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OUR GOLDEN JUBILEE

A RETROSPECT

OF THE

American Female Guardian Society

AND

HOME FOR THE FRIENDLESS

FROM

1834 TO 1884

EBEN-EZER—"Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

AMERICAN FEMALE GUARDIAN SOCIETY
29 EAST TWENTY-NINTH STREET
NEW YORK CITY

1884

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OUR GOLDEN JUBILEE,

A RETROSPECT.

MAY, 1884, completes a half-century of the work of the American Female Guardian Society, and we pause for a retrospect of these memorable fifty years. Our Saviour said of the kingdom of God, "It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it." This similitude strikingly epitomizes the history of this Society, its small beginnings, steady growth, and present extent and prosperity; and we stand to-day to express our wonder, love and praise for what God has wrought. We look back upon the consecrated women who began the work, with affectionate admiration, but while we praise them, and wonder at their holy daring, we look beyond, as they would have us do, in adoring gratitude to Him who went before, and gave them grace to follow after. We speak not so much of achievement as of growth, not of what human will has wrought,

but of what He has done, from whose heart of infinite love the work has proceeded, from its first prompting, through each successive stage, in all its outspread and success.

“Backward we look, adown the gliding years
That one by one take rank among the past,
And o'er the whole, by memory's aid to-day
A solemn retrospective glance we cast.

“Tell it abroad ! wherever we begin,
Each year, each day, each minute must record,
In spite of all the weakness and the sin,
The goodness and the mercy of the Lord.”

2

THE American Female Guardian Society had its origin in New York in the spring of 1834. Not one of its original members is left to tell the story of its formation ; but we gather from records left us that it was a fruit of the glorious revivals of religion during 1830 and onward, which had not only brought many souls into the kingdom, but had greatly stimulated Christian activity, and led one and another of the disciples of Jesus to ask with new earnestness, “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do ?”

When the Lord has a work to be done in the world, how manifestly he raises up and prepares workers. “Ye have not chosen me,” he says, “but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain.”



As ever Yours
M. A. Hawkins

Among the subjects of this revival was Mrs. M. A. Hawkins, a young woman, said by her compeers to have been unusually beautiful and attractive, moving in a select and brilliant circle, with worldly prospects of great promise. To her the voice of the Spirit came, and she arose and followed her Lord. She gave herself to him without reserve. Her youth, her personal attractions, her abounding energies of body and mind were wholly consecrated, and henceforth she was to be the instrument in his hand for a great and good work.

Her attention was directed at this time, by the writings and labors of Rev. J. R. McDowall, one of God's heroes, to the fearful ravages of a sin heretofore unrebuked, because difficult of approach. God seemed unmistakably pointing to the haunts of her whose steps take hold on hell, that the young and unwary victims drawn into her hidden and fatal power might be snatched from impending ruin. The heart of this young Christian woman was roused to pity for her fallen sisters, and stirred with a holy impulse to save them. Meetings for prayer were held, and she with her associates plead fervently for divine guidance as they confronted this terrible iniquity.

There was soon apparent an honest division of feeling as to the methods of prosecuting the work which was before them. We can now see that this was of the Lord, for it was signally overruled for the spread

and solidification of woman's work to woman, just then specifically opening to the Christian world. One party believed it wise to do what could be done quietly to rescue those already in the snare of the fowler, and proceeded to the formation of the Magdalen Society, which is still prosecuting its mission of benevolence at the asylum in 88th Street, where many women lost to virtue, have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, and restored to a pure and happy life. The other party in which Mrs. Hawkins was conspicuous, believed it more wise to add to their endeavors words of warning, which should deter the unwary from entering the way that leads down to death, and thus prevent an evil which it was so difficult to cure. "They were a feeble band," as one of their number relates, "few in numbers, unused to responsibilities of this nature, inexperienced in the transaction of public business, and well aware that trials of no ordinary kind awaited them in the prosecution of their work. But the call of God was in their ears, his Spirit had stirred the deep fountains of feeling within their hearts, and they could sleep no longer over the vice and misery with which they were everywhere surrounded. In the name of Jehovah, the banner of female purity was set up, and its adherents marched out to meet the giant sin which had so long bidden defiance to the armies of the living God."

In the following year the hand of Providence led to the city a young and childless widow, Mrs. S. R. Ingraham, afterwards Mrs. Bennett. Here she heard of the new work of moral reform, and was led to attend one of the prayer-meetings spoken of above, a parlor-meeting held in Mott Street. At this meeting she met Mrs. Hawkins, and while joining with her in fervent petitions at a throne of grace for their fallen sisters, she received the inspiration for her life work. The acquaintance there begun ripened into a deep affection and a long and blessed companionship in service; and it has been largely due under God to the self-sacrificing and persistent labors of these two devoted women, as leaders, and their associates of the same undaunted, courageous spirit, that this enterprise, in its beginning unpopular, has achieved such a success.

In May, 1834, the New York Moral Reform Society was organized.

3

THEIR first work was the establishment of a semi-monthly paper which should be an exponent of their principles, and an organ of communication with the public. It was designed to be the ally and defender of virtue, and to hold up before the world as their prominent aim, "Remedy if practicable, Prevention by every possible Christian endeavor." It was to be

also an agency for procuring funds to carry forward the work.

The journal published by McDowall, which had been used of God to draw attention to this neglected field of labor, had been discontinued on account of the serious illness of its proprietor, but its list of subscribers was transferred to the new enterprise, which was to be henceforth sustained by ladies. They entered upon the undertaking, recognizing its difficulties, but with a determination "to exalt the law of God, and so *prevent* its violation; to guard the family from the invasion of the Spoiler, so to *prevent* the fall of the innocent; and, as far as practicable, to produce such a reform in public sentiment, that the morally debased should be estimated according to their true character, and made to feel that access to the society of the virtuous could only be assured by purity of heart and life."

Their paper was originally known as the **ADVOCATE OF MORAL REFORM**. After the lapse of years, and in view of the enlarging sphere of the Society, disapprobation of its title, even among its friends, was expressed; as calculated to arouse prejudice on the one hand, and on the other, not sufficiently to define its aims. In reply to these objections, the editor remarks, in the closing issue of 1846, "The Society and its friends have never regarded the term 'Moral Reform' as implying exclusively and

specifically the reformation of the abandoned. Far otherwise; with them it signifies reform in public sentiment, reform in social customs; in a word, reform in whatever is erroneous in belief or practice coming within the scope of the Divine command relative to purity of heart and life. Such is the 'Moral Reform' they advocate, and they do it, having for their chief end and aim, to prevent moral evil, and to warn the young and unfriended to flee from temptation before their steps slide, and ruin overtakes them. The other objection, viz.: that the term 'Moral Reform' is not sufficiently definite, we admit to be just, and wish to remedy. The work of the Society has greatly enlarged since the name was given to their paper, and many of the exposed and needy have now come to look to it rather as a guardian institution. Its field of usefulness, as hitherto, will be mainly in the family circle. Here lie the rising hopes of our country. Let the domestic hearth be sedulously guarded, and kept pure, as it may be, from the taint of moral evil, and a generation of the pure in heart, blessed of Heaven, and prepared to see God, will yet live to bless the earth."

From that date the paper was called **THE ADVOCATE OF MORAL REFORM AND FAMILY GUARDIAN**; which has since been abbreviated to **ADVOCATE AND FAMILY GUARDIAN**.

4

THE next step to the establishment of the paper, was the systematic employment of missionaries to go through the dark places of the city, distribute Bibles, scatter tracts, hold meetings for outcasts, and visit the wretched dens which could by no propriety be called homes, though they sheltered men and women, and their woful progeny. We go about our city, and in the "Hell's Kitchens, Devil's Barracks, and Sebastapols of the present day, we find abject misery and iniquity which we think could never have been surpassed. Yet fifty years ago, at the Five Points, in the Old Brewery, Murderers' Alley, and other purlieus of the city where the abandoned classes were massed, there existed horrors which under the present city improvements, would scarcely be credited. These haunts had seldom been trodden by the disciples of Jesus; they were like festering sores upon the community, too deep, too offensive to be touched; considered beyond all redemption. And because it was thought they could not be approached without contamination or jeopardy of life, they were neglected, left to spread and increase their pestiferous influence. But into these leprous haunts the consecrated leaders and allies of this new reform, with Margaret Pryor, their first missionary, stepped fearlessly, rescuing with strong faith and loving hands one after another from the pit of corruption. Each individual saved was fresh stimulus to



V. Baulch.

Mrs. Margaret Prior

these unwearied workers, and while it gave them personally great joy, demonstrated the need of vigorous effort in this direction.

Our prisons were at that time in a sadly demoralized condition. Faulty as their condition may now be considered in point of discipline, dark and benighted in moral aspects, they were then far below the present standard. As our missionaries went through these public institutions, gathering facts relative to the spiritual condition of the inmates, they saw an urgent necessity of reform, and gave themselves no rest till these were accomplished.

To their memorials, petitions and personal appeals the State Legislature at length responded. The men and women were placed in separate prisons, and an efficient Christian matron, Mrs. Foster, was placed in charge of the Female Department, which she controlled so ably that her services were retained for more than forty years, until her death. A great change was effected by her discreet management, in the moral atmosphere of the place, and the way was opened to our sisters for more enlarged and successful gospel work among the inmates.

5

A REGISTRY and Office of Direction was also opened, its design being to aid friendless women, if found worthy, and to counsel those who were in

danger from pernicious influences around them. Many were led to apply to this agency for situations as domestics, seamstresses, etc., and were always kindly advised, and in most instances provided for. Very early this department proved a stepping stone for the ignorant and friendless out of almost certain destruction. Such cases marked this line of work as of great importance. It was therefore continued, and while much time and labor were demanded in benefiting the temporal and spiritual interests of these needy ones, it was evidently a call of duty, and was pursued with vigor. The charnel-houses of the city drew as largely upon the market for domestics as the most respectable establishments, and the propriety of sustaining an agency that should regard the moral safety of the applicant was apparent. This measure, therefore, seemed exceedingly appropriate as a preventive of wrong and a safeguard for the exposed.

6

At the Annual Meeting in 1839, five years after the formation of the Society, the proposition arose, to make the association national in name, as it had come to be in its work. It was, therefore, from that time designated, "The American Female Moral Reform Society." At this meeting Mrs. Hawkins was made President, with a list of Vice-Presidents from seventeen different States, including all New England,

and reaching west to Wisconsin Territory, and south to South Carolina. Mrs. S. R. Ingraham, afterwards and for so many years known among us as Mrs. Bennett, and Miss M. I. Treadwell, afterwards Mrs. Hubbard, were Secretaries; and in the list of its twenty-six Managers, we recognize the names of Mrs. John McComb, Mrs. Dr. Ball, Mrs. Margaret Pryor, Mrs. Margaret Dye and Mrs. A. C. Loveland, who for years wrought nobly, and have long since entered into rest; and Mrs. C. M. Sexton, and Mrs. Dimond, now Mrs. D. Putnam, who are still living in distant parts of the country.

