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OF ST. LOUIS,—

HELD IN THE LECTURE ROOM OF CENTENARY M. E. CHURCH,

Feb. 23d, 24th, 25th and 26th,

— 1892. —

WITH THE REPORTS PRESENTED AND PAPERS READ.

ST. LOUIS:
COMMERCIAL PRINTING COMPANY,
1892.

REPORT OF THE ST. LOUIS COLORED ORPHAN'S HOME.

This Institution is under control of the Harper branch of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. The Home was opened October, 1888. The object of the work is the care of colored orphans and destitute children. The Institution is supported by subscriptions and donations. The receipts for 1891 were \$1,191.74. Expenditures for 1891 were \$1,164.68.

Thirty-two are accommodated in the Home at present. It is not educational; no teacher is employed. Both sexes are received, also orphans and half-orphans. Children are received from babies to twelve years of age. The aim of the Institution is to give useful trades or professions. Children can be obtained for adoption through a written agreement guaranteeing proper raising. Boarding children pay \$1.25 per week.

There are two employes for the daily work, besides the matron. The Board of Managers numbers fifteen members.

The Home was incorporated April, 1889.

Submitted by

MRS. PITTS.

REPORT OF THE ST. LOUIS PROTESTANT ORPHAN ASYLUM.

Madam President and Members of the Convention.—You have called for an epitomized history of the St. Louis Protestant Orphan Asylum; also for a more detailed account of its progress in recent years and its present condition.

In compliance with the first part of this request we can do no better than take from the published history of this Institution (which has the precedence of age over all other Protestant institutions of like character in St. Louis) the facts and figures therein presented.

As we open its pages a strikingly beautiful face, with wondrous love-lit eyes, looks out upon us. Below we read:

MRS. ANN PERRY,
 Founder of the Asylum, 1834.

Nor are we surprised, for such a face bespeaks the inspiration of this heaven-born charity.

Could we look back fifty-seven years, to the 22nd of December, of that year, we should see this lady with her associates engaged in the effort to secure a home for the orphan.

They were assembled in the Second Presbyterian Church, a little frame building located on the corner of Chestnut and Church Streets, the latter now Second Street.

Besides the ladies, there were present several pastors of leading churches, who were deeply interested in the object of the meeting.

These were Rev. Mr. Chaderton, of the Episcopal Church, Rev. Mr. Drummond, of the Methodist, and Revs. Messrs. Hatfield and Potts, of the Presbyterian.

After an invocation of the divine blessing, the draft of a constitution was presented, and after amendment accepted.

The object of this new charity was embodied in the name by which it was christened: "The St. Louis Association of Ladies for the relief of Orphan Children."

We find the following list of names constituting the first board of officers and managers in that "long ago:"

OFFICERS.

Mrs. Matthew Kerr.....	<i>First Directress.</i>
Mrs. Samuel Perry	<i>Second Directress.</i>
Mrs. John Torade	<i>Treasurer.</i>
Mrs. J. D. G. Manny.....	<i>Secretary.</i>

MANAGERS.

Mrs. Chaderton,	Mrs. Joshua Tucker.
Mrs. Edwin Hatfield,	Mrs. Dr. Boling.
Mrs. Wm. Y. Potts,	Mrs. Dr. Huffman.
Mrs. John Brady,	Mrs. Geo. H. Callenden.
Mrs. Wm. Glasgow,	Mrs. Huntington.
Mrs. Josiah Spalding,	Mrs. Wm. Wiggins.

Practical work was at once commenced. Not waiting to secure a building for an asylum, homeless little ones were gathered in and cared for at the homes of persons whom the managers employed for that purpose.

But a few months after the Association was organized, through the efforts of the managers, supplemented by the liberality of the citizens, a lot was purchased of Maj. Wm. Christy, located on Seventh Street, between Morgan Street and Franklin Avenue.

Here a small two-story building was erected, and in December, 1835, just one year, save a day, from the time the ladies met in the little church to formulate a plan to succor helpless children, Mrs. Grace Dory, the first matron, assumed charge.

