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# Fifth Annual Report

OF THE

# Associated Charities of Cambridge.

NOVEMBER, 1887.

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ORGANIZED DECEMBER, 1881.

INCORPORATED JANUARY 16, 1883.

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BOSTON  
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.  
WILLIAM H. WHEELER, PRINTER  
1887.

## OFFICERS, 1887-1888.

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*President.*—JOSEPH B. WARNER.

### *Vice-Presidents.*

CHARLES W. ELIOT.	SUMNER ALBEE.
REV. SAMUEL LONGFELLOW.	J. WARREN MERRILL.
REV. ANDREW P. PEABODY.	S. L. MONTAGUE.
WILLIAM E. RUSSELL.	JAMES A. FOX.
JAMES B. THAYER.	EDMUND REARDON.
MRS. J. P. COOKE.	MRS. H. O. HOUGHTON.

*Secretary.*—WILLIAM T. PIPER.

*Treasurer.*—HENRY N. TILTON.

### *Directors.*

REV. EDWARD ABBOTT.	REV. FRANCIS G. PEABODY.
E. A. CARPENTER, M. D.	MRS. H. C. RAND.
D. U. CHAMBERLIN.	WARREN SANGER.
MRS. M. E. DEMERRITT.	JOHN B. TAYLOR, M. D.
JAMES A. DOW, M. D.	MRS. HENRY THAYER.
MISS M. L. DREW.	CHARLES E. VAUGHAN, M. D.
MRS. JOSEPH GOODNOW.	CALEB H. WARNER.
MISS VELMA M. MORSE.	MRS. W. W. WELLINGTON.

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## STANDING COMMITTEES.

### *On Finance.*

The TREASURER (*ex officio*). MR. C. H. WARNER. MR. CHAMBERLIN.  
DR. TAYLOR. MRS. GOODNOW. MRS. RAND.

### *On Paid Agent.*

MR. TILTON. MRS. DEMERRITT. MRS. WELLINGTON.  
MISS DREW. MR. ABBOTT.

### *On Registration Office.*

DR. VAUGHAN. MRS. WELLINGTON. MR. SANGER. MR. PIPER.

### *On Public Meetings.*

MR. J. B. WARNER. DR. CARPENTER. MR. PEABODY.  
MISS MORSE. MRS. THAYER.

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The Board of Directors meets at the Central Office on the second Thursday of each month at 4.30 P.M.

The Old Cambridge Conference meets at the Vestry of First Parish Church, Church Street, on the first and third Mondays of each month at 4 P.M.

The Cambridgeport Conference meets at the Central Office on alternate Wednesdays at 4 P.M.

The North Cambridge Conference meets at 158 North Avenue on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 3 P.M.

## OLD CAMBRIDGE CONFERENCE.

### *Executive Committee.*

*President.*—C. H. WARNER.                      *Secretary.*—MRS. B. VAUGHAN.  
MRS. J. P. COOKE.      W. T. PIPER.      MRS. J. G. THORP, JR.  
DR. C. E. VAUGHAN.                      MISS A. R. WELLS.

### *Ways and Means Committee.*

MRS. E. WYMAN.      MRS. M. E. DEMERRITT.      MRS. G. W. C. NOBLE.  
DR. C. E. VAUGHAN.

### *Coal Savings Committee.*

MISS S. WYMAN.                      MRS. J. G. THORP, JR.                      W. E. BYERLY  
MISS L. HORSFORD, *Cashier.*

### *Committee on Intemperates.*

J. G. THORP, JR.      F. W. TAUSSIG.      E. M. PARKER.      A. B. HART.

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## CAMBRIDGEPORT CONFERENCE.

### *Executive Committee.*

*President.*—MRS. W. W. WELLINGTON.                      *Secretary.*—JAMES H. BALL.  
MRS. J. GOODNOW.      MISS M. MURDOCK.      MRS. G. F. RICKER.  
MRS. M. A. BACON.