7

THESE all were women who dared to stand up for God, and "face a frowning world." They were quiet and unassuming in manner, strong and heroic in spirit, possessing little of this world's goods, but rich in faith. We see in them, looking back, an illustration of the words of Scripture; "Thy gentleness hath made me great." Their motto was well expressed in a bit of advice given by Mrs. Hawkins to a Christian sister; "When called to do anything for the Lord, never say, 'I can't;'
Do the best you can, and leave it to him." When difficulties arose, she would say to her associates, "Dear sisters, let us say little to each other, but much to God." Then they would all kneel before the mercy-seat, and one after another pour out

their souls in supplication. There was no plea of diffidence in this devoted band. They were not "afraid to hear their own voices" in prayer. In praying and working, each had a part to do, and did it to the best of her ability. It was this devout, this "willing and obedient" spirit, undoubtedly, that gave prestige to the Society in its beginning, and laid a firm foundation for its after prosperity. Mrs. Hawkins herself remarked in later years, "You know, my dear sisters, the foundation of this work was laid in prayer. It has been only in answer to prayer that obstacles have been removed, and facilities given to go forward. Prayer is our stronghold. Whether I am spared to be with you long or otherwise, I do trust you will 'pray without ceasing,' remembering that here lies your strength."

The weekly meetings of the Executive Committee were held at that date under the old Tract House, in a small, rear basement, ten feet by twelve. "Here with the light of a single window, scarcely sufficient in a dark day to enable the Secretary to write legibly, the early records of the Society were penned. Here, conscious that their work was isolated and despised; that it involved toil, sacrifice, and 'the world's dread scorn'; conscious, too, that He who 'went about doing good' and 'became of no reputation,' would not, with his approving smile, suffer them to depart from the field to

which he had called them, they bowed before his mercy-seat, with singleness of heart and purpose, and with tearful earnestness, from week to week, supplicated his grace and guidance." And, true to his promise, He, to whom they prayed in secret, rewarded them openly.

We can hardly understand in these days the self-denials to which the pioneers in our loved work joyfully yielded. We only wish that all who have followed after, and all who may yet enter it, might be baptized with the Holy Ghost as these veteran laborers were. We speak of them as veterans. So they are to us, as we stand here at the end of fifty years and look back. But then they were young. This is a fact to be noted. In these days, if a benevolent project is to be set on foot, we look to mature and experienced persons for its prosecution. But this Society was formed of young women, in the fresh vigor of life, inexperienced, but filled with devotion to the Master, love to their fellow creatures, an abhorrence of wrong, and an absorbing purpose to rescue those less favored than themselves from wreck and ruin. It should also be remarked that the Society has always been undenominational.

8

A COMMITTEE was at the same time sent out to awaken interest and obtain co-operation from women

throughout the State, and to form Auxiliary Associations. The Fourth Annual Report gives the number of three hundred and sixty-one auxiliaries, showing how successful was their effort, how readily the laborers entered the ripened field. Many and devoted helpers were thus early secured, who gave willingly of their substance to advance the cause, and their influence to the enlightening of public opinion. All were agreed in the desire that through the length and breadth of the land, a firm, united stand might be made against the encroachments of the social evil.

In the autumn of 1839, the first semi-annual meeting was convened in Utica, New York. These meetings were for prayer and conference concerning the work, and were continued for many years. They were held for two days, and were characterized by remarkable harmony and devotion, and were promotive of great good. The hearts of Christian women were stirred to feel and pray for the less favored of their sex, parents were stimulated to closer watch and more careful training of their children, and a warm sympathy was awakened for the destitute little wanderers of the city streets.

Among other measures adopted at this first meeting, a Saturday evening concert of prayer was agreed upon, to be observed unitedly in the closet, in behalf of the work. This concert was observed far and wide, conscientiously and devoutly for many years; and is still

remembered by the few venerable survivors of those early years.

Money was also raised for the Society by Life-membership; at first by the payment of \$10.00, in consideration of which the paper was guaranteed to the donor for five years. In 1860 this fee was raised to \$20.00, and the paper assured for life. This method brought many warm and constant friends to the cause. Every life-member became identified with the work, twice a month received reports of its progress, knew all its needs, and was stimulated to continuous efforts in its behalf. There seemed an inspiration in the work which no one who came within its influence could resist.

9

ABOUT this time a Bethel Department was added to their work. The services of a Christian brother were obtained, who visited the vessels at the wharves, and the boarding-houses for seamen, held meetings and distributed tracts. This work among the much-neglected men of the sea resulted in a precious ingathering of souls.

In the families of the seamen much destitution and suffering was found. This led to the formation of "The Mariner's Family Industrial Association," which has become a permanent benevolence. Mrs. Hawkins was placed at its head in the beginning, and

retained the position during the remainder of her life.

10

THEIR visits to the prisons, and "walks of usefulness" in the by-places of the city, taught these women much, and as their outlook broadened, their zeal deepened, and more and more firmly they grasped the idea of prevention. They saw that had the poor victims of vice on every hand been shielded, or early warned, they would have escaped the snare of the fowler. The first idea of a House of Industry originated in the Publication Office, where the poor women flocked for aid and counsel. We give the story from an account by one present :

Mr. Lewis Tappan was in the office auditing the annual accounts. Mrs. Frazer, a helper in that department, was endeavoring with means put at her disposal to supply the requirements of the needy applicants. But, as is generally the case, she found the hardest part of her duty was to think for these poor, friendless, helpless women, to devise plans of relief, and suggest places of temporary shelter for them. She gave vent to her feelings by saying, "Oh, dear, how I wish I had a home for this case." Mr. Tappan, looking up, said to her, "Write an appeal in your paper, send it through the land, and you will get all you want." "Me?" she asked, in astonishment.

“Yes, you. You see and feel the need of it.” The appeal was written, and re-written, presented to the Board the same week, accepted, and in the next issue of the *ADVOCATE* was scattered to the four winds.

11

THE care of homeless, friendless women involved the care of children. If we can save the children, we shall not have so many suffering and sinning adults to provide for, was the thought that grew and strengthened.

And here came to the dear leader, Mrs. Hawkins, the Divine and beautiful prompting which has made the Society the specialty it has become; a desire and determination, in Dr. Rowland Hill’s quaint phraseology, “to steal a march upon the devil.” There must be not only a House of Industry, but a Home for the Friendless children.

Mrs. Hawkins often said, “I have no children, therefore all children are mine.” Mrs. Ingraham, who had laid away three little ones—her all—in the grave, found her duty made clear in the lines which she often quoted,

“Enough, the dead have had thy tears ;
The living need thy care ;
A sinner in a dying world,
No time hast thou to spare !”

Many of the workers, however, had families demanding heart and time, yet with all their household

and maternal cares they found heart and time for this work of the Lord. They filled their homes to their utmost capacity with these "strange children," and cared for them as tenderly and conscientiously as they did for their own. But this could not be done without sacrifice, and they cheerfully resigned wealth, dress, fashion, society claims and pleasures—objects which women usually hold dear—that they might carry out the heaven-awakened desire to save the outcast little ones for Jesus.

12

THE question of establishing a Home for both these destitute classes, was brought by Mrs. Hawkins before the Executive Committee and Board of Managers. The important points were presented, What will be the cost of the undertaking? and What facilities shall we have for making it extensively and permanently useful? The subject was thought, talked and prayed over. There were Orphans' Homes, Sailors' Homes, Prisoners' Homes, why might there not be a Home for the Friendless? Surely none were more needy or deserving of protection than the respectable destitute women who were driven by necessity to find a night's lodging in the Station House, Alms-house, or Tombs; or the homeless children, the innocent victims of parental wrong, little ones whom even their mothers had forgotten. "They

saw Christ in each neglected and sorrowful child ; remembered that their angels do always behold the face of our Father in heaven ; and resolved as far as in them lay, in accordance with his will that ‘not one of these little ones should perish.’” All set themselves therefore to attain the desired object with a consecrated will, a united purpose, and a simple faith in the promises of God, animated by the impulse of a holy love, which made “For Jesus’ sake” their impelling and ruling motive.

The idea of erecting an edifice, says one, who was most actively engaged in the work, “came like a ray of light out of a dark sky.” It solved many difficulties. But how could it be done ? This was a moment for the exercise of faith, and our little band of praying women stepped out boldly on God’s promises. They had issued their appeal ; they next appointed a committee to present the project to influential parties. At this juncture the presentation of ten dollars, an unsolicited donation from a gentleman to whom the matter had been named, the late Francis P. Schoals, seemed a token from heaven that they should go forward. Responses came in from outside of one dollar and upward. Another stirring appeal was made by Mrs. Bennett, in the columns of the *ADVOCATE*, endorsed by twenty-three names of prominent gentlemen, clergymen, lawyers and merchants. We extract a single paragraph :

“ We need not go far to prove that there are and will continue to be, hundreds of the uncared-for classes among the 350,000, the present population of the metropolis. If by giving them a home and employment, while misfortune, innocence and helplessness render them worthy of both, they can be saved from the guilt and doom of the lost, is not the object worth all the labor and self-sacrifice it may cost ? ”

Thus originated the Institution which has come to be the centre of the Society's operations.

13

HAVING put their hands to the plough, the projectors of the enterprise never looked back. Anxious, timid, and tearful they were at times, but their trust was in God. Every shoulder was put to the wheel, and all moved straight forward. As a preliminary step and encouraged by the Christian public, the Executive Committee hired a house, until they could erect the edifice they desired. The house was a plain one on the corner of Second Avenue and First St., and was furnished with what they could get without buying. The recital can hardly fail to elicit a smile, told to-day. A straw carpet, a few chairs, large and small, a plain table and a baby jumper on the first floor, and the simplest sleeping arrangements above, was the Home's first beginning. But it was a shelter for the friendless, a home for the neglected, outcast lambs of the Saviour's fold, and His presence was there

brooding over young and old, imparting the blessing that maketh rich and addeth no sorrow thereto.

The hired house was occupied from July, 1847, to December, 1849. In the meantime friends had rallied around our indefatigable workers, funds were collected, clergymen, editors and prominent citizens espoused the cause. A committee of gentlemen was obtained, who endorsed the new enterprise, and permitted their names to stand as an Advisory Committee in any emergency that might arise, and to counsel in the application of funds that might be collected for the Home that was to be built. It is pleasant to recall their names :

Rev. Stephen H. Tyng, D. D.,	Rev. George B. Cheever, D. D.,
Rev. N. Bangs, D. D.,	Rev. Wm. Patten, D. D.,
Rev. G. T. Bedell,	Rev. George Potts, D. D.,
Rev. John Dowling, D. D.,	Hon. Moses G. Leonard,
Ex-Mayor Harper,	Rev. Thos. H. Skinner, D. D.,
E. W. Chester, Esq.,	John H. Griscom, M. D.,
Lewis Tappan,	J. B. Graham, Esq.,
S. W. Benedict, Esq.,	Francis P. Schoals, Esq.,
Joseph B. Collins,	J. S. Taylor, Esq.,
Lewis Hallock, M. D.,	E. E. Miles, Esq.,
Rev. W. W. Everts,	E. Ludlam, Esq.
Rev. J. M. Krebs, D. D.,	

14

LOTS were chosen on Thirtieth Street, between Fourth and Madison Avenues, and on May 5th, 1849, the corner-stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies.

