

CONSTITUTION

AND

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Protestant Orphan Asylum Society,

OF MOBILE:

WITH THE

ACT OF INCORPORATION.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SOCIETY.

MOBILE:
FARROW & DENNETT, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS,
No. 3 NORTH WATER STREET.

Protestant Orphan Asylum Society.

DURING the afflicting pestilence with which the City of Mobile was visited in the summer of 1839, many cases of orphan suffering were brought to the knowledge of a few ladies, whose attention was at that time directed to the alleviation of the general distress. In the month of December, when the "Chastening Hand" was stayed, and many hearts were offering grateful thanks to the Supreme Disposer of Events, *that their own nearest and dearest* were spared to them, the relief of *those*, to whom the dispensation had brought, not only suffering, but destitution, and all the perils that orphan innocence must encounter, seemed not only an appropriate expression of gratitude, but absolutely a claim of common humanity. The Catholic Society for the Benefit of Orphans had nobly answered to its name; its resources had been exerted to the utmost—its Asylum was filled to overflowing—yet many children remained, depending for their daily support upon the charity of individuals. It was, therefore, deemed expedient upon the second day of December, 1839, to call a meeting of Ladies friendly to the institution of a Protestant Asylum for Orphan Children. The call was responded to by a large number of persons; a society, to be called the "Protestant Orphan Asylum Society" of Mobile, was formed—a Constitution for its government adopted—a Board of Officers and Managers elected, and the Society, with only thirty-five dollars paid in, immediately adopted seventeen children, in the full confidence that the "Father of the Fatherless" would not suffer the undertaking to perish for want of means. Nor was this hope disappointed.—Donations were received, subscriptions multiplied:—the Legislature of the State, in compliance with a petition presented on behalf of the Society, granted an act of Incorporation, and an allowance of five dollars per month for each child received under its protection. Finally, on arriving at the first anniversary of its institution, the Society, it is hoped, may be considered to be established upon a permanent foundation,—and in its appeal to the continued liberality of the public, has an undoubting assurance of the responsive sympathy of almost every heart.

It being found in the first year that the Constitution, originally adopted for the government of the Society, was in some respects indefinite, and in others inadequate to the wants of the Society; a committee was appointed to make such improvements and additions to its provisions as their experience had seemed to render necessary. The following corrected Constitution was therefore submitted at the General Meeting, December 2d, 1840, and unanimously adopted for the future regulation of the Society.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

This Society shall be called a Protestant Orphan Asylum Society.

ARTICLE II.

The direction of the affairs of this Society shall be vested in a First and Second Directress, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Board of Managers.

ARTICLE III.

The various officers of this Society shall be elected by ballot in regular annual rotation from each of the religious denominations associated for its support.

ARTICLE IV.

There shall be two regular meetings of the Society; one on the first Monday in December, and the other on the first Monday in May.

ARTICLE V.

It shall be the duty of the First Directress to preside at all meetings, both of the Society and Managers; preserve order, state questions for discussion, and declare the decision,—in all divisions she shall have the casting vote. With the advice of the Board, she shall call special meetings of the Society, and shall take an active superintendence of its general welfare. In her absence these duties devolve upon the Second Directress, in the absence of both from any meeting from the Society or Board, a Directress shall be chosen from that meeting.

ARTICLE VI.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a register of the names of the Subscribers and Donors, to the institution, to collect the dues and pay them into the hands of the Treasurer. She shall notify the meetings of the Society, record their proceedings, and render at every stated meeting a regular account of cash received by her and paid to the Treasurer, and of monies still due.

ARTICLE VII.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to take charge of the monies collected for the Society, make all its disbursements, attend the meetings of the Managers, and examine their expenditures. She shall also investigate the accounts and expenses rendered by the Superintendent of the Asylum, and exhibit to the Society at every annual meeting an account of its funds, and of her receipts and payments.

ARTICLE VIII.

The Managers shall meet once a month at the Asylum to deliberate on measures to promote the welfare of the institution. The Second Directress, Treasurer and Secretary shall have a seat at their Board, and a vote in their decisions. Four of the Managers shall be competent to transact business: Provided the Board be notified of the meeting. It shall be the duty of the Board to provide a house fit for an Asylum—to procure a Superintendent, and to form such rules, by-laws, and arrangements, from time to time, as shall appear in their judgment necessary for the prosperity, usefulness and character of the institution. Besides the monthly meetings of the Board, the Managers shall, in rotation, visit the Asylum weekly, to inspect the situation and to examine the progress of the Orphans in their education, as well as to observe the general conduct of the family.

ARTICLE IX.

All Orphans in the City of Mobile and its vicinity, under the age of ten years, may be received at the Asylum, under such rules and regulations as may be adopted by the Board of Managers.

ARTICLE X.

