

HOUSE...No. 4.

REPORT

OF THE

Board of Directors of the "Washingtonian Home,"

(Located at 877 Washington Street, Boston,)

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

DECEMBER 13, 1862.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

DIRECTORS' REPORT.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:—

The Directors of the Washingtonian Home submit to the General Court, in compliance with the statute, their Report for the year ending December 31, 1862.

The Washingtonian Home is about to enter upon the fourth year of its corporate existence. Five years ago, in November, 1857, its foundations were laid. It was begun in weakness, it has been continued in faith, increasing in usefulness with increasing years. What was deemed an experiment, and feared to be of doubtful issue by many warm-hearted friends of the temperance cause, is now demonstration. We have passed from theory to fact, and the fact that has been established is one of paramount importance, as well to legislators and statesmen, as to the friends of humanity and sobriety. We claim for our institution that it is an efficient helper in the government of community, inasmuch as it shows by the success that has followed its labors, how the curse of intemperance may be ameliorated; how the police administration may be relieved from its heaviest burdens; how drunkards themselves may be restored to correct habits, and how, instead of a thriftless, wretched, vagrant life, objects of police arrests, of fines and imprisonments, they may become sober, industrious citizens, useful to their families and society, and valuable members of the Commonwealth.

These are no visionary claims. The institution has received since its foundation some thirteen hundred patients, of every degree of excess in the use of intoxicating liquors, from the habitual drinker who has only been stopped in his insane career by the woeful penalty of delirium tremens, to the new beginner in drinking habits. These have represented every class and interest in the community, as will be seen by the table annexed in this Report, of the occupations of the patients received during the last year, and they present a fair average of every year since the institution has been established; they come from laborers as well as from the professional men; from the mechanic as well as from the merchant; and even the sacred profession is not exempt from this insidious and destructive vice. Of the large number treated and restored to society, we have the peculiar and encouraging satisfaction of knowing that a large proportion of them have become permanently reformed; have resumed once more their appropriate places in society; have resumed their proper employments, gathered home and family once more about them, and have become exemplary and productive members of the Commonwealth. And not only that,—the influence of the “Home” is extended through their influences; for their friends and neighbors see men who were confirmed drinkers and hopeless incumbrances upon the public, become examples of industry and sobriety, and ornaments instead of a disgrace to the community in which they live.

This is what the “Home” has done and what it proposes still to continue to do, God helping its endeavors, until the whole land shall see the blessing as well as the gain there is in using persuasion to reform from debasing and destructive habits, rather than coercion, arrest, public disgrace and ignominious punishment, hitherto so prevalent. There is a wealth of intellect clouded and lost for the present under the baleful habit of intemperance, which it is possible to save and restore. Every man rescued is a positive gain to the entire public, and the “Home” will pursue its mission to rescue and restore, invoking the continued aid of the Commonwealth to help it forward in its great and important work.

The principles upon which the institution is based, are faith in God, and faith in man; dealing with the drunkard as a man who has not lost honor, but who is yet accessible to reason and

to noble impulses, and who will with the aids which he so much needs make an effort to disenthral himself. The man has been an outcast, if you please; may have exhausted the patience of his friends and even of the laws; may have by his intemperance deprived himself of employment and position and his family of a home; destroyed all confidence of friends, and have been given over to a miserable fate and a wretched death, as one for whom hope itself has become wearied. Such an one the "Home" receives, surrounds him with home-like comforts; reposes confidence in him, awakens to new life the expiring spark of hope, of self-respect and the will to conquer the evil habit which has brought him low; gives new and encouraging thoughts of himself by reviving his manhood within him; puts every motive before him that can move the heart to strive earnestly for a reformation. And thus influenced, encouraged too by the example of his fellow-inmates, and of those who have been inmates, who constantly return to the place where their reformation commenced, new habits are formed; he commences a new being, the concerns of life have new interest for him, and at the expiration of his probationary term, which is optional with him, whether it be longer or shorter,—but always under the advice of the Superintendent,—he goes forth to the world, a man among men.

The means employed are simply those of kindness and good will, of hearty encouragement and of a warm and lively sympathy; and they are effectual and mighty, as they have ever been, to work reformation and good results.

We beg leave to repeat here, briefly, what we remarked in our last Annual Report, that, "although not recognized by the legislature as strictly a State institution, yet it owes its support for the past four years to the appropriations annually granted. Without this aid from the Commonwealth it could not have been sustained; and the Board of Directors trust that the prudent management of its affairs and the great blessing it has been to hundreds of families in the towns and cities of the Commonwealth, will inspire confidence on the part of the legislature that their appropriations have been properly applied and have accomplished all and more than would have been reasonably expected."