The site selected was then quite up-town, in the centre of an almost vacant block, well shaded with trees and green with shrubbery. The neighboring streets were laid out, but unpaved, and there were few buildings in the immediate vicinity. Our Home, now far below the centre of our growing city, stood then quite in the country.

The services of that memorable day were very impressive. Can we imagine the emotions of those humble, earnest women, as they clustered about the spot? "The day was fine," says the record, "and a kind Providence seemed to smile on all the arrangements." We think it was in happy token of the blessing that should follow it in the after years.

E. W. Chester, Esq., presided, and briefly and feelingly announced the purpose of the Home. A hymn was sung, composed for the occasion by Mrs. L. H. Sigourney; Rev. J. Dowling, D. D., offered prayer, and Mr. Lewis Tappan performed the ceremony, with an earnest and appropriate address. "No public building," said the speaker, "for precisely such a purpose, has ever been erected in this country or any other, so far as we can learn." * * * "The celebrated Edmund Burke, while contemplating the numerous public charities in London—the hospitals, asylums, and charity schools—exclaimed, 'These are the moral lightning-rods that avert from this guilty city the wrath of heaven.' So may the institution,

now to be reared, prove a moral lightning-rod that may save many from destruction in this city, which in so many respects outstrips London in profligacy and vice." He deposited the box containing the collection of articles in the corner-stone with the words: "In the name of the Redeemer of a lost world, of Him, who, when on earth, had not where to lay His head, I lay this corner-stone of a house here to be erected, not as a place of amusement or dissipation, not for any purpose of gain, not to encourage vagrancy or vice, but to afford shelter to the houseless, to guard and save the tempted, to prevent crime; in which the ignorant shall be enlightened, and the wandering pointed to the Lamb of God; and may His favor and blessing be upon the projectors, the builders, the inmates, the friends, and upon the city and the world."

Rev. W. W. Everts also made an address "full of touching interest."

In the evening a public meeting was held in the Church of the Puritans, on Union Square, at which Dr. Isaac Ferris presided, and Dr. Stephen H. Tyng, and other clergymen of the city spoke.

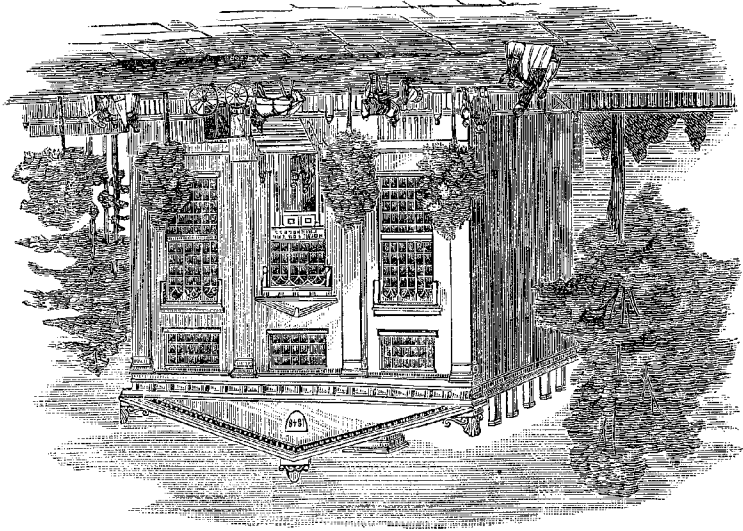
Such an experience as that day afforded to our earnest workers is not often repeated in a life-time. We look back through the vista of years, and wish we could have been there. But few of our present band were in that company.

15

FROM the day of laying the corner-stone to the completion of the edifice, there was unremitting toil. The progress of the rising walls was watched with an intensity of interest, of which we have little conception. Helpers gathered, and money was contributed. Among their most faithful and devoted friends and generous donors, was Mr. J. B. Graham, of Brooklyn, who with his brother contributed \$7,000 towards the building. He was Chairman of the Building Committee, and "from the laying of the foundation to the raising of the top-stone was daily at his post, allowing nothing to be left undone, that he regarded as essential to the best ends to be secured in the edifice."

December 13th, 1849, the house, complete in its arrangements, was formally and solemnly dedicated. It was to be the Lord's. It was received as a gift from Him; henceforth it was lent to Him for His chosen uses. It was a day of thanksgiving and tears of joy. The House of Industry, the Home for the Friendless, which had for years been a dream, a hope, a prayer, a prophecy, had become a reality. It stood, a monument of God's love, an answer to prayer, a reward of self-denying, persistent effort, to be a refuge for the poor and shelterless, "a door to heaven" for the tempted and exposed. It stood alone; the first of its kind ever erected, but destined to be the pioneer of many, since now almost every large town and city in

HOME FOR THE FRIENDLESS.



our land has its Home for the Friendless, and its earnest workers for the needy and sorrowing.

Woman's work among earth's lowly ones, and in behalf of the little children of poverty and distress, was now to be prosecuted with renewed ardor, upon a broader basis, and with the most sanguine expectations. Never did a band of Christians more unitedly and sincerely give thanks to God for what he had wrought. "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name be all the glory," was their constant and devout refrain. Truly the Lord had built the house. He alone was worthy of all praise.

16

In 1849, an act was passed by the State Legislature, providing a charter for the Society, of which the following is a copy. We give it, as embodying our line of work at that time, from which we have never deviated.

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE AMERICAN FEMALE GUARDIAN SOCIETY. PASSED APRIL 6, 1849.

The people of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows :

SECTION 1. From and after the passage of this act, the Association heretofore known as the "American Female Moral Reform and Guardian Society," may take and shall be known by the name of the "American Female Guardian Society," and shall continue to enjoy all the rights, and shall be subject to all the obligations of said Association as fully as though the name thereof had not been changed.

§ 2. Mary Anne Hawkins, Sarah R. I. Bennett, Rebecca McComb, Mary Irene Hubbard, Margaret Dye, Phœbe I. Osborn, Elizabeth Eaton, Almira C. Loveland, Julima C.

Angell, Sarah C. Hawxhurst, Helen E. Brown, Catharine G. Thorne, and all such persons as are now members of the Association called the "American Female Moral Reform and Guardian Society," and all who shall become members of the corporation hereby created, shall be, and are hereby constituted a body corporate, by the name of the "American Female Guardian Society;" whose object and business shall be, by the publication and diffusion of books, papers and tracts, and by other moral and religious means, to prevent vice and moral degradation, and to establish and maintain Houses of Industry and Homes for the relief of friendless, destitute, or unprotected females, and for friendless or unprotected children.

§ 3. There shall be a Board of Female Managers of the said Society, who shall select from their number an Executive Committee, consisting of eleven, to conduct the business of the Society, in a manner prescribed by the Constitution and By-Laws of the aforesaid Association, as the same now exists, or as the same shall be adopted or altered by the corporate body hereby constituted—but the same shall be in accordance with the laws of this State—and such Managers shall be elected annually or otherwise as is or may be prescribed by such Constitution and By-Laws.

§ 4. Said corporation shall have power to purchase and hold real estate sufficient for the actual occupation and necessary uses of the Society, and receive by gift or devise, in the same manner, and subject to the same restrictions as provided in the general law for the incorporation of Religious and Benevolent associations, and to hold and convey such real estate; and shall be deemed to be possessed of the rights and be subject to the liabilities of corporations, according to the provisions of title third, chapter eighteenth, part first, of the Revised Statutes, so far as the same may be applicable; provided, however, that the annual income of any real estate belonging to said corporation shall not exceed the sum of ten thousand dollars.

§ 5. The Board of Managers shall have power to appoint Matrons, and such other assistants as they may deem necessary in conducting the domestic and internal concerns of their "House or Houses of Industry and Home for the Friendless;" to make any By-Laws and regulations for the government of

their own proceedings and those of the persons so appointed, and of other inmates of their houses ; to govern the children under their care, and prescribe their course of instruction and management to the same extent and with the same rights as exist in the case of natural guardians.

§ 6. In all cases where a child shall have been surrendered by its natural or other legal guardians to the care and management of the Society, by any instrument or declaration in writing, it shall be lawful for the said Board of Managers at their discretion to place such child, by adoption, or at service, in some suitable employment, and with some proper person or persons, conformable to the laws of this State in regard to the binding out of indigent children ; provided that in all such cases the terms of the indenture shall be approved by the Governor of the Alms-House, or by the Surrogate of the City and County, which approval shall be signified on such indenture by the signature of such Governor or Surrogate ; but in every such case the requisite provisions shall be inserted in the indenture or contract of binding to secure the child so bound such treatment, education or instruction as shall be suitable and useful to its situation and circumstances in life.

§ 7. The children instructed in the schools connected with the "Houses" aforesaid, shall be entitled to draw an annual apportionment from the common-school fund of the city, under the direction of the Board of Education, according to the average number in attendance, in the same manner as do the children of other benevolent asylums and the common or public schools of this city and State.

§ 8. In case of the death or legal incapacity of a father, or of his imprisonment for crime, or of his abandoning and neglecting to provide for his family, the mother shall be deemed the legal guardian of her children, for the purpose of making such surrender as aforesaid. And if in any such case the mother be also dead, or legally incapable of acting, or imprisoned for crime, or shall have abandoned or neglected to provide for her child or children, the Mayor, or a Governor of the Alms-House, or Surrogate of New York, shall be, by virtue of his office, the legal guardian for the like purpose ; and so, in all cases where it can

not by diligent inquiry be ascertained that there is within the State any parent or other person legally authorized to act in the premises, the said Mayor, Alms-House Governor, or Surrogate, shall be *ex-officio* such guardians for the same purpose ; and such guardianship shall extend as well to children already in the Home of the said Society, as to those who may hereafter be offered for admission or received therein ; and in either case, whether such surrender be made by the mother, or by the Mayor, Alms-House Governor, or Surrogate of said city, and whether before or after admission into said Home, it shall be deemed a legal surrender for the purposes and within the true intent and meaning of the sixth section of this act ; but no surrender by a mother, as provided by this section, shall be valid without consent of the Mayor of the City, or Surrogate of the City and County of New York, or a Governor of the Alms-House.

§ 9. There shall be a Board of Counselors, consisting of eleven male members, whose duty it shall be to advise the Board of Managers of said Society, from time to time, in regard to the business of the Association. Five Counselors shall be a quorum for the transaction of business. No purchase, or sale, or lease, or mortgage of real estate shall be taken by said corporation without the approval of a majority of the Board of Counselors, duly certified in writing by the Secretary of said Board.

