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THE
FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
HOUSE OF REFUGE
FOR
PENITENT WOMEN,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 31, 1868.

"The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."
LUKE xix, 10.

HALIFAX, N. S. :
PRINTED BY T. CHAMBERLAIN, 176 ARGYLE STREET,
1868.

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1847
FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1846

PRINTED BY J. W. BARNES, 101 N. 3RD ST. PHILADELPHIA

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BOARD OF OFFICERS FOR 1868-9.

Superintendent.

REV. F. H. ALMON.

Financial Committee.

HON. M. B. ALMON,
M. H. RICHEY, Esq.
A. K. DOULL, Esq.

Treasurer.

D. HENRY STARR, Esq.

Ladies' Visiting Committee.

MRS. WILLIAM CUNARD,	MRS. JOSEPH BELL,
MRS. JOSEPH J. NORTHUP,	MRS. SANFORD FLEMMING,
MRS. FRANK J. ALBRO,	MRS. FOSTER H. ALMON,
MRS. JOHN B. HAMILTON,	MRS. CHAS. H. M. BLACK,
MRS. PHILIP W. CREIGHTON,	MRS. ADAM C. FIFE,
MRS. FERNS, SECRETARY,	MRS. MAGARREL, MATRON.

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REPORT.

8-9.

In presenting to the subscribers and friends of the REFUGE FOR PENITENT WOMEN a report of its work from 1st November, 1867, to 1st November, 1868, I would express my thanks to God for the support received and the measure of success obtained. During this year 10 persons have been admitted, of whom 3 are now married, 2 in service, 1 returned to her former life, 2 in the Home, and 2 sent to the poor-house. An inmate of the Refuge previous to the 1st of November has been married, so that since the work commenced under my superintendence the number received has been 11.

The means used for the improvement of the inmates have been the following:—

1st.—Regular visits and religious instruction, in which, both in private conversation and in explaining the Word of God, I have showed them the willingness of our Saviour to pardon and bless them, and urged them to trust in Him,—and pointed out to them how they might regain their characters, and become useful members of society, promising them that those who take an interest in them would, if they by God's grace truly reformed, use every effort to obtain them employment in the country.

2nd.—The inmates have been visited by a committee of ladies, who thus strive to benefit them.

3rd.—They have family prayer, and are instructed in reading at the Refuge, and regularly attend the Three-Mile House Church. The Ladies' Committee have expressed their satisfaction at the progress which some of the inmates have made in sewing, and with the kindness and attention to her duties of the Matron, Mrs. Magarrel. I have also been much pleased to see the interest Mrs. Magarrel has shewn in her work, and the efforts she makes to discharge the difficult duties of her office as Matron.

Under her superintendence 96 articles have been made for the use of the Refuge, and a large number for sale.

MMING,
LON,
BLACK,
E.
LATRON.

After much consideration, the Ladies' Committee, the Treasurer and I, have lately concluded that spinning and weaving would be the most useful work for the inmates of the Home to engage in, especially with the view of qualifying them for work in the country. In order to carry this out, spinning wheels and wool have been purchased, a loom has been kindly lent by Mr. Logan, and a suitable person engaged to reside for a month or two at the Home, so as to instruct the Matron and the inmates in this branch of industry.

The expenses of the institution have been increased during the past year, from the necessity of purchasing bedding and furniture for the rooms.

Owing to the extreme destitution of those who apply for admission, clothing has had to be provided.

The Ladies' Committee meet every month on the last Tuesday, at 11 o'clock, at my house, to consult on the working of the Home, and agree on the weeks they visit in.

The Hon. M. B. Almon, M. H. Richey and A. K. Doull, Esqrs., are the Financial Committee, and D. H. Starr, Esq., has kindly acted as Treasurer. The Refuge is open to the visits of subscribers, and ministers of the Gospel of every evangelical denomination.