A week later she received the children, six in number, into the new home.

Our historian quaintly adds that these children had been receiving the motherly care of Mrs. Moses Scott, at her rural home, on the site where now stands the Southern Hotel.

It was here in this pleasant home, in what was then known as the northern part of the city, that these little ones, whose numbers rapidly increased, played beneath the forest trees far from the dangers of the more active city life.

How difficult to realize that these same children, if living to-day, are nearing, if not already past, the mile stone of their threescore years, while many of the present managers were yet unborn!

It would be interesting, were there time, to present the various devices of raising money for the support of this institution in those early days.

The act of incorporation passed in 1841. The delay of seven years is not explained in the history, although it is stated that repeated attempts had been made for its accomplishment.

After fourteen years of occupancy, the little primitive building was found to be too small for the increasing number of applicants.

In 1848, a handsome and commodious addition was completed.

For more than twenty years the doors of this Home were open to dependent childhood.

In 1853, by an act of the legislature, the name was changed from its original one to "The St. Louis Protestant Orphan Asylum."

As years rolled on, the large, park-like grounds surrounding the Home were cut up into city lots. Towering buildings supplanted its forest trees, and the aggressiveness of the growing city jostled against this once quiet retreat.

We find its managers anxious for its removal to more congenial environments.

About this time the sanitary commission, instituted during the war for the relief of sick and wounded soldiers, and represented by Rev. Wm. G. Eliot, Dr. J. B. Johnson, Messrs. James E. Yeatman, and Carlos Greeley, offered the managers of the St. Louis Protestant Orphan Asylum the Soldiers' Home at Webster Groves, a suburban town ten miles from the city, on the Pacific Railroad. This proposal was accompanied with certain stipulations, to which the managers readily acceded.

Satisfactory arrangements with the Sanitary Commission being completed, in December, 1869, the St. Louis Protestant Orphan Asylum was removed from St. Louis to Webster Groves, retaining its name, and in every respect remaining a city institution.

The change was a delightful one. From a crowded down-town residence, shrouded in smoke, resonant with the clang and cries of city life, of rumbling cart and rattling omnibus over pavements at all hours of day and night, the sudden transition to the peaceful country home, under the blue skies, in the midst of lawns, trees and flowers, melodious with the song of bird and hum of bee, must have seemed a magical one to the little waifs, many of whom had never before caught a glimpse of hill, dale and forest trees.

Thanks to the Fresh Air Mission of our day, the little child of deepest poverty may, at least once during the year, escape from the boundary of its limited vision and be borne out on the mighty river that sweeps past our city, drinking for a day, although unwittingly, the inspiration that is born of the beauty and grandeur of extended landscape. Who shall say that this will not broaden his whole life and bring him to greater usefulness in the future that stretches out before him? The hand of Divine Providence has ever been acknowledged in directing the location of the asylum in this delightful spot.

A double two-story gray-stone building, with high basement, situated on an eminence in the midst of its forty-one acres of lawns, shade trees and orchards, was the home to which these city children were welcomed.

The semi-centennial celebration of this institution was a most interesting occasion, and one long to be remembered for the review of its work for half a century, the tender reminiscence, for appropriate song and earnest prayer for its future welfare, and inspiring addresses of the clergy, many of whom were present. Among these we note the names of Revs. Drs. W. G. Eliot and Truman M. Post, than whom none were more active in every undertaking pertaining to the welfare of St. Louis.

The floral decorations on this occasion were abundant and beautiful. On either side of the organ appeared the dates "1835-1885," wrought in greenery, and between them the inscription, "Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these you have done it unto me."

The year 1886 was destined to be a memorable one, for the great changes that occurred in remodelling the old and erecting new buildings in order to meet the growing demands upon the institute, and also for the entire change of plan of operations, which was involved in passing from the one household method to the new English and German cottage system of separate households.

