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TENTH REPORT
OF THE
DIRECTORS OF THE
BALTIMORE
MANUAL LABOR SCHOOL

FOR
INDIGENT BOYS,
TO THE
PATRONS OF THE INSTITUTION
AND THE PUBLIC.

BALTIMORE:
PRINTED BY JOHN W. WOODS,
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1855.

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WM. B. HILL.

CHARLES COUNSILMAN, *Superintendent and Farmer.*

GEORGE B. LOANE, *Teacher.*

TENTH REPORT

AND

FOURTEENTH YEAR

OF THE

BALTIMORE MANUAL LABOR SCHOOL FOR INDIGENT BOYS.

THIS Institution was incorporated by the Legislature of Maryland in December, 1840. Soon after this, a farm of about 140 acres was purchased of the late Jacob Counsilman, situated about seven miles from the city, between the Frederick and Washington turnpike roads, adjoining the property known as "Owings' Springs."

The improvements then on it consisted of a stone dwelling, a tolerable barn, and some small out buildings of little value.

A manager for the Farm, and a teacher for the School, was in due time appointed, and such temporary arrangements made by the Board of Directors as enabled them to commence the School and Farm operations at an early period thereafter.

In April, 1841, the first admissions to the Farm School

took place. These were necessarily limited in number, both by want of suitable accommodations, and the limited means of the Association in its then infant state. A suitable room for the school, and dormitories for the boys, were wanting. These had to be erected, and a plain, cheap frame building was all that could be undertaken; the first floor of which was appropriated for a school room, and the second for sleeping apartments.

This building was completed in 1842, and afforded accommodations for about thirty recipients, orphans, or half orphan, destitute children. Applications for admission multiplied, and the School was soon after filled.

It soon became evident to the Managers that they had undertaken an arduous duty. One of deep responsibility, and of constant pressing necessity. But they did not falter. They were in debt, but they did not despair. They had put their hand to the plough, and would not look back.

Pressing applications from the poor and friendless, the orphan and the destitute child, for a home, and shelter, and food, continued to be made, and it became almost a necessity with the Managers to provide additional room and accommodations.

Prior to the year 1850, this was effected in the erection of a second frame building of larger dimensions. The first floor of which affords a more commodious school room, and the second floor additional sleeping apartments. The former school room being converted into an eating room.

For these continued improvements, (during all which time the farm also required outlay for necessary stock

and improvements,) the Board were generally in debt, more or less. This is happily not the case now.

The school and farm house will now comfortably accommodate fifty to fifty-two beneficiaries, besides the farmer, his family and assistants, the teacher, gardener, &c. and the School is generally full.

The Board are now in a situation to increase their sphere of usefulness, and desire to do so. For this purpose they resolved a year since to seek a more eligible situation for the "Farm School," with the view of establishing a permanent location, and character of buildings better suited to the object, and more in conformity to the requirements of the day. They have not yet succeeded in procuring such a situation, but a committee stands charged with the subject, and it is to be hoped they may succeed in accomplishing it.

The state and condition of the School under the judicious instruction of George B. Loane, continues to give satisfaction to the Board. From his written quarterly reports we extract the following:

"Of the present number, fifty in Farm School, thirty-nine can read, twenty-seven study grammar, twenty-nine in geography, thirteen study the History of the United States. In arithmetic thirty-eight are able to cypher in multiplication, thirty-one in reduction, twenty-four in fractions, and nine to the square root. Thirty can write."

"Though there has been some few exceptions, the general deportment of the boys has been creditable. A fondness for reading out of school hours is more perceptible than at any former period."

"As far as practicable the boys, when not engaged in their studies, have been at some useful employment. This plan seems to tend to industrious habits, and business qualifications."

There is much more useful matter, and valuable suggestions in the teacher's reports to the Board, of much detail, not deemed necessary to incorporate in their annual report.

