Francis N. Maxfield.

March 31st 1897.
The Pennsylvania Society to protect children from cruelty.

The widespread agitation of great social questions, which has become so marked in recent years, has brought forth nothing more significant than the general movement for bettering the condition of the unfortunate among the masses of the community. This movement has taken shape extensively in the establishment of hospitals for the sick, of homes for the aged, the decrepit and the blind, of asylums for orphans, the needy and the insane; but, with the deeper insight which has developed with our more scien-
tifric age, our efforts are more and more being given to means of pre-
ervation as well as to means of cure. Guided by this clearer
perception of the causes and effects
of the conditions with which it
has to deal, the trend of the modern
humanitarian movement has grad-
ually taken direction in the increas-
effort that is everywhere being given
to the saving of children from the
constraints and influences of vice.
It is becoming universally recognized
that the most effective humanitarian
work is that which is devoted to
the young. The uplifting of chil-
dren from the depths of degradation
into surroundings of a purer and
better life has been proved by experience to be the purest, and, indeed, the only certain, means of social regeneration. Experience proves that almost all efforts given to reclaiming those who have become mired in vice are more or less wasted, while, on the other hand, almost every effort given to retrieving their children is effective of permanent good. It is a result of this experience that, in the year 1875, the "New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children" was organized. It was followed by the societies of Newburgh, Rochester, Buffalo, Cleveland, California, New Hampshire and, in
CHARTER

OF THE

Pennsylvania Society to Protect Children from Cruelty.

Be it Known, That we whose names are hereunto subscribed and our associates, citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, residing in the City of Philadelphia, have associated ourselves together and formed and organized a Society to Protect Children from Cruelty, and do declare that we and our associates, with such persons as may from time to time become members, and our and their successors, are desirous of acquiring and enjoying the powers, immunities, and privileges of a corporation or body politic in law, and in fact, the name, style, title, objects, articles, and conditions whereof are as follows:

ARTICLE I.

The name of the corporation shall be "THE PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM CRUELTY."

ARTICLE II.

The purposes of the Society are to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to children throughout the State of Pennsylvania, and for the enforcement of all laws heretofore and hereafter enacted for the protection of children, and to purchase, print, publish, and circulate such tracts and books as are fitted to promote the objects of the Society.

ARTICLE III.

The business of the Society shall be transacted in the City of Philadelphia and other places in the State of Pennsylvania. The principal office of the Society shall be located in the City of Philadelphia, with full power on the part of the Society to establish and locate branch offices at any place or places within said State.
1876 by the Society of Pennsylvania.

On November twenty-seventh, 1876, a meeting of the citizens of the City of Philadelphia was held and a charter was applied for. This was granted by the State on March eleventh, 1877, and the Society was incorporated under the name of the Pennsylvania Society to Protect Children from Cruelty. The object of this Society was stated to be: to provide effective means for the prevention of cruelty to children throughout the State of Pennsylvania, and for the enforcement of all laws "for the protection of children" and to "publish, print, publish and circulate such tracts and books as are fit
ted to promote the objects of the Society.

The central office of the Society was established at 1406 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and active work began. Twenty years have now elapsed since this Society began its active work, and from the first, throughout all the time that has elapsed, the usefulness of that work, the power for good of the Society, and the extent of its influence, have grown in a constant, by increasing measure. The reports of the Society’s operations that have been published from year to year attest the magnitude of the results, alliances, and the interest of the
community in the Society's work has steadily increased with the widening circle of those who have learned to appreciate the far-reaching significance of its labors. Though the efficiency of the work has been increased since its beginning, the Society has withstood the temptation to spread its activities into other fields, however tempting, and its general policy has remained fixed.

One of the first problems which confronted the Society was the lack of suitable legislation. There were carefully constructed laws against cruelty to animals. Those relating to children were
INSTRUMENTS OF TORTURE.
meagre and indefinite. The efforts of the Society in this direction have resulted in a reasonably complete legislation. These laws make cruelty or neglect a misdemeanor on the part of a parent or guardian. They give the Society authority on evidence of sufficient cause to take a child away from its parent or guardian.

It had long before become a fixed principle of the theory of law that "If the right of the care and custody of the child by the parent is abused or neglected, if the child has evil and vicious associations, if it is neglected and cruelly treated, if it is habitually
sent out to beg, if its morals are neglected and its training rendered and vice, the parent is an unfit custodian of the child and all right of disposal reverts to the state. This principle now became more than a theory. It became, by suitable legislation, a practical basis for doing work such as is aimed at by this Society.

