SUPPLEMENT TO THE DAILY BEE.

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TWENTY SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

Of the Board of Directors of the Society for the Relief of Destitute Orphan Boys.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE RELIEF OF DESTITUTE ORPHAN BOYS:

The undersigned, members of the Board of Directors for the year about ending, call themselves of the occasion to present to you an account of the operations of the Society during the past year, and also a general view of the past history of this Institution. To present our views upon these interesting points, in a more perspicuous manner, we will take the last of these points first.

THE PAST HISTORY OF THE BOARD.

The Society had its origin in the voluntary association of a few benevolent individuals, then citizens of New Orleans, who assembled together in public meeting on the 28th of March, eighteen hundred and twenty-four—but a few weeks short of twenty-eight years ago. At that time there was no Institution for the relief of the destitute Orphan Boy, in this city. The first motion ever made, for the purpose of creating an *Orphan's Home* in this community—was that of our late venerated President, Beverly Chew, Esq. His plan was simple and comprehensive. To form "*an Asylum for the support and education of destitute Orphan Boys*"—to be supported by "*voluntary subscription for that purpose.*" A Committee was formed to draw a plan of operations on this basis, at the head of which stood the late Judge Workman—venerated alike for his private virtues and public services.

The plan presented, and adopted, proposed to confine the operations of the Society strictly to the "*Relief of Destitute Orphan Boys.*" By this method it was the hope of the founders of this Institution to avoid the strong, if not conclusive, objections to Institutions having the name of Benevolent Societies, but being, in fact, the emporium of the fruits of Idleness, Folly, and Crime; and they thought, that though the plan would be confined to a less imposing exterior, and narrower field of operations, yet, it was believed, that a more praiseworthy Charity would be thus founded and sustained, which, while it held out no encouragement—no hope to the dissolute, the idle, or the improvident—while it would take away none of the ordinary inducements by which persons able to support themselves, are stimulated to industry, economy and prudence—yet that relief—timely, continued and effectual, might be secured to those whose poverty or wretchedness could not have been produced in any degree by expected aid from this Institution, and whose misfortunes could not have been the result of their own misconduct.

The citizens who first entered into the discussion of the plan of this Society, were eight in number, and the list embraced a distinguished Divine, a Judge of the United States Court, the Collector of the Port of Orleans, a Physician, a Lawyer, a Mechanic and a Merchant. *They are now all dead!*

The first Commissioners of Subscription were nine in number—the Governor of the State being at their head, all of whom are also dead, except one,—the present accomplished Cashier of the Louisiana State Bank.

It was resolved, by these early pioneers in this cause, that they would organize for effectual business as soon as the sum of three thousand dollars could be raised and paid into the hands of the Commissioners. This was on the 4th day of April, 1824. The citizens of New Orleans, then, as now, ever prompt to the calls of charity, did not leave the Commissioners long in doubt, for on the 7th day of May following, we find that the Society was called together, when they reported more than the required sum in cash.

On the 4th of July, 1824, the Society resolved upon the purchase of the ground, ever since and now occupied as the Homestead of the Asylum. At that time the parish of Jefferson had not been created—and, the "Faubourg Lafayette" was as much a part of New Orleans, as the then Faubourg St. Mary—now forming the chief part of the Second Municipality.

On the 21st November, 1824, having organized, purchased ground, erected buildings and received six destitute Orphan Boys, it was resolved to apply to the Legislature for an Act of Incorporation. This was done. An act was passed, and approved by the Governor on the 4th day of February, 1825, entitled, "An Act to Incorporate the Society for the Relief of Destitute Orphan Boys." This was to continue for twenty years. On the 3d of February, 1837—the day before it expired—the Legislature passed an Act to amend and prolong this Act for the term of fifty years.

The Honorable James Workman was President of the first Board of Directors, and continued until the 12th of April 1828, when, having voluntarily retired, the late venerated Beverly Chew was duly elected President, in which office he was continued, by annual elections, until the expiration of his long, honorable, and useful life, on the 11th day of January, 1851.

It will be thus seen, that from the earliest days of the existence of this Society, it has been a primary object with the Association to confine its labors in the broad field of Human Benevolence to one single purpose and object—that which its name imports,—the Relief of the Destitute Orphan Boys.

