

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REFUGE AND CORRECTION

OF THE

CITY OF TOLEDO, O.

TOGETHER WITH THE

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST,

1880.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

J. M. HAUSER,	Term expires May 16, 1881.
GEORGE L. JOHNSON	Term expires May 16, 1882.
F. B. SHOEMAKER,	Term expires May 16, 1883.
WALTER PICKENS,	Term expires May 16, 1884.
WM. ST. JOHN,	Term expires May 16, 1885.

Officers of the Board.

GEORGE L. JOHNSON, ,	PRESIDENT.
F. B. SHOEMAKER,	TREASURER.
N. A. MARSH,	SECRETARY.
A. A. McDONALD,	SUPERINTENDENT.
Mrs. HELEN McDONALD,	MATRON.

HOUSE OF REFUGE AND CORRECTION.

The House of Refuge and Correction of Toledo, Ohio, is beautifully situated on a high and commanding plateau on the Northerly bank of the Maumee river, about two miles above the City of Toledo. The grounds upon which the buildings are erected are about forty feet above the level of the river. The river at this point is about half a mile wide; and its banks, which are rugged and romantic, furnish the finest marine views in Northern Ohio.

The main building is of substantial character, the foundation of stone and the superstructure of brick. It is four stories high, including the basement, all of which is above ground. It has been constructed at great cost to the city, and with a view to the comfort, convenience and general welfare of all its inmates. Its halls are wide, its ceilings high, its school-rooms, dining-rooms, work rooms, play-rooms, hospital and dormitories are all spacious and well ventilated. The building is heated by steam, and hot and cold water is furnished in abundance. An artesian well, eighty feet deep, furnishes pure water for culinary and drinking purposes. The House is designed to accommodate about two hundred inmates, besides officers and employes.

The grounds, furnished by the city, contains twenty-five acres of land, a part of which, being broken by beautiful ravines, is divided into orchard, field, garden and lawn, and is devoted to the uses of the House of Refuge and Correction. The whole furnishes a most beautiful, attractive and comfortable refuge for wayward and homeless boys.

Stone walls, cells and bars are not required to retain its inmates. Kind and considerate treatment furnish the chief barriers against escapes.

The school and library furnish occupation for the mind, while the field, the garden, work-shops and play grounds furnish abundant means for recreation and physical development.

In the erection and equipment of this Institution, the City of Toledo has furnished another proof of the high estimate her citizens place upon the benefits to society and the State to be derived from the careful restraint and correct development of the wayward, homeless and outcast youth of the land.

REPORT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

TOLEDO HOUSE OF REFUGE AND CORRECTION, }
January, 1st 1881. }

To the Honorable the Common Council of the City of Toledo :

The Board of Directors of this Institution, herewith present to you the report of its officers for the year ending December 31st, 1881, with great satisfaction.

Under the management of Mr. A. A. McDonald, the present Superintendent, in the matter of discipline a condition has been attained that we hardly anticipated so early in his administration.

His past experience and success as Superintendent and Teacher in our Public Schools, led the Board, at the time of his appointment, to believe that the Institution would be eminently fortunate in securing his services—and we think our citizens generally concurred with the Board in that opinion. His adaptation to the position has been fully verified by the results he has attained. Practical as he is for the general business details that under the organization of the Institution devolves upon him, his educational experience, as well as familiarity with the management of youth, placed him at once far in advance of most under whose charge its management could have been placed.

In the minds of the community generally, as well as with those assuming such charge, the idea prevails that our class of boys are criminal in their propensities by nature. We think all who have studied the dispositions and nature of the inmates of Reformatory Institutions under our Ohio Laws, have found a very small percentage of this class.

You will recognize that, with this idea controlling a Superintendent in his discipline of such boys, and the management of such an Institution, he would adopt a very different line of action than if he took the more charitable view of the occasion of their becoming the wards of the State.

The Superintendent early became convinced that the lack of friends, home influences and restraints, brings most of the boys to the Institution, and that their perverseness of nature has mainly been created in them; that they never knew the power of love, sympathy and encouragement; and, as a rule, when they come to the Institution, they feel that they are looked upon as outcasts, without the confidence and good opinion of any one.