Had there been sufficient means at the disposal of the Board to effect these changes, the responsibility would still have been great; but when it is considered that many thousands of dollars must be solicited by a few ladies to accomplish this undertaking, which they themselves proposed and executed, it commands our highest admiration for their wisdom, zeal and untiring energy.

The exigencies of former times had been met by those whose names they delighted to honor, but these ladies did not shrink from this new and greater task that confronted them. The names of the ladies constituting the board of officers and managers that year should not be omitted in this account of their work, which must necessarily be brief:

OFFICERS:

Mrs. George K. Budd.....	<i>President.</i>
Mrs. Edward Avery.....	<i>Vice-President.</i>
Mrs. John J. Mitchell.....	<i>2d Vice-President.</i>
Mrs. Rebecca H. Morton.....	<i>Corresponding Secretary.</i>
Mrs. Kate Gore.....	<i>Recording Secretary.</i>
Miss Anna L. Blood.....	<i>Treasurer.</i>
Miss Mary S. Moore.....	<i>Treasurer of Building Fund.</i>

MANAGERS:

Mrs. Geo. E. Leighton,	Mrs. Robert B. Wade,
Mrs. Henry Stagg,	Mrs. T. B. Edgar,
Mrs. Leonard Matthews,	Mrs. Alfred Lee,
Mrs. M. S. Forbes,	Miss Sallie Marks,
Mrs. W. T. Haydock,	Mrs. Edward B. Eno.

In the annual report of 1888 is a list of names of philanthropic citizens who responded generously to the appeal of these ladies in this work.

A ride along a shady avenue, half a mile from Webster Groves Depot, will bring you to the carriage drive that leads up an ascent to the asylum. Before reaching the top it is in full view. It has the appearance of a handsome villa nestled among the trees. In the center of the group of buildings stands the original stone house, with its portico and cupola, which for seventeen years was known by the name of the St. Louis Protestant Orphan Asylum.

A hundred feet to the east and the same distance to the west of the stone house may be seen two large buildings having the appearance of handsome private residences. Another stands between the one on the east and the stone house, and adjoins the latter. These three buildings are all constructed of brick and wood, and built in Queen Anne style.

Between these buildings, more than a hundred feet in the rear, may be seen the steam plant. This heats all the buildings, and has proved a success and comfort to our little colony. The stables are conveniently located, but concealed by the buildings in front of them. Well-kept lawns, graveled walks and plots of flowers beautify the grounds. At the time the new buildings were erected

the stone house was remodelled and retained as headquarters for the asylum. Here the matron, who has supervision of the entire premises, resides with the older boys. In the parlor of this building the managers hold their meetings. The new building connected with this is the school building, but contains other apartments also. This is named for Rebecca P. Budd, in recognition of her valuable services as president for thirty years.

The building at the east bears the name of Isabella B. Leighton. She was a manager for several years, and her large benefactions entitle her to be thus remembered. Here are the dormitories for the little girls. This house also contains parlor, nursery, play-rooms, bath-rooms with stationary washstands, and wardrobe rooms. The building at the west is called the Ellen McKee, in honor of the lady who gave liberally towards its erection. This is the home of the younger boys. The arrangements are nearly the same as in the Leighton. All of these buildings are fully equipped for perfect housekeeping.

Besides the rooms already mentioned, there are dining-rooms and kitchens, with their pantries, ranges and refrigerators. One large laundry suffices for all. A cook for each house is provided, and such other help as the needs demand. Over the Leighton and McKee house-mothers preside under the direction of the matron. A competent and experienced nurse has immediate charge of the nursery, but the house-mother and matron are also constant in their attention.

While this system of separate households involves more care and expense, the results obtained are a full compensation. In these separate households the individuality of each child can be better preserved, its character studied and molded, and more freedom in each granted than where all are cared for under the same roof.

Our children are not dressed in an asylum uniform. So far as is consistent with economy, each one is dressed in what is most becoming; and when at church, or elsewhere, they are spared the mortification of being observed as a child of misfortune. We think this also engenders greater self-respect.