The Society has also gained much in the opinion of local magistrates. They recognize in the Society, not an organization set upon breaking up homes, but one which looks on separation from the family as a last resort. They are more
willing to condemn a criminal who has children depending on him or her since they know that they can also give verdict that the half-starved cruelly treated child shall come under the care of this Society.

In the first year of the Society's work, there were two hundred seventy-nine complaints of cruelty involving five hundred nineteen children. In a majority of the cases it was not necessary to separate the children from their parents or guardians. A warning that further ill-treatment would bring an arrest was, in many cases, all that was needed. Forty-five arrests
THE SOCIETY'S OFFICE AND ROOMS,
217 South Broad Street.
were made, and one hundred thirty-one children were placed in homes or private families.

So a gradually increasing the work has gone on for twenty years. As the policy of the Society has been the same during this entire period, a description of its work at the present time can show also the kind of work which has been done in these twenty years.

Today the Society has its headquarters in a three-story building at 217 South Broad Street, Philadelphia. Here all the complaints are brought. Here they first being all the children which come under
the care of the Society. From these headquarters all the work of administration is done.

At the front of this building are two offices. Back of the offices is the room where the special police officers, detailed to the service of the Society, meet and write up their cases. Back of this room is another where the clerk receives and packs up for distribution all donations of clothes that are received or sent out by the Society. In this room, also, the reports of the Society and certain records are kept.

Still back of these rooms is the bath-room where every child is first taken on its arrival.
Aiding in the police patent wagon they come rattling up "Marble Court" to the back-door. They enter by a wide gateway, an asphalt-paved yard, with a high fence, empty save for a large brick oven in one corner used for the cremation of their clothes. In at the back-door of the building they go to the huge bath-room. Concrete floor, painted walls, a porcelain tub, a wardrobe and a wooden bench make the room as clean as may be. Here each child is undressed and given a warm bath and new clothes before he or she passes on to the upper part of the house as an accepted inmate.
All their dirty, vermin-infested clothing is burned and the room is ready for the next comer.

In this room can be seen a good-sized wooden boat, kept to coax the timid boy or girl into the first bath-tub they ever saw.

There are a pair of reins and a doll in a pink dress, with yellow curls and with blue eyes that open and shut, to the joy and wonder of baby eyes that have seen nothing so far in life but dirt, hardship and tears. The lady directly in charge of the house of the Society is very kind and to her each child brought in is as her own. The children have a room with
the boat in the bath tub, while hair, head and body are being washed and made ready for the new life which begins on the other side of the door that leads from the bathroom up to the dormitories.

On the second floor of the building at the back, are situated two sunny rooms used as dispensaries. If a new arrival exhibits any symptoms of illness he is put to bed here in either the boys or girls ward, as the case may be, and kept thus isolated from the other inmates until the physician has been called. Then if really ill (cases of diphtheria have been
intercepted in this way), the ambulance is punging up and the patient rapidly taken to the good care and comfort of the hospital ward.

On the third floor is the dining room — sunny and large, a clean kitchen and a well appointed laundry. In the front of the building are the two dormitories, one for the boys, the other for the girls. Both have windows looking out on Broad Street and are bright and pleasant rooms.

The work of the Society is entirely supported by charity. Application has been made for State aid and the Board of Public Charities has approved of such
OFFICERS
OF THE
Pennsylvania Society to Protect Children
FROM CRUELTY
FOR 1897.

PREZIDENT:
T. MORRIS PEROT.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:
JOSEPH K. WHEELER.
| CHARLES P. TURNER, M.D.
GEN. LUCIUS H. WARREN.
| THOMAS L. GILLESPIE.
J. LEWIS CREW.

TREASURER:
JOSEPH P. MUMFORD.

THOMAS ROBB,
426 Walnut St.

EREN C. JAYNE,
1392 N. Broad St.

JOSEPH P. MUMFORD,
N. Bank Republic.

JOEL J. BAILY,
719 Market St.

GEORGE S. GRAHAM,
Bullitt Building.

T. MORRIS PEROT,
1810 Pine St.

J. LEWIS CREW,
420 Chester Ave.

CHARLES P. TURNER, M.D.
1506 Walnut St.

CHAUNCEY H. BRUSH,
626 Drexel Building.

EDWARD COLES,
1734 Chestnut St.

GEN. LUCIUS H. WARREN,
419 Walnut St.