He has adopted the theory that the work of reformation mainly consists in disabusing them of these feelings, and creating in them confidence in those in whose charge they are placed. This he has accomplished by a system of rewards and showing confidence in them, and giving them the opportunity and the encouragement to do well. We think he has, to a remarkable degree, by these means, brought about the happy condition existing, which, with more time, must develop in bringing about a state of things scarcely attained in any other Institution of the kind.

We have erected a building for manufacturing purposes, and many of the boys are employed, aside from their school hours, in brush making. This we could not have provided, had not the present Legislature taken the practical and liberal view they did last Winter, and gave us a three-year contract, thereby placing our permanency beyond the uncertainty

of appropriations. We feel confident that, within the three years, we shall have worked out results that will make our Institution permanent, and go far to show that the work assigned has been fully and faithfully performed, within the limitations of its powers and resources.

The expenses of the year, for all purposes, amounts to \$21,069.38. For detailed statement, see exhibits accompanying this Report.

During the year, 260 boys have enjoyed the advantages of the Institution. Of these, 73 have been apprenticed and discharged to employment and good homes.

The health of the inmates for the past year, as will be seen by the report of the attending physician, elsewhere, has been remarkably good. This we attribute to the healthy location of the Institution, to the untiring vigilance and attention of Dr. C. A. Kirkley, and to the wise sanitary measures adopted by the officers in charge.

We have an excellent corps of Teachers and Assistants; and we think to every visitor the special fitness of Mrs. McDonald to her position as Matron must be evident.

The buildings have been kept in good repair. On the grounds generally as much work has been done as our circumstances would allow, in the way of grading, sodding, making walks and preparing the river bank for a grapeery. The planting of trees and shrubbery was attended to at the proper season, as far as our limited means permitted.

The Sunday School affords an interesting and valuable agency for the diffusion of Christian truths, and the impression of religious thoughts upon the minds of the inmates. Their becoming deportment in Chapel on the Sabbath, and their close attention to the truths of the Gospel, have called forth the commendation of many who have visited and enjoyed these services.

In publishing this, our Sixth Annual Report, we have added a page giving the names of our citizens who have constituted the Board of Directors for the years of the past existence of the Institution, that the community may know who have gratuitously contributed their time in building up the Institution. Gratuitous, as the services of all members have been and must be, the community should know to whom they are indebted for placing the Institution in the fore rank of the Reformatories of the country.

GEO. L. JOHNSON, *President.*

F. B. SHOEMAKER.

WALTER PICKENS.

J. M. HAUSER.

WM. ST. JOHN.

N. A. MARSH, *Secretary.*

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the Honorable Board of Directors, Toledo House of Refuge and Correction :

GENTLEMEN:—I have the honor to present this, the Sixth Annual Report of the above Institution under your direction, for the year ending December 31, 1880.

It is especially gratifying to say that the health of the boys has been good, that sickness has been limited to a very small number, and, with one exception, these cases have not been of a serious nature.

The case referred to was that of Louis Brassfield, a colored youth of 14 years, who died on the 19th day of October.

Louis was a bright, active little fellow, whose habits of industry and gentlemanly conduct merited the warmest good will of all the officers, employes and inmates.

In this connection, it is proper to express our grateful acknowledgments to Dr. C. A. Kirkley, Visiting Physician, for the care and attention he has always shown those who needed his services at his regular visits, and for his prompt attendance when called by telephone.

Of the inmates, I can speak most favorable. Their readiness to accept the situation, and their willingness to yield to the kind of treatment and mode of discipline to which they are subjected, combine to prove that they are like all other boys—they will mind and be obedient and

polite and love to obey and respect those in authority, when their confidence is gained, their rights respected and their better qualities appealed to. It has been well said, that there is no place on earth so good for a boy as a good home; and, where the home is indeed good, and possesses sufficient disciplinary power to govern and direct, the child's life is full of honor and respectability, and pays back a thousand fold in comfort and genuine satisfaction to his parents for their untiring efforts in shaping his course to a noble manhood.