Every year's experience with the present Board—and some of them have been uninterruptedly connected with it for twenty-four years, has served to impress upon the minds of the members the wisdom and the necessity of this Rule. They feel that this is the proper course for at a moment when their official connection with the Asylum is soon to expire—for them to say, that they believe that any other rule, in its practical operations, would be rather a curse than a blessing to Society. Let it be once understood—and such in times are quickly known—that children whom neighbors, from envy, but not from kind feelings are anxious to see enter an Asylum, in order to take them away from vice and destitution—can be admitted, merely because it is probable that the child's condition may be bettered—that an abandoned, depraved, and wretched Mother, or heartless Father, may present their offspring, and secure their admission into an Asylum; and that moment the institute is so far from being an object which should be tenderly cherished and generously supported by the community, becomes the real promoter of profligacy and vice in its worst forms. In a country like ours, where honest industry, in all of the walks of life, is amply rewarded, there can be no necessity for such mendicity; and where it really exists, it may well be left alone, to be provided for by wealthy and charitable persons, in their individual capacity. But where children can be presented at an Asylum, and receive admission while the parents are living, because of alleged poverty, the motive for abandonment by worthless parents is too powerful to be resisted, and the Asylum is soon filled with objects who are by no means such as were the founders of the Institution. It operates as an inducement to the grossest profligacy, and forms a safe refuge where the abandoned, the idle and the beggarly vagrant is whisked upon all communities—in all countries—may find a retreat. But an Asylum founded upon the principles which prompted the founders of this Institution, is one which to this day, rigorously preserved its holds out no such inducements. The moment the boy is presented, and satisfactory information furnished that he is in destitute Orphan Boy, that moment is he received. Constant appeals have been made to us to depart from this rule, and often strong appeals made to our feelings of humanity in behalf of the child, but we have felt, and still feel, that we owe it to the community in which we live—to the cause of good morals, and to the characters of the *Real Orphan Boys*—steadily and firmly to resist all such approaches. If any other rule should be adopted, we are confident that the Asylum would, in a few weeks or months, be overrun with inmates, and we should be making constant appeals to the charity and humanity of our community in every form that our ingenuity could devise, as well as daily appeals to friends and neighbors. All this, too, would be done in the name of the Orphan Boys, when no such Orphans in truth did exist in our community. Such a course would be declaring it as our conviction, that in place of our Asylum, it would be better to have a real blessing in the midst of the city, it would become a public nuisance. It is astonishing to what devices the abandoned and the idle will often resort to evade salutary regulations, and to impose the support of their offspring upon others, through the agency of the Asylum. The most reckless falsehoods, backed and with pretended certificates and affidavits, are presented. Cases, too, in which the parents have even pre-dated certificates of their own deaths, have been detected.

These statements are made, that our successors may see the path before them, the difficulties by which it is surrounded, and the sacred duty, which we deem it, that they owed be under to the community, by whose kindness the Asylum is sustained, to take care that they do not make that Asylum the Refuge of those who should never be allowed to find their way there. We believe, and have so endeavored to act, that there is a mutual implied obligation on our part, when we hold up our Asylum as the "*Society for the Relief of Destitute Orphan Boys*," and receive from the Charitable of the community contributions, to see to it well, that the bread, which they thus provide as the means of supporting is honestly, faithfully, and sacredly applied to the purposes for which it is apparently given.

There is another feature in this Society, which commenced with its foundation, which has accompanied it through its whole existence, and which, we would also state, has been strictly observed by us. It is, that it should be forever free from any thing like a Sectarian Institution. The very name has been avoided in theory, and no reference to it is allowed, under any circumstances, in determining the right of the boys to admission. "Is he a destitute Orphan Boy?" is the broad and sole enquiry. Equally careful are we to teach no particular distinguishing feature which divides the Christian world into Sects. The Bible—is the sheet anchor of our hopes in Time and Eternity—we teach and place in the hands of every boy so soon as he is able to read—but nothing beyond it.

Since its establishment, there have been received into the Asylum, eight hundred and sixty-six Boys. Of these, one hundred and fifteen were under three years of age, being more than one-eight of the whole number, and many of these in the very earliest hours of their existence. Two hundred and sixty-six have been restored to their friends some in this country and some in Europe. Two hundred and seventeen have been apprenticed; and there now remain ninety-eight.

The Directors have the happiness to know, that there have boys from this Asylum who have reached the most honorable position in society. We have one a respectable Minister of the Gospel. Two have become distinguished Navigators—one being the Commander of one of the largest and finest Packets between this city and France, the other is younger, but bids equally fair to become an ornament to his profession. Two are the second officer of a fine vessel. Another is a lawyer, and lately, by the unanimous choice of his fellow citizens, has been elected, by a very flattering vote, a member of the State Legislature, and has the happiness to be one of the present Directors of the Board. Others are respectable Merchant's Clerks; and many adorning, by their industry and sagacity, a variety of the Mechanical Trades in our City; while others have been placed with honest Farmers in the West, and from whom we have received the tidings of prosperity. Some have grown up, have married, and become fathers of families. Amidst all the difficulties of the past, often having nearly a hundred boys to feed and clothe with no permanent provision for such, scarcely a dollar in the Treasury—having never been embarrassed—with no permanent resources to which to look with confidence for succor in the hours of gloom and want—yet we have never faltered or despaired; and the result has been, we believe, to be a source of