

FIFTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MANAGERS
OF THE
WESTERN HOUSE OF REFUGE,

MADE TO THE
LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

ROCHESTER:
PRESS OF CURTIS & BUTTS, DAILY UNION OFFICE, MUSEUM BUILDING.

1854.

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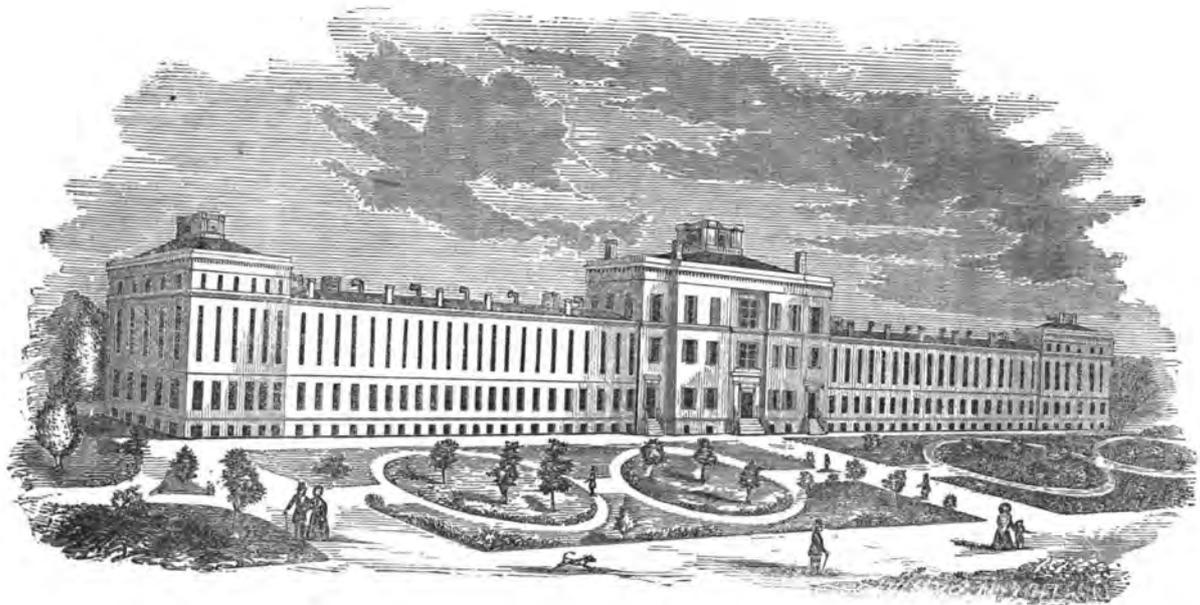
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DESCRIPTION.

THE WESTERN HOUSE OF REFUGE FOR JUVENILE DELINQUENTS, a very accurate view of which is here presented, is one of the finest edifices in Western New York; and the Institution among the most praiseworthy and best conducted in the Empire State.

The farm belonging to the Institution, on a portion of which the buildings are located, contains $42\frac{1}{2}$ acres of excellent land, and is finely located about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles north from the central portion of the city of Rochester, on a slight elevation between the Erie canal on the west, and the road leading to the mouth of the Genesee river on the east; $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres of it are surrounded with a stone wall 20 feet in height, within which stand all the buildings belonging to the Institution, except the barn; 28 acres are enclosed with a stockade fence 10 feet in height, formed of cedar posts, and are designed for cultivation. The remaining 10 acres are appropriated to pasturage. The grounds within the walls are tastefully laid out in vegetable and flower gardens, walks and play grounds, and ornamented with trees and shrubbery, which, though now in their infancy, will, in time, add greatly to the beauty of the place, as well as to the comfort of the inmates.

The center building of the house proper fronts the east, and is 86 feet wide, 60 feet deep, and is in height three stories above the basement. The two wings extending to the north and south, are each 148 feet long, 32 feet deep, and two stories in height, above the basement, with the exception of the square towers, which form the finish at the extremities of the wings, and are three stories in height. The whole front of the building, it will thus be seen, is 382 feet in length. Two other wings extending to the west from the extreme of the two already built, can hereafter be added if required. In the basement of the centre building are a kitchen and dining-room for the subordinate officers, and the kitchen for the general purposes of the house. The latter is furnished with a steam boiler and cooking apparatus of the most approved kind, which are supposed to do the work for a family of at least 250 inmates. It is also furnished with a steam engine of three horse power, which is used in part to elevate water from the cistern to a tank of the capacity of 2,500 gallons, in the fourth story, from which water is taken by means of leaden pipes to all parts of the house where its use is required; and in part to furnish a power for boring and mortising chair seats. On the first floor above the basement is the Manager's room, with rooms for the Superintendent and his family. On the second are two large rooms for the sick, and sleeping rooms for the officers; and on the third is the chapel, which is well arranged and commodious, and will seat 500 persons, and more if necessary.

In the basement of the north wing is a bathing and washing room furnished with a plunging bath of the capacity of 5,000 gallons, a shower bath, and also with pipes and cocks so distributed that each delinquent can at the same time perform his ordinary ablutions under a running stream of water, without interfering with or being interfered with by any other. There are also in the basement of the same wing, a washing, drying, and ironing room, tailor's shop, seamstresses' room, and store room. The first floor embraces the dining-room, school-room, recitation-room, and a room for the library; and on the second are the dormitories, which are 7 feet square, and are arranged in two tiers on either side of a hall 15 feet in width, running the whole length of the wing. Each dormitory has a narrow window extending from the floor to the ceiling, rendering it light, airy and pleasant, and a ventilating flue which can be opened and closed at pleasure. The basement of the south wing will be occupied, when completed, for store rooms and various other purposes. The first floor will be occupied chiefly by the school-room, and other rooms connected with the instruction of the delinquents; the room now occupied as a school-room in the north wing being too small for an enlarged number, and being also needed as an addition to the dining-room. The second floor is fitted up like that of the north wing, with dormitories similarly constructed and arranged. The whole building, with the addition of a few dormitories in the north wing will well accommodate 200 delinquents, with the officers and hands necessary to take charge of them.

