

1905

## 23rd Annual Report of the Temporary Home for Women and Children of Maine

Temporary Home for Women and Children of Maine

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Twenty-third Annual Report of the

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*Temporary Home for Women  
and Children of Maine*



For the Year ending May 10, 1905.

38981

1905



— THE —

TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

*Portland, Maine.* OF THE  
TEMPORARY HOME

FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF MAINE,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 10, 1905.

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INCORPORATED APRIL 6, 1882.

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PORTLAND:  
HARRIS & WILLIAMS, PRINTERS.  
1905.



## OFFICERS.

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PRESIDENT,	MISS HARRIET A. DEERING, 2 DEERING PLACE.
VICE-PRESIDENTS,	MRS. J. W. D. CARTER, MRS. JOHN F. THOMPSON.
SECRETARY,	MRS. F. C. JOHNSTON, 469 CUMBERLAND AVENUE.
TREASURER,	MISS CORNELIA M. DOW, 714 CONGRESS STREET.
PHYSICIAN,	FLORENCE M. DYER, M. D.
ADVISORY PHYSICIAN,	FREDERICK H. GERRISH, M. D.

### HONORARY MANAGERS:

MRS. E. T. BURROWES,	MISS MARGARETTA LIBBY,	MRS. WESTON MILLIKEN,
MRS. W. H. FENN,	MRS. MARGARET T. W. MERRILL,	MRS. L. M. N. STEVENS.

### MANAGERS:

MISS OCTAVIA M. BECKETT,	MRS. PHILIP J. DEERING,	MRS. FRANK D. MARSHALL,
MRS. F. E. BOOTHBY,	MISS CORNELIA M. DOW,	MRS. CHARLES MCCARTHY,
MRS. W. H. BRADFORD,	MRS. CHARLES C. HARMON,	MRS. FRANKLIN C. PAYSON,
MISS HELEN C. BROWN,	MISS LOUISE HARRIS,	MISS A. F. QUINBY,
MRS. ALBA S. BURR,	MRS. F. C. JOHNSTON,	MRS. V. K. ROLLINS.
MRS. J. W. D. CARTER,	MRS. S. L. LARRABEE,	MRS. WHITMAN SAWYER,
MISS URSULA CUSHMAN,	MRS. GERTRUDE S. LEAVITT,	MRS. JOHN F. THOMPSON,
MISS MARY G. DAVEIS,	MRS. WILLIAM H. LOONEY,	MRS. C. B. WITHERLE.
MISS HARRIET A. DEERING,		

### AUDITORS:

MISS HELEN C. BROWN,	MISS MARY G. DAVEIS,	MR. PHILIP G. BROWN.
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### ADMISSION COMMITTEE:

FLORENCE M. DYER, M. D.,	MRS. F. C. JOHNSTON,	MRS. V. K. ROLLINS.
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# TEMPORARY HOME.

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## COMMITTEE ON HOMES:

MRS. WHITMAN SAWYER,  
MRS. CHARLES MCCARTHY,  
MISS OCTAVIA M. BECKETT.

MRS. GERTRUDE STEVENS LEAVITT,  
MRS. F. C. JOHNSTON,

MRS. F. E. BOOTHBY,  
FLORENCE M. DYER, M. D.,

## CLOTHING COMMITTEE:

MISS HELEN C. BROWN,      MISS LOUISE HARRIS.

## PURCHASING COMMITTEE:

MISS MARY G. DAVEIS,      MRS. CHARLES C. HARMON.

## ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE:

MRS. JOHN F. THOMPSON,      MISS HELEN C. BROWN,      MRS. FRANK D. MARSHALL,      MRS. C. H. WITHERLE.

## EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE:

MRS. J. W. D. CARTER,      MISS HARRIET A. DEERING,      MISS URSULA CUSHMAN,      MRS. FRANKLIN C. PAYSON.

## CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE:

MRS. PHILIP J. DEERING,  
MISS A. F. QUINBY,

MISS URSULA CUSHMAN,  
MRS. FRANK D. MARSHALL,

MRS. W. H. BRADFORD,  
MISS LOUISE HARRIS.

