

HOWARD

REPORT

OF

Howard Relief Society,

FOR 1885.

It is difficult to report the principal part of the work of the Howard Relief Society, for during the past year, as heretofore, it has consisted not only in aiding those who are in distress for want of food or clothing, or on account of sickness, but in checking imposture and preventing street begging. As a prominent business gentleman kindly expresses it, our work is known by the *absence* of beggary and destitution, and therefore cannot be easily described. We often consult Mr. Greene, the Overseer of the Poor, and are always sure of his co-operation, and aid where it is practicable.

In the report of the Treasurer of the Relief Society, published June 5, 1885, the disbursements for the year were \$434.64. The amount spent for shoes alone was \$196.40. Our special object is to provide clothing for those of our citizens who are too poor to buy it for themselves, and besides the money given to our Society, many charitable persons send their half-worn clothing to our rooms where it is distributed to the families who have been visited and

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whose necessities are known by our Committee. One hundred and sixteen children who are in the public schools were aided in this way last year. The average attendance of the Industrial School, where the girls were taught sewing, every Saturday afternoon during last winter, was 97, (number of names 178). 237 garments were made and given to the children. The object of the school is not only to teach the girls to sew neatly and to make garments for themselves, but also by a watchful care to keep them in the public schools; to show them by uniform kindness and wise counsel that the great desire of all the ladies who are connected with this branch of our work is to help them in every way possible to become good women. Most of the instruction devolves upon the different teachers of the classes. One of the most experienced, who has a class of the oldest girls, averaging fourteen years, told me that upon inquiry she found that not one in her class knew whether she lived in Canada or the United States, or that there was any difference between the government of these countries. The necessity of some kind of instruction besides sewing, is evident.

With the boys, we are less fortunate in one respect only, and that is the impossibility of finding any work that will occupy them as quietly as the sewing does the girls, and bring them under the personal supervision of the teachers. Last winter was only an experiment, but with the disadvantage of a cold room, we secured not only the regular attendance of the boys, but a hearty interest and appreciation of the little instruction that was given to them. This winter a Blue Ribbon Society has been organized by Mrs. Clapp, and the members of it promise not to drink intoxicating liquor of any kind. She has the names of 150 boys.

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At present all our work is comparatively easy, as we have pleasant, well lighted and well warmed and ventilated rooms. December 2, 1885, Miss Louisa H. Howard presented to the Society a deed of one-third of the Exchange Block building on Church street, giving us, as Mr. Ballard expressed it in his speech of presentation, "a home and an income of some \$700 per annum, that will be permanent, and secure a continuous help in our beneficent work."

Our gratitude for this gift cannot be expressed, but we know that the name of Miss Louisa H. Howard will be blessed and remembered not only by those in distress and poverty whom her generosity enables us to relieve from suffering, and the children of poor parents who owe their education in the public schools to the watchful care that we are now able to give them, but by all the citizens of Burlington who recognize that the prosperity of the City is aided by the work of the Howard Relief Society.

KATHARINE HAGAR,

Secretary Howard Relief Society.

Mrs. R. N. Clapp, President; Mrs. Ira P. Russell, Vice-President; Mrs. Walter Carpenter, Treasurer.

Mrs. A. J. Willard, Mrs. A. C. Abbott, Mrs. M. H. Phelps, Miss Florence Lyman, Miss Elizabeth Lowry, Mrs. George Towle, Mrs. C. N. Mead, Mrs. L. M. Taylor.

January 11, 1886.