THE

"BALTIMORE HUMANE IMPARTIAL SOCIETY AND AGED WOMEN'S HOME."

ACTS OF INCORPORATION

AND

BY-WS OF THE SOCIETY,

AND

RULES FOR THE GOVERNMENT

OF THE

"AGED WOMEN'S HOME."

BALTIMORE:
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1851.

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MRS. PICKERSGILL, President. MRS. NINDE, Vice President.

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MISS PURVIANCE, Recording Secretary.

Miss King, Corresponding Secretary. MRS. GEORGE E. PENNIMAN, Treasurer.

MANAGERS.

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An Act to incorporate the Humane Impartial Society of the City of Baltimore, passed December 27, 1811,-1811, chapter 86.

WHEREAS a benevolent Female Society under the title of the Humane Impartial Society has been established in the city of Baltimore, for the purpose of employing and relieving widows and educating orphans, under the direction of Managers appointed by the members of said Society: And whereas this General Assembly is desirous to encourage and give per-

manence to so useful an institution, therefore

1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Smale members of the Humane Impartial Society, as well as those who shall hereafter become members, shall be, and they are hereby created and made a corporation and body politic, by the name, style and title, of the President and Managers of the Baltimore Humane Impartial Society, and by that name shall have succession, and be capable in law of purchasing, building, selling, leasing and conveying, lands and tenements, goods and chattels and other property real and personal; Provided, that the value of the property by them at any one time held shall not exceed the value of forty thousand dollars; and to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, and to make, have and use a common seal, and the same to break, alter and renew at pleasure, and in general to do all acts and things which may be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this Charter.

2. And be it enacted, That Mrs. Mary Coulter, President, and Mrs. Keziah Norris, Mrs. Sarah McDonald, Mrs. McPherson, Mrs. Liddle, Mrs. Peterkin, Mrs. Hartshorn, and Mrs. Hagerty, be, and they are hereby declared to be, the President and Managers of the said Institution under this Charter, and shall act as such until an election shall take place in the man-

ner hereinafter directed.

3. And be it enacted, That Alexander McKim, Esq., the Rev. John Glendy, the Rev. Frederick Beasly, the Rev. John Hargrove, Philip Laurenson, Doctor Joseph Brevitt, and the Rev. Alexander McCaine, and their successors, to be appointed as is hereinafter directed, shalf be and they are hereby appointed trustees of the said Humane Impartial Society; and in case of death, resignation or removal out of the State, of any of the said trustees, it shall be in the power of a majority of the members of said Institution, at a meeting held for the purpose, to fill such vacancy or vacancies, so that such number of seven trustees be kept up and continued for and during the continuation of this act; said trustees shall be so apportioned, that each religious persuasion in the city of Baltimore shall be represented; that is to say one for each of the following Societies: Baptists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Swedenborgians, Catholics, Friends, and Methodists; and the members of the Humane Impartial Society are hereby authorized to assemble and meet at such time and place as they may agree upon, then and there to choose and elect by ballot, of the female members of the said Society, a President, a Secretary. Treasurer and seven Directors, to superintend the regulation and management of said Society; that no member of said Institution shall have a right to vote who may not have paid up all arrearages due at the period of said election, and the said President, Secretary, Treasurer and Directors, shall be in like manner annually appointed, so that the number of seven Directors be kept up for and during the continuance of this act; and by a majority of the voices of the members of said Institution, to ordain, establish and put in execution, such by-laws, ordinances and regulations as to them shall seem conducive to the interests of the said Institution, and necessary to the good government and orderly management thereof, the same not being contrary to the laws of this State or of the United States; and generally to do and execute all such acts, matters and things, and in such manner and form as to them shall seem proper, in order the more completely to carry into effect the purposes of this act; Provided always, that a majority of the Managers in being, shall always be necessary to form a quorum for the transaction of business.

4. And be it enacted, That the aforesaid Trustees and their successors, by the name aforesaid, shall be able and capable in law, to receive all conveyances of property, real and personal, for or on behalf of the said Corporation, and shall hold the same, and all sums of money belonging to the said Corporation, in trust, for the use, and subject to the order and disposition of the President and Managers of the said Corporation for the time being, and shall be able and capable in law to sue

and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered, defend and be defended, in all or any court of justice whatsoever; and also to make, have, and use a common seal, and the same to break, alter or renew at pleasure.