## COMMITTEE ON REPAIRS:

MISS CORNELIA M. DOW,

MISS A. F. QUINBY.

## DELEGATE TO WOMAN'S COUNCIL—MRS. S. L. LARRABEE.

MATRON,	MISS CORA L. GILMAN.
ASSISTANT MATRON,	MISS ELLEN A. BRIGHAM.
NURSERY MATRON,	MRS. ABBIE STEVENSON.
FIRST ASSISTANT NURSERY MATRON,	MRS. ELLEN A. LIBBY.
SECOND ASSISTANT NURSERY MATRON,	MISS OLIVE E. LINCOLN.

*Visitors admitted from 2 to 5 on Thursdays only.*

## Resolutions on the Death of Mrs. Alexander W. Longfellow,

President of the Home Board from 1885 to 1901.



*Resolved:* That the members of the Board of Managers of the Temporary Home for Women and Children recognize with profound gratitude the efficient service rendered the Home by Mrs. Longfellow.

Her influence and generous kindness contributed largely to its success, helping to make it one of the most beneficent institutions in the State.

Her devotion to its interests, her wise counsel as President, her gentleness and helpfulness as an associate, inspired her co-workers to holier endeavor and greater activity.

Her faith in what might be accomplished through the instrumentality of the Home was well founded and strong; her hope was as high as it was beautiful, and the love she always displayed was symbolic of the love of the Great Shepherd, who is "not willing that any should perish".

*Resolved:* That we extend to the members of Mrs. Longfellow's family an expression of sincere sympathy, mingled with our deep appreciation of her as a friend and philanthropist; and furthermore, that we place in our permanent records this testimony concerning her work for the unfortunate and helpless; and may it encourage those who follow in the work, whether officially or otherwise, to be like her, generous and forgiving, patient and hopeful.

LILLIAN M. N. STEVENS,  
MARGARET T. W. MERRILL,

OCTAVIA M. BECKETT,  
MARY B. JOHNSTON,  
*Committee.*

ANNUAL REPORT.

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With the passing of the twenty-third year of our Temporary Home for Women and Children comes the conviction that our institution has become one of the permanent factors in the great philanthropic movement of to-day for the uplifting and transforming of lives made bitter by sin or weakness in themselves or others.

The purpose of our Home, as expressed in an old by-law, is "to provide shelter and employment for the women and children of the State of Maine who may be found on the streets, in bad houses, in stations or public institutions, or are reduced to dependence upon public charity, and who need to be protected from temptation to vice". The doors of the Home are never shut to a woman in need. But with the experience of years and with the growth and development of the work have come an enlargement of aim and a deepening of purpose. This Home means not only shelter and protection, but it means for the children plenty of pure food, sunshine and fresh air, proper medical attendance when ill, and always loving, tender, motherly care. For girls and young women our Home has come to mean the abandonment of rough speech, careless dress, bad temper and idle habits for gentleness, neatness, obedience and industry. It means a respect for labor and its wholesome influences and a quickening of the whole moral nature. The stewardship of the managers and the matrons is not merely planning and directing and superintending, it means sympathy and faith and devotion. It means a personal interest in the daily life of the girls and in their efforts to become good women, sympathy in their failures, and inspiration to new endeavor. It means that the magic wand with the transforming power is the wand of Love in the hand of a friend.

Since the foundation of the Home four hundred children have been under its care, about one-fifth of the number having been born in the Home. The other four-fifths have come largely from orphaned, or deserted or drunken homes, or temporarily from homes of sickness and poverty. When we see how chubby and rosy-cheeked the little ones are after being well fed and well cared for even a few weeks, we take real pride in the Home and are even glad that our nurseries—sunshiny, airy and clean—are so well filled. At one time during the past year the children numbered thirty. Think of it! thirty happy, healthy children, all under five years of age. But when we think that thirty children are waiting for homes to open to them, for a mother's arms and a mother's kiss, and



then remember how slow the happy homes are to open to little waifs, we recall the words of the Master, "I was a stranger and ye took me not in".