The whole expense of the premises, the building proper, above represented, being the principal item, is estimated at about seventy-five thousand dollars. Commissioners for erecting the buildings—Isaac Hills, William Pitkin, and D. C. McCallum.

The Institution was opened on the 11th of August, 1849. The number of inmates on the 1st of January, 1850, was 37; on the 1st of January, 1851, 98; on the 1st of January, 1852, 130; on the 1st of January, 1853, 165; and the whole number now in the House is 205.

MANAGERS.

FIRST CLASS.

FREDERICK F. BACKUS, SAMUEL W. D. MOORE,
EDWARD ROGGEN, ELIJAH F. SMITH,
 JOHN GREIG.

SECOND CLASS.

ISAAC HILLS, WILLIAM PITKIN,
AMON BRONSON, HEMAN BLODGETT,
 ALEXANDER KELSEY.

THIRD CLASS.

ALEXANDER MANN, ISAAC BUTTS,
ORLANDO HASTINGS, JACOB GOULD,
 JOSEPH FIELD.

N. B. The term of office of the Managers of the first class will expire on the first Tuesday of February, 1854, and the terms of the other two classes on the first Tuesdays of February in the two succeeding years.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MANAGERS OF THE WESTERN HOUSE OF REFUGE.

To the Honorable the Legislature of the State of New York :

The Managers of the Western House of Refuge respectfully REPORT :

That the Institution, under their care, has been unusually prosperous during the year which closed on the first day of January, 1854—the fifth year of its existence. The boys have enjoyed almost uninterrupted health, and no single case of severe sickness has occurred within its walls. The officers have diligently and faithfully discharged their duties, and the boys have in general performed the tasks assigned them in a quiet and orderly manner, and the progress made by them in their studies is creditable both to them and to their teachers. The records of each succeeding year in the history of the Institution, bring with them accumulated evidence of its value to the interesting class for which it was designed.

The accounts received from those who have been discharged from the Institution, show that with few exceptions they have been redeemed from the bond-

age of their former habits, and are pursuing with patience, industry, and sobriety, the path that leads to respectability and happiness.

There have been no changes in the officers of the Institution during the year, with one exception. Mr. Seth W. Starkweather, of the county of Steuben, has been appointed principal teacher in the place of John M. Denton, who resigned the office on account of ill health. It is due to Mr. Denton to say, that whilst he held the office he discharged the duties of it with singular fidelity. The managers have also appointed an assistant teacher, Mr. Frederick Fisher, who entered upon the duties of his office in the month of May last. This addition to the number of the officers of the Institution was rendered necessary by the increased number of the boys. During the year a new kitchen has been erected under the direction of the Commissioners appointed, in pursuance of the third section of the act for the establishment of a House of Refuge in Western New York, passed in 1846. The kitchen is near to, but not connected with, the principal building. This erection adds very much to the accommodations of the house proper, and to the comfort of its inmates. Under the direction of the same Commissioners, also, the House has been furnished during the year with a permanent and abundant supply of wholesome water from a stream which passes through the grounds belonging to the Institution. Until this supply was furnished, two wells and the cisterns connected with the principal buildings were the sole reliance for the supply of this article of indispensable necessity. The appropriation for these objects was made by a special act passed dur-

ing the last session of the Legislature. It affords the managers great pleasure to be able to state that the entire premises belonging to the Institution, including the principal buildings, workshops, outhouses, fences, and grounds, are in prime order, and that under the vigilant eye of the Superintendent, nothing is suffered to run to waste.

The number of boys in the House at the close of the year, was 205. As the present buildings are calculated for the accommodation of only 200, the Institution may be said to be more than full. The number cannot be materially increased without the erection of an additional wing. The managers took occasion in their last annual report, which is comprised in Assembly Document No. 31, to advert to the subject of classification, as one of the means of rendering the discipline of the House more efficient in the work of reform; and in connection with that subject, to suggest the expediency of providing for the erection of an additional wing to the House. They now beg leave respectfully to refer your honorable body to the remarks on those subjects, contained in that report, and to add that what was then deemed to be expedient, seems now to have become indispensable. The present season must necessarily bring a large additional number of boys to the Institution, if the existing laws are properly executed. To make room for them, some of the boys now in the House must be discharged, and the managers will deeply regret the necessity which they have reason to apprehend will be pressed upon them, of discharging for the purpose, some whose principles and habits are not thoroughly reformed and established. Besides, the relief secured by such prema-

ture discharges is only temporary, for as a general rule they result in a second commitment after a very short absence from the House. The Managers therefore respectfully recommend to your honorable body to pass a law at the present session authorizing the erection of a new wing as an addition to the present buildings, with accommodations for 150 boys. This may be done in strict accordance with the original plan of the buildings, and at an estimated expense of \$30,000. The Managers, it is hoped, may be permitted to add that with this addition, the entire cost of the establishment will fall short of \$120,000.

The general statistics of the Institution are given in the Superintendent's Report, which will be found in the Appendix. They will be found worthy of careful attention.

The extracts from the Daily Journal, kept at the House, and from the letters received from some of the boys who have been discharged, and from the parents and guardians of others, are designed to exhibit the ordinary course of business at the Institution, and some of the results of the instruction there imparted, and the discipline there administered. Every benevolent man must rejoice at the rescue of but a single ingenuous youth from the power of profligate habits. To such men these extracts will furnish the ground of an abiding confidence that such results have been, and are likely to be, common in the history of the Institution.

