

# SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND PREVENTION OF PAUPERISM

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

**I**N the autumn of 1821, a few philanthropic persons in Lancaster met weekly for the purpose of giving instruction to a number of uneducated adults. Hearing many of these learners complain of the scarcity of employment and of the suffering resulting from enforced idleness, the teachers conceived the idea of enlarging their usefulness and relieving want by purchasing small quantities of flax, tow and hemp, for distribution among their pupils and others, hoping by this means to provide them with employment when they were unable to secure it elsewhere.

In order to execute their plan, funds were necessary. To request the public to contribute to a project the success of which was doubtful, even to themselves, seemed inconsistent; they concluded, therefore, not to solicit subscriptions but to contribute a sufficient amount, personally, to make the experiment. Forty dollars were advanced and placed under the direction of the teachers, who were thus enabled to give employment to worthy persons in their time of need.

At the expiration of a year, being encouraged by their success in relieving the necessities of many of those attending their school, they decided to make an effort, with the help of benevolently disposed friends, to organize a society for the encouragement of industry among that very numerous and useful class, the indigent but deserving laborers.

Subscription papers were circulated, to which forty-seven subscribers were obtained, at one dollar per annum each. This sum, with forty dollars contributed by the teachers of the adult school, together with a donation of fifty cents, — amounting to eighty-seven dollars and fifty cents — was the total financial fund with which they commenced their praise-worthy undertaking. The paucity of their means, however, did not discourage them. The same noble spirit which had prompted them to originate the enterprise, stimulated them to persevere in it.

The society held its first meeting on December 2nd, 1822, at which time officers were elected and committees appointed. One year later, December 2nd, 1823, at the first anniversary meeting, the secretary presented the following statement of the accounts for the year:

#### RECEIPTS

Received from subscribers, .....	\$ 47.00
“ “ adult schools, .....	40.00
“ “ an individual, .....	.50
“ “ sale of various articles manufactured by the society, ..	233.24
	\$ 320.74

#### EXPENDITURES

Cash paid to spinners, .....	\$ 161.75
“ “ “ weavers, .....	58.23
“ “ “ for materials, .....	100.76
	\$ 320.74

Materials given to spinners were as follows: 372 pounds of flax, 445 pounds of tow,  $38\frac{3}{4}$  pounds of wool, and 3 pounds of hemp.

Goods returned by the spinners were as follows: 672 dozen of flax yarn, 372 dozen and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cuts of tow yarn, 30 dozen and 5 cuts of woolen yarn, 4 dozen and 7 cuts of hemp yarn, 27 cuts of stocking yarn, 10 dozen and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  cuts of thread, and  $69\frac{1}{2}$  pounds of carpet chain.

Articles manufactured were as follows: 129 yards of tow linen,  $84\frac{1}{2}$  yards of linen drilling, 56 yards of tow diaper, 46 yards of flax bar,  $32\frac{1}{2}$  yards of flax and tow linen,  $138\frac{3}{4}$  flax linen, 72 napkins,  $32\frac{1}{4}$  yards of tow stripes,  $18\frac{1}{2}$  yards of tow and flax diaper,  $19\frac{3}{4}$  yards of flannel, 25 yards of linsey, and 15 pairs of stockings.

Thus, by strict economy and judicious management, the society was enabled, with its comparatively small capital of eighty-seven dollars and fifty cents, to give employment to upwards of fifty persons, paying them for their labor about \$219.97; which, together with the sum paid for materials, represented an outlay of nearly four times the original funds. The society was enabled to do this by disposing of some of the articles manufactured, thus

experimentally proving that much more good may be effected even with limited means, by proper management and wise application, than is generally supposed.

The society, greatly encouraged by the success that had attended its efforts, as well as by demands for a more widely extended application of its benevolence, no longer hesitated to solicit the assistance of the public. The citizens of Lancaster were called upon, not on behalf of sturdy mendicants, idle vagrants, or juvenile paupers who too frequently infested the streets, but for the relief of the unfortunate, — the worthy and industrious poor, who from lack of employment were unable to support their loved ones. Benevolently inclined people were urged to become members of the society, and, by employing the poor, assist in providing a remedy against the alarming increase of poverty. They were also invited to attend the weekly meetings of the society in its room adjoining the circulating library.