In my letter of December 9th, 1867, to the Protestant ministers of this city, I proposed that "the Refuge should be established out of the city, on a small scale, so as to have the benefit of the family influence, receiving not more than six inmates, each of whom shall remain one year." I propose now a probation of six months in preference to twelve months, as this will enable the Refuge to receive more inmates each year; and I consider that a residence of six months will give time enough for religious instruction and for probation, and that employment for the remaining six months in a Christian family, with the stimulus of earning wages, would be more beneficial than a whole year in the Home. The following extract from the report of a temporary Refuge in England, where the inmates remained only a few days under the care of a City Missionary and his wife, proves that a long residence is not necessary for the reformation of the inmates of a Refuge:—

"During ten years 1116 poor outcasts have crossed the threshold, have had their hearts touched by kindly sympathy and friendly counsel, have had their history carefully investigated, their sincerity tested, and their wants cared for, and have then, in the majority of cases, been placed in domestic service, in situations carefully selected, with full knowledge of all circumstances on the part of the employers; others have been restored to their parents; some few of the worst cases have been placed in penitentiaries, and no less than 206 have married." The work does not end with their being put in a position to earn for themselves a good character and an honest livelihood,—correspondence is kept up wherever practicable, and, if necessary, they are visited by the

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Missionary, so that every effort is made to retain an influence for good over them, and after the lapse of many years the Missionary has still a watchful eye over the greater proportion of the cases he has taken up. The result of ten years work of this temporary Refuge are that out of 1116 cases, 776 are satisfactorily accounted for, 66 have died, 180 were untraceable or doubtful, 4 were in prison, 141 have returned to an evil life; if to these are added a fair proportion of those lost sight of, the total number of cases where the work has not been permanent will not exceed one-fifth of the whole taken up. Nor must it be assumed that with those relapsed, the work has entirely failed; its influence for good often asserts itself when least expected, and the remembrance of the kindness and sympathy experienced before, brings the poor wanderer, in her relenting moments, again to seek out the Refuge, and perhaps this second time to be permanently restored to an honest walk in life.

"The Committee are greatly encouraged by the results; they do not attempt to measure by figures the spiritual work which has been effected, but they feel that the Missionary and his wife have left no stone unturned to make the few days spent with them a time of sifting, of earnest prayer, of loving counsel. The chief desire of all who promote this work is that these poor fallen ones should be led to seek the Saviour of Sinners, who is able and willing to save to the uttermost all who come to God by Him, so that being washed in His most precious blood, they who once were outcasts on the earth, without a friend to pity or to speak a kindly word, may become joint heirs with Christ of His everlasting kingdom."

It must be remembered that in a Refuge, although with but few inmates, we have to contend against their bad influence on one another, and in their proneness to quarrel while in a private family these influences are gone, and succeeded often by the moral and religious impressions of family life.

I visited in September the Home in St. John, New Brunswick; it was working well, and I would earnestly recommend all who are able to visit an institution which has now for several years been in operation, and been by God's blessing a source of real reformation to many of its inmates.

In concluding this Report I would entreat the ministers of the Gospel and all those Christians who believe in the power of Christ to save from every sin those who turn to Him in true penitence and faith both with God's gifts, refused to none who truly seek for them, to consider the large number of fallen women in this city, and the injury they are doing to themselves and society, and the urgent duty of true Christians both to support this Refuge, and promote further efforts to reclaim the fallen, and to prevent as far as possible their number being increased by new victims.

To promote these objects I would propose the following plans, for the 3rd of which I am indebted to the suggestions of those who have considered the subject carefully:—

1st. The appointment of a zealous and prudent Christian woman to labour as Missionary among the fallen women of this city.

2nd. That Christian ladies should regularly visit the prisoners at Rockhead, many of whom are of this class; and that efforts should be made to render that institution more conducive to the moral and religious improvement of its inmates than it is at present.

3rd. It is certain that servant girls from the country are, from their ignorance of the city on their first arrival, sometimes enticed to houses of ill-fame, and when out of place, from want of means, have often no respectable house to go to, and are compelled by poverty to go anywhere. It is, therefore, most desirable that a Servants' Home should be established by the ladies of Halifax, where strangers from the country and others out of place could be received; obtain Christian kindness; and be boarded at a low rate, or, if necessary, free of cost, till places could be obtained for them.