THOMAS L. GILLESPIE,
1318 Arch St.

WILLIAM W. PORTER,
625 Walnut St.

JOSEPH K. WHEELER,
2936 Chestnut St.

Mrs. EDWARD H. OGDEN,
541 Vine St.

Mrs. HENRY J. BIDDLE,
1623 Walnut St.

Mrs. LOUIS STARR,
1818 Rittenhouse Square.

Miss HARRIET ABREY,
Continental Hotel.

J. PERCY KEATING,
725 Drexel Building.

Term expires January 1st, 1898.

Term expires January 1st, 1899.

Term expires January 1st, 1900.

G. HEIDE NORRIS,
2904 Locust St.

Mrs. EDWARD R. FELL,
1609 Spruce St.

Mrs. PIERCE ARCHER,
2011 Spruce St.

Miss SARAH M. TAYLOR,
3622 Chestnut St.

N. DUBOIS MILLER,
| HENRY F. WALTON.

SURGEONS:
CHARLES P. TURNER, M.D.
| THOMAS G. MORTON, M.D.

SECRETARY:
J. LEWIS CREW.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY:
RICHARD MOORE.
an appropriation. But, with the exception of a few small exceptions, the legislature has not seen fit to order any such payment. Money comes in by the two channels of memberships and contributions. By paying five dollars a year one becomes an annual contributing member of the Society, or, by paying fifty dollars, a life member.

From these members the officers of the Society are chosen. The Society has a President, five Vice Presidents, a Treasurer, a Secretary and Assistant Secretary, a Board of Control and Executive Committee, and Committees on
Finance, Clothing, and Property  
and House. All of these except  
the Secretary and Assistant Secretary  
are exactly what their names  
signify and need no explanation.  
The Secretary and Assistant Secretary  
are the persons who are actually  
at the head of the Society. They  
have their offices at the rooms of  
the Society and it is to them that  
complaints are brought.

The Society also employs  
two able solicitors to prepare and  
conduct cases in courts of law,  
two surgeons to attend its Medical  
needs and a matron in charge of  
the building which it occupies.  
Complaints of cruelty or neglect
(either in person or by letter) are brought to the Society for the most part by some neighbor of the offending party. The names of persons who know of the case and from whom evidence can be obtained are often given. This complaint is put on file and the case is numbered. It is then given into the hands of the skilful detectives of the Society.

Here the delicate work of the Society begins. It must first be found out whether or not there is real cause for complaint. Many false complaints arise from the petty jealousies and feuds of families who wish to get
each other "into trouble." Such cases are investigated until the injustice of the accusation is
blamed and the case is dismissed.

Even if the case is real, there may not have been enough cruelty to justify any legal action.
It is not the first office of the Society to try to find evidence to separate parent and child; but if possible
to correct any wrong which may exist. If the cruelty or neglect was not habitual, yet
was done by a person ignorant of the law, and of the penalty for such cruelty or neglect and if there
is evidence that the same sort
of an offence will not be committed again, — in any such case the offending party is demonstrated with. He is shown that he will be watched by the Society. He is shown what will be the consequence of a repetition of the crime. He is told the legal penalty for cruelty or neglect of children and is given some wholesome advice on the care of children which generally results in reform.

Thus an important part of the work consists in impressing upon a portion of the community (which seems to have very inadequate and erroneous ideas of the parental relation) the real needs and position
rights of little children

While remonstrances and advice in cases of this kind are not attended to, the Society has promptly caused the arrest of the offender, and provided a more comfortable home for the children. "In a large majority of cases a distinct warning that such parents are bringing themselves within the reach of the law—that positive arrest and imprisonment are only a fewpaces ahead, has been sufficient to obtain from them earnest promises of amendment, which have been usually kept, and the children, at the same time, have been withdrawn from the streets. In this
manner the Society has been exercising, a quiet though powerful influence preventing at the same time and without resort to public prosecution crime and cruelty. No publicity is given to cases which are treated in this manner. The names of informers and offenders are alike kept secret.

It has been the active policy of the Society that it is no part of its duty to interfere between parent and child, guardian and ward, master and apprentice; but, only when these relations of authority and trust have been grossly violated, to make that appeal to courts of law which the subjects of its compassion are
too young and helpless to make their
selves.

Malicious complaints resulting from
bad feeling and cases of cruelty or
neglect which can be corrected
by remonstrance: cover a very
large number of the complaints
on the files of the Secretary.