5. And be it enacted, That this Charter and act of incorporation, and every part thereof, shall be good and available in all things in the law, according to the true intent and meaning thereof, and shall be construed, reputed and adjudged in all cases most favorably on behalf of the said Institution, so as most effectually to answer the valuable ends intended to be answered thereby

swered thereby.
6. And be it enacted, That this act shall be and continue in force, until the first day of November, eighteen hundred and twenty-seven, and until the end of the next session of the General Assembly that may happen thereafter.

An Act to revive the Act to incorporate the Humane Impartial Society of the City of Baltimore, passed February 9, 1829— 1828, chapter 31.

Whereas a benevolent Female Society under the title of the Humane Impartial Society was established in the city of Baltimore for the purpose of employing and relieving widows and educating orphans, and was heretofore incorporated by An Act of the General Assembly of Maryland, passed at November Session, 1811, under the name, style and title of the "President and Managers of the Baltimore Humane Impartial Society," and whereas the said Act of Incorporation with expired by its own limitation, and it is desirable that the same should be revived and the corporate powers of said Society continued. Therefore

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the Act passed at November Session, 1811, chapter 86, entitled "An Act to incorporate the Humane Impartial Society of the City of Baltimore," be and the same is hereby revived and shall be and continue in as full force and effect until the year eighteen and fifty, and until the end of the next session of the General Assembly that shall happen thereafter, to every intent and purpose, as if the corporate existence thereof had not been interrupted or the act aforesaid had not expired.

SEC. 2. And be it enacted, That the members of said Society and such persons as they shall think proper to associate with themselves, shall have full power and authority to meet at such

time and place as they may deem convenient, and elect a President and Managers of the Society, pass by laws, and do such other acts as may be necessary and proper for conducting the affairs of said Society.

Sec. 3. And be it enacted. That so much of the Act aforesaid as restrains the right of voting to persons who have paid up all arrearages shall be and the same is hereby repealed, and the right of voting may hereafter be regulated by the by-laws of the corporation.

An Act, supplementary to an Act, entitled, "An Act to revire the Act to incorporate the Humane Impartial Society of the City of Baltimore, passed February 8, 1830—1829, chapter 68.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the officers of the Humane Impartial Society of Baltimore, shall hereafter consist of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and as many Managers as the members of said Society shall think proper to elect; the said officers to be elected according to the existing charter and laws of the Society; Provided, however, that the powers, duties and numbers of the Trustees of said Society shall not be in any manner changed by this law.

Sec. 2. And be it enacted, That the number of Managers to be elected, also the number necessary to form a quorum, may be regulated by the by-laws.

An Act, further supplementary to an Act, entitled, "An Act to revive the Act to incorporate the Humane Impartial Society of the City of Baltimore, and to change the name of said corporation," passed January 28, 1850—1849 chapter 33.

Whereas, the members of the corporation, entitled, "The President and Managers of the Baltimore Humane Impartial Society," are desirous to enlarge the sphere of their benevolent operations in aid of Indigent Women, to provide a suitable home for the aged, and to obtain additional corporate powers and privileges. Therefore,

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the name, style and title of said corporation shall be and the same is hereby changed to that of "The Baltimore Humane Impartial Society and Aged Women's Home,"—and the objects and purposes of said corporation are hereby declared to be,—to employ and relieve indigent women;

to provide a suitable home for the aged, and to maintain and educate orphans.

Sec. 2. And be it enacted, That the said corporation shall have power to take by gift, devise, bequest or otherwise, property, real and personal, and the same to hold, possess and retain or to lease, sell and dispose of: Provided, that the property to be by the said corporation at any one time held, shall not exceed in clear annual value the sum of twelve thousand dollars.

Sec. 3. And be it enacted, That any female or any other person, who shall make a donation at any one time to the funds of said corporation, of the sum of thirty dollars, shall be a member thereof for life; and any female or any other person who shall subscribe and pay to said funds a sum not less than three dollars annually, by said subscription and payment shall become a member of said corporation, and shall continue a member thereof so long as such shall be annually paid.