Donations and subscriptions for the society were received by Judge Samuel F. Dale and John Light.

It is to be regretted that the Lancaster Journal of Friday, January 2nd, 1824, in which this information was found, does not give the names of the officers and members of this fine charity.

The second annual report was published in the Lancaster Journal of Friday, December 24th, 1824.

The receipts of the organization, including subscriptions, donations and proceeds from the sale of manufactured articles, to December 14th, 1824, amounted to \$671.46; while the expenditures totaled \$676.30. The number of persons furnished with employment in spinning, weaving, bleaching, etc., exceeded one hundred and twenty.

Until the time the second annual report was published, the female members, apparently, had the entire direction of the operations of the society; but when the importance of the institution had been practically demonstrated, and the demand for employment had increased far beyond the ability of the society to meet it, the women earnestly entreated the men to take an active part in the management. It was felt that the affairs of the institution would be more advantageously conducted if the men became directly interested—especially in purchasing raw materials and

disposing of the manufactured articles. This would enable the women to devote their attention exclusively to the superintendence of the manufactures. Farmers and others, desirous of aiding the institution, were requested to leave donations of money, flax, tow, hemp or wool, at the depository of the society, which was the house of Mr. Nevens, in South Queen street, nearly opposite the Friends' meeting house. The managers attended on Tuesday afternoons to receive contributions and to exchange manufactured articles on the most equitable terms.

The third annual report, which appeared in the Lancaster Journal of Friday, February 10th, 1826, stated that a total of \$456.64 was spent for materials and labor during the year 1825.

The fourth report was published in the Lancaster Journal on Friday, December 22nd, 1826. It covered a period of only three months—from January 3rd to April 3rd, 1826. During this brief time the society expended \$182.51 for labor and materials. The report concluded as follows:

“The reduced state of the funds compelled the society, early in April, to discontinue the distribution of work. It has now recommenced, and hopes that a more liberal support will enable it to continue in operation during the season of winter:—a time at which the poor are exposed to peculiar hardships, as well as from the wants incident to the season as from the extreme difficulty of obtaining employment.”

From January 2nd, 1827, to January 2nd, 1828, the society purchased the following materials: 332½ pounds of flax, 318½ pounds of tow, 21 pounds of hemp and 117 pounds of wool. During this period the following operations were completed: 236 yards woven, 410 dozen spun, 428½ dozen dressed, 40 dozen bleached and 64 pounds of carpet chain manufactured.<sup>1</sup>

During 1828<sup>2</sup> the society spent, for labor and materials, \$118.01; and in 1829,<sup>3</sup> \$182.19.

The succeeding statement, which covered the period from January 8th, 1830, to March 26th, 1831, showed that the sum of

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<sup>1</sup> Lancaster Journal, Friday, February 1st, 1828.

<sup>2</sup> Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, November 25th, 1828.

<sup>3</sup> Lancaster Journal, Friday, January 15th, 1830.

\$302.23 was spent for labor and materials.<sup>4</sup> Drillings, linen and diaper, manufactured under the direction of the society, could be purchased from Mrs. (George B.) Kerfoot and Mrs. Voight.

The local papers, from which the most of this information was obtained, do not contain reports of the activities of the society for 1831 and 1832. During the year 1833 the disbursements amounted to \$113.01.<sup>5</sup>

In the spring of 1831, William Webb, a Quaker, who resided in Lampeter township, died. His will, dated "26th day, 4th mo., 1826," contained the following bequests:

"I give and bequeath all my wearing apparel to my executors, in trust, for them to give the same to such poor persons as they may think proper, or the value thereof, or any part thereof.

"I likewise give and bequeath to my said executors, in trust, five hundred dollars, to mitigate the sufferings of poor people in the city of Lancaster, of good moral character, but not to the vicious, in the winter season; and which they are requested to pay, in such instalments as they may think proper, to such society in said city as may have the care of mitigating the wants of the poor of that place."