All homes are not of this character, and wherever the unfortunate condition is found that drives a boy away from his home into vagrancy and crime, where he is being educated in all that destroys his moral nature and prepares him for the penitentiary, it is clearly the duty of the State to arrest his downward course by placing him in an institution that is as nearly like the "good home circle" as it is possible to make it, and where he may be educated and his shiftless and idle habits be entirely eradicated from his being, and until he, from choice, prefers to do right.

From a personal investigation and a careful study of the causes that led to the commitment of these boys, I am satisfied that in nine-tenths of the cases the fault is with the parents.

Coming here as they do, the greater proportion of them brought up without proper home influences and restraints, it is easy, for one who assumes the duties, to see that a Reform School for boys where so many are congregated, is a study stronger and deeper than is usually indulged in by outsiders, and not fully appreciated, except by those who are called to administer the duties and face the responsibilities.

It is also an easy matter to tell what a Reform School is for; but, to give rules illustrating the methods of reformation, and of what it consists, and of the exact purpose of the boy when the reformation is acquired, and how long it will last, and how well prepared he is to withstand temptation after being discharged, are among the perplexing questions that have not been solved, except in theory.

While a boy is with us and away from his former associates and checked in his evil habits, it is a comparatively easy matter to control him and to secure from him an obedience that is appreciated by us and admired by those who "drop in occasionally to see how we are getting on."

The manner of arriving at this condition of discipline, so highly spoken of by the casual visitor, tells the whole story as to the genuineness of the reformation. Of this *manner* of control and discipline, it is safe to say, that even Examining Committees know but little.

I am sensible of the fact that the members of this Board are fully impressed with the delicate and responsible position in which they and the officers they employ are placed; for the proper care, education and government of boys is a trust of the highest and most sacred character, and one not lightly to be assumed.

As every boy is here by reason of the neglect or incompetency of some one, and as the great majority of them have had rough experience in rougher society, they are fit subjects to be influenced by kindness, and words pleasantly spoken go much farther toward softening their natures and making them feel that it is better to act right from principle than it will to drive them to obedience under the lash, accompanied by harsh and savage language.

Rough, heartless, uncultivated and brutal treatment will compel a boy to "appear well in ranks" during a brief half hour of a "review," or *dress parade*, in presence of the Committee on its annual visit of inspection, but it never will reform him.

Possibly, where much of the work of supervision of a Reform School is delegated to employes, the kind generally selected because of their unfitness to do anything else, the reformation is very uncertain, if, indeed, the reverse effect is not accomplished.

Harsh language and inconsiderate actions on an officer make strong impressions on a boy of 14 years; and, if the treatment be coarse and

unjust, he soon dislikes everything connected with the Institution, he loses respect for the persons in charge, and though through fear he appears to submit, the fact is he is being prepared to sink lower than ever, when discharged and the restraint removed, and the object of the commitment is worse than thwarted.

Again, we cannot overestimate the importance of a home that is worthy the name, and, as there is no other form of educational influence *so potent in building character, it is evident that a Reformatory should take the place of the home, and every person connected with one should possess qualities of heart and mind and example worthy of imitation.*

In my efforts to fill each department with this kind of supervision, I have been fully sustained by this Board, and now I am able to commend the officers in charge as being entirely worthy of the positions they occupy. No others will be tolerated here; hence, all interested parties may be assured that each boy will be treated with entire fairness and made to feel that he is not an outcast, but that happiness and position in life depend mainly upon his own efforts, and that he is able to control these efforts and direct them to the highest type of civilization.

EDUCATION.

A good school is an excellent reformatory. A House of Correction should be a good school. In ninety per cent. of the cases the first step of a boy toward this place is when he runs away from school, and the more frequently he absents himself the nearer is his approach to this or to a similar institution. The result is that those who are received are surprisingly ignorant of books, and as the quality of society is measured by its education, the safest and surest plan for a permanent reformation is to place these boys in schools as good as the best of our public school system. The principal and leading feature of the present Administration

has been, is and will be to give the boys a good common school education; because, without it, it is idle to talk of preparing them for the workshop, the farm, or for good citizenship.

SABBATH SCHOOL.

