

PROTESTANT INFANT ASYLUM.

1878, ch. 297.

908. The protestant infant asylum of Baltimore city, a corporation duly incorporated under the laws of this State, is authorized and empowered to receive into its custody, care and control, all such foundlings and orphans and other destitute infants under the age of four years as shall be committed, by instrument of writing, under the hand of the party so committing to its keeping, by the parents, guardians or others having the right of disposition, or by any orphans' court or justice of the peace of this State, (if of the class of children whom such court or justice could lawfully bind out as apprentices, which commitment to the said protestant infant asylum of Baltimore city such orphans' courts and justices are hereby empowered to make,) and retain under its care, charge and restraint each of such foundlings and infant children so committed to its keeping until he or she shall have attained the full age of fourteen years, or for any shorter period, and at or before said age to bind out any and every one of said foundlings and infants for a term of time not exceeding the age of twenty-one years, if the child be a male, or of eighteen years, if the child be a female, as an apprentice to learn any trade or business suitable to the sex of the child, or to learn to be useful in housewifery, or to place them for adoption or as inmates with any families or persons, or transfer them to the custody, charge, care and training of any corporate or other home, asylum or other association authorized by law to receive such children, and retain or bind them out in this State; provided, that all such acts of binding, placing or transferring shall be evidenced by instrument of writing, signed by the president of said protestant infant asylum of Baltimore city, and by the person or corporation taking such child as apprentice, or for adoption, or for subsequent custody, care and rearing, and by such signers acknowledged before a justice of the peace of this State, and within one month from the date thereof recorded in the office of the register of wills of Baltimore city, at the expense of the party so taking, receiving or adopting; and provided, also, that the said protestant infant asylum of Baltimore city shall keep a fair record, in a suitable book, of the admission of all children so received into its custody and care, in which shall be stated the date of admission,