The Superintendent must be a person of pious character, suitable age, and capable of teaching the requisite branches of education. She shall engage to be faithful, tender, and unremitting in the care of the Orphans committed to her charge; and also to follow the directions and obey the regulations enjoined upon her by the Managers. She must likewise render to the Treasurer an accurate account of the expenditures at the Asylum.

ARTICLE XI.

The Orphans shall be educated, fed and clothed at the expense of the Society,—and at the Asylum. They must have religious instruction, moral examples, and habits of industry inculcated on their minds. As soon as the age and acquirements of Orphans shall, in the judgment of the Managers, render them capable of earning their own living, they must be bound out to some reputable persons or families, for such object and in such a manner as the Board shall approve.

ARTICLE XII.

Every member of the Society shall pay to the Treasurer annually the sum of three dollars; and each member shall be entitled to attend the general meetings of the Society and vote for officers.

ARTICLE XIII.

The Officers and Managers first elected shall continue in office until the first Tuesday in December, at which time, and at the same time in each and every year thereafter, an election shall be held by ballot for such officers.

ARTICLE XIV.

The funds of this Society arise from the annual subscriptions and donations from ladies and gentlemen—their permanent funds shall be in

the charities of its fellow citizens. Liberal subscriptions and donations will, it is true, be wanting for the support of its destitute innocents; but, trusting in Him who is the "Orphan's help," and pleading with the benevolent of Mobile, *they cannot plead in vain.*

ARTICLE XV.

This Constitution may hereafter be altered and amended, as the experience of the Society or the future circumstances of the institution may render advisable.

December 7th, 1840.

ACT OF INCORPORATION.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Alabama in General Assembly convened:* That the members of said Society, Ladies of the City of Mobile, and such persons as they may hereafter associate with them, be, and are hereby constituted a corporation, under the name and style of the "Protestant Orphan Asylum Society," and by that name may hold real and personal estate, make contracts, and establish such a Constitution and by-laws for their government as is consistent with the terms of this act, and the Constitution and laws of this State.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the management of the affairs of said Society, until the first Monday of December next, shall be vested in the officers of said society who have heretofore been elected under the regulations of the said society, and on that day, or such other day as the said corporation shall appoint, in each year, their successors shall be chosen, and that no officer shall be eligible to re-election, but all officers shall be chosen from the members of the said society by ballot, in regular rotation from each of the religious denominations associated for its foundation and support.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the said society may receive under its charge and direction those Legitimate Orphans in the City of Mobile, and its vicinity, who are poor and destitute, under the age of ten years; and that for all such children as may come under its charge and control, the said society may apply to the Court of Commissioners of Roads and Revenue of said County, for such an allowance as the existing laws provide for in favor of such orphans, and it shall be the duty of the said Court to grant the same.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the said society shall make two reports in each year to the said Court of the condition of its affairs, and of the orphans under its charge—of the amount of its receipts of monies and of its disbursements; and that the Chancellor of the Division shall be a visitor of the said institute: Provided, the said allowance shall not exceed the sum of five dollars per month for each child.

OFFICERS CHOSEN FOR FIRST YEAR.

President—Mrs. L. W. Stickney.
Vice President—Mrs. D. Gascoigne.
Secretary—Mrs. S. G. Chandler.
Treasurer—Mrs. A. E. Campbell.

MANAGERS.

Mrs. M. Alderson,	Mrs. E. Heard,
Mrs. S. T. Martin,	Mrs. L. Lyon,
Mrs. E. Hamilton,	Mrs. S. Smith,
Mrs. C. Ketchum,	Mrs. Stringer.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Officers and Managers of the Protestant Orphan Asylum Society, at the close of the first year of their labors, present to the consideration of the community their second semi-annual Report of the condition and prospects of the Society. The Society was organized on the 2d of December, 1839, and immediately went into operation, as encouraging to the liberality of the community as they were auspicious to the success of their benevolent enterprise. During the year the Society has had at different times under its superintendence and control twenty-seven Orphans; and it now has under its special direction, six boys and four girls, whose ages vary from two to six years. Of this number fourteen have either been adopted by families, whose circumstances and situation in life authorize the belief that a judicious arrangement has been made for their interest, or been withdrawn from the Society for limited periods by individuals, who, in addition to furnishing them with the comforts of life, afford them the advantages of such instruction in trade and occupations as will qualify them for future usefulness and respectability. The children have generally enjoyed good health, and of the whole number, under the direction of the Society, three only have died. Early in the month of August, the Managers of the Society deemed it expedient (owing to the anticipated unhealthiness of the season, and the unfavorable location of the place then occupied by them) to remove the children to the New Asylum in Summerville. They have repaired the building, and made such improvements and additions to the Asylum, as to render it at once a safe retreat from the vices, temptations, and apprehended sickness of the city, and a comfortable and suitable residence for the interesting objects of its care. Attention is paid to the moral and intellectual improvement of the children; they are promising in appearance, happy in disposition, contented with their situation, and in every respect deserving of the warmest sympathies of the public. Without the liberal assistance of the community, and beneficent action of the Society, all of them would have been thrown upon the cold charity of the world, and many, in all probability, would have added to the misery of orphanage the formation of bad habits, and the guilt of some degrading crime. It is hoped and believed that, through the instrumentality of the Society, the blessings of a father's labors and a mother's attention have been measurably supplied, and that in a coming day the labors and exertions of the humane, and the