Nevertheless many of the cases
are such that, from long standing
or on account of repeated offenses,
reform is out of the question.
Here the Society represented by its agent
steps in. Evidence is collected
and an arrest follows. In almost
every case (so carefully has the case
been looked up before being brought
into court at all) a conviction
is obtained and the children are given over to the Society. In the year 1896 eight hundred seventy six cases were investigated involving two thousand one hundred fifty four children. As a result of inspecting these cases one hundred ninety eight arrests followed and five hundred children were given over to the Society.

The family relation is so sacred that the agent of the Society has a very difficult and delicate duty to perform. In investigating cases the greater tact and skill are required. In one capacity he is a philanthropic visitor among the poor, the suffering, and the degraded. In another he is the officer of the
law whose duty it is to investigate
complaints and evidence. In all
his work he must have the kind-
heartedness of a sister of charity;
he must have the sagacity of a
trained detective; and he must
have the authority of the law
behind him at every step.

The Society as a result of
the legal proceedings may have
several children on its hands.
They are brought to head quarters
and placed in this temporary home
in the manner described above.
It is the wish of the Society to
place each one of these children
in a private family where they
will be brought up in an
atmosphere of virtue and kindness. In order to find a suitable home and to take the necessary steps to find out whether a home, which is opened to them, is a suitable one, the child must be cared for for a certain length of time. Here "Homes," such as the "St. Vincent's Home," or "Asylums," such as the "St. John's Orphan Asylum," relieve the Society of the well children. Hospitals such as the "Philadelphia Hospital" take the sickly. There they remain until homes can be found. Of five hundred eighty-five children taken under its care in 1896, the Society one hundred sixty-
two immediately in private families. In homes (generally for a short time) three hundred four were cared for. One hundred nineteen were taken to hospitals. The work of the Society does not end until it sees the child well situated in a private family which is worthy of this sacred trust.

Sometimes a young boy or girl comes to the office of the Society and seeks its protection; or a near neighbor or relative, to whom a child has escaped, brings it and asks for the power to keep the child from its parents who have maltreated it. The child may then be granted a
"Letter of Protection" which is an open letter addressed to any magistracy before whom the parents may bring suit to recover the child, asking him to stay proceedings until the Society has been notified. This makes it possible for the Society to take the child's part if it is necessary.

The study of cruelty to children teaches many lessons on the subject of drunkenness. By far the greater proportion of parents who are cruel to their children are drinking men and women. It is drunk that loses the war his employment. It is the drinking habit which brings homes to
destitution. After everything is pawned, it is drunk-money for which the child is forced to beg on the street. It is to feed such animals, to supply such beasts, who lazy and idle sleep off the effects of a debauch at home, with drink that the children must beg or steal.

It is often when inflamed by drink and with parental love ruined by this same poison that the parent first beats his child. He gains a habit which he does not forget even when sober. The curse of drunkenness forces the boys into the streets to grow up into the worst of criminals.
and of late years gives to fates too horrible to describe.

With few exceptions cruelty results from poverty and with still fewer exceptions poverty results from the drunk habit. Parents become impoverished and their children, their only stock in trade, must support them. The different phases of cruelty may often be traced to desire on the part of the parent for gain. A child is sent out to beg or steal a supper and he is so afraid of punishment that he dare not return without it.

Other parents send out their
children to peddle pencils, shoe strings etc., though they know such traffic is illegal. Thus are sent out to play on musical instruments. Sometimes they are indentured by the parents to some theatre or circus that their young bodies may grow under a cruel training no luck they can not throw off until of age. Babies are drugged and are used by begging women to exact pity. So such cruelties on hardships parents will subject their own flesh and blood. In some cases poverty alone leads a child and not the parent. The boy on the opposite page
Case 14.132.

BESSION BRUCE.
was found guilty of stealing money from a woman. He did this from poverty pure and simple and had no parents dependent on him.

In some cases neglect comes first and cruelly results as was the case with little Bessie Bruce whose picture is on the opposite page. She was locked up in a room with nothing to eat while her mother went away to work for the day.

Some times cases come to the Society's notice in which nothing is known of the child's past. Such was the case with the negro boy whose picture
Case 14,850.
FOUND ON THE STREET.
is on the opposite page.
Perhaps the saddest of all are the cases like that of the little girl whose picture is on the next two pages. She was taken by the Society—a mass of bruises and scars the result of her own mother’s harsh treatment. Her little hands were burned where the mother had held them against the stove. She seemed to be no reason for such cruelty.

