

THIRD BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

HOME FOR THE FRIENDLESS

FOR THE

Two Years Ending November 30th, 1888.

LINCOLN, NEB.:
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1888.

SOCIETY HOME FOR THE FRIENDLESS,
LINCOLN, Nov. 30, 1888.

To the Honorable Board of Public Lands and Buildings:

GENTLEMEN—I have the honor to submit herewith the third biennial report of the Home for the Friendless for the term ending November 30, 1888.

Very respectfully,

BOARD OF MANAGERS,

By MRS. H. A. BABCOCK,

Clerk.

REPORT.

To the Honorable Board of Public Lands and Buildings :

GENTLEMEN—In presenting this, the third biennial report of the society of the Home for the Friendless, for your inspection, it is with the hope that we have merited your confidence and approval, and with the consciousness on our part of duties faithfully performed, moneys wisely expended, and charities worthily bestowed.

The object of this society is too well known to need discussion. The name is in itself an index of the work the Christian women of this state have taken upon themselves to accomplish. Managed and controlled by women, as it has been from its infancy, greater results have been achieved than could possibly have been realized under other circumstances. The work is such that it appeals to the sympathies of all, and calls out the most tender impulses of the hearts of the laborers in the vineyard of the master.

The very helplessness of those who seek admittance to a charitable institution, insures for them a place in our hearts and a shelter in the Home. From the tiny little waifs cast out into the world, from the "all sheltering" arms of a father's and mother's love, to the aged grandmothers whose whitening locks and tottering footsteps should be a passport to their children's love and protection, all are kindly welcomed and tenderly treated. They are made to feel that here they have a home, where peace and comfort abound, and kindness is their portion.

As this great state of Nebraska is steadily marching onward with strident steps to take her place side by side with her sister states in enterprise and progression, standing with open doors to welcome to her broad and fertile valleys, to her cities and her towns, people from every clime, adding thousands yearly to her population, and wealth to her coffers, so, too, come the unfortunate, the distressed, and the afflicted. Thus their numbers are steadily increasing, and the Home

for the Friendless must keep pace with the needs of the state in that no worthy applicants who knock at its doors for admission shall be turned away for want of room. Only by reason of our crowded condition, have any deserving ones been obliged to wait admission.

With the opening of the Industrial Home at Milford, we shall be relieved of one class that has never properly belonged to this Institution. Reference is made to betrayed girls who have been received and cared for here, for the reason that there was no other refuge open to them in the state. Their removal from the Home will give us room for many more children. It is the general wish of the friends of this society to make this exclusively a home for children.

If a home for the aged can be established and maintained in the near future, our wishes can be realized, and much greater good accomplished, as each institution in the state should have one specific class for which to labor.

OUR SCHOOL.

The average daily attendance of pupils in our school for the last two years has been about forty-five. The children are generally bright and quick to learn, and we have been fortunate in securing the services of a competent, faithful, Christian lady, as teacher. The school is under the supervision of a committee composed of two ladies of the Board, and the needs of the school rooms are looked after by this committee and a report made at each regular meeting of the Board. We have been enabled to supply the school with needed books, charts, maps, and a globe and dictionary. The school has been examined and graded, the fourth grade being the highest established so far. The committee that conducted the examination assured us that their work compared favorably with the same classes in the graded schools of the city. Considering the fact that the children are not permanently located at the Home, this report was highly gratifying.

The children are also trained in habits of cleanliness, industry, and temperance, so that, when they go from this home to meet the emergencies of life, they may be able to withstand temptation, their characters being firmly based upon the principles of right-doing.

KINDERGARTEN.

In this department, one of the most interesting in the Institution, are to be found the little ones from two to four years of age, averaging about sixteen in number. The specimens of the work of their nimble little fingers are placed on the walls of their parlor, and attract much attention. They enjoy weaving the strips of brightly colored paper and forming them into fancy articles.