### *Ways and Means Committee.*

MRS. W. W. WELLINGTON, *Chairman.*                      MISS M. L. DREW, *Secretary.*  
MRS. J. L. WRENN.      MRS. M. J. HADLEY.      MISS S. A. PEAR.  
J. WATSON HARRIS.

### *Sewing School Committee.*

MISS H. L. MACKINTOSH.      MISS SARAH BENT.      MISS DORA PAGE.

### *Coal Savings Committee.*

MRS. D. A. TOWNER.      MRS. M. J. HADLEY.      MRS. M. A. BACON.  
MISS V. M. MORSE, *Cashier.*

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## NORTH CAMBRIDGE CONFERENCE.

### *Executive Committee.*

*President.*—MRS. M. E. BROWN.                      *Secretary.*—MRS. L. H. WHITNEY.  
MRS. H. THAYER.      MRS. H. C. RAND.      MRS. H. T. FELLOWS.  
MISS C. H. HAPGOOD.

### *Ways and Means Committee.*

MISS C. H. HAPGOOD, *Chairman.*                      MRS. H. C. RAND.  
MRS. W. H. WOODBRIDGE.

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CENTRAL OFFICE, CENTRAL SQUARE, CAMBRIDGEPORT.

*Registrar*, MISS S. A. PEAR.—OFFICE HOURS, 9 A.M. TO 12 M.

*Agent*, J. WATSON HARRIS.—OFFICE HOURS, 2 TO 4 P.M.

# FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE

### ASSOCIATED CHARITIES OF CAMBRIDGE.



#### REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS.

The Directors submit the following as the Fifth Annual Report of the Associated Charities of Cambridge.

The death of Mrs. H. W. Paine, one of our Vice-Presidents, who was for many years the head of almost all benevolent work in Old Cambridge, has removed one to whom the worthy poor never applied in vain but whose sympathy and kindness of heart were directed by a wise discrimination.

The whole number of cases registered from 1 Dec. 1881 to 1 Sept. 1887 is 1597. The statistics of the last five years so far as accessible are as follows :

	Jan. 1,'83, to Oct. 1,'83,	Oct. 1,'83, to Sep. 1,'84,	Sep. 1,'84, to Sep. 1,'85,	Sep. 1,'85, to Sep. 1,'86,	Sep. 1,'86, to Sep. 1,'87.
Cases registered . . . . .	455	558	597	557	508
New cases registered . . . . .		247	249	228	190
Impostors, giving a false or no address, or not in Cambridge	62	29	22	43	34
Individuals reporting . . . . .	107	114	98	118	90
Churches in Cambridge reporting	11	10	10	10	10
Families reported in					
"    Old Cambridge	} 102	about 200	} 92	70	73
"    North Cambridge				35	37
"    Cambridgeport nearly	400	300	339	314	268
"    E. Cambridge . . . . .			79	87	80
Visitors in Old Cambridge . . . . .		38	33	26	28
"    North Cambridge . . . . .			20	16	18
"    Cambridgeport . . . . .	70	49	38	34	37

While we are not prepared to say how much the No-License vote of last December has diminished intemperance among those reported to us, we know that closing the saloons has caused a marked improvement in the condition of some families.

Mr. Harris, our Agent, has kept on with his valuable work and has made over eleven hundred calls, notwithstanding a painful accident last winter and the vacation his physician advised him to take in August. Mrs. E. A. Merrill acted as Agent while Mr. Harris was confined to his house in December.

It will be remembered that in our last Report attention was called to the singular absence of any active relief society in Cambridgeport and the consequent embarrassment of the Conference of Wards II and IV in cases needing assistance. We are happy to say this is no longer the case; the Howard Benevolent Society is now ready to take up its work and to co-operate with the Cambridgeport Conference in its efforts to relieve real distress and want, and enable the unfortunate to rise to self-dependence.

We have again to thank the public for their generous contributions towards our current expenses; and the Cambridge Railroad for furnishing car tickets to our Agent.