No walls or high fences surround the buildings. The children have full range of lawns and orchards, but are kept within prescribed limits, where watchful care can be exercised over them.

A good gardener is employed, who, with some assistance, raises nearly all the vegetables required for the year. A considerable amount of fruit is also raised.

A sufficient number of cows and hens are kept to supply fresh milk and eggs for the entire household.

When the little asylum building was first opened in 1835, a school was at once organized; and from that time to the present, every Board of Managers seems to have been impressed with the importance of that branch of the work.

Of course, the varying pupilage of the school as the years came and went prevented as high a degree of advancement as in graded schools, where the same scholars attended continuously; but there are many young men and women holding positions of honor and trust here and elsewhere, who not only received the fostering care of the Home, but obtained in this school all the education they ever received. Others here imbibed a thirst for knowledge which inspired in them a desire for a higher education, and surmounting all difficulties along its rugged path have prepared themselves to stand shoulder to shoulder by the side of those who were not met as were they, with disaster at the outset of life.

One of these is a lady, a successful teacher in the public schools of St. Louis. A feeling of gratitude for this early Home prompts her at every Christmas-tide to send a generous cash donation to the asylum, although others are dependent on her for support.

One of our boys when last heard from was assistant professor of mathematics in the Military Academy at West Point.

But few months since, a gentleman of evident culture and means, from New York City, visited the asylum and addressed the school. In the course of his remarks he stated, that once he was an inmate of that asylum—a fit subject for the House of Refuge, all his tendencies down grade, and his life foreshadowed wreck and ruin. But here he received an uplift. Tender hands and loving hearts tided him over the shoals that threatened to engulf him, and through that influence, and that alone, he had been saved to himself and others. Many instances could be cited of wonderful results of the influence of this Home, with its fireside, school, and family altar. The instances are rare when there is not some re-

sponse to the moral and religious principles here instilled. Weariness may come, but discouragement never while these cheering tidings reach us from the outer world. The school at the present is, perhaps, in a more prosperous condition than in any previous year. It ranks well beside schools of similar grade. The Roll of Honor is a great incentive in both scholarship and deportment.

This institution is not sectarian, nor has it ever been. The founders decided this, as one of the by-laws adopted indicates.

Those who have controlled its affairs have never allowed church preferences to influence in any decisions. Broad religious principles as taught by the Master are their guide alone, regardless of special creeds or doctrines. While non-sectarian, it is emphatically religious. As we have shown that the physical and mental wants are here met, so religious instruction is not neglected. A reverence and love for God's word and truth are early inculcated.

We have no "visiting days," or, rather, all days are visiting days. Friends or strangers are welcome to make an inspection of the asylum at any time, although week days have the preference with those in charge.

One hundred and fifty-two children have been cared for the past year.

We receive no children under eighteen months, or boys over ten years of age, although if already inmates they are retained until they reach the age of twelve years; then, if full-orphans, are placed in homes, or, if half-orphans, returned to his parent.

Both sexes if of sound body and mind are received, as already indicated.

Believing that the family fireside is a better place for a child's development than any asylum can be, we place out children for adoption on six months' trial when we have a legal right to do so, the adaptation of the child to the home and the home to the child being carefully considered. If at the end of that time the party and institution are both satisfied, we make the stay permanent by adoption or otherwise. If either is dissatisfied, the child is recalled.

So far as practicable we keep in communication with them and learn of their welfare. This has been accomplished largely through the untiring efforts for many years of our corresponding secretary,

Mrs. Kate Gore. Many are the cheering letters she receives of our absent ones and those in charge of them. Occasionally, through her records and perseverance, members of families who for long years have been separated have been reunited. We do not refer to children given out for adoption.