§ 10. Stephen H. Tyng, William W. Everts, Edmund S. Jaynes, George B. Cheever, Joseph B. Collins, John B. Graham, Lewis Tappan, Amos B. Eaton, Albon P. Man, Francis Schoals, Charles W. Hawkins, shall compose the first Board of Counselors, and shall act until the next annual meeting of said association or corporate body, and until their successors shall be elected. Such Board of Counselors shall be elected annually, at the annual meeting of said Society or in such other manner as shall be prescribed by the association. Conveyances of real estate shall be executed by a majority of the Board of Counselors.

§ 11. The Legislature may at any time alter or repeal this act.

§ 12. This act shall take effect immediately.

Of this first Board of Counselors two only survive ; Rev. Stephen H. Tyng, D. D., always a warm and active friend, to be relied on in every emergency until overtaken by the infirmities of age, and Albon P. Man, Esq., the brother of Mrs. Hawkins, who remains our kindly advisor and true friend to the present time.

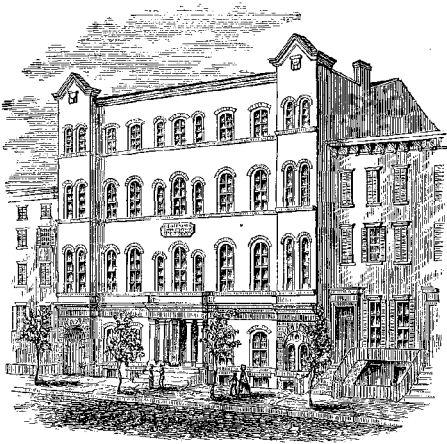
It is proper here to state that the Society has never been endowed. The proposition to raise a fund for this purpose was agitated in 1862, the originator, Mr. Hathaway, of Rhode Island, himself offering to give \$1,000, after a certain sum should have been secured. But it was at a time when the country was passing through a momentous crisis, and in view of the pecuniary burdens then weighing upon every one, the matter was not pressed. We have been sustained mainly by our generous friends and a sympathizing public. The provision made in Sec. 7 of our Charter has been of great assistance in carrying on our schools, though it is far from sufficient to defray the whole expense ; and in 1872, in response to an appeal to the Legislature, an annuity of \$25,000 was accorded. A small sum is also paid by the Court for the weekly board of the children placed by municipal authority in our temporary keeping. But all these would fail to meet the increasing money demands of this ever-enlarging work, did not bequests and donations, prompted by the Divine Giver, flow in a steady, quiet

stream into our treasury. We have never had a surplus,—always enough. The Lord never fails, we believe, to furnish needed supplies for his own work, if we “lift our eyes to the hills from whence cometh our help” with the child-like petition, “Give us this day our daily bread.”

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IN 1856, by advice of their Board of Counselors, an adjoining lot on Twenty-ninth Street was secured and a building erected, to comprise convenient rooms for publishing-office, chapel, school-rooms, and other necessary uses of the Institution. This enlargement had become a necessity. The work in its varied departments was constantly increasing, and facilities for its accomplishment in the best way and at greatest convenience were indispensable.

Says the record of this date, “It being now well known that this work was diminishing the number of those who would otherwise become a public charge, it was deemed proper to apply to the Legislature for aid towards the proposed enlargement. A memorial and petition were therefore prepared, a large list of signatures obtained, and on application to the Legislature the sum of \$10,000 was granted toward the new building. The edifice was at once erected, and in June, 1857, was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies.” But whence should come the requisite amount to



HOME CHAPEL.

defray the whole expenses of this additional building ? The record goes on to say, "For upwards of twenty years of the existence of the Society, it has often been a marvel to its friends in what way its current expenses could be met. Stated supplies from the State were then unthought of. The little rills from the hidden springs of charity kept the oil and meal from waste ; and when new work was proposed, the assurance that if it was right, if it ought to be assumed, the means would be forthcoming, settled the question. The cost of every undertaking was carefully and prayerfully counted, and then the motto was found safe, 'No such word as fail.'" It was all a work of prayer and faith, as really so as other works which are at this day prominently designated as such.

God heard their prayers, prompted and blessed their efforts in this instance, and they were soon enabled to say, "No cloud resteth now on our beautiful Home !"

In 1843 the headquarters of the Society was removed from the Tract House to 36 Park Row, Brick Church Chapel, where for many years the business of the Society, in its registry, publications and meetings was quietly carried on. From there it was subsequently removed to the Bible House.

On the erection of the Home the registry had been transferred to that building. Now that the Chapel was completed, the publication could be attended to

on the spot, and the entire business of the Society was therefore now conveniently concentrated and located at 29 East Twenty-ninth Street.

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THERE were difficulties to be met in obtaining and retaining possession of the little vagrants, which it was seen legal enactments alone could overcome. It was therefore determined to present a memorial to the Legislature, petitioning for an Act, "whereby dissipated and vicious parents by habitually neglecting due care and provision for their offspring, shall thus forfeit their natural claim to them, and whereby such children shall be removed from them and placed under better influences, till the claim of the parent shall be re-established by continued sobriety, industry and general good conduct." In April, 1853, a bill was presented to this effect, which soon became a law of the State. This enactment gave a degree of breadth and security to the Society's work, impossible before. The foundation was also laid for judicious and efficient effort in behalf of this class of children throughout the State, and in other States. From about this time may be dated the origin of the New York Juvenile Asylum and the Children's Aid Society, whose distinctive efforts for neglected children have resulted in immense good, and placed their names high on the roll of city philanthropies.

In 1851, 2 and 3, the women of the Society, in the city and throughout the State, collected and presented to the Legislature voluminous petitions for another enactment in behalf of the children, namely, a Truant Act. They persevered against all discouragements until the law was passed, whose value is now being proved in all our large towns and cities. A subsequent petition secured the appointment of Truant Officers for this city, who have been undoubtedly instrumental in rescuing hundreds of idle and truant children from a career of dishonesty and crime, to which their occasional delinquencies would otherwise have brought them.

19

BUT every step gained was only a stimulus to further effort. A few only of these juvenile vagrants could be brought under the direct saving influence of Homes and Asylums, while tens of thousands were roaming the city streets, learning and practising all manner of evil, and growing up into a dangerous class, to perpetrate crime, and necessitate punishment. These might not be separated from their natural guardians, but could not some remedial influences be reached out to them? The Ragged Schools of London had just been inaugurated, and a similar attempt had been made by benevolent ladies in our own city, which proved a success, and resulted in the foundation of the

Wilson Industrial Mission, a thriving and very useful Institution. The Managers of the Home were quick to see what could be done in this direction, and resolved to make the experiment. In 1854 an Industrial School was started.

The first efforts were crude and tedious. It was like bringing order out of chaos, to reduce the insubordinate, heedless, vagabond children of the streets, to obedience, cleanliness and discipline. But the patience and fidelity of the teacher, with God's blessing, accomplished the task, and Industrial School No. 1 became a successful and happy precedent. We copy from the Annual Report of this year: "The success of the work has amply repaid the self-denying labors of those who have been engaged in it. The task of instructing these children is no easy one, requiring no small degree of patience and perseverance. The children gathered in from the streets and from destitute homes are filthy, ignorant and depraved, having been reared from infancy among the lowest abodes of poverty, misery and crime. The instruction of such children, wholly unaccustomed to restraint, yielding to the force of every evil passion, seemed at first almost a hopeless task; but unlooked for success in the effort encourages us to believe, that the future will reveal wonderful improvement in the moral and intellectual condition of the extreme poor of our city."

20

No. 2 was established in 1857, on the west side of the city, in an old building which stood quite in the open country. Here were gathered a class of children, largely German, extremely rude and trying. It was difficult to bring them under control, but they had a teacher—Miss Rose Stubbs—ever to be remembered among us for her pity, her patience and her piety, who, by the grace of God given her, subdued their waywardness, enlightened their darkness, and won their love. The school increased rapidly in numbers, till the place grew too strait for them. The teacher worked early and late with true missionary zeal, and far beyond her strength. She saw the spiritual needs of her little flock and their parents, and earnestly she hoped and prayed that a chapel might be erected, and a permanent mission established on the foundation she was patiently laying. But she sank under disease, and went home to heaven before seeing the fulfillment of her wishes. Her prayer, however, was to be answered. In 1868, Messrs. Chauncey and Henry Rose, whose liberal gifts to the Society, repeated from time to time, had made their name fragrant in the grateful thought of every Home worker, sent a donation sufficient to purchase the ground and partly erect an edifice for the accommodation of the school. A neat little chapel was built, a lasting monument of their thoughtful interest in

our work. It was located at 418 and 420 West 41st Street, and was named Rose Memorial, thus combining the names of the chief donors and of its first devoted teacher.

Soon a third school was added to these, in another section of the city, all combating the untoward influence of the streets with most hopeful results. From time to time, as the population of the city increased, and destitute localities were brought to view, one after another has been established, until at present we have twelve schools in the various sections of the city, embracing a register of upwards of 5,000 children, and largely engaging the sympathy and efforts of a Board of more than fifty managers with their helpers in the churches. These schools are distinguished by numbers in the order of their formation.

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IN the present improvements and extension of the Public Schools into which the compulsory law is supposed to bring all the children of the city, the question is now sometimes asked, why this agency is required. We answer: These children are too poor to avail themselves of the very generous provision of the public. Their lack of suitable clothing, and the necessity which often requires their assistance at home, or in some method of self-support during the

early morning hours, precludes them from attendance at the Public School, where the rules are strict and unbending. In the Industrial Schools these points are waived for the good of the children. The system of instruction is, however, the same as in the primary department of the Public Schools, and after being under our care for a time, the children, trained to subordination and personal neatness, and their ambition wakened for study, are prepared to enter the Public Schools, and take a good standing in the grammar classes. And not a few have passed from these into the Normal College, and have fitted themselves for self-support and usefulness.

On the other hand we receive not a small number of the pupils of the Public Schools, mostly boys, who have been expelled for truancy or misdemeanor. Our teachers endeavor by kind personal effort to reclaim such, and are almost uniformly encouraged by their improvement. To save one such boy we consider is something done for God and humanity ; something for our city, and for our land. These are the children who, without counteracting effort, inevitably become the criminals for whom the law must care, and worthy citizens be taxed. Every one saved is prey taken from the hands of the mighty. We look back with gratitude to the first efforts of our sisters in this direction. Their outlook was clear, their promptings were prophetic. He who led them "all the way"

certainly guided these early movements, and to Him we have been permitted to bring from year to year precious fruits.

22

A TEACHER who had toiled for years in one of these schools, after a prolonged absence returned to the city and revisited the scene of her labors. She thus gratefully gives to the Home Board the results of her review :

“Let it strengthen your hearts as it has mine, as I bring before you facts recently gathered. I find eighteen of the older boys and girls among my former pupils are professors of religion, most of them gathered into the same church. Twenty more express a hope in Christ and will soon unite with God’s people. One young man of seventeen has died in the triumphs of faith. Seven whole families, and parts of many more, are in comfort and happiness to-day and in the church, who, when I began my work, were outside of Christian influences.