The Teacher's Report, which will also be found in the Appendix, exhibits the condition of the school in respect to the advancement made by the boys in the different branches of education, and the condition of the library. By far the greater portion of the boys

who come to the Institution are unable to read intelligibly; to such the advantages of the school are incalculable, and the instances are very few, of boys leaving the Institution without having made gratifying advancement in learning. The Library provided for the boys is not only valuable as a means of imparting useful knowledge, but it is of great service in another respect; it serves to attract and hold the attention of the boys, to some extent, in their leisure hours, and in this way tends to prevent disorder and mischief.

The Treasurer's Report, which will be found in the Appendix also, exhibits a summary of the receipts and expenditures during the year. The amount in the Treasury at the close of the year, as will be seen, was small. This is accounted for by the fact that but a portion of the money appropriated for the support of the House during the current fiscal year has been drawn from the State Treasury. The appropriations made for that purpose at the last session of the Legislature, will be exhausted, however, it is believed, before the expiration of the year. It is hoped that the deficiency will not be large. The increased price of labor, and of all the necessaries of life, is the main cause which will produce it, and whether the deficiency shall be larger or smaller will depend upon the question whether prices are to advance or recede from the present standard.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

FREDERICK F. BACKUS,

President of the Board of Managers.

ISAAC HILLS,

Secretary.

APPENDIX.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Dr. The Western House of Refuge for Juvenile Delinquents, in Account with Isaac Hills, Treasurer. Cr.

		DOLLS.	CTS			DOLLS.	CTS
1853, For Salaries,.....		6,049	84	1853, By Balance in Bank, Jan. 1, 1853,.....		1,989	59
Jan'y 1, Food and Provisions,.....		6,307	86	Jan'y 1, Am't rec'd for Labor of Boys,.....		5,769	78
to Clothing,.....		2,533	30	to " " from State Treasurer,.....		15,611	00
1854, Fuel and Lights,.....		1,767	24	1854, " " Counties,.....		60	43
Jan'y 1. Building and Repairs,.....		1,028	29	Jan'y 1. " " Sale of Horse,.....		75	00
Farm, Stock, Utensils, and Carriage,..		1,088	24				
Wages of Domestics,.....		870	00				
Bedding,		710	96				
Furniture,		643	32				
Night Watch,.....		456	25				
Repairs to Furnace and Steam Engine,		482	31				
Stable, Feed, and Blacksmithing,..		566	63				
Shipping Boys,.....		185	92				
School Books and Stationery,.....		192	63				
Postage, Printing, and Hack-hire,..		247	92				
Purchase of Horse,.....		200	00				
Hospital,		24	14				
Balance in Bank,.....		150	95				
		23,505	80			23,505	80

We have examined the above account, compared it with the vouchers, and find it correct.

WILLIAM PITKIN, }
ELIJAH F. SMITH, } *Finance Committee.*

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the Managers of the Western House of Refuge, the Superintendent respectfully reports:

That the whole number of boys received since the opening of the House, in August, 1849, is - - 340
 The number in the House at date of last report, was - - - - - 165
 The number received from January 1, 1853, to January 1, 1854, is - - - - - 112

Total number in the House during the year, 277
 The number disposed of during the year is - 72

Leaving in the House January 1, 1854, - - - 205

Of those received during the year, 1 was 7 years old ; 1 was 8 ; 3 were 9 ; 6 were 10 ; 21 were 11 ; 19 were 12 ; 13 were 13 ; 19 were 14 ; 15 were 15 ; 8 were 16 ; 5 were 17 ; and 1 was 18. Total, 112.

Average age, 12 years, 11 months, and 19 days.

Their parentage is as follows:

American,	39
Irish,	40
English,	8
German,	18
French,	5
Italian,	1
Colored,	1
	112

Fifty-three had lost one parent; seventeen had lost both; the parents of five were separated; and the parents of forty-six, one or both, were intemperate.

The sources from whence they were received are as follows:

Monroe County,	-	-	-	-	-	54
Erie	"	-	-	-	-	25
Oswego	"	-	-	-	-	11
Washington	"	-	-	-	-	3
Cayuga,	-	-	-	-	-	3
Onondaga,	-	-	-	-	-	3
Madison,	-	-	-	-	-	2

And one from each of the following counties: Chatauque, Oneida, Otsego, Clinton, Allegany, Yates, Montgomery, Genesee, St. Lawrence, Jefferson, and Chango,

112

The offences for which they were committed are as follows:

Vagrancy,	-	-	-	-	-	29
Petit Larceny,	-	-	-	-	-	54
Grand Larceny,	-	-	-	-	-	17
Burglary and Larceny,	-	-	-	-	-	5
Arson,	-	-	-	-	-	1
Threat to Stab,	-	-	-	-	-	1
Manslaughter,	-	-	-	-	-	1
Disorderly Conduct,	-	-	-	-	-	1
Drunkenness,	-	-	-	-	-	1
False Pretenses,	-	-	-	-	-	2

112

The following disposition was made of 72 boys who left the Institution during the year, viz:

Indentured to Farmers,	-	-	-	13
“ “ Carpenters,	-	-	-	3
“ “ Chair Makers,	-	-	-	2
“ “ Blacksmiths,	-	-	-	2
“ “ Gardeners,	-	-	-	2
“ “ Shoemaker,	-	-	-	1
“ “ Harness Maker,	-	-	-	1
“ “ Glove Manufacturer,	-	-	-	1
“ “ Book Binder,	-	-	-	1
“ “ Mason,	-	-	-	1
“ “ Morocco Dresser,	-	-	-	1
“ “ Carriage Trimmer,	-	-	-	1
“ “ Nurseryman,	-	-	-	1
“ “ Painter,	-	-	-	1
“ “ General Service,	-	-	-	1
“ “ Architect,	-	-	-	1
“ “ Iron Founder,	-	-	-	1
“ “ Whip Maker	-	-	-	1
“ “ Cooper,	-	-	-	1
Escaped,	-	-	-	4
Sent to Sea,	-	-	-	6
Discharged to parents or guardians,	-	-	-	26
				<hr/>
				72

EXTRACTS

FROM THE

SUPERINTENDENT'S DAILY JOURNAL FOR 1853.