As heretofore, the Sabbath School has been a regular feature of the House, and a more attentive and progressive one cannot be found anywhere in the State. To Mr. J. J. Freeman, the Superintendent, is due great credit for his faithful attendance and for his untiring efforts in raising the School to its present excellent condition. In this work, Mr. Freeman has been ably assisted by Messrs. H. W. Fleming and Herman Gross, as well as the officers and employes of the House.

EMPLOYMENT.

Boys should be taught to work, and they should also be taught to feel that it is honorable to be engaged in physical employment. Without this kind of teaching, with the boys sent here, reformation is an impossibility. The average age of the inmates is $13\frac{1}{2}$ years. Those under $12\frac{1}{2}$ are in school, both forenoon and afternoon sessions. The remainder are divided into two divisions, one of which is in school in the forenoon, while the other is at work. In the afternoon, this order is reversed.

Having secured a term contract with the State for maintaining these boys, a Brush Factory was erected, and work begun in September. Here are employed 86 boys, and for the short time they have been engaged in this new enterprise great improvement has been made in workmanship and skill, and it is believed that it will soon prove a source of revenue to the Institution. The Tailor Shop, where is made all the

clothing, including caps and mittens; the Laundry, where the work for inmates, employes and officers is done; the Bake Shop; the Engine Room; the great amount of work necessary to keep the dining rooms and dormitories in order and the building generally neat and clean, furnish employment for a large number. In addition to the above, the farm products, as shown by table No 14; the husking of 2,000 bushels of corn on shares; the putting up of 130 tons of ice for our own use, furnish conclusive evidence that the boys have not been idle, and the very acceptable manner of doing this work will be fully appreciated by any who make a personal investigation.

They are taught to be industrious in school and out of it, and that whatever they are requested to do is worthy of their undivided attention and best efforts, and by a good example on the part of those who have them in charge, they soon learn that their happiness depends largely upon their willingness to be employed.

ESCAPES.

The class of boys sent here have been allowed to have their own way ; to go and come where and when they please ; to sleep in barns, under hay stacks ; and, in truth, to enjoy what they call perfect freedom, without restraint or fear from any source. They have learned to love this mode of life, and when deprived of these, to them, "glorious privileges," they struggle to become "free" again, and simply wait and watch for the first opportunity.

And to one who thoroughly understands the situation, it is painful to read in "Annual Reports" concerning "no bars," "no high walls," etc., etc., for the purpose of creating the impression upon those who have no other means of knowing, that these boys stay from choice. Like human nature in general, there are those who will escape at the first opportunity, however proper and just the treatment they may receive. This is true of all institutions for restraining the conduct of the wayward and incorrigible, it is truer still of the family and home circle.

While this House, like others, has no high walls, and no bars, I am free to say that we know better where a boy is and what he is doing when we are looking at him ; and, further, I believe and know that there is no other feature of a Reform School so annoying to the superintending officer as that of "running away."

The year has closed with the least number of escapes in the history of the Institution. This is due in part to the liberal treatment the boys have received ; by reducing the cases of corporal punishment to a minimum, and by doing away with everything that smacks of a penitentiary mode of discipline.

Of the inmates, about three-fifths are contented, and indicate by their conduct a desire to earn the "Excelsior Grade ;" a little more than one-fifth are more indifferent, and the remainder stay because they have to—let it be the result of "wall," or "bars," or watching.

These are the conditions when committed. Time and a proper administration will produce a change in their manners, in their habits of industry and way of thinking, and thereby increase the number of those who, from choice, prefer to be honorable boys and earn an honorable discharge. Evidences of these changes for the better are daily seen, affording to those in charge the greatest degree of satisfaction and encouragement, strengthening them in the belief that their work is well done, and in the assurance that a just criticism will pronounce a favorable verdict upon the labor that here knows no cessation in active vigilance.

DISCHARGED AND APPRENTICED.

As the commitments are not made for any specified time, the *stay* depends solely upon conduct and a substantial growth in morals and good habits.

After fulfilling certain requirements and reaching the "Excelsior Grade," and the authorities are satisfied that it is for the best interest of the boy to leave the Institution, he is discharged.