“The most of these mentioned it was my joy to meet or hear from, on a recent evening, as also from many of the present pupils and the teachers of the school. I need not tell you my joy that evening as I saw them before me in the house of God. Memory brought so vividly to mind many a trial of faith and sinking of hope, as we used to urge them to a differ-

ent life ; so often shut up to prayer under our many hindrances. You ladies will recall many of these ; others are only known to Him who seeth all. For your encouragement let me say, the once desperate cases are the hopeful ones to-day. The boy who broke the most windows is the young man ready to aid in any emergency to-day ; the one who is oftenest seen in church. The girls who once defied our earnest efforts to save them are young women of promise. I wish you might have seen the group of these young people as it was my pleasure to see them that evening. Who would think they were ever in want ?

“ By your efforts these children have been elevated, and their families helped to help themselves in dark hours of their history. Thus God rewards your efforts, answers your prayers. So will He ever do, for He has promised it. ‘ They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.’ ‘ He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.’ If it be so blessed to know on earth such precious results of labor, what will it be when all the sheaves are gathered in at the great reaping day ?”

In addition to the usual routine of study in these schools attention is given to sewing. The girls are taught to make and mend their own clothing, and are thus fitted to be helps at home, and useful in the future. Even the boys in some of our schools are

taught to use the needle. Much attention is paid to singing, and a library is provided in each school for recreation hours. A lunch of bread is supplied at the noon hour, and if a family is found destitute a loaf is sent at once to the home. The children are clothed as comfortably as may be with the garments sent by friends at home and abroad; they are also kindly cared for in sickness. Their parents are looked after, and in numerous cases the influences of the school have revolutionized and built up the home. It is difficult to convey in brief an adequate idea of the opportunities for good presented in the Industrial School work, and the blessed results that follow. Thirty years of school work have brought fruits that amply reward all the toil and trials incident to it. Devoted and beloved teachers have died in the field, gone home to hear the "Well done" of the Master. Others who have bravely stood in their lot, ten, twelve, twenty years, who have been in the field long enough to know what has been done, give uniform testimony to the value of this department of the Home work.

23

IN 1872, the Registry, by means of which moral disaster had been in so many instances averted from the young and tempted, developed into the department called the Shelter. It was opened in the building on Twenty-ninth Street, in commodious rooms

just above the Chapel, and a genial, kind-hearted person was obtained to act as matron. The first thought was that it would be a desirable place for girls learning trades, working in factories, or otherwise earning low wages ; and a safe, comfortable home at night, a warm breakfast in the morning, and meals on Sundays were offered for a nominal sum. Girls of this class did not, however, avail themselves of the offer, the large majority having mothers or other relatives to support, with whom they must live. But there were enough of another class who needed a temporary home, with care and counsel, and the rooms were well filled. Who can tell how great the need, how grateful the relief for those who availed themselves of this Shelter. "It is an easy matter," says one report, "to say that one hundred young unprotected mothers with infants have been received, fed, clothed and provided with homes ; but how shall we begin to sum up the sobs, the tears, the groans and heart-aches those have been spared who have claimed our care and protection ?"

Here is a pleasant sitting-room supplied with good reading, and a Sabbath afternoon service is held, which has made the day of rest one of interest and profit to the inmates. The blessing of heaven has crowned these efforts, and many of the members of the Shelter family have been hopefully converted.

24

BUT the Shelter, while it afforded a safe and pleasant temporary home for women who were contemplating permanent situations in the country or elsewhere, did not reach the poor of every class who daily asked for aid or counsel. From morning until night they have come, through all these years, with their tales of sin and shame or sorrow, their tangled affairs, urgent needs, and sometimes impertinent demands. Weary, indeed, when evening comes, are feet and hands and hearts of those whose duty it is to meet all these applicants ; and thankless often would be their task, but for the consciousness of duty done, and the higher joy of the Master's smile.

Until within a few years missionary visitors have been employed to seek out cases of destitution. But since the establishment of schools it has been found that these serve the purpose better than individuals. Every home represented in these schools is more or less in need of aid ; and an untold amount of missionary work is done by the teachers. At the Home, the department of Out-door Relief is now in the hands of a permanent Committee, whose duty it is, aided by two or three of the managers, appointed monthly for the purpose, and one competent visitor, to investigate applications and supply such relief as is deemed wise. No case is aided until visited and adjudged worthy. The vast growth of our city population by foreign

emigration, bringing to us multitudes of all nationalities, the lowest class being usually left as a residuum in the metropolis, has greatly added to, and gradually changed the character of the missionary work done by the Society. Existing circumstances demand a strict adherence to rules, and a careful investigation of each application, to protect us from imposition, and from an unwise expenditure of the funds put at our disposal by the benevolent. Within two years, valuable assistance has been afforded us in this matter by the New York Charity Organization Society, who make it their duty to simplify the work of alms-giving by reducing the mendicant class and exposing repeaters.

In connection with the Out-door Relief eight years ago, an Employment Aid Department was organized to alleviate distress by providing sewing for such of our beneficiaries as could be better helped in this way. This has been found an admirable method of aiding widows, and mothers unable to leave their families.

And for the outside poor, for the pupils in our schools, and for their parents, the aid that comes from abroad proves very useful.

Many of the auxiliary societies, formed at the beginning of the work, have continued to the present time, and will join with us in our Semi-Centennial song of thanksgiving and praise to Him who has guided the work from its commencement. In the country, as in the city, the early workers have grown old,

and have largely entered into rest. Their mantle has fallen, however, upon children and grandchildren, so that the ranks of our helpers are kept full, and the supplies we receive from day to day testify that our cause still ranks high in their esteem, and the good work left to them is an heritage lovingly accepted.

25

WE have spoken in the early part of our retrospect of the semi-monthly paper, established, as the organ of the Society, to witness against sin, and for virtue and truth, and to enlist the public mind in behalf of the various classes we have aimed to benefit. This paper has always been in the hands of women, the Executive Committee of the Society constituting themselves a publishing agency, and responsible for the views advanced and the objects advocated in its columns. For a few years it was under the editorial supervision of Miss S. I. Smith, afterwards Mrs. Martyn, but very early it was placed in the hands of Mrs. S. R. Ingraham (Bennett), who performed the editorial work for more than a quarter of a century, to great acceptance and profit. The paper gained a large circulation, at one time amounting to upwards of 40,000, and became a power for good, an assistant in the home, and a great aid to the cause. It was not only a means of revenue to the Society in itself, but by its presentation of needy and suffering cases, suc-



MRS S. R. I. BENNETT

cessfully appealed to those who had means to bestow, and brought in donations of money, provisions and clothing, and bequests. It is thus that the Society has been mainly supported in its benevolent work.

Testimonies concerning the value and usefulness of the *ADVOCATE* have never failed, and have served all through the years to sustain and encourage those who have conducted it. Only a recent letter thus happily speaks of the paper while under Mrs. Bennett's care : "I found upon a visit to a friend a number of *ADVOCATES* that were printed twenty-one years ago, and have read them with interest. I know that those who wrote those words have passed on ; and it seemed to me almost like a message from the better land. They have gone, but their words still live."

After so many years of unremitting toil in the interests of the Society, as Corresponding Secretary and editor of its paper, Mrs. Bennett's health failed, and the paper passed into the hands of its present editor, Mrs. H. E. Brown, the Executive Committee still retaining the oversight of its publication. The present aim is, as heretofore, "to aid parents in the discharge of parental obligations, to guard the young from the snares that often lie concealed in life's pathway ; to befriend the friendless, to protect and guard the neglected children of our cities, and train them to virtue and usefulness ; in a word, to advocate whatsoever things are pure,

lovely and of good report." And that the Lord still blesses this agency we cannot doubt. A letter just received from one who has long been familiar with it contains these reassuring words, "Your dear paper reminds me of a Christian mother; the longer she lives the greater her love, and the sweeter her spirit."

Communication with the Southern section of the country being interrupted by the war, the subscription list became greatly lessened, and other circumstances have tended to reduce the circulation of the *ADVOCATE*. Among these we consider most prominent the multiplication of religious periodicals, and especially the journals advocating its peculiar principles; for as Homes for the Friendless have arisen in our large cities, most of them have had also a paper to plead its cause. We cannot wonder therefore that many have found it convenient to give their influence and means to the institution and paper in their own immediate locality. We rejoice with sincerity in the spread of the principles and aims we advocate, although by this means we may be losers. Though our subscription list may fail in numbers, our Life-memberships increase, and other methods of replenishing our treasury are not wanting. When the Lord has a work to be done he invariably sends means for its accomplishment.

The paper is widely distributed, and we are constantly assured that in the distant parts of our own

land, and in missionary centers all over the world, it is an instrumentality for good. For all this we thank God and take courage.

From the Publication Department have also been issued, all along the years, tracts on seasonable topics, and several books relative to the work, or collections of valuable articles published serially in the *ADVOCATE AND GUARDIAN*. Of the former are *Walks of Usefulness*, a narrative of Margaret Pryor's early labors in the Society, of which many editions have been issued; *Wrecks and Rescues*, by Margaret Dye, containing some of the thrilling incidents of the work in its first years; *Wrought Gold*, a memoir of Mrs. M. A. Hawkins, in which her life is presented as a model for Christian workers; and *Woman's Work Among the Lowly*, a memorial volume of the first forty years of the Society. The first and two last Mrs. Bennett found time to write, amid her other multiplied cares and duties.

Of the latter class we may mention *Home Whispers*, *Emily Ellet's Journal*, and a few juvenile books.

26

THE idea of transferring children "rendered homeless by the death, misfortunes, or wrong-doing of either or both parents" was very early entertained. A little babe, cast upon the pity of strangers, was taken to a home in the western part of the State by Mrs.

R. P. Penfield, afterwards for many years Children's Secretary. Its warm welcome awakened the desire and belief that many little ones found among the poor and erring classes might be similarly provided for, and it was early made a distinct aim of the Society. Christian homes only were asked for, where the children should receive religious nurture as well as temporal care and training. The Board had a medium of correspondence which gave them access to many thousand families in different sections of the country, through whom such homes might be found for large numbers of children and adults.

In carrying out this plan there has been marked success. Through the auxiliaries and semi-annual meetings, and continuously by the *ADVOCATE AND GUARDIAN*, interest has been awakened, and those brought to the front as applicants who had ample means as well as heart for the training of these little waifs. But for the friends who have been willing to take them into their families, the work of the Society would have been slow and difficult. But here was raised up by the good hand of the Lord the very agency most essential. The children born in homes of sin needed a mother's love, a father's care, and these have been generously supplied. There are at this date hundreds of faithful foster-parents, all over the land, connected with the American Female Guardian Society by this peculiar relationship, to

whom we feel bound by grateful affection, and to whom the public owe a debt scarcely realized.