January 1. This is one of the holidays to which our boys, as well as others, look forward with peculiar interest. Our family, numbering 165, is in good health, and all are prepared for the good cheer provided for the occasion. The Contractors, Messrs. Ives & Co., and William D. Brooks, furnished an ample dinner of roast turkey for all the boys, and during the day they were well supplied with apples, peanuts, cheese and cake, to which they did ample justice. The exhibition by the boys in the evening, got up for the occasion, was as creditable to them as it was gratifying to the numerous visitors who witnessed their performance.

Jan. 2. Frederick Starr, Esq., attended the Bible Class this morning, and one of the students of the University preached in the afternoon in place of our Chaplain, who is absent from the city.

Jan. 3. Thomas B. and Henry V., were this day received from the Rochester Police Court.

Jan. 4. John C. and John S., were this day received from the Rochester Police Court.

Jan. 6. Officer Buckley, of Brockport, arrested and returned this day, two boys, who made their escape last night, through the Hospital window. One of them,

who was quite ill and exhausted, seemed very glad to get back.

Jan. 14. The Superintendent went to Brockport yesterday, and returned this day. Saw two of our boys there, who appear to be doing well.

Jan. 22. The Grand Jury visited the House this day, in a body. Some of them had not visited before. They all expressed much satisfaction with what they saw.

Jan. 30. James A., who was indentured to a farmer a year since, called to see us on Saturday. He has grown to be a man in size, conducts well, gives satisfaction to his employer, and appears contented and happy.

Feb. 3. The Visiting Committee, Messrs. A. Bronson and Edward Roggen, visited officially this day.

Feb. 4. There are now 174 boys in the House, which makes a larger number in the School than can be properly taught and disciplined by two Teachers. An additional Assistant Teacher is required, and we call the attention of the Acting Committee to the fact, that they may recommend such measures to the Board at their Annual Meeting, as in their judgment may seem proper.

Feb. 11. Charles P. was this day indentured to H. M. N., a farmer of Ridgeway, Orleans County, by order of the Discharging Committee. He had been in the House three years.

Feb. 12. William O. H., who was committed in November last, was this day discharged to the care of his father, who resides in O. The boy was committed for a trifling offence, did not appear to be vicious, and the memorial for his discharge was endorsed by the

committing Magistrate, and the Mayor of O. Order from the Acting Committee.

Feb. 14. About ten days since, Dr. Backus vaccinated fifty of our boys, who showed no marks of having been previously vaccinated. Forty-two of the number seem to have taken well, and it is intended from these to vaccinate all the others. We now number 175 inmates. General health prevails throughout the house, as it has during the winter. It is a rare occurrence to have a boy confined to bed.

Feb. 15. James F. and John F., were this day received from Monroe County.

The Board of Managers held their Annual Meeting at the House this day.

Feb. 22. John B. was this day received from the Oyer and Terminer of Clinton County.

Feb. 23. George M. was this day received from the Rochester Police Court.

Feb. 24. Albert J. Q. was this day received from the Oyer and Terminer of Washington County.

March 1. James B., a boy of about 15 years of age, applied at the gate for admission. We referred him to the Police Magistrate, and he soon returned with his own commitment. He is an unfortunate boy, who has wandered away from Canada, and has been roaming about our streets for some days past.

March 5. William B. and Michael M. C., were this day received from the Rochester Police Court. They are both old and hard-looking boys, and like many others committed from this city, belong to a distant part of the State. They made a regular business of stealing.

March 24. William J. E. was this day indentured to Abram E., blacksmith, of Mt. Vernon, Knox County, Ohio. Order from Gen. Gould.

March 25. Justus B., was this day indentured to L. Ingersoll, bookbinder, of Hudson, Ohio. Had been in the House two years and one month. Order from Gen. Gould.

April 4. This was Quarterly Visiting Day, for the friends and relatives of the children, and, notwithstanding the storm, there was a general turn-out. A bare glance at the persons present, (with a few exceptions,) would satisfy any intelligent mind of the cause why their offspring is here. Intemperance, ignorance, and consequent poverty, stand out in bold relief. How could the result be otherwise ?

April 14. Charles M. G., who was indentured two years ago, to Mr. A. L. of —, returned to the House this day, in company with Mr. L., who has sold his farm, and is about to remove to Michigan. He reports Charles to be a very good boy, and is very desirous to have him go west; but as Charles prefers not to go, we shall provide him with a place. Charles has grown to be a man for size, and thus far has been saved from a great snare into which he had fallen before he was sent here—that of drinking—which habit he contracted by being sent for liquor for his mother to drink, she being a poor inebriate, and spending half her time in jail and in the poor-house.

April 15. F. J. G. was this day received from the Oyer and Terminer of Monroe County. This is the boy who, a short time since, killed another of his own age (14 years), in the street at noon-day, by stabbing

him to the heart with a knife. He is not larger than boys usually are at 12 years; is intelligent; speaks and reads the French and German languages fluently, and makes rapid progress in the acquirement of the English, but seems to possess a most uncontrollable temper. A slight provocation will throw him into a paroxysm of rage bordering on insanity.

Dec. 1. Under the discipline of the House, he is evidently acquiring the power of self-control.

April 23. Hon. N. K. Hall, Ex-Postmaster General, and Mr. Fillmore, son of the President, visited the Institution this day. Mr. Hall, who was deeply interested in the establishment of the House, expressed himself as highly gratified with the improvements and additions made since he last visited; and Mr. Fillmore seemed deeply interested with what he saw, it being his first visit to an Institution of this character.