Sec. 4. And be it enacted, That the members of said corporation, or a majority of the members who shall be present at a meeting to be held for that purpose, shall be, and they are hereby authorized to appoint, in addition to the Trustees authorized by the original Act of Incorporation, not exceeding four Trustees, so that the number of Trustees at any one time shall not exceed eleven;—and in case of the death, resignation or removal out of the State, of any of the said additional Trustees or of their successors, to be from time to time appointed as hereinafter directed, it shall be in the power of a majority of the members of said corporation who shall be present at a meeting held for that purpose, to fill such vacancy or vacancies.

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Sec. 5. And be it enacted, That the original Act of Incorporation, passed at November Session, eighteen hundred and eleven, chapter eighty-six, and the several supplements thereto, except so far as the same shall have been altered, and this Act, shall be and continue in force until the first day of January, eighteen hundred and seventy-live.

Sec. 6. And be it enacted, That the Legislature reserves the right to change, alter or repeal this Act at pleasure.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I .- Meetings.

Section 1. The annual meeting of the members of "The Baltimore Humane Impartial Society and Aged Women's Home," shall be held on the third Thursday of January, at such place as the Board of Managers shall designate,—at which meeting the officers and Managers shall be elected by ballot.

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Sec. 2. The stated meetings of the Board of Managers shall be held on the first Thursday of every month, at 11 o'clock, A. M., at the Depository and "the Aged Women's Home," alternately;—the stated meeting for the month of January and every alternate month thereafter, at the "Depository;" and the stated meeting for the month of February and every alternate month thereafter, at the "Aged Women's Home." Special meetings shall be held at such place as shall be designated in the call therefor. The stated meetings for the month of January, April, July and October, shall be called the quarterly meetings.

ARTICLE 11.—Board of Managers.

The Board of Managers shall consist of the President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer and twenty-three other Managers, any five of whom shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE III .- Duties of Officers.

Sec. 1. President.—It shall be the duty of the President, to preside at all meetings of the Board, to preserve order, to appoint all committees, to state questions for discussion and declare the decision, and, when the votes of the Managers shall be equally divided, to give the casting vote, to call special meetings of the Board whenever thereto requested by any three members of the Board; and to exercise a general supervision of the concerns and interests of the Society.

SEC. 2. Vice-President.—In case the President be absent or unable to act, the duties of the President shall be performed by the Vice-President.

r 'Sec. 3. The Recording Secretary.—The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of every meeting of the Society and of the Board. Shall read at each meeting, the proceedings of the previous meeting; do such writing as the Board shall direct, and preserve all papers and records of the Society, except such as belong to the department of the Treasurer or Corresponding Secretary. She shall keep a register of the names of the members of the Board, call them over at each stated meeting, mark those absent, and notify the Managers of each special meeting, and the Trustees of each quarterly and annual meeting. She shall also keep a register of the inmates of the "Aged Women's Home," and a list of the annual subscribers and their places of residence.

Sec. 4. The Corresponding Secretary.—The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Society and of the Soard, file all the letters received, enter in a book to be kept for that purpose a copy of all letters written by her as Secretary, which book shall be laid before the Board at every quarterly meeting,—superintend the publications made by order of the Board, and in conjunction with the President, prepare the annual report.

SEC. 5. The Treasurer.—The Treasurer shall receive all monies of the Society, deposit the same in Bank, in her name as Treasurer, and disburse the same in conformity with the order of the Board. She shall pay all orders drawn upon her by the Visiting Committee or either Purchasing Committee—and all orders signed by the Recording Secretary and countersigned by the President,—shall keep an account of all receipts and disbursements—keep separate accounts of the disbursements on account of, the Department for the supply of work,—the orphans under the care of this Society, and the "Aged Women's Home," and of receipts of fees for admission to the "Aged Women's Home." She shall render to the

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annually to collect.

give such security as shall be approved by the Board, for the faithful discharge of the duties of her office.

and to the Trustees a quarterly report of the same, and shall

Sec. 6. In the absence of the regular officers, or any of them, others may be appointed for the time being.

ARTICLE IV .- Rules of Order, &c.