The supervision of the farm, and the care of the elder boys when engaged in the lighter farm work, has in the past year devolved on Charles Councilman. He has entered on the duties of his appointment with commendable zeal and industry; and it is hoped under his judicious management the farm will be made yet more productive.

The past season was one not favorable to farming production, drowth prevailed, and crops suffered; yet it will be seen the amount of produce sold did not materially lessen the amount received from that of the preceding year, which was by far the largest amount sold and realized in any one year.

The Treasurer's annual report, annexed, exhibits the receipts and expenditures for the year 1854. By which it will be seen, that the sales of produce from the farm amounted to \$1220 70, which is \$180 82 less than the year preceding. It will also be seen that the entire cost of maintaining the establishment, including some repairs, insurance on buildings, tuition, &c., amounts to \$3865 06, (which is \$174 69 over that of the year previous) and amounts to about \$77 for each recipient *per annum*. Considering the high prices prevailing throughout the

year, for all necessary supplies for the institution, and the general failure of crops, the result is not discouraging. Indeed, (under the adverse circumstances) it may be cause of gratulation that it is not greater.

Whilst disease and sickness have been rife throughout the land, we have cause of thankfulness for a good degree of health prevailing in our little community; no death, or serious calamity, having visited our household for the year.

To Dr. Joel Hopkins, who kindly continues his professional visits to the school without charge, the Board desire to make their acknowledgments.

To the friends and patrons of this excellent, but unostentatious charity, it is due that the Directors should give an account of their stewardship. Though the institution affords but little to awaken general interest, yet they are happy to be able to say, that the even tenor of its progress has been such as to manifest its usefulness, and animate their exertions for the future.

To these generous friends, and to the public at large, we again appeal for a continuance of that liberal support heretofore awarded us.

It may be asked by some who read this report, why labor and expend time and money, in establishing and maintaining a "Farm School" in the country when our "Public Schools" are open alike to all? We admit the value of our admirable system of public schools! They are a blessing to the community in which we live, and worthy of all praise! But we answer, there are hundreds, if not thousands, of poor destitute children in our city, who are strangers to this blessing!

The orphan, without parents, home or friends, is not sent to school, because there is none to care for him.

The children of poor but virtuous parents (perhaps a father or mother taken from them) are not sent to school because the surviving parent is too poor and destitute to furnish them with decent clothing, or dispense with their little services.

The children of idle, vicious and intemperate parents, are not sent to school, because every consideration for the welfare of the child, is swallowed up in degrading gratifications of the parent! Tender minds that might be reared up into usefulness, are suffered to run wild and vicious, because a parent must first indulge in slavish, selfish habits.

Such as these, are the objects of our care and protection, to remove them from the evil influences that surround them! To afford them a *home*, to feed, clothe and instruct them in moral and religious duties, and at suitable ages, to place them out to respectable trades or professions, to fit and qualify them to become useful members of society.

There are many institutions in our state and city to punish crime; ours, the nobler object, to prevent crime.

By order of the Board,

THOS. WILSON, *Prest.*

BALTIMORE, 10th January, 1855.

Dr. The Baltimore Manual Labor School in acc't with WM. H. BEATTY, Treas'r. Cr.

To Farm Buildings, for a new pump,	\$ 59 25	By Subscriptions and Donations,	\$ 3248 62
" " Stock, " horse,	147 50	" " Sales, products of the Farm,	1220 70
" " Expenses,	709 46		
" Furniture, a cooking stove, &c.,	38 50		
" School Books, Store, Coal, &c.,	107 70		
" Clothing for the boys,	525 90		
" Provisions, Groceries, Flour, &c.,	1465 33		
" Farmer's and Teacher's Salaries,	650 00		
" Bounty to a boy who remained at the Institution till of age,	80 00		
" Fire insurance, printing annual report, &c.,	\$1 42		
" Balance,	604 25		
	<hr/>		
	\$ 4469 32		\$ 4469 32

Balance brought forward, \$ 604 25

Baltimore, January 1, 1855.

WM. H. BEATTY, *Treasurer.*