

By reference to the foregoing tables, it will be seen that the number of children in the House has much increased during the year. The number at the close of last year was 229. We now have 279.

The past year has been one of prosperity. It is true we have had our hopes and fears; our cases of disappointment as well as encouragement. While some have caused us to sorrow over their fall, we have seen many others go forth into the world to battle with its temptations and dangers, with renewed hopes, and strong determination to do well; who look back upon the Refuge as that *home* where the first right impulses germinated—where the first efforts at self-control commenced.

Their frequent visits show, in no small degree, their kind interest in all that relates to the Refuge.

In the general management of the House, no very important change has been made since our last report.

The alterations in the south wing, formerly occupied by the female children, which had been completed just previous to the commencement of the present year, have proved very desirable. By this arrangement, the girls have been made more comfortable; and the means it gives us to classify the boys, is a very great advantage. The smaller boys are separated from the larger in their schools, dormitories and playground. By this arrangement we are able to better adapt the discipline and instruction as well as amusements, to the age and character of the children.

We now look forward with much interest to the early completion of the new building, now being erected for the girls, by which we shall be able to completely separate the girls from all communication with the boys, as the new building to be occupied by the girls is entirely outside the present enclosure.

#### EMPLOYMENT.

We have experienced much inconvenience in the want of some mechanical labor suited to the capacity of children.

As most of children received here have previously been allowed to live in idleness, it is of great importance that regular systematic labor should be provided, that they may be trained to industrious habits, otherwise, when they leave the Refuge to enter their homes, where they are expected to labor, they will be poorly prepared to commence a new life.