Fifteen persons are employed in the asylum: thirteen women and two men. Sixteen ladies constitute the Board of Officers and Managers. These ladies spend the first and third Wednesdays of each month at the Home to transact its business, look into the details of household, school and other interests, and in visiting and discussing the welfare of our children. Besides this, two ladies of the Board are appointed at each regular meeting to visit the Home at their own convenience.

Our Vice-President, Mrs. Edward Avery, who for twenty years has held that office, resides at Webster Groves, and in matters requiring immediate action has always been ready to give her time and attention and make wise decisions in emergencies. To her the Home is deeply indebted for long years of watchful, loving service. In this connection it is interesting to note the great length of time that many members of the present Board have served.

A quarter of a century will soon round up the service of several—a few have already passed that limit. One has labored for more than thirty years to promote the interest of the asylum, and still continues in active service. This is Mrs. Henry Stagg, who at the request of the Board has recently written an authentic and interesting history of the asylum, from which we have so largely drawn for the early part of this paper.

Another interesting feature is that several of the pioneers in this service, who gave the thought and energy of early womanhood and wisdom of riper years to this work, have bequeathed, as a precious legacy, its responsibilities to their daughters—one of whom has already numbered twenty years in the Board.

This is Mrs. P. J. Teasdale, whose mother, Mrs. P. J. Thompson, is its senior honorary member.

Mrs. Alexander Hamilton and Mrs. Harriet C. Van Court, long since passed on from the scenes of their earthly labors, are represented by their daughters, Mrs. Lewis B. Bailey and Mrs. Harriet O. Fletcher.

As we glance through the reports of more than half a century we find the names of those whose families stand high on the roll of honor in St. Louis history.

May the mantle of these indefatigable laborers in this vineyard of our Master fall upon all whose names shall in the oncoming years appear upon its records.

Each year still sees accomplished improvements demanded by the ever-growing needs of the home.

These expenses are always met by donations solicited by personal efforts of the managers.

Within the last three years the steam plant, which was burned, was rebuilt and the stables greatly improved for the comfort of the stock.

The crowning work of 1891 is the successful termination of boring an artesian well. It was only the great necessity of the case that made us willing to undertake such a task.

The kind response of friends to our appeal for means, made it possible to accomplish this. We now are placed beyond any unpleasant contingencies for lack of water. There is a yield of two hundred barrels per day, if desired. This is called "Rebecca's Well," in honor of Mrs. Rebecca H. Morton, who for nearly twenty years has served as Secretary and through whose efforts so much of this well fund has been secured.

As to our resources, we have an endowment fund which brings an income sufficient to cover about one-half the cost of maintenance of the asylum. We are also aided somewhat by the board of half-orphans, a nominal amount being charged when the parent is able to pay. But a large amount of deficiency always confronts us, which can only be met by the subscriptions and donations of a generous public, without which the asylum must long since have closed its doors, but with which it has thus far been able to receive and properly care for all applicants coming within the limit of our admission rule, without trenching on the principal of the endowment fund or incurring any permanent indebtedness.

It will readily be seen that upon a board limited to but sixteen ladies there is entailed in this task of soliciting, a labor that far exceeds their legitimate work.

We note with extreme satisfaction that in the past two years large endowments have been bestowed on several prominent charitable institutions, by persons who are still living to see and enjoy the result of their benefactions. Others have come into possessions bequeathed by will.

With great cause for gratitude in the past, we shall look earnestly into the future, hoping that the time is not far distant when the St. Louis Protestant Orphan Asylum, already crowned with the glory of fifty-seven years of successful labor, whose life has so long run parallel with that of this great city, and whose name it bears, will not be allowed to struggle on without an endowment fund, the income of which will be sufficient to relieve us of this outside and somewhat humiliating work of securing means to feed and care for the helpless orphans who appeal to our sympathy.

The great advantage of location to the children is a disadvantage to the board, by compelling them to go so far to attend to its interests, and also by having a tendency to be "out of sight, out of mind" to the charitable public, and sometimes causing the mistake to be made of thinking it a Webster rather than a St. Louis institution; but we do not regret its location; it is incomparable.