The children placed in homes abroad are never forgotten at the Home. The record of each has been faithfully kept from the first; so that we possess a brief but complete history of each child from its introduction into the Home until its majority is attained. The standing rule of the Society that a communication shall be received from each one at least once a year, brings regularly the "welfare letters," from which our records are built up. These histories are of great value and interest.

When personal supervision is required, an agent is sent out, to assure the absent members of our widely scattered family that they are kept in mind, and their interests carefully guarded by the Home. Circumstances frequently occur when approval or disapproval by an authorized power is needed, and a Visiting Secretary has of late years been added to our corps of officers, whose time is mainly occupied in visiting our children, and regulating their affairs.

27

At the Home daily care and watch is kept over the little inmates as nearly resembling a mother's as it is possible to supply. The family is of necessity fluctuating. The most permanent are the children of bereaved or unfortunate parents who are grateful for a

temporary asylum for their little ones until they can be committed to relatives. Such as are legally given to the Society do not tarry long, but are transferred as speedily as possible to the care of foster-parents or guardians. The boys' and girls' departments, comprising all children old enough to attend school; the nursery for infants, and that for the little intermediates, are kept under separate and competent care. In such a household there must be rule and routine, yet with gentleness and kindness the children are readily controlled. The Home has proved all it was hoped and desired—has ever been a success, and has proved itself a necessity. The work of the Society could not have been carried forward without it.

28

IN 1874, we were called to mourn the departure of the beloved sister who had been from the beginning of the work our earnest and trusted leader, Mrs. M. A. Hawkins. In the late fall of 1852 she was laid aside from active duty by a severe attack of inflammatory rheumatism. From this a speedy recovery was anticipated. Earnest prayer was offered for her, and everything was done that love and medical skill could suggest. But the will of the Lord was not so. She never walked again. Medicine and change afforded no relief from suffering. Her once active limbs became distorted and stiffened,

until she, her loved friends, and her associates in Christian work relinquished hope, and knew that she would no more go in and out among them. The prison, the hovel of poverty, the haunts where congregated the sin-stricken souls she longed to save, would no more witness her loving, cheerful presence, or listen to her tender, solemn words. Her active work was done. Then, in the words of one who loved her, "years of suffering and patient waiting followed, but they were not years of idleness. Though denied the power of locomotion, her active brain and warm heart were ever ready to devise benevolent plans for others to execute. No one could visit the dear sufferer without learning something to make them better."

And though a permanent sufferer she would not be entirely shut in. "On the return of each Wednesday morning," says her historian, "when circumstances favored, the strong arms of her husband, with other aid, bore her to and from the carriage, up the flight of stairs to the Home Committee-room, and placed her gently in her accustomed seat. She was then, forgetful of self, ready to engage in the duties of the day, until four o'clock P. M., when her kind escort again appeared, and she was taken home. For more than thirteen years she thus continued, in pain and weakness, to preside at the weekly meetings, and oversee the interests of the Home."

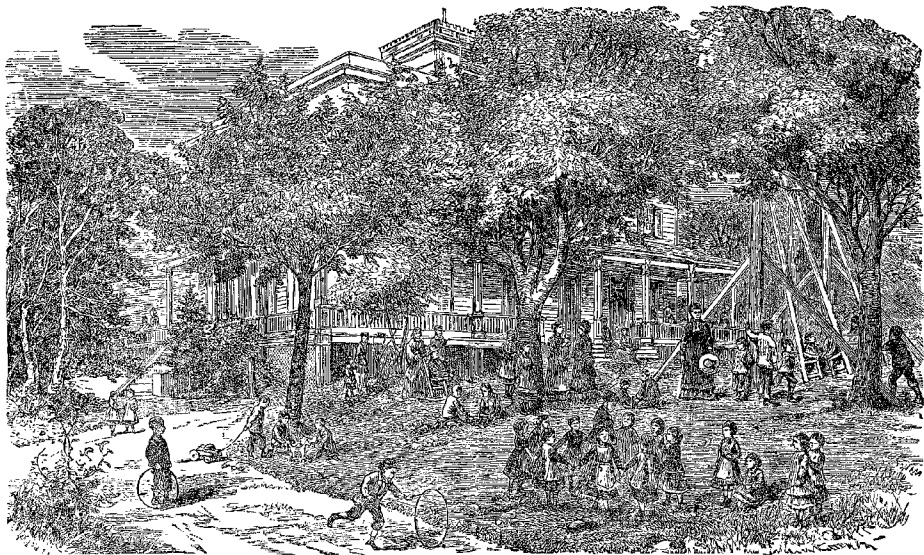
When, in the course of time, she was unable to be brought to the Home, it was carried to her; and in her sick-room, on her couch, or in her chair, though agonized with pain, she advised, suggested, cleared up perplexities, encouraged her associates, and still helped in the work she so dearly loved. She often expressed the feeling that she should resign her official position, but the change was always strongly opposed, and she remained President of the Society until her death. It was thought best, however, at her urgent request, to appoint an Acting President, and this was done in 1870, by the election of Mrs. C. C. North.

Mrs. Hawkins retained also her Presidency of the Mariner's Family Industrial Society; and the band of ladies connected with that society met stately in her rooms to the last.

Her death, as her life, was serene and beautiful, and the memory of her deeds and words, her gentle presence, and her consecrated spirit is a precious legacy.

29

IN 1875, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children was organized, which has rendered us valuable assistance in the care of suffering childhood. Through this agency new laws have been enacted, which has given them the power, long sought but never fully attained by our Society, to separate abused children from vicious parents, and place them in safe



WRIGHT MEMORIAL—SUMMER HOME.

keeping elsewhere. Many of their little beneficiaries were at once transferred to our keeping, and in many instances afterwards permanently committed. In this way it became possible to secure their best interests by placing them in homes by adoption. In 1879, the venerable originator and President of that Society, anticipating his decease, donated us a valuable property at Oceanport, New Jersey, to be a Summer Home for the little ones. It was a generous gift: a large and commodious house on four acres of land, with shade and fruit trees, lawn and garden. Henceforth the Wright Memorial was to be a retreat for our children who need the bracing, healthful atmosphere and pure delights of the country to offset the filth, misery and cruelty of their wretched city beginnings.

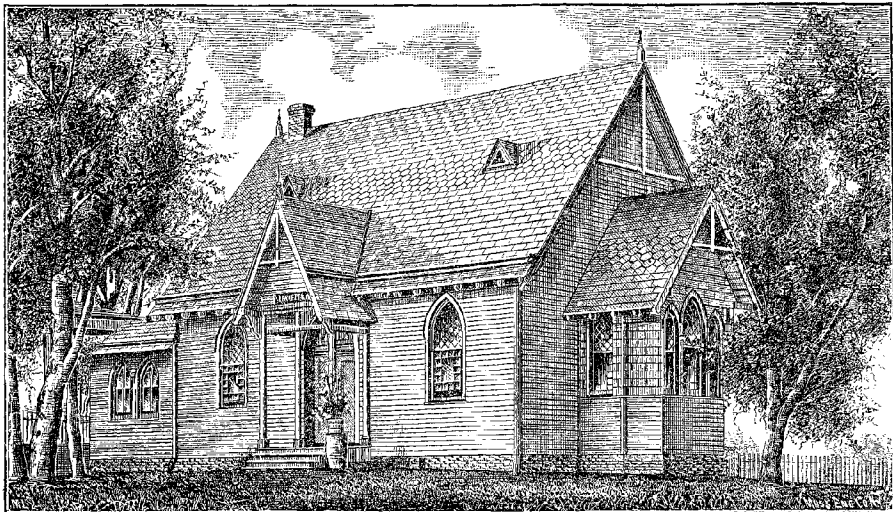
This beautiful refuge, now called our Branch Home, our late Corresponding Secretary says, "seems from the first to have been a consecrated offering. Its inception was singularly beautiful. The giver, as we were told after his death by his surviving companion, when becoming quite infirm, was twice awakened in the night by the supposed entrance of a little departed daughter, saying in sweetest accents, 'Papa, the children, the children,' which, dream-voice though it was, would not away until he had given for the children this Branch Home. And tearfully he exclaimed, as he stood among the little ones at its opening and first reception, 'This is the happiest day of my life.'"

The Branch Home is now open summer and winter. It is a sanitarium and retreat which could not well be spared. It is under competent care, and is visited weekly by a committee from the Parent Home. Says a recent report, "The myriad acres of blue sky and far-off space, where Bonar says—

‘The angels pitch their tents, by us unseen,
And angels’ songs are sung, by us unheard,’

bend lovingly over this Memorial Home and its inmates. * * Surely, if the glorified are ministering spirits, who can say that a precious company—in life our associates in care for the little ones—may not sometimes still smile on us here and elsewhere, bearing full blessings of sympathy and love?"

In 1882, as the last and crowning work of our beloved sister, Mrs. Bennett, a chapel was attached to the building, which adds grace and beauty to the view, and a convenience as a school-room and place of worship. The first thousand dollars towards its erection was donated by Roswell Smith, Esq.; another friend gave five hundred, and five hundred was contributed by Mrs. Bennett. In view of the efforts of our departed sister in its inception, and in soliciting and donating the funds necessary to its erection, it is named the Bennett Memorial. Her memory will ever make the spot sacred.



BENNETT MEMORIAL CHAPEL.

30

IN April, 1882, occurred the death of Mrs. S. R. I. Bennett. As previously related, she had joined hands with Mrs. Hawkins in 1835, in "the new and unpopular reform," and had toiled unremittingly for nearly half a century. Could she have lived two years longer! How proud should we have been on our semi-centennial day to have had with us one who had been in the work from its very beginning. But though this was not permitted, we feel that her heart is linked with ours; and in her heavenly home, she and the many others who have gone up from our ranks, join us in our glad and grateful review on this jubilee occasion.

This dear sister served the Society as Corresponding Secretary from first to last, with an interval occasioned by impaired health, about seventeen years; had editorial charge of the paper for twenty-seven, and gave invaluable labor in every other department for forty-seven years. Seldom is there a record among women of such long, self-denying and engrossing Christian labor. "This one thing I do" might have been said of her at any time during the almost half-century of her connection with the work, and on her ripe experience all who were associated with her were accustomed to rely. When she was called home we felt indeed bereaved, as children without a mother.

The circumstances of her departure were striking and beautiful. She died suddenly, of heart disease, at her post of labor in the Committee-room of the Home. In the place where of all others she would have chosen to die, the summons came.

31

IN January, 1883, Mrs. M. I. Hubbard was called to her rest. Early enrolled in the membership of the Society, this sister was for many years Corresponding Secretary, and always heartily engaged in its work. She retained her interest to the last, although detained by ill health for many years previous to her decease from active co-operation. Those who attended, in former years, our annual and semi-annual meetings will never forget her earnest spirit, or her direct and impressive words. She had a special aptitude for a department of the work upon which few were willing to enter; that of the management of young girls of wilful and vicious propensities. Thoughtful of their antecedents she was lenient, bore with their faults with remarkable patience, and taught and watched over them with unfaltering courage and hope. She was instrumental in saving some of the most trying cases, and many will rise up at the last to call her blessed, whose feet, but for her, would never have been established in the ways of righteousness.