SEC. 1. Every meeting of the Board shall be opened with prayer, or the reading of a portion of the Holy Scriptures.

SEC. 2. When a motion is before the Board, no other subject shall be introduced until such motion be passed, postponed or rejected.

Sec. 3. While a member is speaking in order, no other member shall hold any private discourse, or otherwise interrupt her, and no subject shall be introduced while the Board is in session but such as relates to the Society.

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SEC. 4. No resolution shall be reconsidered, unless the motion to reconsider be made by one of the majority who voted for such resolution, -and the reconsideration of such resolution, shall in all cases be deferred to the next meeting, either special or stated, thereafter.

Sec. 5. Whenever a motion shall be made for that purpose and seconded, the ayes and noes shall be called and recorded.

Sec. 6. No person shall decline acting on a committee, unless for reasons satisfactory to the Board, or unless another member, approved by the President, shall be willing to act in her stead.

Sec. 7. The member first named on a committee shall preside over it.

Sec. 8. All reports of committees shall be in writing.

SEC. 9. Any officer or Manager who shall be absent from any stated meeting of the Board, except by reason of sickness or absence from the city; and any officer or manager who shall withdraw, without permission, before the Board adjourns, shall be fined 121 cents.

SEC. 11. It shall be the duty of the Trustees to attend the annual meetings of the Society, and the quarterly meetings of the Board-to investigate the accounts, and to confer and advise.

Sec. 12. The ground rent, and the Commercial and Farmers' Bank stock held by this Society, shall constitute a permanent fund, the annual income whereof only, shall be used for current expenses.

ARTICLE V .- Department for the supply of Work.

SEC. 1. The Board shall annually elect a Superintendent of the "Department for the supply of Work," and such assistants as they may deem necessary, prescribe their duties and fix their salaries and wages, and terms of service.

Sec. 2. The Board shall also select a suitable place for the pository of the "Department for the supply of Work."

SEC. 3. The Managers shall visit the Depository as often as practicable p examine the references of the applicants for work.

SEC. 4. There shall be annually appointed, two Purchasing Committees for this Department, each to consist of four Managers, and to serve for six months. It shall be their duty to purchase and pay for articles that shall be required for this Department of the Society-to procure and produce to the Board vouchers for all payments made by them,-to keep an account of all their receipts and expenditures, and to make a report thereof to the Board at each stated meeting.

SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent to have the charge of the Depository under the direction of the Board, to receive orders for work to be done by the Society, to attend to the sales of the articles that shall be for sale, to receive the payments therefor; to keep a register of the name, residence and certificate of character of each female who shall receive

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work from the Society, to pay the persons employed, to keep a book, in which shall be entered, in separate accounts, the monies received from the Treasurer, the monies received for articles sold, with the names of the purchasers thereof, and the amount for which each article was sold; the monies received for work done; the donations of goods and money made to this Society and received by her, and the payments by her, and to perform such other duties as the Board may direct. She shall render to the Board at each stated meeting, and to the Trustees at each quarterly meeting, an account of her receipts and expenditures, and a statement of the number of females employed. The Superintendent shall not give employment to any female who shall not have produced a satisfactory certificate of her character and circumstances, from some respectable person, known to the Superintendent or some one of the Managers. She shall not furnish a second time, good articles to any applicant whose work has not been approved; and she shall not furnish any articles to any person employed, whose work shall a second time fail to be approved, but shall report the name of every such person to the Board, that the name of such person, may, if the Board shall so direct, be stricken off from the list of persons to be employed.

Sec. 6. Widows, women whose husbands are infirm, sick or disabled, or whose husbands have deserted them, and women having young children, and whose husbands are abandoned, shall be considered as entitled to the aid of this Society in this Department of its operations. But such aid shall not be extended to any female, who has sufficient means of support, apart from her own exertions—nor to any one, unless she shall produce, from at least one respectable person known to the Superintendent or one of the Managers, a satisfactory certificate of her character and circumstances.

ARTICLE VI .- Department for the Education of Orphans.

All proposals to educate, at the expense of this Society, the orphans of indigent widows, shall be considered and determined by the Board at a stated meeting.

ARTICLE VII .- The Department of the " Aged Women's Home."