April 26. John M. I. was this day received from the Oyer and Terminer of Erie County, for grand larceny. He is an old and hardened boy—a wanderer from home and respectable friends in the northern part of the State, and for more than two years past has spent the greater portion of his time in jails and penitentiaries.

May 2. Four boys have left us this day to go to different parts of the country, under circumstances which induce the belief that they will do well.

May 10. We have a large gang of boys employed on the farm. We have cleared the cobble stone from about 20 acres, and are now engaged in under draining 3 acres on the west side of the farm, which is very wet and heavy land. We have sowed 8 acres with

oats and grass seed, and shall plant 11 acres with potatoes.

May 19. Two boys attempted to escape this day. Their plan was to induce the belief that they had gone over the wall, by placing a plank against it, and then secrete themselves till night, when they would have more leisure to effect their object. They were soon found, snugly stowed away in the pipes of the furnace.

June 4. W. H. was this day received from the Rochester Police Court. He made personal application at our gate a few days since, to be admitted; but was informed that a commitment was requisite. Nothing daunted, he applied to the Magistrate, who on his own showing, committed him for vagrancy. His parents are both intemperate, and with a family of small children, are now in the poor house of an adjacent county.

June 20. N. B. and John H. were this day permitted to ship for a whaling voyage, on board the *Candace*, of New London. They are stout rugged fellows, and from their previous habits, the above is perhaps the best disposition that could be made of them. Mr. Fisher, the Assistant Superintendent, accompanied them to the port.

July 4. Once more we hail the Anniversary of our National Independence, a day which our boys in common with others, anticipate with great pleasure. We have a large and increasing family, all in good health, and all prepared to partake of the good things so amply supplied for the occasion by our Acting Committee. The bill of fare for the day is—for breakfast, bread and butter, coffee, gingerbread and cheese; for

dinner, lamb pot-pie, with dessert of cherries; for supper, gingerbread and cheese.

The day was devoted to amusement in the yard, and in the evening we had an exhibition by the boys, which afforded them, as well as many visitors who were present, much gratification.

Charles O., a former inmate, called to spend the 4th with us. He appeared well, and we have every evidence that he is doing well.

July 10. Frederick Starr, Esq. attended the Bible Class this morning, and Rev. J. H. Raymond preached in the afternoon to a crowded house. Joseph Field, Esq., (one of the Managers,) attended the service.

July 18. Four boys have been indentured this day, and two have been received.

July 20. James C., being 21 years of age, was this day discharged. He came to us, having been a most hardened and vicious boy, or rather young man, and for the first two years we had more trouble and annoyance from his bad conduct, than we had from all the other bad boys in the House; and the query frequently arose, What hope *can* there be for such a character? But by perseverance in the use of the means, he gradually softened down until he became one of the most docile boys in the House. He came to us perfectly ignorant of letters, but as soon as this change came over him, he applied himself to his studies and soon learned to read and write. He remained in the House three years, and on leaving, we fitted him with a change of good clothing, gave him three dollars, with a few lines to a friend in the country, through whom he obtained immediate employment at \$12 per month.

Nov. 24. Thanksgiving Day. He visited us; was well clothed, and appeared well in all respects. He still remains in his place, and is going to school this winter. A more marked case of the good effects of the discipline of the House has seldom come under our notice.

Aug. 1. J. S., who was an indentured apprentice to a ship carpenter, in Oswego, 18 months ago, called to visit us this day. He still remains at the business, and we have the testimony of his master as well as his own word, that he is doing well.

Aug. 8. Mr. John M. Denton, our Teacher, who recently tendered you his resignation, on account of ill health, left us this day. He has been a faithful and conscientious officer, and our best wishes for his speedy recovery and his future prosperity, attend him.

Aug. 15. P. D., who was discharged a year ago, to the care of his friends who reside in U., called to visit us this day. He is well dressed and presents a manly appearance. We are informed by persons interested in his welfare, that his conduct since he left us, has been praiseworthy. He is working at marble cutting. He was twice in the New York House of Refuge before he was sent here.

Oct. 4. Anson B., a former inmate, called to visit and spend the last Sabbath with us. He has become a member of a Christian Church, and appears to be in every respect a correct young man. The boys being assembled in the afternoon, he addressed them very appropriately, giving them some very excellent advice. A great change seems to have been wrought in this young man. Before he came here he used to drink *raw*

brandy, to stimulate himself to deeds of daring. As a burglar and thief, he was the terror of the section from which he was sent, and for a long time after he came here we had no confidence in him.

He is now engaged in teaching a school in a neighboring State, at a fair compensation.

Oct. 7. William H. Allen, President of Grand College, visited the Institution this day, accompanied by Messrs. Frederick F. Backus and Isaac Hills.

William H. G., a former inmate, called to visit us this day. He still remains at the place to which he was indentured; appears well, and says he means to make a man of himself.

Nov. 12. We are this day in the enjoyment of one of the greatest conveniences that has been bestowed upon us since the opening of the House—a bountiful supply of water. Our dam and reservoir having been completed, and the pipes connecting the hydraulic ram with the reservoir, having been laid, we set the ram in operation, and the reservoir containing 450 hogsheads of 100 gallons each, or 45,000 gallons, is now full. The distance from the ram to the reservoir near the House, is 1,200 feet, and the elevation to the top of the reservoir is 45 feet, and the reservoir in the upper part of the house is 83 feet. The quantity delivered into the lower reservoir daily is 8,640 gallons, which is more than double the quantity required for ordinary purposes—the surplus passes through the sewer. In addition to the great convenience, it will prove a matter of great security against fire.

EMPLOYMENT.