Their bird-like voices are trained to sing little nursery songs, and their tiny little hands to keep time to music. They delight to entertain visitors, and receive words of praise in return.

NURSERY.

The nursery probably attracts more visitors than any other department, as many as twenty-eight babies having been cared for at one time. The number varies, however, and is usually about sixteen.

We are pleased to state the fact that, by a careful comparison of statistics, it has been ascertained that the death-rate in this department has been somewhat decreased during the last year or so, owing no doubt, in a measure, to the comfortable, airy, sunny room which has been used for the nursery since the completion of the new building. A large porch was added to the second floor last summer, for the use of the nursery, which was certainly very beneficial to the health of the infants, as much of the time a large number of them were carried out there each day and placed in their swinging chairs, or otherwise comfortably disposed, where they could drink in the fresh, life-giving air, which is the best elixir of life to all.

Another room is needed, however, in which to isolate the sick babies from those that are well. We feel satisfied that if this arrangement could be effected it would be the means of a noticeable decrease in the death-rate. From an exhaustive medical work we learn that fully one-third of the human race die before reaching the age of five years. Startling as this fact appears, we find in it but another reason why the good women of this state should go on with this work which is given them to do; for no such alarming death-rate has ever come to this Home, even during its most inauspicious times. We are

therefore encouraged to greater endeavors to nurse the feeble, flickering flame, and coax back to life the little wasted forms which so often fill the cribs in the nursery, coming to us diseased, and alas, too often, with the seal of death upon them, and the death damp upon their brows.

OLD LADIES.

We have from five to eight old ladies in the Home, most of whom are cast off by unnatural children, and homeless and neglected, seek shelter under its hospitable roof. It is the aim of the Board of Managers to make this a veritable home for them as long as they remain, and, as far as is compatible with means at our disposal, to give them all the comforts possible, that the remnant of their lives may be passed in quietude and ease, free from care, thereby smoothing their pathway to the grave—that their last days may be days of pleasantness, and their paths the paths of peace.

NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS.

In order to carry on the work of this Institution successfully, it is an urgent necessity to have another building erected as soon as possible.

On the first floor a new school room, which is a very important adjunct (the present one being entirely inadequate for the demands of the Institution), should be placed, which could also be used as a chapel for religious services.

The basement should be finished up for a boys' play room, as the severity of the winter compels them to play indoors much of the time, and there is no suitable place for them to play in the present building.

The second floor should be converted into a dormitory for the boys, and a room for the governess, in whose care the boys are placed, when not in school.

The room now used for a school room could be utilized for a girls' play and sewing room to a good advantage.

As the new building would probably not be joined to the main building, it would be necessary to have it connected by covered corridors, which would make it accessible in all kinds of weather.

MORE LAND.

It is thought by the management that more land should be obtained, in order that a larger amount of vegetables may be raised for the use of the Home, and also that the boys of proper age may be taught lessons in agriculture as well as the dignity of labor.

Land adjoining the present location can be purchased at a reasonable price, if the Legislature grants our request for the same.

GRADING.

The grounds surrounding the Home should be graded and laid out in an attractive and systematic manner by a competent landscape gardener. Plants from the greenhouse connected with the Institution could be supplied for the purpose of embellishing the grounds.

The greenhouse, besides being a source of revenue to the Institution, has been the means of cultivating a love for the beautiful in the hearts of the children, adding culture and refinement to the other graces of childhood. The sick and the aged have also derived much pleasure from vases of fragrant flowers placed before them, and the caskets of the dead have been "covered over with beautiful flowers."

WATER SUPPLY.

As soon as practicable the buildings should be connected with the city water system, so that in case of fire the Home could receive prompt and efficient protection.

Sewerage connections should also be made at the earliest possible moment. The health of the Institution demands better sanitary conditions, which, however, cannot be had until connected with the city system.

Gas is also a much needed addition to the appointments of the Home.

APPROPRIATIONS.