CAMBRIDGE, *November 15, 1887.*

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## CONFERENCE OF WARD I.

THE Secretary's Report is substantially as follows:

This Conference has held fourteen meetings during the past year, with an average attendance of fifteen members, besides the public meeting of the 18th of April, which was held in the Vestry of the First Parish Church, when the audience numbered over sixty persons, notwithstanding the storminess of the afternoon.

We have had twenty-eight visitors in active work, and thirty-seven cases requiring regular visiting, besides fifteen or more temporary cases, some of which have taken more time and attention for their investigation or relief than many of the permanent cases. In one of the temporary cases the gentlemen on the

“Committee on Intemperates” did excellent service in sifting a plausible story of injustice and distress which came to us from a neighboring town, and showing plainly its want of foundation. In another, the family applying for aid had lately come to Cambridge, and were in great need, owing to the arrest of the husband for drunkenness, and the consequent loss of his wages. The wife asserted that the occurrence was unprecedented, and claimed unlimited assistance, including the release of her husband from prison; the committee, however, did not consider the circumstances such as to warrant a departure from our ordinary system, and advised giving only such help as was absolutely necessary, until the history of the family had been thoroughly investigated. The visitor, being warm-hearted and impulsive, could not be contented with what she and her friends considered the cold-hearted neglect of a suffering family, and proceeded, in ways never authorized by the Conference, to raise money and obtain contributions of various kinds which were given to the family. In the meantime, the investigation was showing that the man had been in the habit of drinking for many years, could not be depended upon for completing a job on that account, although an excellent workman, and that he moved from place to place in order to avoid the long term of imprisonment which follows a third arrest for drunkenness in any one district. Even the persons who spoke most harshly of our method in connection with this case have been forced to admit its wisdom, and we are, if possible, more convinced than ever that true charity does not consist in hasty giving, but in patient and thoughtful care for the best interests of those needing help.

The subject under consideration at our public meeting was “Industrial Education,” and very interesting addresses were made by Mr. E. S. Dixwell, Mr. E. P. Seaver, Miss Homans and Rev. E. H. Hall; a practical application of the suggestions then offered is now being made by the Boys’ Aid Club of this place.

In looking forward to the work of the year your committee feel that each one of us can best show our grateful affection for the memory of our beloved Mrs. Paine, by resolving that so far as in us lies we will endeavor, at whatever cost of time and self-sacrifice, to make good her place to the poor and needy who lament her loss with us.

The Ways and Means Committee report that work has been

found for eight women and two boys, and a home for a mother and child. The Mending Class, with an average attendance of six women, met during April, May and part of June; the members were paid in clothes and what was left has been given out on call from the visitors in cases of need.

The Committee on Coal Savings report that the choice of saving for groceries or coal was this year given the families; one saved \$1.00 for groceries and eight saved \$42.00 for coal.

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### CONFERENCE OF WARDS II AND IV.

The Secretary reports that "the Conference has held fifteen meetings with a average attendance of twelve persons. Over two hundred and sixty items of business have been transacted."

"We are still (Oct., 1887) laboring under the disadvantages of lack of facilities for material relief. These we hope will be met, in course of time, by the revival of a social society."

The Ways and Means Committee report that "during the year ending Sept. 1, 1887, it has held five business meetings. Applications for work have been received from eighty-two persons. Largely through the efforts of the Registrar and Agent, forty of these have been provided with situations, sixteen of which are permanent. Applications to the number of sixty, from persons wishing to give employment, have been received.

The Agent reports the receipt and distribution of food, fuel and clothing, and of \$100 in money. From many interesting cases appearing in his report, a few brief notes are made.

In the case of an aged lady and her daughter (both invalids and never until lately knowing want) food, medicine and money were given, and, through the Agent, the water tax was abated. . . . A family, destitute of food and fuel, the man sick, the wife just recovering from a two years' illness, was reported by a gentleman connected with the Overseers of the Poor, who did not wish to make it a case of pauperism. Through friends, groceries were sent, the rent was paid, clothing was provided, the help given amounting to \$75. Upon recovery, the man found work and is self-supporting. . . . The police gave information of a young

American, a confectioner by trade, who had lost the use of his limbs by paralysis. A physician was sent to attend him, and when his strength warranted, the Agent, through friends, procured for him a rolling-chair, in which he could get about and earn something toward his support.