During the year embraced in this report, the boys have been employed under contract with William D. Brooks, in the manufacture of cane chair-seats, and with Messrs. Theron Ives & Co., in the manufacture of whips, at twelve and a half cents per day, of seven and a half hours. The labor in both the departments is well adapted to the age and capacity of the inmates, and at the same time affords them a proper amount of healthful and invigorating exercise. The manufacture of children's and women's shoes, is about to be introduced—a contract having been made with Messrs. J. W. Hatch & Co., of this city, for that purpose. It is believed that the introduction of this branch of business will secure an important advantage to the boys that shall be employed in it, as it will give them a knowledge of a trade upon which they can depend for employment and subsistence in subsequent life.

The clothing of the boys is all made in the House, excepting their shoes—seven boys being employed in the tailor's shop for this purpose. Twelve boys are employed in the domestic work of the House; and during the season of farming and gardening from four to eight boys are required for this service.

FARM.

The farm increases in productiveness, but some improvements in the way of fencing are required to render its benefits fully available.

LIBRARY.

The amount received at the Gate from visitors during the year, and which by your direction, has been appro-

apriated to the support and increase of the Library	
is - - - - -	\$113 07
And the balance on hand from last year is	2 50

Making a total of - - - - -	\$115 57
There has been expended during the year for	
books and papers, - - - - -	\$93 22

Leaving on hand a balance of - - -	\$22 35
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The Teacher's Report will show the number of volumes that have been added to the Library, and also, its present condition.

LETTERS.

The following extracts are from letters received during the year, from boys who have left the Institution at different times, and from their masters and parents:

DEAR SIR:—Yours was this day received, and I hasten to reply: Charles is still with me, and thus far has proved himself a very worthy boy. In fact his general deportment is almost unexceptionable. In his every day behavior, he is far better than most boys of his age who have had much better advantages. He is amiable in his temper and at all times ready and willing to obey. He is now attending school, and I think he acquires a knowledge of his studies as readily as any boy. I believe there is enough of him to make a good and worthy man and a useful member of society. Should he abide his time, and continue to do as well as he has done, I shall endeavor to give him far better advantages than most apprentice boys have.

Yours,

A. F. B.

The following is from the boy referred to:

DEAR SIR:—I am enjoying good health and attending school, where I study geography and arithmetic. I like my place very well, and will try and be a good boy and stay in it.

C. J. B.

DEAR SIR:—"Charley" O., whom I took from your Institution last spring, still remains with me. He proves a faithful and industrious young man, and I believe him to be strictly honest. He often speaks of yourself and the other officers, and seems to regard yourself as his best friend. I have no doubt that the discipline and instruction he there received, has had a salutary influence upon his character, and I know that he so regards it himself. I have no doubt that he will remain with me till the expiration of his time, and if he does, I will do better by him than I promised. He will visit you at the Holydays.

Yours, respectfully,

J. H. W.

The following is from the boy to whom reference is made in the preceding letter:

MR. WOOD—As I know you like to hear a good word from the boys, I take this opportunity to inform you that I still remain in my place, and am very well pleased with my situation. It is my intention to stay my time out, and make a man of myself. It was a good thing that I was sent to the Refuge, as I had commenced a course that would have led to my ruin. I am under many obligations to you and the other officers for your kind care and advice, and I hope I shall always merit your good opinion by a correct course of conduct.

Yours sincerely,

C. O.

This boy was sent here on conviction of burglary and grand larceny, in breaking into a house and stealing fifty-five dollars and a gold watch. He remained about two years, and was placed with a farmer at moderate wages. He visits us occasionally, and makes a fine, manly appearance.

DEAR SIR—In reply to yours of the 24th ult. respecting Henry, I have sincere pleasure in informing you that he has never been from his family since he came home, and that his conduct in every respect has been exemplary. For three months he has been employed by Messrs. A. & B., the publishers here, and of his conduct they have been pleased to express the highest satisfaction. Finding his deficiency in learning, he is now applying himself closely to his books, in the evenings, with me, and I trust will soon acquire a substantial basis for a useful education.

Respectfully yours,
J. D'A.

DEAR SIR—In regard to your inquiry respecting Horace, I would say that he remains with me, and so far as I know, is trusty and attentive. He seems determined to persevere and to do well. He was married in September, of which I informed you, and he has also united with the Congregational Church, and his conduct appears to be consistent with his profession. He has our confidence and encouragement. His wife is here with us.

Respectfully, &c.,
D. S.

The above boy was committed for burglary and grand larceny, in breaking into the manufactory of the

person with whom he now lives, and stealing seventy dollars worth of gloves and mittens. He remained about two years in the House, during which time he gave evidence of reformation, and Mr. S. was pleased to take him again into his employment.

S. S. WOOD—William is at home on a visit, and will write a line to send with this. He commenced work on a farm in S., in this county, early in September; he is with a very respectable, intelligent, and pious family, and they give a good account of his deportment; they say he is industrious and faithful. He is much pleased with his situation. He always speaks of you as an affectionate child would of a father. You became sufficiently acquainted with his disposition to know that he needs more strength of purpose; and yet I fully believe that the discipline and instruction which he received at your Institution, were timely and useful.

Very respectfully,

J. E.

MR. WOOD—It has been some five months since I left you, and I have not written to you in all that time; but now I take the opportunity to do so. Since I left you, I have been at work by the month on a farm. I am contented with the business and satisfied with my employer.

Mr. Wood, nothing ever did me so much good as the House of Refuge; and I shall always be grateful to all the teachers and care-takers of that Institution; and I wish that every boy there could feel as I do at this moment. I mean to visit you as soon as it shall be convenient for me to do so. Give my respects to Mr.

F., and all the other officers. You may expect a long letter from me soon, and I intend to write often hereafter. Give my love to the boys, and tell them they must not get too many No. 4's.

Yours, &c.,

W. E.

This boy is the son of intelligent and educated parents, and was sent here at his father's request, for the commission of burglary and theft. He had previously been irregular and wayward in his conduct, and guilty of several criminal offences of less importance. He is the son of the writer of the preceding letter, and is an active, intelligent, and kind hearted boy. He remained in the House eighteen months, and was discharged to the care of his father.