Our Committee on Homes have been unusually fortunate this last year in those which they have been able to secure. Three children out of a family of twelve deserted by the father, were rescued from extreme poverty and squalor and placed in most excellent families; one in Vermont, one in Northern Maine and one on one of the islands in Portland Harbor. Then, too, handsome little Charles has found a home where he is the pride of his new parents, and they are already making plans about his going to college. A family circle with six children was felt to be incomplete without a little girl baby, and so our Minnie was sent for, to fill the void. And Alice has found a very humble home, where the lack in worldly goods is outweighed by father and mother love. The children born in the Home generally accompany the mother when she goes out to service, and they become an educating factor in her life. For motherhood brings responsibility and responsibility brings growth in character.

The girls and women who find refuge in the Home are generally from thirteen to twenty years old. They are wilful, but not vicious. They have been without home training, without restraint and without a proper environment. Their characters are unformed, their hands unskilled and their moral natures dulled. They are what they are, not from what they have acquired, but from what they have missed; and when to all these limitations is added, as is too often the case, betrayal by those who should have been their natural guardians and protectors, the cup of their misery seems full. And yet there are still men and women prejudiced against the work of this Home.

While the girls are being trained in house-work and in the care of children, everything possible is done to make them feel that this is a real home for them. They gather for family devotions at night and go to church on the Sabbath, and for some time they have been members of the Home Department of the Friends' Sunday School, studying their lessons regularly with their teacher, Mrs. Libby. During the summer the monotony of the Home life is varied by excursions with the matron to Riverton or the islands, and in winter by an evening entertainment now and then, either in the city or at the Home. But the climax of all their good times is reached at Christmas, when Santa Claus comes with generous hands and scatters gifts all through the house. It is touching to see how happy and grateful the girls are, and how softened their hearts are at this time. So they grow to love the Home, and many keep it in loving remembrance in their after lives.

Since 1882 the Home has sheltered more than four hundred girls and women, coming from forty or more different towns and representing nearly every county of the State. Some of these have proved incorrigible, though

who can say that even these were not helped? But a large majority have become good women and are now settled in respectable homes of their own, eighty per cent of the whole number having been permanently reclaimed.

During the last year twelve girls have been admitted and eight children have been born in the Home, showing that our work now is largely with maternity cases. Every application for admission is thoroughly investigated by a committee and then acted upon by the Board of Managers, who meet every Thursday forenoon to deal with the various problems that are constantly arising in connection with the institution.

Our Home is especially fortunate in its matrons, who are fitted for their places as well by experience and natural abilities as by love of the work and enthusiasm in it. Their patience and their faith are often severely tried, but in the end they win over stubborn hearts into respect and obedience.

For the annual appropriation from the State, and for the many generous contributions of food and clothing from friends, we extend most hearty thanks, and we would acknowledge our deep obligations to the Maine W. C. T. U. for so kindly allowing us the use of their parlors for our weekly Board meetings.

To our sister charities, engaged in the work of prevention, we say "God speed", and to all our brothers and sisters who have known the protection of home and the love of parents we appeal in the words of Christina Rossetti:

"O ye who taste that love is sweet,  
Set waymarks for the doubtful feet  
That stumble on in search of it.

Sing notes of love, that some who hear  
Far off, inert, may lend an ear,  
Rise up and wonder and draw near.

Lead lives of love, that others who  
Behold your lives may kindle, too,  
With love, and cast their lots with you."

HARRIET A. DEERING.



SITTING ROOM.



## PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

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Number visits,	64
Obstetric cases cared for,	11
Deaths,	1

The past year has been, from a strictly professional standpoint, a most uneventful one for the physician.

The little sickness that we have had has been of a commonplace character; mild cases of indigestion and bronchitis in the nursery and simple colds in the main house.

The one death was that of a premature infant who came to us with the mother twenty-four hours after birth and died ten days later.

