

GIRLS' HOME.

The annual meeting of the Girls' Home was held last evening in the Lecture Room, Mechanics' Institute. Several ladies were among those present. Sheriff Jarvis was called to the chair, and having briefly alluded to the object of the gathering, he called on Rev. A. Wickson to open the proceedings with prayer. That gentleman having completed,

Mr. Roaf, on behalf of the Secretary, Margaret Isabella Roaf, read the annual report, which we subjoin:—

The managers of the "Girls' Home and Public Nursery, Toronto," in presenting their ninth annual report to the public, have nothing special to relate. During the past year the institution has been steadily progressing and prospering, both in numbers and in securing the objects of its establishment.

The number of children in the house at the close of the year was 22. 36 were in at the commencement of the year; 19 in the "Home," 17 in the "Nursery." 47 have been admitted during the year; 23 to the "Home," 24 to the "Nursery," making a total of 83 who have been in the institution during the year. Of these—11 have gone to service, 10 have been adopted, 2 have been removed to the "Boys' Home," 1 has died, 1 ran away, and 16 have been removed by their parents—thus making 41 who have left the institution during the year.

The managers long felt the necessity of moving from the house they occupied at the corner of Queen and Jarvis streets, on account of its smallness and unfavourable position. After much difficulty a more commodious house, with a piece of ground attached, was rented on Carleton street, which has enabled them to receive more children.

They still feel, however, that to properly conduct such an institution, a house expressly adapted to the wants of the classes of inmates, is necessary. Efforts for that purpose have, during the year, been made, but enough has not yet been realized to justify the managers in commencing to build. Their desire is not to commence building until sufficient means to finish have been raised, that they may not be burdened with debt. A bazaar, at which the sum of \$1,120 has been realised, was held last October. Of this sum \$1,003 were given to the treasurer of the building fund to be invested.

The amount now invested for building purposes in the Canada Permanent Building Society, is \$4,000. Of this, \$2,181 35 were raised last year, principally by penny-a-week subscriptions through part of the city. The increase has accrued from interest, from bazaar, from some penny subscriptions, and from donations.

The managers desire to mention especially the handsome contributions this year of \$250 by Messrs. Robert Walker & Sons, and \$100 by A. Mercer Esq. If the Corporation or any kind, liberal friend would give a suitable lot of land, a building might be erected during the present year.

During the past year, the County Council of York and Peel has, for the first time, kindly granted this charity the sum of \$100. The Government has also continued the reduced grant of \$380.

The Treasurer's report, the statements of the Treasurer, and of the Treasurer of the Building Fund, are submitted herewith, together with a list of subscriptions and donations for the past year.

Through the mercy of a kind Providence, the health of the children has been good. Only one death has occurred. When the smallness of the house and the consequent crowding into an ordinary two-story building of from 36 to 42 children under 14 years of age—one half of them under 7—and the fact that many of these were brought in suffering from want of care, are considered, the managers feel they have great cause for thankfulness.

Dr. Ross has, with great kindness, visited gratuitously, and done all in his power to further the interests of the "Home." The managers with much pleasure thank him for his efficient services.

It is also due to the matron for her attention and care to the inmates, and the efficient manner in which she has performed the duties incumbent upon her.

The objects of this institution have been several times laid before the public; but it may be again stated that the "Nursery" is designed for taking care of those children, under the age of seven years, whose parents are prevented by their occupation from taking care of them. In most of these cases a small payment per month is required. "The Home" is principally designed for taking care of and properly training for service those girls who might otherwise infest the streets, and who might otherwise infest the reformatories. During the short period since this part of the charity has been in operation, several instances have occurred where girls have been rescued from ruin. One in particular the managers have much pleasure in mentioning—a girl of about ten years of age, who came herself and asked to be taken in. She had, through the influence of a drunken mother, become addicted to the use of intoxicating liquors. This girl is now at service, happy and giving satisfaction to her employers. Another one, sent to us off the streets, has been provided with a comfortable home.