advantages and utility of the Asylum, will be felt and duly appreciated. The receipts and disbursements of the Society appear from the report of the Treasurer hereto annexed. In concluding their Report, the Officers and Managers (adopting the language of a sister institution) would only add, that "the funds of the Society shall be in the charities of their fellow citizens. Liberal subscriptions and donations, it is true, will be wanting for the support of their destitute innocents, but trusting in Him who is the orphan's help, and pleading with the benevolent of *Mobile*, we cannot plead in vain."

December 7th, 1840.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Treasurer of the Mobile "Protestant Orphan Asylum Society," in her semi-annual Report up to the 30th April, 1840, acknowledged a balance of upwards of two thousand dollars remaining in her hands, a portion of which sum consisted of large bills of the Bank of Pensacola, which were afterwards disposed of without loss, through the kindly assistance of a gentlemen of this city. Since the date of that Report, the Treasurer acknowledges the receipt of \$296 80 cents. From April 30th to the present time, the expenditures have amounted to \$1,145 88 cents, a considerable portion of which sum has been expended in making necessary repairs and alterations in a building intended as a permanent Asylum for the Orphans. By the books and vouchers of the Treasurer, which have been examined by a competent and careful accountant, there will be seen a balance of \$1,321 70 cents due to the Society, and in the Planters' and Merchants' Bank of Mobile is deposited to the credit of the Treasurer the sum of \$1,209 95 cents. The other funds in hand are—39 dollars in Pensacola and Vicksburg money, which it is feared will prove a loss, and \$80 75 cents—making when added together the sum required, viz: \$1,321 70. While gratefully acknowledging on behalf of the Society the liberality with which its efforts to befriend the destitute and unprotected have been assisted by the charitable of Mobile, the Treasurer would take leave to remind the public that nearly all the balance in hand has been derived from the spontaneous generosity of other communities—referring to 1000 dollars from the Relief Committee of the disastrous year of 1839; \$130 from a Juvenile Society at Claiborne, and \$50 from the First Congregational Church in New York. For the resources of future years, the Society must trust alone to the sustained benevolence of the community of which it forms a part.

December 7th, 1840.

SUBSCRIBERS' NAMES.

Mrs. Daniel Fowler,	Mrs. Westfeldt,	Mr McClelland,
Mrs. M. Morris,	Mrs. W. W. Fry,	Mrs. McClelland,
Mrs. L. Lyon,	Mrs. G. H. Fry,	Mrs. Livingston,
Mrs. L. W. Stickney,	Miss Wier,	Mrs. Lesesne,
Mrs. Frownèr,	Mrs. T. McGran,	Mrs. S. Smith,
Mrs. S. G. Chandler,	Mrs. McRae,	Mrs. Lowber,

Mrs. E. G. Jones,	Mrs. W. Stewart,	Mrs. Sumwalt,
Mrs. Alderson,	Mrs. G. A. Tuthill,	Mrs. McCoy,
Mrs. Dade,	Miss L. Nixon,	Mrs. B. Gayle,
Mrs. A. E. Campbell,	Mrs. Maynard,	Mrs. D. W. Smith,
Mrs. Gayle,	Mrs. McNeill,	Mrs. Toulmin,
Mrs. Center,	Mrs. R. Walker,	Mrs. Randall,
Mrs. Emanuel,	Mrs. Eslava,	Mrs. Hunter,
Mrs. S. T. Martin,	Mrs. E. W. Heard,	Mrs. Stringer,
Mrs. Garrow,	Mrs. C. Ketchum,	Mrs. Charles Ketchum,
Mrs. J. Hall,	Mrs. M. L. Carr,	Mrs. Austill,
Mrs. C. M. Pope,	Mrs. F. Gwathmey,	Mrs. English,
Mrs. T. B. Church,	Mrs. P. Bull,	Mrs. T. W. McCoy,
Mrs. A. Pope,	Mrs. Huger,	Franklin Shaw,
Mrs. C. Gascoigne,	Mrs. Deas,	O. J. Russell,
Mrs. D. M. Riggs,	Mrs. S. G. Fisher,	F. C. Heard,
Mrs. B. Crawford,	Mrs. J. Battle,	J. Tucker,
Mrs. E. P. Hamilton,	Mrs. G. Davis,	J. McBride,
Mrs. Smith,	Mrs. J. Forsyth,	John H. Jones,
Mrs. Pratt,	Mrs. Ogden,	Edward Harrison.