With a full appreciation of the fact that our influence over a boy and our interest in him should extend beyond the date of his leaving us, time and great labor have been spent in procuring good homes for those who have none, and for those whose homes are of such a character that would drag them down to their former condition. Our success in apprenticing "Excelsior boys" to farmers, and the very excellent records they have made, furnish evidence, conclusive, that the best that can be done with the material sent here is to educate it, and to teach it to be industrious, and send it to the farm, where it may be free from the sin of city life, for which it has such a strong affinity.

In the matter of apprenticing boys to farmers, and in the success attending these apprenticeships, if this Institution does not take the lead in the State, it is certainly second to none, and it is believed that it has been instrumental in making good farmers of a number who, if they had not been checked in their reckless course, would eventually be prosecuted for penitentiary offenses. With the present system of bringing this matter before Township Trustees, who are ready and willing to assist us, we are prepared at any time to furnish good homes for all who can be apprenticed, and, in fact, the demand for boys is now greater than the supply.

AMUSEMENTS.

As "a little nonsense now and then" is acknowledged to be good for men, the Management has recognized the fact that boys, too, must be amused as well as instructed and employed, and to this end no effort has been spared to entertain them in a manner both pleasing and profitable.

In this work we acknowledge our high appreciation of the pleasure afforded by the amateur talent of the city.

The singing and rhetorical exercises by the boys, now a regular and systematic feature of the schools, have also materially aided in making them contented and happy.

The Fourth of July was properly celebrated with various kinds of sports, fire-works, a good dinner, and very appropriate orations by Chas. W. Bond, Esq., and Hon. L. K. Parks.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

There is nothing this House so much needs as good reading matter for the boys. Recognizing this fact the good people of Toledo have, from time to time, made valuable contributions to our Library, the largest of which was seventy-five fine and well-bound volumes by the Sabbath School Society of the First Congregational Church.

The following valuable and interesting newspapers have also been gratuitously furnished, adding largely to our interest and profit: The Toledo *Daily Bee*, Toledo *Sunday Journal* and the *Northern Ohio Democrat*. For the above, and for everything contributed to make this a happy, prosperous and attractive home for the boys, we return our sincere thanks.

For the ever ready and valuable assistance received from each and every member of this Board, in both your individual and official capacities, and for the courtesies extended to me at all times and under all circumstances, it is a pleasant duty here to express my warmest sense of gratitude.

Respectfully submitted,

A. A. McDONALD, *Superintendent.*

TABLE No. 10

Shows the Cause of Commitment.

Incorrigibility,	27
Petit larceny,	11
Incorrigibility and vicious habits,	5
Incorrigibility and petit larceny,	3
Vagrancy and petit larceny,	2
Incorrigibility and vagrancy,	4
Vagrancy,	7
Incorrigibility, petit larceny and stoning cars,	3
Grand larceny,	6
Incorrigibility and drunkenness,	1
Destitute children,	1
	—
Total,	70

TABLE No 11

Shows the Moral and Social Condition of the Inmates Prior to Entering the Institution.

Number who were full orphans,	12
Number who had lost father,	14
Number who had lost mother,	17
Number whose parents are living,	27
Number who had used profanity,	68
Number who had used tobacco,	61
Number who had used intoxicating liquors,	30

PHYSICIAN'S REPORT.

To the Honorable Board of Directors, Toledo House of Refuge and Correction :

GENTLEMEN :—The monthly reports made to your Honorable Board will show that the diseases most prevalent during the year have been malarial, readily relieved by treatment, and except in one or two instances have shown no tendency to result in continued or typhoid fever. During the Summer months diarrhœa and dysentary were somewhat prevalent, and during the winter there has occurred an occasional case of pneumonia, bronchitis, asthma and spasmodic croup.

There have been two accidents during the year, both from falls ; one resulting in a fracture of both bones of the fore-arm, and the other in a fracture of the collar-bone. There has also been one death, and that from acute Bright's disease.

The Hospital has been removed to the light and well ventilated southwest room of the wing ; being more suitable for the purpose than the one formerly occupied, it materially adds to the comfort and well-being of the sick inmates.

No epidemic disease has prevailed during the year ; the general sanitary condition has been good ; and every necessary attention given by those in charge to contribute to the wants and comfort of the sick.

Respectfully,

C. A. KIRKLEY.

TOLEDO, O., *December 31, 1880.*