Her death left but two survivors of the first decade, Mrs. J. C. Angell, for years Recording Secretary, now

Chairman of the Out-Door Relief Committee, one of our most busy and trusted workers, and Mrs. S. A. Stone, who has been for thirty years the Treasurer of the Society. Both of these ladies may now almost daily be seen at the Home, looking after its interests in their respective departments.

Of those who came on in the next ten years, we have Mrs. H. E. Brown, who became Manager in 1846; Mrs. C. C. North, in 1849; Mrs. Brush, in 1852; Mrs. Bayles and Mrs. Benedict in 1853.

But workers have never at any time been wanting, active, diligent and devoted, and we have at present a Board of forty-five Managers, united in purpose and enthusiastic in spirit, carrying forward, with a friendly and approving public, the work projected amid opprobrium and scorn, and moving on at first with slow and toiling steps.

32

To say that it has been carried on without difficulties and trials would be indeed untrue. These have been plentifully strewn along the way. What cause, espousing reform so radical, has ever advanced along a smooth and easy way? But if we judge rightly these may be counted among the choice blessings that have fallen to our lot. The experience they have brought of our littleness and God's might, of the insecurity of earthly props, and the sure support of the Almighty

arm, of human ignorance and heavenly wisdom, of answers to prayer, a sense of the Divine presence and help, and the joy of victory in the name of Christ, could never have been purchased at any less price. In our thanksgivings to-day we dare not withhold our sincere and grateful acknowledgment of the repeated tokens of a Father's love, in the dark days, the rough ways, and the threatening foes through all which we have been safely led ; as well as the smile of the Lord which has beamed so brightly over our undertakings, and the rewards so abundantly bestowed. The devout Rutherford sang before his departure,

" Oh, if one soul from Anworth
Meet me at God's right hand,
My heaven will be two heavens
In Immanuel's land."

So may the toilers in this good work, though sometimes ill in body, and weary in spirit under the pressure of their unceasing labors, feel that every soul rescued will be but another heaven to be enjoyed in the eternity to which some have already come, and whither we are all hastening.

33

HAS the Home answered the expectation of its friends ?

Since its first opening in Second Avenue, upwards of 30,000 inmates have been received, adult and juvenile, and out of it have gone to permanent and

mainly happy homes, 6,000 little ones, who otherwise would have grown up unloved, uncared for, untrained, with souls unsaved, to go down into the pit of moral ruin and eternal despair. It has proved a safe archway through which such have passed from destitution to comfort, from suffering to love and nurture, from prospective and inevitable evil to respectability and usefulness.

With regard to the adults their entrance into the Home has often proved a turning point in their destiny. Here they have been sheltered from want and wrong, kind voices have pointed out their danger, warned them against the tempter, told them of the Sinner's Friend, and a helping hand has been extended to guide them into pure and right paths. Multitudes have been led to thank God for the rescue and aid to a better life they found here.

And from the little ones we have learned, "Love covereth a multitude of sins." Children with inherited tendencies to evil, and whose habits have been formed in the wrong direction, snatched from vile surroundings, and transplanted into Christian homes, have early begun to grow toward the light, and have become beautiful plants in the garden of God. A very small percentage of those who have been brought into the Home, and thence transferred by adoption or indenture, have gone astray. Notwithstanding the natural prejudice about low birth, in spite of the old

proverb, "Blood will tell," and the repeated prophecy of lookers-on that the offspring of vicious parents will come to no good end, we can show by our voluminous records that these evil omens have signally failed, and that almost the entire list have rewarded the love and care bestowed on them.

The objection was in the beginning, and has since, been urged against this method of providing for the children, that its tendency was to disband the family, and thus increase the evils we aimed to cure. But the careful and candid observer of the methods of the Society during its half-century of work will be constrained to pronounce this objection unfounded. A temporary shelter is offered to such as are for the time deprived of a home by the death or destitution of their natural guardians, the greater number of whom, after a few months are restored to friends. Others legally committed to the Society by their friends, or the city authorities, are transferred by adoption or indenture to the care of those whose hearts, touched by divine love, yearn towards the friendless little ones, and who in Jesus' name are willing to assume the responsibility of their education, and embrace thus the grandest opportunity earth can give of doing good. The Society has ever stood a barrier between the children of the very poor, and the pauperism into which they must otherwise inevitably sink, and in reality protects the family and secures its advantages, by giv-

ing to these homeless little ones a share in the fostering care and wholesome training of some well ordered household.

BUT we think not of reward ; that is not the motive of our work, though it ofttimes comes unsolicited and sweet. We count not the fruit of our labors, but are daily blest in sowing the seed. Yet we are sometimes constrained to liken our field to the orange groves of a southern clime, where bud, blossom and ripe fruit grace the same branch, and gladden the sense of the beholder all the year round. When we see men and women in all the various ranks and avocations of society filling their respective places with usefulness and fidelity, who, but for this Society, would have been hopelessly wrecked, our hearts do truly rejoice. A real pleasure and refreshment amid our often wearisome work is found in visits from those who were once juvenile beneficiaries of the Home, now grown to adult age, who return to see again the kindly covert that sheltered them from the storms of life's morning. They like to visit the school-room, the dormitories, the dining-hall and the play-ground, where happy hours were spent while they waited for the permanent home preparing for them. The contrast between what they were, and might have been, and what they are, often brings tears to the eyes, and warm, grateful words to the lips ; and as they gaze with real sympathy upon the boys and girls now filling the places

they once occupied, the wish that these may find as good homes and kind parents as they have had, is frequently expressed.

Could these histories be written, how strangely would they read, beside the fictions that cloy the mental appetite of the men and women of to-day ! What sorrows, what perils, what rescues, what joys and hopes would be disclosed ! Some, most interesting, it would not be wise to reveal, others yet await their development. Ours is a work over whose thrilling details a veil must be drawn ; yet volumes might be written, that would delight and inspire, had we time at disposal. We thank God for them, we who at the present time are counted worthy to enter into the labors of those who have gone before us, and to reap what they have sown.

34

We rejoice, too, that this work, humbly and quietly prosecuted, has shown to others their opportunity. We look with genuine pleasure abroad over our land upon the many who, following the same path, are multiplying in every town and city, helps for the salvation of the children for Christ. Not only was ours the first Home for the Friendless, but one of the first enterprises of any magnitude in our city and country exclusively under the guidance of women. It pointed in the providence of God to woman's oppor-

tunity in this advancing age; and how gloriously have our sisters been led out within these fifty years in woman's missionary, temperance and evangelistic work, to co-operate in God's great plan for the world's regeneration. We are just beginning to see what, by the grace of God, woman may do with time, wealth, gifts and gentle influence, consecrated to her Saviour.

We extract from the Annual Report of 1846: "The question was recently proposed by one desiring to be informed, 'Has there ever been, in any age or portion of the world, a voluntary association, existing for *twelve years*, covering so wide an extent of country as this, composed of so many thousands, and enlisting so much sympathy on the one hand and opposition on the other, under the charge of women alone?' The answer to this enquiry must be in the negative; and, exhibiting as it does what God has wrought, is not the view sufficient to turn the eye from the creature, and fix it alone upon His condescending love and wonder-working grace? The condition and character of millions of our sex, living in past ages, and even in the present, show clearly that woman owes to the gospel the high privilege of being counted worthy to labor and to suffer in the blessed work of human elevation; and that the praise belongs solely to the grace of God, if her work in any department has been a success. And surely she may not contemplate it, and perceive how much more greater

faithfulness and greater fitness might have achieved without finding reason for the deepest humility." At the close of fifty years, we respond most sincerely to the humble, grateful sentiment thus expressed.

35

BUT our special work is not yet completed. We may not weep, as Alexander of old, from the point which we have reached to-day, because we have no more worlds to conquer. On the contrary, we behold from this mount of vision vast regions of Satan's territory yet to be subjugated to Christ. We will therefore, from this jubilee occasion, take a fresh start. Here we raise our Eben-ezer. Hitherto hath the Lord helped us, and we desire and hope to go on to greater achievements. There are departments of our work where money and talents can be well expended, for building up, enlarging and perfecting. With God's help and blessing we will advance. The original aim of the Society has undoubtedly been reached. Public opinion has been enlightened and pointed in the right direction; the hearts of the fathers have been turned to the children; purifying agencies are everywhere at work.

Do we say that there is any less impurity in society now than fifty years ago? Perhaps not. New York is a different city; our country is a different nation.

The influx of a foreign population has brought with it the lax principles, false sentiments, and vices of other lands. And the advance of science has put at the disposal of the world, facilities for work, either for God or the Evil One. But we can say that the pure minded among men and women are not afraid now as then to attack and denounce evil. They are ferreting out its hidden sources, as in the work of Anthony Comstock, and his Society for the Prevention of Vice, and in the work of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, seeking to uproot the sin of intemperance by systematic and scientific instruction of the children.

Much, however, remains to be accomplished; and when, one after another, we are called from the ranks, may others, with fresh energies and higher culture, consecrate themselves to the blessed work. But may the grand watchword of the Society, the watchword of the century—Prevention—never be relinquished. Miss Ellice Hopkins, one of England's most favored daughters and laborious workers, in her efforts among fallen women at the present day, has arrived at just the conclusion to which God brought our sisters so many years ago—that the “great need of the day is *organized preventive work*, the need to attack causes, not merely to cure results. Action on this principle has developed and wrought out by the blessing of God the most happy issues.” Of this assertion we stand to-day happy and grateful witnesses.

36

AND we will remember that the foundations of this Society were laid in self-sacrifice, faith and prayer, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief Corner Stone. We will continue to hold up the grand, impelling motive of the gospel, "None of self, but all of Christ;" the declaration of our Saviour, "Whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." We will continue to live and labor by faith; faith in the utility of our aims, in the approval of our Heavenly Father, and in his power and willingness to furnish the means. We will continue in prayer, acknowledging our dependence on a strength beyond our own, on resources not subject to change or loss, on an absolute wisdom not subject to the fluctuations of human circumstances or discernment. Above all, let us never lose sight of our Corner Stone, elect, precious, in whom all the building, fitly framed together, groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord.

Saviour, we weary not,
Working with thee;
As hard as thine, our lot
Can never be.
Our joy and comfort this—
Thy grace sufficient is;
This changes toil to bliss;
Working with thee.

LIST OF MANAGERS,

With the date of their entrance on the Board.

WE commence our list with the year 1839, when the Society took the name of AMERICAN FEMALE MORAL REFORM SOCIETY, and Mrs. Hawkins was made President. The number of Managers in the early years of the Society was limited, consequently some who were actively engaged in the work for years were able to enter upon the Board only as vacancies occurred; and some who had the interests of the cause deeply at heart, for various reasons, never received official appointment. So in later years there have been many valuable workers on our School Committees, who have never found it convenient to become Managers. The list which follows does not therefore represent the entire number of our earnest workers.