More work has been done on the advisory committee by the physician during the past year than ever before. This closer touch with the conditions of individual cases has strengthened a conviction long held, that there are many of both sexes who are morally irresponsible. We find all grades, from the individual who is depraved in every moral sense to the one who is apparently sound mentally yet in some one particular seems to lack complete or entire self-control. In some this moral degeneracy takes the form of kleptomania, in others dipsomania, while a large number are sexual degenerates.

Those who know the work of the Home best must be impressed by the fact that we have dealt with an unusually large number of these sexual defectives in the year just closed; girls who do not see, and I doubt if they can be made to see, unless after years of careful training, any moral question involved in their acts.

For the good of the community and of the individual there should be a "Home", not a prison, which should stand in the position of legal guardian to these girls, able to protect them from themselves and others. In every case these girls could be made self-supporting and such a home once established would care for itself financially.

What a gain it would be to the State to be relieved of the financial care of these sexual degenerates and their offspring, to say nothing of the improvement in the moral tone of the community in which they live!



I am not talking in the interest of the Home for the Feeble-minded, much as this institution is needed, but trying to point out what might well be the future work of our Home or one established definitely for the purpose of meeting the needs of this class of cases.

Let us not be blind to the fact that we have a class, unfortunately increasing every year, who are born morally blind, just as there are some who are born color-blind.

These unfortunate ones must be cared for, for the sake of the State and for the welfare of the individual.

This work must be done by those who, because of more fortunate heredity and environment, are mentally and morally stronger.

Have we not something more to do than we have already done, in helping bear the burdens of our weaker sister?

FLORENCE M. DYER, M. D.



## STATISTICAL REPORT.

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Girls in the Home May 11, 1904,	9
Children in the Home May 11, 1904,	28
Girls admitted since,	13
Children admitted since,	10
Total number of Girls for year,	22
Total number of Children for year,	38
Total number of Inmates,	60
Girls sent to places,	6
Children sent with mothers,	2
Children taken by friends,	2
Girls sent to friends,	3
Girls returned one or more times, for visit,	3
Children returned with mothers,	0
Children born,	8
Children died,	1
Children adopted,	5
Sent to Orphan Asylum,	0
Belfast Home for Girls,	1
Largest number of Girls any one time,	13
Largest number of Children any one time,	30
Smallest number of Children any one time,	21
Smallest number of Girls any one time,	6

MARY B. JOHNSTON, *Secretary.*

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

## RECEIPTS.

Balance May 11, 1904, . . . .	\$ 960.64
State appropriation, . . . .	2,500.00
Annual subscriptions, . . . .	520.00
Board of children, . . . .	461.90
Donations and bequests, . . . .	1,785.25
Interest on fund, . . . .	959.35
All other sources, . . . .	118.75

Total receipts, . . . .	<u><u>\$7,305.89</u></u>
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## EXPENDITURES.

Provisions, water, fuel and light, . .	\$1,667.41
Salaries, . . . . .	1,583.26
Repairs, . . . . .	379.63
Furnishings, . . . . .	143.36
Clothing, . . . . .	124.26
Drugs, . . . . .	29.32
Funeral expenses, . . . . .	8.00
All other expenses, . . . . .	192.39
Investments, . . . . .	2,661.85
	<u>\$6,789.48</u>
Balance May 10, 1905, . . . .	516.41
	<u><u>\$7,305.89</u></u>

CORNELIA M. DOW, *Treasurer.*



OUR CHILDREN.



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OUR GIRLS.

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As I review the past year I find it has been one of interest. A great many have gone out to service and a number have been married and have good homes of their own; nearly all have been a credit to the Home. The girls who have been with us longest are becoming capable and womanly, and have learned to appreciate more fully what the Home is doing for them.

There has been an encouraging degree of improvement in nearly all during the past year. It is blessed to watch their development as they grow more efficient, more Christian. Several of the girls have taken a decided stand for Christ and are trying each day to do their best. Our girls are taught different kinds of work, and those having little ones have learned to tenderly care for them. On Sunday each girl goes to church. We have the Home Department Sunday School, taught by Mrs. Libby, who has labored earnestly. There has been a decided improvement in every one who has attended the school, and we know all have been benefited by the lessons.