DEAR SIR—I thought I would write you a few lines to let you know how I am getting along. I am well, and doing well. Mr. H. speaks very well of me, for he told mother that I was as good a boy as he ever had to work for him. I am very glad it is so, and I hope it will continue so. My brother asked me if I was willing to stay with Mr. H. this summer, and then go home and go to school in the winter? I answered, yes. I went to work, and it was not two weeks before Mr. H. asked me to stay with *him* and do chores in the winter, and go to school. I told him I would do so, for I would rather *earn* my living than to have it given to me at home. Write to me, and let me know how you are all getting on.

Yours truly,

W. S. R.

This boy had become ungovernable and addicted to pilfering. His connexions are highly respectable, and he was sent here at their suggestion. His father died while he was an inmate of the House. He was here two years, and was discharged to the care of an older brother.

MR. W.—DEAR SIR—It is with great pleasure that I write you a few lines. I intended to write you sooner, but I have been too much occupied most of the time. I hope that you will not think I have forgotten you; I shall always feel under great obligations to you and to the other officers of the Institution for their kind care. The good influences which surrounded me there, have proved beneficial to me. The anxiety which was shown when a boy had departed from the right way, told me that I ought to mend my ways; and I hope that my conduct while there will not lead any boy to do wrong, as I did.

I have not decided what I shall go to doing; but probably I shall stay at home with my father this winter, and assist him. Should I not stay at home, I will inform you. I hope you will write me soon. Remember me to all the officers, and receive my best respects.

Yours truly,

H. B. McN.

This boy has highly respectable and intelligent relatives, but having run a career of idleness and crime, he was sent here on conviction of having stolen three hundred dollars. He remained in the House something over two years, and was discharged to the care of his father, who resides in Michigan.

MR. WOOD—I take this opportunity to let you know

where I am, and what I am doing. I am in good health, and hope these lines will find you the same. The next morning after I left the House, I hired myself to a farmer for four months, for twelve dollars a month. I have been to church and to sabbath school every Sunday since I left, and mean to do so hereafter. This is the first letter I ever wrote.

Yours, respectfully, J. W. C.

The result in this boy's case is of the most gratifying character. He came to us ignorant, obstinate, and vicious; and for the first two years of his stay in the House, he gave us much trouble, but during the last year and a half, exhibited evidences of a thorough reformation. He became obedient and tractible, acquired a habit of reading, and became quite familiar with many of the books in our library. He was in the Institution about three years and a half, and was discharged on the expiration of his minority. He visited us on one of the recent holydays, and made a really fine appearance. He is attending school this winter.

DEAR SIR—Having some leisure to-day, I think I will let you know my situation. I am still with Mr. F., and expect to stay with him till my time is out. As far as my ideas of what is right are concerned, I am doing as well as I can, and no more can be asked. Two weeks ago, I joined the Methodist Church, on trial, according to one of the rules of that body. * * *

Mr. Wood, I thank my God that I was taken to the House of Refuge, and I thank him for snatching me from the verge of a flaming hell, and placing my feet on the threshold of a glorious immortality; and I

thank you for the discipline I received while under
your care. * * * * *

Yours,

A. H. B.

DEAR SIR—Feeling myself under many obligations to the officers of the House of Refuge, and especially to yourself, for the kind treatment and instruction I there received, I write to express again my thanks for such continued care and kindness. * * *

Before I entered the House, and for a considerable time afterward, I was an open and professed infidel; and there hearing the bible glossed over, as I considered it, I commenced an examination, to discover, if possible, a contradiction of itself; but the result was as might have been expected. I made a discovery, it is true, but not the one I expected; *I discovered that I was a fool!* I found there was something for which a man should live, and I resolved to do thenceforward what was right. I feel that my confinement there has proved a lasting benefit to me, and will prove so to many more. My health is now good.

Sincerely yours,

A. H. B.

The last two extracts are from letters written by the same boy, under different dates. He was committed to the House for burglary and larceny, and behaved with propriety for most of the time while here. He is intelligent, and possesses considerable mechanical ingenuity. He remained in the House two years and a half, and was then placed with a gentleman to learn the carpenter's trade. His character, both before and since his stay with us, is pretty well sketched in his own letters. He found he was not strong enough for hard labor, and is employed this winter in teaching

school. The gentleman with whom he was placed, writes as follows in reference to him :

MR. WOOD—I take pleasure in communicating with you, and wish to inform you that A. has been a very good boy, in every respect, since he has been with me, and that he likes his situation well. His principles are different from what I ever expected them to be. I am happily disappointed in his case. He has united with the Methodist Church, in this place. He speaks of you in the highest terms. Some of his friends wish him to teach school the ensuing winter, and he thinks a change of employment will benefit his health. He has the phthisic, as you are aware, and I wish your advice on this subject. Yours respectfully, S. F.

DEAR SIR—I avail myself of this opportunity to address you. I left my place on the 27th day of July last, and doubtless you would like to know the reason why I did so. I will tell you. I left you ten months ago, yesterday, and for nine months of this time I have been the chief support of my mother and four children. My father is a drunkard, and will not support his family. Shall I, then, turn my back upon my mother? No! I have made up my mind to stick to her till the last. But we could not get along in B——; rent is so high and other things so dear, that with my mother's help and mine, we could not keep out of debt. My mother thought that it was better to remove to some place where the younger children could be employed in factories, and thus help to keep the family together. I found here a large machine shop, and made application for a situation, so that I might finish my trade. I was told there were thirty applications ahead of mine.

I showed my recommend, (which I enclose to you,) and finally my application was granted. I have also succeeded in obtaining employment for two of my younger brothers. * * * * *

I think what I have written will satisfy you that I am as well situated as I was before. Please reply as soon as you can find time. Yours, &c., D. McC.

