... ..	1 00	Colonel Luard ... ..	2 00
Mrs. Lownds ... ..	1 00	X. I. Chipman ... ..	5 00
Mrs. John King ... ..	1 00	Mrs. John Thompson ... ..	5 00
Miss King ... ..	1 00	Alex. Robinson ... ..	5 00
Miss Heirlhy ... ..	50	James E. Irish ... ..	3 00
Friend ... ..	1 00	N. Wirrell ... ..	1 00

James McDonald ...	\$ 3 00	John R. Graham ...	\$ 1 00
M. Macilreith & Co ...	5 00	John Green ...	50
Freeman Elliot ...	1 00	Frank Hyde ...	75
Silas Townsend ...	2 00	Miss Harrison ...	25
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A Friend ...	1 50	Mac ...	50
Geo. Davidson & Co ...	2 00	Leander Mumford ...	1 00
Dr. R. S. Black ...	2 00	Francis Mumford ...	2 00
Mrs. W. J. Harris ...	5 00	Mrs. McCarthy ...	50
Mrs. Mulloney ...	25	Mrs. McDonald ...	25
Mrs. Henry Cook ...	2 00	Hon. Dr. Parker ...	20 00
Mrs. George Nicolls ...	3 00	L. Sterns ...	1 00
George S. Yates ...	5 00	W. Smith ...	25
A Friend ...	2 00	H. L. Walker ...	1 00
W. C. Brennan ...	2 00	E. Walker ...	1 00
W. Ross ...	50	Mrs. Walker ...	1 00
H. C. Barnaby ...	1 00	J. Wright ...	1 00
B. M. Davidson ...	50		
A Friend ...	1 00	(By Mrs. R. Murray.)	
E. Boreham ...	1 00	Rev. E. M. Saunders ...	5 00
A Friend ...	1 00	Miss Nordbeck ...	10 00
A Friend ...	40	Miss Stairs ...	7 00
(Collected by Mrs. Esson.)		Mrs. Morrow ...	5 00
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Mrs. W. Lawson ...	4 00	W. S. ...	10 00
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Joseph W. Allan ...	1 00	Mrs. Geo. H. Starr ...	5 00
A. W. Beck ...	50	Mr. C. ...	2 00
Mrs. Dart ...	50	Mr. McA. ...	1 00
Dr. Desbrisay ...	50	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Murray ...	100 00
William Elliot ...	1 00	A Friend ...	5 00
P. Farquarharson ...	50	A Friend ...	5 00
A Friend ...	25	Robert Colquhoun, (Shelburne) ...	1 40
A Friend ...	1 00	From Little Johnnie ...	4 00
A Friend ...	25	Judge McCully ...	10 00
Mrs. E. Foster ...	1 00	Mrs. Pitblado ...	5 00
		Collected from Sundry Persons ...	12 77



## DONATIONS.

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During the first few weeks after the opening of the Home, numerous donations of various articles were received, which were then acknowledged through the press. The following have been received more recently and are hereby gratefully acknowledged:

Children's Pillows from several Friends.

10 pairs Stockings, Mrs. Wishart.

“ “ Mrs. Murray.

10 Blankets, Friends in N. B., per Mrs. Murray.

6 Net Day Beds, R. I. Hart, Esq.

Package children's Clothing, Mrs. J. B. Uniacke.

“ “ “ 48 pieces, Mrs. Reeves, Dartmouth.

“ “ “ Mrs. John Starr.

“ “ “ Mrs. Ray.

Four barrels Apples, Friends.

Packages Tea, Coffee, Broma, Sugar, A Friend.

66 Rolls Batting, W. Ackhurst, Esq.

Several pieces of Furniture from Friends.

3 Geese, 2 Turkeys, Mutton, 1 Ham, Tea, Sugar, 7 Cakes, Cheese, Broma, Corn Starch, Clothing—Christmas Gifts from several Friends.

Gas-Fitting, by Messrs Watson & Myers, \$2.15.

Quilt and Dress Material, Mrs. G. Smith, Green Street.

Groceries, Mrs. Robert Lindsay.

✓ Clothing and Provisions, Mrs. DeBlois.

Clothing, &c., Mrs. J. Thomson, North End.

Provisions, &c., Mrs. Liddell.

Quilts, Clothing, &c., Mrs. Meynell.