The appropriations granted us by the last Legislature have been sufficient for our needs, except in the items of fuel and flour and milk. It will be remembered that, in the matter of provisions, we only asked for funds to supply the flour and milk used in the Home.

The amount asked for would have been ample but for the fact that in the marvelous influx of population into this state, applications for admission to the Home increased so rapidly that whereas, on December 1, 1886, there were seventy-two inmates in the Home, there are now nearly double that number. As a consequence our allowance for the flour and milk will soon be exhausted. We hope to be able to pay these bills from our local treasury, so that when we go up to the next Legislature it will be without a bill for deficiencies.

During the last year an old debt of \$1,700 which had been weighing us down like an incubus, has been paid, and we feel a pardonable pride in our present financial standing. Free from debt, with the buildings and machinery in good repair, new carpets, furniture and bedding sufficient for our needs, and we trust with funds enough at our disposal to carry us through until March 31, 1889, the prospect is indeed a cheering one.

Economy in every department has been the key-note to our success. With a determination to wipe out the debt, and place the Institution on a solid foundation, the Board of Directors went to work last year with an indomitable will to accomplish this result. It is a great satisfaction to us that we have succeeded beyond our most sanguine hopes, and now at the close of this biennial period, as we render to you an account of our stewardship, we hope to receive your approbation.

In closing this report, we wish to extend to your Honorable Board our sincere thanks for favors received, and for your wise counsels and advice, always cheerfully given, which have helped to reach this period of unqualified success and prosperity in the history of the Society of the Home for the Friendless.

To the noble women of the state who have so ably seconded our efforts for success, giving their time and money and sending us messages of encouragement and cheer, much credit is due, as also to our superintendent, who is willing to sacrifice all personal interests to the best good of the Home at any and all times.

Much greater good has been accomplished the last year than heretofore, because so many more homeless and stricken ones have re-

ceived shelter and comfort within the walls of the Home. And as the work grows and increases, it will go on and on under the management of the women of this land to greater and still greater heights of perfection, until the name of the "Home for the Friendless" will be a household word in every home in this vast state, and we trust that a glorious fruitage may be the inheritance of the faithful.

Number inmates in Home, December, 1886.....	72
Number admitted since 1886	375
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Total	447
Number of children surrendered to friends.....	128
Number children placed in homes.....	75
Number adults returned to friends	38
Number for whom work was found.....	35
Number sent to Feeble-Minded Institute	6
Number sent to Industrial School.....	4
Number sent to Hospital.....	1
Number of deaths.....	44
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Total.....	331
Number now in Home, Nov. 30, 1888.....	116
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Total.....	447
Number of officers.....	3
Employes.....	18

Inmates from the following counties have been received:

Adams, Buffalo, Butler, Box Butte, Cass, Clay, Cheyenne, Custer, Douglas, Dundy, Franklin, Frontier, Gage, Holt, Hall, Howard, Hamilton, Harlan, Johnson, Jefferson, Lancaster, Merrick, Nuckolls, Otoe, Platte, Pawnee, Polk, Richardson, Saunders, Saline, Seward, Sarpy, Thayer, Valley, Webster, Washington, York.

Estimates of salaries, employes' wages, current expenses, building, and general improvements for the Home for the Friendless, for the two years ending March 31, 1891:

	PER ANNUM.	TOTAL.
Officers' salaries	\$2400	\$4800
Employes' wages.....	4500	9000
Living expenses, drugs and feed for stock.....		10000
Fuel and lights.....		5000
Repairs and improvements.....		3000
Stationery, printing, books, telegraph, telephone, postage, and incidentals.....		1700
Clothing, bedding, and furniture.....		5000
Gas and water connection and use.....		1500
Laying out grounds, grading, and sewerage.....		2000
New boilers.....		1000
New building and heating apparatus.....		12000
Outhouses.....		1500

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. H. A. BABCOCK,

Clerk Board of Managers.

Lincoln, Nov. 30, 1888.