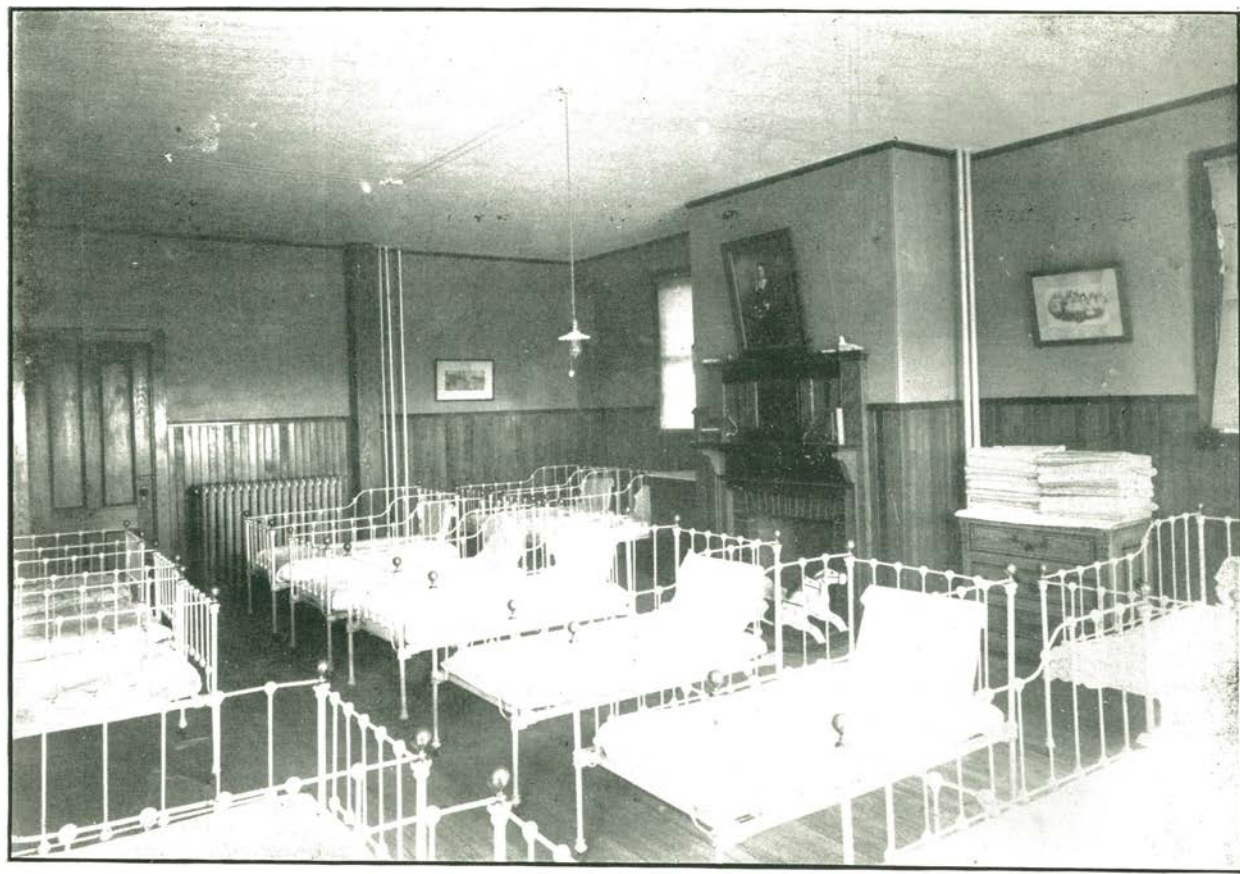
Each year we have a sale of different articles made by the girls; this work is nearly all done by hand, the object being to teach them to do good work with the needle.