The following is the recommend mentioned in the foregoing letter:

B——, July 27, 1853.

DEAR SIR—The bearer, D. McC., has been in our employ nearly one year as an apprentice in the machine shop. Thus far he has proved himself an active, industrious, and honest young man. He leaves us at his own request, and we cheerfully recommend him to the favorable consideration of any person who may feel disposed to employ him. G. D. & Co.

This boy was an inmate of the New York House of Refuge for eighteen months—was bound out and ran away immediately—engaged in pilfering, and was sent here. He remained in this House twenty-two months, and was discharged to the care of Messrs. G. D. & Co., machinists, at B——.

MY DEAR SIR:—One year ago last Saturday I was discharged from the Western House of Refuge, and who then thought that in the short space of one year I should be cashier and book keeper in a splendid dry goods establishment, in this, the "Garden City," at a salary of four hundred dollars? Yet so it is. I remember standing at the Hospital window of your splendid building with Mr. F., the day after J. C's dis-

charge, and saying to him, "I wonder when I shall get out?" He replied, "Time brings about all things." And I am thus far quite satisfied with what Time and a kind Providence have done for me. * *

I should be pleased to receive a letter from you occasionally. Believe me, yours, A. H. M.

We have frequent intelligence from this young man, of the most gratifying character. He is the son of highly respectable parents, whose hearts are cheered with a prospect of his future usefulness and respectability, of which they despaired for a long time on account of his reckless and dissipated course.

ISLAND OF BRAVO, }
Western Atlantic, July 25, 1853. }

I gladly improve a few moments in writing these few lines to let you know how I get along. I am well at present, and hope these few lines will find you enjoying the same. * * * *

The captain and officers seem to be good men. I hope to see you again in two years if nothing happens to the ship. I have got so that I *know the ropes*, and have to take my turn at the wheel. I intend to try to make a man of myself, if I can. I hope you will think of me often, as I shall of you. Give my respects to the officers and to all the boys. J. H.

CATTARAUGUS RESERVATION.

DEAR SIR:—James H. is with me now—is a good boy and I can trust him. He is improving all the time in general character. Respectfully, yours, A. J.

MR. WOOD—DEAR SIR:—I thank God that instruct me be good boy, all time. JAMES H.

The last two letters are from an Indian boy and his master, also an Indian, and are given in full. The boy was utterly ignorant of the English language when received into the Institution.

In closing this Report, I have great pleasure in bearing testimony to the faithfulness and efficiency with which the various officers associated with me in the care of this large family, have discharged their arduous duties.

Respectfully submitted.

SAMUEL S. WOOD,
Superintendent.

TEACHER'S REPORT.

To the Managers of the Western House of Refuge :

Agreeably to previous custom, you expect from me a statement, relative to the affairs of the school department, at the head of which I have recently been placed. If my predecessor, Mr. Jno. M. Denton, who as I have been informed, labored so long, so faithfully and so successfully in the situation which I now occupy, were here to make a report, he doubtless could furnish you with such information as you may desire, pertaining to the advancement of the boys in school during the past year,—but owing to the brief period of time during which I have here been engaged, I must necessarily be excused from giving you a statement in full detail of their progress, and confine myself to a simple account of the present condition of the school.

Of the whole number in the house :

- 14 read and spell easy lessons of one syllable.
- 36 read easy lessons of more than one syllable.
- 62 read with tolerable readiness.
- 52 read readily and with tolerable accuracy.
- 41 read fluently.
- 50 study written arithmetic.
- 43 study mental arithmetic.
- 13 study geography with maps.
- 8 study grammar.
- 48 have daily exercises in penmanship on slates.
- 97 " " " " " on paper.

During the year one hundred and twenty-eight volumes have been added to the library including sixteen volumes presented by John Williams, Esq., the worthy Mayor of our city. At the date of the last report there were in the library six hundred and seventy-five volumes, and there have been forty-six volumes worn out and lost consisting mostly of merely juvenile works, leaving now in the library seven hundred and fifty-seven volumes.

The books are read by most of the boys with deep interest, and we have reason to believe that much useful instruction is received by them from this source.

It will be borne in mind, that boys discharged from the Institution, are, as a general thing, those that have an advanced standing in the school, and this circumstance will in a great measure account for the smallness of the numbers in the higher classes, as the discharges from the House were quite numerous during the three or four last months of the year.

From all that I can learn, I am satisfied that great improvement was made during the year. And while we are compelled to acknowledge that these wayward and vicious boys, who appear to possess an ordinary degree of talent and intellect, but whose minds seem hitherto to have remained dormant and inactive in respect to anything that pertains to mental and moral improvement, require more wisdom and skill to awaken in them an interest and an engagedness in those pursuits which are calculated to promote their welfare, and also more discrimination to detect them in their well concocted schemes and adroit plans to deceive and elude our vigilance, than do those who from infancy have received under the parental roof that moral and intellectual culture which characterize the well regulated family—yet notwithstanding all this, there are many circumstances connected with our labors in their behalf calculated to interest us, and to cheer and encourage us to persevere in our efforts to do them good. The idea, that one's time is occupied for the benefit of those, who, were it not for the efforts here made, must in all probability remain through life in ignorance and end their days in shame and disgrace, fills the mind of the philanthropist with emotions that should inspire continued zeal and earnestness in laboring for their improvement. And when the closing hour of evening arrives, and we retire to rest from the labors of the day, fatigued in body and mind, we can but look forward with an earnest hope, that in due time it may be ours to receive a teacher's reward.

Relying upon that strength and wisdom which come only from above, it shall with the efficient aid you have furnished, be our aim to conduct this department in such a manner as shall benefit those committed to our care, and enhance the credit and honor of this Institution.

Respectfully submitted.

SETH W. STARKWEATHER,

Teacher.