While upon this subject, the managers desire to express their feelings upon the important topic to which attention has been lately called by one of the judges on the bench—that is, the necessity of something being done for the young girls of this class. It is such as these the managers wish to rescue; for such as these they would willingly spend time and trouble. But to accomplish this purpose they must have a proper house, where they can be properly classed and properly taught to God and man, and properly train them for labour and for providing for themselves. Surely it is not asking of the citizens of Toronto too much, to ask them to assist in this work; to put it in the power of those who would aid these poor children to do so. Another aid they also feel would conduce to the carrying out of the object which is an essential part of this work, that is, the passage of a law preventing worthless parents from removing their children from those who can and will provide for them. The managers have already felt the need of such a law.

In conclusion, the managers express their thanks to those kind friends who have enabled them to continue the good work, and feel confident their efforts will be sustained. They feel that not in their own strength have they been enabled to carry on this work, but that the Father of the fatherless, and the Friend of the helpless and needy, has been with them; that faith in Him has strengthened their hands—that on Him they rely for a blessing on their labours, and they wish ever to bear in mind the words of His blessed son:—"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

EMILY A. McCAUL,
 First Directress.

MARGARET ISABELLA ROAF,
 Secretary.

Board Room, Jan., 1866.

The Rev. Dr. McCaul, in a very happy speech, moved the first resolution. It was—

Resolved—That the report just read be adopted, and printed; and that the under-mentioned ladies compose the board of managers and directresses for the coming year:—

Mrs. McCaul, 1st Directress.

Mrs. A. McMaster, 2nd Directress.

Mrs. R. Gilmor, 3rd Directress.

MANAGERS.

Mrs. John Roaf, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. John Leys, Mrs. Alcorn, Mrs. J. G. Beard, Mrs. S. H. Blake, Mrs. Darling, Mrs. A. B. Walker, Mrs. Mathers, Mrs. Edmund Baldwin, Mrs. Clarkson Jones, Mrs. Gardner, Mrs. J. Masterman, Mrs. John Strachan, Mrs. J. G. Hodgins, Mrs. Joseph Robinson, Mrs. George Duggan, Mrs. Castady, Mrs. Beull, Mrs. F. P. Stowe, Mrs. Gillott, Mrs. John Kerr, Mrs. Dredge, Mrs. Morse.

Honorary Member—Mrs. Wm. Elliott.

Mr. A. McMASTER seconded the resolution.

The resolution was put and carried.

It was then moved by JOHN McDONALD, Esq., M.P.P., and seconded by Rev. S. GIVENS, and resolved—That providing asylum for the homeless and destitute is among the noblest of charities, for while conferring the benefit, it enkindles the purest emotions of benevolence, and evinces the discipleship of Him who exemplified in his life a peculiar regard for the poor. It is, therefore, with much pleasure this meeting learns that the managers contemplate the speedy erection of a suitable building for the "Girls' Home," and pledges itself to a cordial and liberal support in accomplishing that work. Carried.

The third resolution was moved by Rev. F. MARLING, and seconded by Rev. W. GREGG, and was as follows:—*Resolved*—That this meeting thankfully acknowledges the labours of the lady Directresses, Secretary-Treasurer, and Managers of the Home, and as success under God depends on a patient continuance in well-doing, it trusts no impediment will cause any discouragement or relaxation of their efforts, but that the future will, as the past, be crowned with success, and ultimately receive the plaudit of "Well done, good and faithful servants," from Him who judgeth righteously.

Mr. ROAF, seconded by Rev. Mr. SAUNDERS moved a vote of thanks to Dr. Ross for his gratuitous services, in connection with his assistant, and also a vote of thanks to the Matron.

The CHAIRMAN then closed the meeting with an address in which he said it gave him great pleasure to hear of the satisfactory state of things stated in the report, and he hoped before another year they would be able still further to extend their sphere of

operations, and would be able to secure a large and more comfortable "Home" for the children.

Dr. Ross entered into a statement, showing the great benefits of the Institution, and concluded by returning thanks for the vote which had just been tendered him.

On motion, the hearty thanks of the meeting were tendered to the Chairman, who, in reply, reiterated the pleasure it gave him to preside at the gathering.

Our space does not allow us to give the remarks of the several movers and seconders of the resolutions.

Rev. Mr. MARLING having pronounced the benediction, the meeting adjourned.