The Society for the Promotion of Industry and Prevention of Pauperism, was selected by the executors of Mr. Webb's will to dispense the charity.

In the spring of the following year the society was incorporated. The charter, which is recorded in Charter Book No. 5, page 1, in the office of the secretary of the Commonwealth, Harrisburg, is as follows:

#### SOCIETY FOR THE PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND PREVENTION OF PAUPERISM.

We, whose names are hereunto subscribed, citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, have entered into an association for the purpose of alleviating the evils of poverty and mitigating the wants and sufferings of the poor in the city of Lancaster, and as for want of powers corporate, we may be subjected to inconvenience in the pursuit of our charitable objects:

KNOW YE, that in pursuance of an act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, entitled "An act to confer on certain

<sup>4</sup> Lancaster Journal, Friday, May 20th, 1831.

<sup>5</sup> Lancaster Journal, Friday, January 24th, 1834.

associations of the citizens of this Commonwealth the powers and immunities of corporations or bodies politic in law."

**FIRST.** The associated members, and such others, being citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as shall hereafter become members of this association, and their successors, are, according to the said act and in pursuance thereof, incorporated and made a body politic and corporate in law and in deed, by the name, style and title of the "Society for the Promotion of Industry and Prevention of Pauperism," and by the same name, they and their successors shall forever hereafter be able and capable in law to have, hold, receive and enjoy lands, tenements, rents, franchises, gifts and bequests, of what nature soever in fee simple or for term of life, years or otherwise; and also to give, grant, let, sell, alien or assign the same according to the nature of the respective gifts, grants or bequests made to them, the said association, and of their estate therein, to be employed and disposed of according to the objects and conditions of this instrument upon which the said corporation is established. **PROVIDED,** That the amount of the clear yearly value or income of such real estate, and the interest of money by them lent, do not exceed the sum of five hundred pounds.

**SECOND.** That the said association shall be forever hereafter able and capable in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in all courts of law, causes and things, and to obtain and sustain all legal judgments, executions and decrees incidental to the same, and enjoy all such privileges, rights, powers and franchises as other corporations of the like kind in this Commonwealth enjoy.

**THIRD.** That the said association shall have power to use a common seal, and the same to change at pleasure.

**FOURTH.** For the well governing of the said association, and ordering and managing their affairs, they shall choose from among themselves, agreeably to their fundamental articles and regulations hereinafter contained, four managers, a secretary and treasurer, and such other officers and committees as they may deem necessary or useful; and shall have power and authority to order stated or special meetings of the said association, to do and transact all business and matters appertaining thereto agreeably to such rules, ordinances, regulations and by-laws, as a majority of the association shall judge necessary or convenient, and shall from time to time establish and make, to put such by-laws, rules and regulations in execution, or the same to revoke, disannul, alter or amend at pleasure. **PROVIDED,** That the said rules, regulations, ordinances and by-laws relate only to the charitable purposes before mentioned, and be not repugnant to the Constitution and laws of the United States, or of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, nor repugnant to any of the provisions of this instrument.

**FIFTH.** All and singular the estate whatsoever, now belonging to the said association and held by any person to their use, shall be and the same is hereby transferred to and vested in the said association and their successors, for the purpose before mentioned. **PROVIDED, ALWAYS,** That the clear

yearly value or income of the messuages, houses, lands, tenements, rents, annuities, or other hereditaments and real estate of the corporation and the interest of money lent, shall not exceed five hundred pounds.

## FUNDAMENTAL ARTICLES AND REGULATIONS.

I. That any person being a citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and paying one dollar or fifty cents annually, may be considered a member of this society.

II. That the officers of this society be four managers, one secretary, and one treasurer.

III. That there be an annual meeting of the society, at which time the secretary and treasurer be required to present their accounts, and exhibit a statement of the affairs of the society.

IV. That a majority of the managers be entitled to fill any vacancy which may occur in their board.

V. That there be a special meeting on one day in each week at which one of the managers and three of the subscribers be required to attend, for the purposes of weighing out articles of manufactory, and giving out work.