DONATIONS.

A Friend, \$ 5 00	Mrs. Spann, \$ 3 00
Mrs. M. Alderson, 15 00	Two Friends, 5 00
Miss Teasdale, 5 00	Mrs. Mechlin, 2 50
Mrs. Van Ness, 6 56	Mrs. G. N. Stewart, 2 00
A Friend, 2 00	M. B. Society, 10 00
Mrs. Lewis, 5 00	Grand Jury U. S. C., 7 50
Dr. Richard North, 50 00	A Lady of Philadelphia, 10 00
A Friend, through Mrs. Huger, 25 00	Relief Committee, through Mrs. Stickney, 500 00
First Congregational Church in New York, by Rev. M. Simmons, 50 00	G. G. Henry, \$10 00
George Poe, Jr., 50 00	Dr. Martin, 10 00
Grand Jury C. C., 25 00	A. Knapp, 5 00
Mrs. W. Jones, 100 00	Mr. H. F. Stickney, 5 00
Mrs. Dobson, 4 00	S. S. Smith, 3 00
S. Ogdén, 10 00	M. E. Wragg, 3 00
A Friend, 2 00	Mrs. M. Boykin, by M. A., 5 00
Mrs. Bond, 5 00	Mrs. Tew, by M. A., 10 00
Mrs. Purvis, 5 00	G. Cleveland, by M. A., 10 00
Mrs. Ledyard, 5 00	From Sixteen Young Ladies at Claiborne, 25 00
Christmas Collections, through Mrs. Stickney, 812 62	Relief Committee, through Mrs. Stickney, 500 00
From 16 Young Ladies at Claiborne, through E. E. Dellett, 104 17	Mrs. H. Monroe, by M. A., 20 00
W. E. Bowen, through Mrs. Alderson, 10 00	A Friend, through Mrs. Huger, 20 00

Stationery, to the amount of 5 dollars, from Mr. Allen. 6 Slates, a bundle of Pencils, and a Bell, by Mr. Belknap. By Mr. Kemble, 12 Spelling Books, 12 Juvenile Primers. Mr. Sumwalt, 12 Table Books.

"Episcopal Society for the Promotion of Christianity," 12 Testaments, 12 Hymn Books. Mr. Tinson, 500 Needles. Mrs. Rapelje, 18 yards of Calico. Mr. Tillotson, 1 Trunk. Relief Committee, 1 barrel Pork. Mrs. Tankersly, a piece of Calico. Six Hats from Mr. McClelland. \$15 worth of Medicine from a friend. Sugar, Tea, Rice, from Mr. Paterson. 7 remnants of Calico from Mrs. Lyons. 1 piece of Calico from a friend, through Miss Tracy.

AN ACT

To amend the Charter of "THE PROTESTANT ORPHAN ASYLUM SOCIETY," located at Mobile.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Alabama in General Assembly convened:* That it shall be lawful for said Society to receive under its charge any poor and destitute children under the age of fourteen years, whether they be Orphans or not, and to keep, control, and bring up such children, under such rules and regulations as may be adopted from time to time, under the first section of the Act, to which this is an amendment: Provided, that if either parent is living, said "Society" shall, before receiving any such child, have first obtained the written consent of the father, if living, or of the mother, if the father is dead.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That said "Society" is hereby authorized to apply to the Judge of Probate of Mobile County to have any child, so under its charge, bound out and apprenticed, to such suitable person or persons as shall be selected. For the purpose of making this right effectual, sub-division eight of section 670, and sections 1215, 1216, 1217 and 1218 of the Code are hereby made applicable in the premises.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted,* That said "Society" shall be authorized to receive any devise, legacy, or bequest which may have been made heretofore, or which hereafter may be made, and provide for its investment, or other appropriation, in such manner as may be deemed best for the advancement of the charitable purpose of said "Society."

Approved December 12th, 1857.

A. B. MOORE.

OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE, }
Montgomery, Alabama. }

I, JAMES H. WEAVER, Secretary of State of the State of Alabama, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, correct and perfect copy of an Act entitled, "an Act to amend the Charter of the Protestant Orphan Asylum Society, located at Mobile," approved December 12th, 1857; which copy is taken from the enrolled bill now on file in my office.

GIVEN under my hand, and the great Seal of State affixed at Montgomery, this 14th day of December, A. D., 1857, and of American Independence the 82d year.

J. H. WEAVER,
Sect'y of State.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

Protestant Orphan Asylum Society

OF MOBILE

ACT OF INCORPORATION

MOBILE