The cottage system, which we have thoroughly tested for the last five years, has proved successful in every respect. What with the great influx of new citizens, the rapidly increasing number of new charities ever pressing to the front, the large number of orphanages belonging to and supported by the different churches, we find ourselves more and more regretting the passing away of the benefactors of our older institutions. In soliciting for the Home, I am often met by the inquiry, "Have we not too many charities in St. Louis?" The most active workers in them will answer most emphatically, "No!" Others are needed even now; more *will* be needed with our rapidly increasing population.

This assembling in harmonious union of the Convention of Charities, regardless of sect or creed, shadows forth the grand result obtained by united effort, and we hail this demonstration as the harbinger of a new era in charitable cooperation.

We believe it will be the inspiration for greater benefactions, both to old and new charities, than St. Louis has ever known, and

that all will learn the lesson of the Master, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

The following are the names of the persons at present connected with the institution:

OFFICERS.

Mrs. A. J. Steele.....	<i>President.</i>
Mrs. Edward Avery.....	<i>1st Vice-President.</i>
Mrs. John J. Mitchell.....	<i>2d Vice-President.</i>
Mrs. Wm. W. Stickney.....	<i>3d Vice-President.</i>
Mrs. Rebecca Morton.....	<i>Secretary.</i>
Mrs. Harriette O. Fletcher.....	<i>Treasurer.</i>
Mrs. Kate W. Gore.....	<i>Recorder.</i>

MANAGERS.

Mrs. Henry Stagg,	Mrs. N. W. Perkins,
Mrs. P. J. Teasdale,	Mrs. D. R. Wolfe,
Mrs. Alfred Lee,	Mrs. Henry Lowry,
Mrs. W. T. Haydock,	Mrs. Lewis B. Bailey,
Miss Caroline Tilden.	

HONORARY MEMBERS.

Mrs. George K. Budd,	Mrs. P. J. Thomson,
Miss Anna L. Blood.	

Advisory and Investment Committee.

Mr. George S. Drake,	Mr. George E. Leighton,
Mr. M. S. Forbes,	Mr. Edward S. Rowse.

Legal Adviser.

Mr. John M. Holmes.

Treasurer Endowment Fund.

Mr. M. S. Forbes.

Attending Physician.

Marshall D. Baker.

Matron.

Miss Anna L. Clapp.

Teacher.

Miss Estella A. Patterson.

House Mother Isabella B. Leighton Cottage.

Mrs. Mary G. Colcord.

House Mother Ellen McKee Cottage.

Miss Annie C. Rassmusson.

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. WM. W. STICKNEY.

REPORT OF ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC FEMALE ORPHAN ASYLUM.

IN CHARGE OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY.

10th and Biddle Streets, St. Louis, Mo.

This asylum was founded in 1843 by the munificent generosity of Mrs. Biddle, daughter of John Mullanphy, who donated a sufficient portion of land and three thousand dollars toward the erection of a permanent home for the orphans, giving at the same time the use of her own dwelling as a temporary asylum.

As early as the year 1831 we find the Rt. Rev. Bishop Rosati, of St. Louis, in a letter addressed to the Very Rev. Father Deluol, then Superior of the Sisters of Charity at Emmitsburg, Md., bearing date of May 26th, asking for three or four sisters to preside over an orphan asylum. At that time there were several children being cared for by the Sisters at the Mullanphy Hospital. Some question arising as to the propriety of having one house for both boys and girls, it was not deemed advisable to care for them in the same establishment; hence, it was agreed that the proposed asylum should be for the boys.

In February, 1832, the Boys' Asylum was an accomplished fact, and we find at that time five Sisters of Charity in care of forty-six orphan boys and as many day scholars. The erection of the Girls' Asylum being deferred until 1843, when, as related above, Mrs. Biddle came to their aid.

On the 12th of May, 1843, Sisters Benedicta Parsons, Mary McGowan and Mary Columba Long, opened the Girls' Asylum in