I can hardly close this paper without speaking of our last Christmas. Each one was very happy and did her best to make the entertainment and tree a success, and some of the girls pronounced it the best Christmas yet. The children also enjoy their part in receiving their toys and it helps to make them happy for several days. If our friends could have witnessed all this, we are sure they would have been glad that they had a share in bringing it about.

We have been fortunate in retaining the same helpers through the year; they work in harmony for the best interest of the Home and we owe much to their faithful labors.

I hope the coming year may bring us rich blessings, and as the days go by may we remember the words of the Good Book: "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good."

CORA L. GILMAN, *Matron*.



NIGHT NURSERY.



MAY.

## OUR CHILDREN.

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A year must of necessity bring many changes to the "Home Nursery". Many of those who were with us last year have gone—a few returned to their parents. Five have been adopted into good homes where they will grow up under the best of Christian influence and surrounded by loving care.

In every instance they were given three months' trial, but in no case have they been returned or anything but the utmost satisfaction expressed. One lady, who took Charles home one Saturday night for three months' trial, telephoned the following Monday that one thousand dollars would be no temptation to part with him. From others we have equally good reports.

We miss these little ones who leave us, but it is gratifying to know they are so well provided for and are proving a comfort to the homes so kindly opened to receive them.

We have much to be thankful for in that our children are so well. There has been no serious sickness and no deaths have occurred among our children in the nursery for nearly two years.

Other children have been brought in, so our number is nearly as large as last year.

Charlie is still with us, but is uneasy; he has really outgrown the nursery and wants more to occupy both mind and hands than are found there.

Edmund and Harold, brothers, are two interesting boys; they are devoted to each other; Harold, especially, thinks Edmund about the best boy there is. Often when asked his name



Harold will reply, "I'm Edmund's brother". Harold is fond of being petted and one day after a liberal dose had been administered by the assistant he left her, went after Edmund and led him to her without saying a word. Edmund looked up at her, smilingly, and said, "Harold brought me". Miss Lincoln took the hint and caressed Edmund, after which both boys returned to their play well satisfied.

Willie is the same dear, passionate boy, so strong in his affections, so fierce in his anger, but not so often angry as formerly. He has really improved in this. His capacity for mischief is unlimited and his love of tormenting very great, while his quick perception leads him to make use of opportunities unnoticed by the others. He is certainly an unusual child and one who holds the interest and anxiety of those with whom he is brought in close contact.

Harry *seems* to be a very quiet little fellow, but frequently is the ring-leader in mischief. When caught he invariably cries, "I will be good! I will be good!" He is loving and kind-hearted, and when angry with the matrons or girls the worst he can do is to say, forcibly, "I won't be 'youse' boy any more!"

May, our oldest girl, gets up nearly every morning and assures us she is going to be a good girl. She means to be, but forgets it when she wants to take the babies' playthings or plague them a little, and earnestly repents when called to account. She is bright and affectionate.

Walter is always attracted by the plaything some other child has, and usually contrives to get it, exchanging whatever he does not care for, in an amusing way. His ruling passion is strong even when sleeping, as he will frequently call out, "I want that book what Willie's got!" or some similar expression.

Our little blind Mildred is with us yet, patient and good as a child can be, loved by all who have any care of her.

Harriet is a pretty little girl who, with her sister Doris, came to us last Fall. She is fond of being held and petted, and is much in love with her little sister, running to meet her as she is brought out in the morning and saying, "My Dorrie! my Dorrie!" while Doris, nearly always good natured and smiling, sometimes gets impatient at Harriet's oft-repeated caresses. Doris is just commencing to walk.

There are no two who attract more attention than the little playmates, Avis and Dorothy. They have had their little beds side by side since coming into the nursery. They are much attached to each other, always together in their play and often walk about hand in hand. Dorothy is nearly always smiling; her greatest trouble is when Avis cries; then she will look sober and walk around and look at her, and plainly show that she would, if she could, give whoever caused Avis trouble a good scolding. They are an attractive couple.



Clarence seems backward about walking and talking; although he has stood by things for a long time, he is too timid to venture alone. He is well and happy and thinks nothing quite so nice as a little rubber kitten, given him at Christmas; this he plays with nearly all the time when awake, and I often find it clasped tightly in one little hand as he sleeps.