Sec. 1. The Managers shall annually elect by ballot, a Matron of the "Aged Women's Home," and such assistants as they may deem advisable, prescribe their duties, fix their wages and terms of service.

SEC. 2. The Managers shall prepare a code of regulations

for the government of the "Home."

Sec. 3. There shall be annually appointed, twelve Visiting Committees, each to consist of two Managers, and to serve for one month. Two Purchasing Committees, and two Committees for receiving Applications, each to consist of three Managers, and to serve for six months; and a Church Committee to consist of five members, and to serve for one year.

SEC. 4. Visiting Committee.—Each Visiting Committee shall during its term, have the Superintendence of the "Home," visit the "Home," not less than twice a week, endeavor to be present once at each meal, ascertain the situation and wants of the inmates, purchase such articles as may be required for immediate use, generally direct the concerns of the "Home," record their observations in a book to be kept for that purpose, in which shall be entered the list of the Visiting Committees for the year,—keep in a separate book an account of all purchases make by them, which books, on the expiration of each month, shall be handed to the committee for the succeeding month.

Sec. 5. Purchasing Committee.—The Purchasing Committee shall make all purchases necessary for the "Home," except such as shall be made by the Visiting Committee, pay all bills for purchases made by them, and render a monthly account of their proceedings to the Board.

Sec. 6. Committee for receiving applications.—All applications for admission to the "Home," shall be referred to the Committee for receiving Applications, whose duty it shall be to visit the applicants, inquire into their character and circumstances, and report thereon to the Board in writing; to keep a

register of the names of applicants, the persons by whom they are recommended, and their places of residence; to keep a book in which shall be entered the terms of agreement made between the committee and the applicant, or the friends of the applicant, and the signatures of the parties to such agreement. No person shall be received into the "Home" without an order from the committee.

SEC. 7. Church Committee.—It shall be the duty of the Church Committee to have the "Home" duly supplied with the preaching of the Gospel, and generally to superintend the spiritual instruction of the inmates. The other members of the Board of Managers will be required to confer with and obtain the consent of this committee, previous to the introduction of any one into the "Home," as a religious instructor. The committee shall make such regulations as may appear to them proper and regular, with respect to prayer-meetings or other religious meetings—they shall give verbal instructions to the Matron, how to act in relation to this subject, in the absence of the committee.

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Sec. 8. It shall be the duty of all the Managers, whether acting on committees or not, to inquire into the temporal welfare of the inmates, to visit them in their several rooms, and endeavor to ascertain their spiritual state, and to give them such advice and instruction as may be in their power and the circumstances of each case may require.

ARTICLE VIII .- Terms of admission into the " Home."

Sec. 1. No person shall be received as an inmate of the "Aged Women's Home," unless she shall be admitted by ballot at a stated or special meeting of the Board, at which there shall be not less than eight members present. Nor unless she shall receive at least two-thirds of the ballots cast. Nor unless she shall bring satisfactory testimonials to the propriety of her conduct and the respectability of her character. Nor unless she shall pay an admission fee of sixty dollars, if she brings suitable furniture, or of seventy dollars, if she brings no such furniture.

SEC. 2. No person under the age of sixty years shall be admitted into the "Home" as an inmate, unless by the unanimous consent of all the members of the Board.

SEC. 3. No furniture or other articles shall be brought into the "Home," until the same shall have been inspected and approved by the Visiting Committee for the time being.

SEC. 4. Furniture and other articles brought into the "Home" shall remain as the property and for the benefit of the "Home."

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RULES AND REGULATIONS

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1st. The Superintendent shall have the entire charge of the house, and keep it in neat order, under the direction of the Managers and Visiting Committee; she is to enforce the rules of the house; to be present at meals, see that they are properly served up, that every thing is on the table before the family sit down; that suitable nourishment is provided for the sick, proper order observed at table, and that time is allowed for asking a blessing before each meal. She must be respectful and kind to every one in the house, and attentive as their circumstances may require; never let partiality be shown in any instance, but maintain the respect due to her station. If improper conduct is observed in any member of the family, she is to inform the Visiting Committee. A list should be made of whatever supplies are necessary, and given to the Visiting or Purchasing Committee. It is also expected the Superintendent will keep a memorandum of every article that is sent to the house, whether purchases or donations, and by whom sent. She will be expected to go through the house, and see the fires and lights extinguished at nine o'clock, with the exception of one lamp, which is to be left burning all night. A constant fire to be kept in the stove in the Hall, from the 15th of November to the 1st of April.