We are about entering upon an interesting, but critical period in our social history. The existing war has drawn our

young men from workshops and fields, from the desk, the bar and the profession. Every class and condition of life has contributed its quota to fill our battalions in the army and to meet the shock of battle in the field. The ordinary pursuits of peace have thus been interrupted and regular habits of life have been set aside for the turmoil and excitement, the hardships and privations of a camp life. It would be too much to expect that our young men will escape from the damaging influence which the disruption from their usual habits of industry may bring upon them. They may escape the balls of the enemy, the fevers of the camp, and pass unharmed through the fatigue of the march, but alas! some of them, we fear, may not escape the contamination of bad habits; or be in a condition, or have the inclination, when the war is over, to glide quietly again into the bosom of their homes and resume their wonted employments. Already we have heard the sad reports that intemperance is demoralizing our camps, rendering incompetent and disabling our officers and doing us as much injury in the army as the fire of the enemy or inevitable disease. Whether this will increase or diminish, or whether the reports are exaggerated, we know not. But this we know, that no effort should be spared on our part to keep temperance influences alive at home and throughout the Commonwealth, and to make them attractive at the same time to the returning soldier. We deem it especially fortunate that in a crisis in our social condition like that we are now entering upon, our humble institution opens wide its doors to all the victims of intemperate habits, offering them a home and the opportunity for reformation and amendment, so far as its means and accommodations will admit, with the full assurance that they may reform if they will. And this assurance the friends of the institution are justified in giving; because the happy experience of the past is a guarantee of success in the future.

We anticipate a greatly increased demand upon our labors in the time to come; but we shall meet these demands joyfully, having faith that our purposes and the means we employ for restoration will avail to work the happiest results.

The "Home," we assume, has proved its reformatory and moral and gracious influence in so marked a manner as to authorize us to assure the Commonwealth that in the new con-

ditions that may be awaiting the community we shall not prove wanting in the time to come, and that our efforts will only be limited by the means placed at our disposal.

The whole number admitted during the year, was	192
Natives of Massachusetts,	100
of other States,	47
of other countries,	45
Residents of Massachusetts,	168
of other States,	24
Cases of Delirium Tremens,	42
Deaths,	3
Number greatly improved,	147
Number doubtful, some of whom are insane or imbecile,	45
Single men,	62
Married men,	130
Average age,	38
Periodical drinkers,	142
Constant "	50

The occupations of the patients were as follows:—

Clerks,	14	Cabinet-makers,	2
Merchants,	25	Tanners,	3
Printers,	7	Shoe-makers,	9
Painters,	11	Boot-makers,	6
Barbers,	2	Watch-maker,	1
Hatters,	3	Stereotyper,	1
Tin Plate Worker,	1	Machinists,	3
Mason,	1	Gas-fitter,	1
Pilots,	2	Tailors,	4
Marines,	5	Cooper,	1
Carpenters,	10	Clergymen,	3
Provision Dealer,	1	Harness-maker,	1
Policeman,	1	Baker,	1
Sail-maker,	1	Gilder,	1
Jewellers,	2	Editors,	3
Laborers,	3	Bank Teller,	1
Farmers,	3	Architects,	2
Upholsterers,	2	Lawyers,	4
Insurance Agent,	1	Marble-cutter,	1
Blacksmiths,	2	Block-maker,	1
Druggists,	2	All other trades and callings,	38
Physicians,	4		—
Dentists,	2	Whole number admitted,	192

The expenses for the year ending November 8, 1862, have been as follows:—

For groceries and provisions,	\$1,872 18
rent,	1,400 00
furniture and repairs,	961 88
fuel and gas,	359 41
Superintendent's salary,	624 00
house servants,	503 75
medicines,	58 45
sundries,	379 72
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	\$6,159 39

The receipts have been as follows:—

January 2d, 1862, from last quarter of appropriation in 1861,	\$1,250 00
From State appropriation,	3,000 00
rent of store,	250 00
inmates,	1,540 64
donations,	25 50
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	\$6,066 14

In behalf of the Board of Directors,

OTIS CLAPP, *President.*

OFFICERS.

PRESIDENT.

OTIS CLAPP.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

ALBERT FEARING.
FRANKLIN SNOW.

MOSES MELLEN.

SECRETARY.

DANIEL ALLEN.

TREASURER.

GEORGE F. BIGELOW.

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ALBERT DAY.

PHYSICIAN.

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