The two pictures tell their own story and also show what hidden genius can be cut from such unpromising material.
Case 15,326 (b)
AFTER THREE MONTHS.
The Society has taken active measures in breaking up houses known to carry on that drugging and slaving process known as "baby-farming." In a place of this kind a baby is brought, ostensibly to be cared for, in reality to die a lingering death after a few months.

The Society works in union with the Factory Inspectors to see that the factory legislation in regard to child-labor be enforced.

It tries to keep children from opium-joints and houses of ill fame. It has done so in many cases.
It may be interesting to notice in what district and among what class of people most of the cases occur. They are mostly in the slums of Philadelphia and among the poverty-stricken drinking class. In Philadelphia the population is denser and the poverty consequently greater. The temptations to gain by such means as child begging etc. exists only in the large cities. As in most of our eastern cities these conditions are most nearly met in the foreign population. The Irish make up the largest element of this population and
from them there come more complaints than from any other class.
The Germans, though mild and less given to cruelty to their children, are sometimes found to have committed offenses graver than any others.
So the Italians what we have said, about the pampering of children by their parents, most applies.
The negroes are naturally kind and lovable and give little trouble.
Little however can be judged from such facts since it is probable that the environment of a family more than its race
**TABULAR STATEMENT OF THE SOCIETY'S WORK.**

**TABLE NUMBER I.**

|                | 1877 | 1878 | 1879 | 1880 | 1881 | 1882 | 1883 | 1884 | 1885 | 1886 | 1887 | 1888 | 1889 | 1890 | 1891 | 1892 | 1893 | 1894 | 1895 | 1896 | Total |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| Cases          | 279  | 457  | 619  | 850  | 900  | 925  | 828  | 846  | 886  | 823  | 870  | 771  | 768  | 815  | 921  | 889  | 917  | 857  | 849  | 876  | 15,946 |
| Arrests        | 45   | 75   | 142  | 180  | 203  | 322  | 261  | 261  | 322  | 296  | 195  | 165  | 175  | 180  | 134  | 145  | 147  | 188  | 198  | 3,943  |
| Children involved | 519  | 980  | 1,508 | 2,176 | 2,212 | 2,172 | 1,877 | 1,890 | 1,929 | 1,961 | 1,986 | 1,709 | 1,762 | 1,988 | 2,117 | 1,985 | 2,065 | 1,810 | 1,911 | 2,154 | 37,611 |
| Children removed | 131  | 274  | 468  | 698  | 722  | 731  | 583  | 678  | 654  | 619  | 559  | 490  | 456  | 569  | 558  | 712  | 678  | 607  | 585  | 11,381 |

**TABLE NUMBER II.**

**HOUSE REPORT FOR 1896.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of children received in the house</td>
<td>654</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of meals given to children</td>
<td>7,098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of lodgings furnished children</td>
<td>1,797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children bathed</td>
<td>608</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children clothed</td>
<td>525</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
determines its nature and the manner in which children are treated. Drink and the resulting poverty seem to have the power to break up the family ties in any race in the world. It is with such cases and such problems that the society has to deal.

If learns by experience to know its wants. Chief of these is a Temporary Home. This should be large enough to accommodate all children, who come under the care of the Society, until places were found for them in private families. This would relieve those homes and asylums on which the Society
Note.

The Society acts under the General Laws and Complements Laws of the State of Pennsylvania as follows:

1854, March 8th; 1874, May 15th;
1875, March 24th; 1879, June 11th and 12th;
1885, May 6th, 19th and 25th;
1887, May 23rd and 25th; 1881, June 1st;
1893, June 8th and 31st.
has now been for temporary homes.

Such is the philanthropic work which has been quietly carried on in our midst during the last twenty years. Much of the credit for the work done has been due to men like Benjamin J. Chew, the first Secretary of the Society. The enlisting efforts of such men backed by the best element of New York’s philanthropic citizens has not been without result.

He who said: "Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not," said also: "As ye did it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye did it unto me."
Bibliography:
Ains. J.R. The Children of the Poor
Review of Reviews: Vol. IV
" " " " Two Champions of the Children
Reports of the Society:
(Principally 1st 19th-620th)
Visits:
Two visits to the headquarters of the Society.
Much thanks is due to the kindness of Richard Moore, the Assistant Secretary of the Society for personal interest and kind assistance.
Reference has also been made to the General and Pamphlet Laws of Pennsylvania. Bd. opp. p. 37 note.