1839.

Mrs. C. W. Hawkins,	Mrs. M. Demarest,
Mrs. S. R. Ingraham,	Mrs. P. W. Latham,
(Mrs. Bennett,)	Mrs. M. Pryor,
Mrs. M. I. Hubbard,	Mrs. C. Martin,
Mrs. Ruth Beatty,	Mrs. M. Bannister,
Mrs. John McComb,	Mrs. R. Hunt,
Mrs. Dr. Ball,	Mrs. S. Bouton,
Mrs. C. M. Sexton,	Mrs. M. Dye,
Mrs. Dr. Hallock,	Mrs. S. Brown,

1839—*Continued.*

Mrs. J. I. Ostrom,	Mrs. S. Curry,
Mrs. J. Wiley,	Mrs. McCutchen,
Mrs. S. C. Hawxhurst,	Mrs. M. A. Harris,
Mrs. I. M. Dimond,	Mrs. Capt. Loveland,
(Mrs. Douglass Putnam,)	Miss E. Proal,
Mrs. McLean,	Miss S. T. Smith,
Mrs. Joseph Hoole,	Miss M. B. Gardner.

1840.

Mrs. P. L. Osborn,	Mrs. W. W. Evarts,
Mrs. E. M. Southard,	Miss M. S. Parker,

1841.

Mrs. S. Crosby,	Mrs. S. B. Halliday,
Mrs. N. Safford,	Mrs. J. C. Angell,
Mrs. S. L. Baldwin,	Mrs. E. E. Miles,
Mrs. E. Hurlburt,	Mrs. A. Sutton,

Mrs. J. Tooker.

1843.

Mrs. J. B. Werden,	Mrs. E. W. Jayne,
Mrs. E. W. Chester,	Mrs. S. Cutter,
Mrs. E. Stone,	Mrs. Dr. Ritter,
Mrs. E. S. Eaton,	Miss M. Macdonald,
Mrs. E. Tucker,	Miss A. Balch,
Mrs. C. Moore,	Miss J. Reed,
Mrs. G. Little,	(Mrs. S. A. Davis,)
Mrs. E. Reimer,	Miss R. P. Price,
Mrs. S. Gilbert,	(Mrs. Penfield,)
Mrs. S. F. Reed,	Miss D. Goodyear,
Mrs. F. Goss,	Miss Q. Porter.

1844.

Mrs. Vail,	Mrs. B. Colgate,
Mrs. J. Dowling,	Mrs. U. P. Ward,
Mrs. A. Lane,	Mrs. S. D. Cochran,
Mrs. John Carr,	Mrs. A. Wheelock,
Mrs. McCullum,	Mrs. P. McDowall,
Mrs. Benney,	Mrs. Dr. Palmer.

1845.

Miss S. Gill,	Mrs. E. Weed,
Mrs. S. R. Kelley.	

1846.

Mrs. M. Halsey,	Mrs. S. S. Barry,
Mrs. E. T. Winter,	Mrs. C. Blake,
Mrs. J. S. Folger,	Mrs. J. W. Bleeker,
Mrs. Phelps,	Mrs. H. E. Brown,
Mrs. Charles Burdette,	Mrs. R. Thorn.

1847.

Mrs. C. Moore,	Mrs. T. C. Fanning,
Mrs. E. E. Miles,	Mrs. E. Starr.

1848.

Mrs. N. H. Everts,	Mrs. J. W. Hill,
Mrs. H. Probasco,	Miss H. M. Martin,
Mrs. T. McNamee,	Miss Mary Shotwell,
Mrs. R. D. Lathrop,	Miss E. B. Eveleth,
Mrs. J. Cox,	Miss M. Simonson.

1849.

Mrs. J. Johnson,	Mrs. Wm. M. Harris,
Mrs. C. C. North,	Mrs. Cheshire,
Mrs. A. Wagstaff,	Mrs. McDonald,
Mrs. Thomas Lewis,	Mrs. H. L. McGinley,
Mrs. Davenport,	Mrs. W. H. Beebee,
Miss S. Simpson,	Mrs. B. Burnell,
Mrs. Charles J. Platt,	Mrs. S. D. Cochrane,
Mrs. Wm. Gradby,	Mrs. Geo. A. Bennett.

1850.

Mrs. F. Godard,	Mrs. Kirby,
Miss Emily Banta,	Mrs Dr. Brown.

1851.

Mrs. Dr. Bartlett,	Mrs. Josiah Knapp,
Miss J. W. Spicer,	Mrs. Adon Smith,
Mrs. Horace Dresser,	Mrs. I. J. Oliver,
Mrs. Thomas B. Stillman,	Miss Eliza Harris.

1852.

Mrs. M. H. Hoole,	Mrs. J. W. Taggart,
Mrs. L. Beam,	Mrs. A. T. Stout,
Mrs. S. F. Goodenough,	Mrs. David Magie,
Mrs. George V. Brush,	Mrs. Lucy E. Walker,
Mrs. D. Love,	Mrs. Sarah Berrian,
	Mrs. Samuel C. Cookson.

1853.

Mrs. Wm. Bannard,	Mrs. Wycoff,
Miss C. Treadwell,	Mrs. James Bayles,
Mrs. G. Ladd,	Mrs. E. C. Benedict,
	Mrs. Wm. Belden.

1854.

Mrs. John Hyslop,	Mrs. Burrell,
Mrs. Lewis Tappan,	Mrs. C. Hsley.

1855.

Mrs. George Hastings,	Mrs. L. L. Holdridge,
Mrs. Wm. Darves,	Mrs. Dr. Ranney,
Mrs. H. Wilson,	Mrs. O. H. Lee.

1856.

Mrs. R. M. Buchanan,	Mrs. Dr. Holdrich,
Mrs. Josiah Baker,	Mrs. Samuel Frost,
Mrs. W. Parsons,	Mrs. J. C. Hines.

1857.

Mrs. A. Wight,	Mrs. J. H. Sprague,
Mrs. C. B. Dillaye,	Miss P. Magie,
Mrs. B. Lord,	Miss M. Boardman.

1858.

Mrs. A. H. Kelley,	Mrs. W. B. Newbery,
Mrs. Francis Gouddy,	Mrs. John B. Dusbrow,
Mrs. Dr. E. Guernsey,	Mrs. C. R. Clark,
Mrs. M. O. Roberts.	

1859

Mrs. Samuel Dodge,	Mrs. Holbrook,
Mrs. G. H. Irwin,	Miss S. C. Gilbert,
Mrs. Stephen Smith.	

1860.

Mrs. E. A. West,	Mrs. J. R. Willis,
Mrs. J. B. Herrick,	Mrs. John Adriance,
Mrs. B. F. Manierre,	Miss E. Wilson.

1861.

Miss E. E. Chester,	Mrs. J. Holmes Maghee,
Mrs. H. C. Crehore,	Mrs. Wm. Van Wyck,
Mrs. E. P. Griffin.	

1862.

Mrs. A. T. Battell,	Mrs. Nathan Bailey,
Mrs. S. N. Hyde,	Mrs. John B. Dickerson,
Mrs. Ezra Clark, Jr.,	Miss M. L. Post,
Mrs. Horace Webster.	

1863.

Mrs. S. M. Ambler,	Mrs. A. P. Strout,
Mrs. J. G. Broughton.	Miss J. Penfold,
Mrs. Boggs Wisser.	

1864.

Mrs. S. B. Wickens,	Mrs. A. Brouwer,
Mrs. Wm. Wood,	(Mrs. J. F. Joy,)
Mrs. Wm. T. Runk.	

1865.

Mrs. Thomas Veitch,	Mrs. T. Ketchum,
Mrs. Eugene Chauvet,	Mrs. S. H. Lewis,
Miss A. S. Hoffman,	Mrs. Dr. Barlow,
Mrs. M. W. Rosevelt,	Miss E. Burling,
Mrs. E. B. Galusha,	Mrs. J. B. Kissam.

1866.

Mrs. James Journey,	Mrs. Dr. A. B. Ball,
Mrs. George Peck,	Miss F. M. Newton.

1867.

Mrs. David B. Coe,	Mrs. J. E. Brown,
Mrs. DeWitt C. Hays,	Mrs. L. J. Hutchinson.

1868.

Mrs. H. M. Harris,	Mrs. Peter Donald,
Mrs. Geo. Day,	Mrs. Wm. Hays,
Mrs. H. T. Northrup,	Miss A. Hatfield.

1869.

Mrs. H. Webster,	Mrs. W. S. Mickles,
Mrs. Wm. Dunning,	Mrs. B. Brown.

1870.

Mrs. A. Thompson,	Mrs. O. A. Roorbach,
Mrs. McCready,	Mrs. E. O. Burling,
Mrs. H. C. Houghton,	Mrs. R. A. Clark,
Mrs. W. H. Wilson.	

1871.

Mrs. L. Herbert,	Mrs. J. A. Bennett,
Mrs. G. B. Watts,	Mrs. H. Zabriskie,
Mrs. Rebecca Collins,	Mrs. Wm. Hubby.

1872.

Mrs. J. C. Sproul,	Mrs. John Romer,
Mrs. C. W. Burd,	Mrs. L. P. Ingraham.

1873.

Mrs. Richard Stout,	Miss Louise Weed,
Mrs. S. P. White,	Miss Brett.

1874.

Mrs. E. Kilpatrick,	Mrs. E. W. Coleman,
Mrs. J. P. Cumming.	

1875.

Mrs. L. E. Jackson, Miss Anna Jackson,
Mrs. J. Wilson.

1876.

Mrs. W. S. Lyon, Miss J. Van Voorst.

1877.

Mrs. E. H. Bennett, Mrs. H. I. Bookstaver,
Miss C. Lyons, Mrs. Allan Hay,
Mrs. C. E. White.

1878.

Mrs. T. H. Landon.

1879.

Miss C. Hertzell, Mrs. C. A. Tooker.

1880.

Mrs. R. A. Francis, Miss Annie Carter.

1881.

Mrs. Wm. Duryea, Miss J. Wilson.

1882.

Miss M. A. Geissenhainer, Mrs. J. W. McDougal,
Mrs. H. L. Smith.

1883.

Mrs. Chas. H. Knox, Mrs. F. M. Weeks.

PRESENT OFFICERS AND MANAGERS.

President.

Mrs. Charles C. North.

Vice Presidents.

Mrs. H. E. Brown,	Mrs. Henry Mather,
Mrs. Rev. J. Dowling,	Mrs. Henry Rose,
Mrs. S. J. Goodenough,	Mrs. T. C. Fanning,
Mrs. H. T. Sedgwick,	Mrs. Douglass Putnam,
Mrs. Judge Willard,	Mrs. Rebecca Collins,
Mrs. E. J. Newberry,	Mrs. E. C. Benedict,
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