Our *little* babies are a fine lot and attract much attention from visitors.

Our dark-eyed Mildred is a merry-hearted little girl with a bright smile for all who notice her.

Vera came to us a poor, frail, fretful little thing, unable to retain the lightest food. It certainly looked as if there was little to build on. The transformation has been wonderful. She is now healthy and happy, just brimming over with laughter and fun—a veritable little sunbeam. She seldom cries, and when her food is brought, eats as heartily as any child and without inconvenience. Her fond mother is happy over the improvement in her.

Nettie has been with us only a short time and is a dear little child. She was not well when she came, but her father says if she improves as much the next two weeks as she has in the two weeks past, he shall scarcely know her.

James was brought here when only two days old. His mother died a few hours after his birth. He was given special care for three weeks, then brought into the nursery where he has continued to grow and thrive until he is now a beautiful boy of whom his father is justly proud.

Arthur is a poor little fellow, but gaining, and we hope before long he will do as well as the rest. He is certainly much improved.

Last to be named is Baby Helen, whose sweet face and winsome ways endear her to us all.

This is but a brief mention of our little ones, and as you visit the nursery you will see that *much* might be said in their praise; and you will not wonder that they become dear to those who have the care of them or who have their interests at heart. We can only hope that those who are waiting for homes, may be as well provided for as those who have gone out the past year.

The good done by those who open heart and home to these children, will bring a double blessing from Him who regards kindness done to His little ones as done unto Him.

ELLEN A. LIBBY, *Assistant Matron.*

## INCORPORATED APRIL 6, 1882.

## AN ACT GIVING ADDITIONAL POWER TO THE OFFICERS OF THE TEMPORARY HOME FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

[Chapter 63, Private and Special Laws for 1887.]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:*

SEC. 1. The Corporation formed and organized under the provisions of the fifty-fifth chapter of the Revised Statutes of Maine, on the sixth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-two, in Portland, and known as the Temporary Home for Women and Children, which Home is now in Deering, in the County of Cumberland and State of Maine, shall have the power and authority, and said Corporation therefore is hereby authorized to have the care, control and custody of all persons received into said Home as inmates thereof, under the present rules and regulations of said Corporation, or under such rules and regulations as may be adopted hereafter.

The officers of said Corporation are authorized to put and place out at service, any of the children under their care and management at such age as may be deemed advisable, with any suitable master, person or mistress, and on such terms and conditions as may be deemed reasonable until such child shall arrive at the age of eighteen years, or be married. Power and authority is hereby conferred and given to said Corporation to grant and allow any child, being an inmate of said Home, to be adopted by any proper persons petitioning therefor, to the Judge of Probate of the County of Cumberland. The Judge, with the consent of the officers of said Home, and the consent of one, or both of the parents, if possible, also being obtained, may, upon the hearing of the petitioner, make such decree respecting the adoption of such child as are in accordance with the spirit and intention of the provisions of chapter sixty-seven of the Revised Statutes of Maine. The officers of said Home are to be regarded by the Judge, as the party entitled to consent to such adoption, and their consent must be first obtained before such child is so adopted.

SEC. 2. The person with whom such child has been, or may be bound or placed in manner aforesaid, not

adopted, however, shall have reasonable control and power over such child, agreeably to the terms and conditions prescribed and agreed upon in writing, interchanged, or to be interchanged by and between the officers of said Home and such persons.

SEC. 3. If any child so bound or placed and put out to service, shall absent himself or herself, or abscond, or be enticed or inveigled away from the service of his or her master or mistress, shall be entitled to have the same power and process to apprehend, secure and recover such child, as are given by the statutes of the State in such case made and provided.

SEC. 4. This act shall take effect when approved.

Approved February 9, 1887.



FORM OF A BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Temporary Home for Women and Children, in Portland, Maine, incorporated in the year of our Lord, 1882, the sum of ——— dollars, to be applied to the charitable uses and purposes of said corporation.

—————