The Clothing Department, meeting once a week, has distributed six hundred of the seven hundred and twenty-six articles received.

The Secretary of the Sewing Class reports:— The Sewing Class met weekly from November to May, having an average attendance of seven or eight women. In addition to the mending which was done, many new garments were made, some of them being cut out by the women themselves, as this was a part of the work in which they seemed much interested. A portion of the time was always devoted to reading aloud, and good attention to this was given, and much enjoyment of it was manifested. As far as it was possible, the principle that the garments given out were in payment for work which they themselves had rendered, was always made prominent, and we think that the success of the class has been greatly owing to this, and to the kind support which it has received from its friends in donations of materials for work, cotton-cloth, bedding and garments of all kinds, which we would here thankfully acknowledge.

The Coal Savings Committee offered the choice of either coal or groceries as in Old Cambridge, but it was found that none of the families could lay by anything for that purpose this year; the Committee, however, hopes for better results in future.

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#### CONFERENCE OF WARD V.

The Secretary reports that during the year ending October 10, 1887, the Conference has held sixteen meetings with a fair average attendance. The number of visitors has been eighteen. Seventy-eight visits have been made on families in charge of this conference. Twenty-eight families have been visited with the regularity their circumstances seemed to demand. Seventeen cases of begging have been reported, most of them investi-



gated, and not one found worthy. Some of them bore two or three names and double that number of addresses.

The only advance movement made during the year has been the appointment of the "Ways and Means Committee." Employment has been found for nine persons. We have been obliged, from lack of visitors, to pass several cases by as hopeless. The evil of intemperance enters largely into many of our cases, and is the cause of poverty in a number of families which otherwise might be self-supporting.

To mention a few cases to show the nature of our work:—A young woman, very near-sighted and hardly strong enough to wash and scour by the hour every day, with an aged mother crippled by rheumatism to support, wanted work in some manufactory so that she could care for her mother morning and evening. After repeated attempts work was secured for her in the laundry of the Cambridge Hospital at six dollars per week. She did not forget to return thanks. . . . Through the kindness of two members of the Conference sewing has been given to two widows, one with a family dependent upon her and the other too old to do hard work. . . . Our attention was called to a family of six persons, the father sick with consumption, the mother in delicate health but obliged to go out to work by the day leaving the sick father and children in the care of a boy ten years old, who was suffering with a severe disease of the eyes. The Charitable Society in the Catholic Church was interested in their behalf, proper food was sent daily to the sick father, and the heavy burden of the mother lightened by assistance in the payment of rent. . . . Work was found for a woman past middle age with an invalid son to support. For several months they had been a charge to the City; with sufficient work they are self-supporting. Second hand clothing and furniture has been given to the needy, the sick visited and delicacies sent them, profitable reading provided for a boy in place of dime novels, and little children made happy by Christmas gifts in homes where there would have been no Christmas joy but for the thoughtfulness of a member of our Conference. There has been an improvement in some of the homes showing the good result of friendly visiting and kind words of encouragement.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

NOVEMBER 16, 1886, TO NOVEMBER 15, 1887.

*Receipts.*

Balance on hand November 16, 1886 . . . . .	\$984.69
Subscriptions . . . . .	756.05
	————— \$1740.74

*Expenditures.*

Salaries (Registrar and Agent) . . . . .	\$999.14
Conference Expenses . . . . .	30.00
Sundry Expenses (including Printing, Stationery, Postage and Office Ex- penses . . . . .	128.46
	————— \$1157.60
Balance on hand Nov. 15. 1887 . . . . .	<u><u>\$583.14</u></u>

HENRY N. TILTON,  
*Treasurer.*