The Financial Committee have resolved to appeal to the Evangelical Churches of Halifax, to raise the sum of one thousand dollars in support of this Refuge, for the ensuing year. When the expenses, incidental to the working and progress of such institutions, are fully weighed, and the importance of the work contemplated considered, they trust that the amount required will be readily contributed; and they believe that the best way of raising subscriptions, is for each congregation to raise from its members its fair share, and to remit it at once to the Treasurer, D. Henry Starr, Esq. The names of subscribers are not published in this Report, but subscribers' names collected by me can be seen at the Treasurer's office, and the other subscribers on the collecting books of the churches to which they belong.

While willing to superintend the religious instruction of the inmates of the Home, I feel that other duties will interfere with my collecting through the present year, the sum collected by me in the past; and, therefore, I trust, that the Ministers of the Gospel, and the congregations, will readily agree to the plan proposed by Financial Committee and myself, and thereby free the Treasurer and myself of all anxiety as to the pecuniary support of the Refuge. I am fully convinced that the work we have begun is not a hopeless one; but one that has every prospect of increasing in usefulness year by year, if persevered in with prudence, energy, and love;—for why should we doubt that the same God of love who has blessed in other lands the efforts made to rescue these fallen ones from a life of infamy and a death of misery, will bless the efforts which Christians in this city will make, if they will shew the same energy, zeal, perseverance, and dependence on their Saviour, which their brethren elsewhere have manifested.

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If Christians feel it their duty to support City Missionaries, and to do all they can to have the Gospel preached to every one, however sunk in sin; will they not also, by maintaining a house of Refuge, provide a place where some at least may find a home till they can be restored to society, and thus aid our City Missionaries in their efforts.

In concluding this Report, I would acknowledge the efforts made by our City Missionaries, and especially by Mr. Logan, who induced some to enter the home; and return also my thanks to the Ladies' Visiting Committee, who have taken so much interest in the work, and to those Ministers who have sent subscriptions, and to all the subscribers; and I trust that while many who read this Report will acknowledge that far more ought to have been done than any of us have ever done or tried to do to save the lost; yet they will unite with me in thanking God that so many have been found willing in this city to aid another effort for the salvation and reformation of those too generally viewed as hopelessly lost, but of whose recovery they cannot despair who remember His love and power, who came into the world to save sinners, and who is both able and willing to save to the uttermost all who come to God by Him.

F. H. ALMON,
Superintendent.

November 1st, 1868.

N.B. Donations and Subscriptions will be thankfully received by D. Henry Starr, Treasurer, at his Office at the Sheffield House.

Dr.

The House of Refuge in Account with D. Henry Starr, Treasurer.

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1868.

Oct. 31.—To Cash paid for Furniture Clothing, &c.,
for 15 months.....\$170 75½
To Cash paid for Rent of Refuge..... 131 00
To Cash paid Mrs. Magarrel, 15 months
salary, \$80 pr. an..... 100 00
To Cash paid R. Magarrel for Board of
inmates for one year..... 363 25½
Balance on hand..... 35 29

\$800 30

1868.

Oct. 31.—By amount subscriptions collected by
Rev. F. H. Almon.....\$525 80
By amount received from St. Luke's
Church, per Rev. Dean Bullock..... 37 50
By amount received from St. Matthew's
Church, per Rev. Geo. M. Grant.... 80 00
By amt. rec'd from St. Andrew's Church,
per Rev. Charles M. Grant..... 35 00
By amt. rec'd from Brunswick St. Wes-
leyan Church, per Jos. Bell, Esq..... 60 00
By amt. rec'd from Grafton St. Wesleyan
Church, per Rev. A. W. Turner..... 40 00
By amt. rec'd from Poplar Grove Church,
per Donald Fraser, Esq..... 24 00

\$800 30

1868.

Novr. 1.—By Balance.....\$35 29

E. & O. E.

D. HENRY STARR,
TREASURER.