2d. No person shall be admitted into the "Home," but those who bring satisfactory testimonials to the propriety of their conduct, and the respectability of their character.

3d. Morning and evening prayers to be regularly performed at the "Home;" every inmate will be expected punctually to attend, except in case of sickness. Notice to be given by ringing the bell.

4th. It will be required of those who are capable, to make their own beds, and sweep their rooms, early every morning; those who are not, will have it done by the Assistant, while they are at breakfast.

5th. It will also be expected of those who are capable, that they will sew, kuit, spin, or render any other service for the benefit of the Institution.

6th. All that is necessary for the comfortable support of the inmates of the "Home," will be furnished from the funds of the Society; no individual, therefore, will, on any account, be permitted to leave the Institution to solicit assistance, or procure work.

7th. Breakfast to consist of tea and chocolate, or tea and coffee. Dinner at one o'clock. Supper similar to breakfast.

8th. All who are able, will attend at the general table; those who are more infirm, can take their meals in the sitting room. If any of the family are indisposed, a suitable meal, will be provided, and sent into their rooms.

9th. A preparatory bell will be rung fifteen minutes before each meal: during the interval the meals will be served, and the inmates repair to the dining room. After they are seated at table, Grace will be said by the Matron before commencing the meals.

10th. Washing and ironing, to be done on Mondays and Tuesdays.

11th. If any inmate of the "Home" feels disposed to visit her friends, she is requested to mention to the Matron where she intends staying, and the probable length of her visit, that no uneasiness may exist on her account; and that, in case of sickness or accident, the Managers may know where she is to be found.

12th. No stimulants or spirituous liquors to be used in the "Home," except by order of the physician; and, in that case, to be administered by the Matron.

13th. No person will be permitted to interfere, or find fault with the Superintendent or Assistant; but if any think they have cause for complaint, they must apply to the Managers, who will receive their statement, and take such order thereon as they may think proper.

14th. Visitors shall not be admitted before 12 o'clock, M., unless accompanied by a Manager or Trustee. It is required

that all visitors be treated with respect and attention, and conducted through any part of the building they may be disposed to visit. Particular attention to be paid to Ministers of the Gospel, and those whose visits are made for religious purposes. No inmate in the "Home" to be permitted to introduce any preacher of the Gospel, or invite her friends to give religious instruction, without the consent of the Church Committee.

15th. To preserve perfect harmony in the family, the strictest attention must be paid to the rules of the "Home." For the first and second violation there will be an admonition; for a third, a complaint will be preferred to the Board; for the fourth, a removal from the house.

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THE HUMANE IMPARTIAL SOCIETY'S

PLAN OF

SCHOOLING THE ORPHAN.

The schooling of the ORPHAN, by the Humane Impartial Society, has been continued on the original plan to the present day—the utility of this mode of education has been fully proved, and met with decided approbation-it is widely different from a common charity school, being intended only for children of deserving, indigent widows, who, by their own industry, may be enabled to support their offspring decently, with food and raiment, but to educate them is far beyond their power. Those parents, by making application to the President or Treasurer of this Society, and giving satisfactory reference, are authorized to place their children, themselves, in any pay school in the city, at a moderate rate-the parent or child hands the quarter-bill to the President, who gives an order on the Treasurer for the amount due-the mother pays the teacher herself, and returns his receipt to the President or Treasurer. The continuance of any child at school, depends on the teachers' receipts being regularly handed in, as this is the only voucher the Society requires-if this requisition is not duly complied with, the child shall be discontinued; and so much delicacy is observed on this subject, that their names are never exposed or known but to the individuals immediately interested! There are several persons of respectability in this city who have been thus educated, years ago, by this Society; and with all the delicacy of true charity, the world has not been permitted to see the veiled hand which administers support and consolation, as regards the objects receiving it. The number who have been thus educated is upward of two hundred. Baltimore, February, 1835.

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