VI. That an acting committee be appointed at every weekly meeting, to attend to the duties of the society the ensuing week, and be required to give over their report to the succeeding committee.

VII. That all orders on the treasurer, be drawn by one of the managers and signed by the secretary.

VIII. That no debts be contracted in the name of the society without the consent of the board of managers.

IX. The subscribers shall have the privilege of recommending to the managers any persons with whose necessities and moral character they are acquainted.

X. That the managers be required to give to persons whom they consider worthy of employment a written or printed recommendation, and that no person be permitted to receive employment from the society without such testimonial.

XI. Persons of any Christian denomination may be admitted as members of this society.

XII. Persons not returning work at the specified time, a committee shall be appointed to notify them of the omission; and that the work which is returned be examined weekly to ascertain whether it be correct.

Henrietta Reigart,	} Managers.
Sarah Musser,	
Catharine Yeates,	
Elizabeth P. Huffnagle,	
Juliana Jordan,	Treasurer.
Caroline A. Musser.	Secretary.

Saml. Dale,
Adm. Reigart,
G. H. Whitaker,
Jno. L. Atlee,
Robert Moore,
Wm. Norris.

I, Samuel Douglas, Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby certify, that I have perused and examined the within instrument, and am of opinion that the objects, articles, and conditions therein set forth and contained, are lawful. In witness whereof, I have hereto set my hand, the 14th day of May, A. D., 1832.

S. Douglas, Att'y Gen'l.

Pennsylvania. S. S.

We, the Justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, severally certify, that a Supreme Court held at Lancaster, for the Lancaster District, of the same Commonwealth, on the fourteenth day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, the act or instrument of incorporation within written, together with the opinion of Samuel Douglas, Esquire, Attorney General of the said Commonwealth, thereon, was exhibited to the Supreme Court, who having perused and examined the same, concur with him in opinion that the objects, articles, and conditions therein set forth, are lawful. Witness our hands at Lancaster, the 28th day of May, 1832.

John B. Gibson,  
Molton C. Rogers,  
Charles Huston,  
Jno. Kennedy.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Lancaster District

I, Samuel A. Houston, Prothonotary of the Supreme Court of said Commonwealth for said District, do certify, that at a Supreme Court, held at Lancaster for said District on the twenty-eighth day of May, A. D., one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, the within instrument was presented to the said Court by Thomas E. Franklin, Esquire, duly certified by the Attorney General that he was of opinion, that the objects, articles and conditions therein set forth and contained, were lawful, and the said Court certified in the foregoing certificate under their hands that they were also of opinion with the Attorney General, that the objects, articles and conditions therein set forth and contained, were lawful, and that the same remains on record in said Court. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said Court at Lancaster, the day and year aforesaid.

For Samuel A. Houston,  
H. G. Long.

The Governor's order for enrolment was endorsed on the foregoing instrument of writing, dated June 5th, Anno Domini, 1832<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> On July 7th, 1875, the Court of Common Pleas of Lancaster county amended the charter. In Charter Book 1, p. 34, in the Recorder's office, appears the following:

Amendment to the Charter of the Society for the Promotion of Industry and Prevention of Pauperism.

To the honorable the Court of Common Pleas of Lancaster county:

The petition of Annie E. Henderson, Mary R. Patterson, Mary E. Bell, Susan B. Hart and Ann C. Slaymaker, respectfully represents:



In the annual report of the organization for 1834, which appeared in the Lancaster Journal of Friday, January 23rd, 1835, the sum of twenty-four dollars was acknowledged as having been received from the dividend on eight shares of bank stock, being the proceeds of Mr. William Webb's legacy. The receipts for the year amounted to \$129.50, and the disbursements to \$124.80. It is interesting to note that the society acknowledged the receipt of eleven dollars from Mr. Keffer, being the proceeds from an exhibition of Mr. Jacob Eichholtz's paintings.<sup>7</sup>

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That they are citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and members, officers and managers of the *Society for the Promotion of Industry and Prevention of Pauperism*, a corporation duly incorporated under the laws of said Commonwealth on the fifth day of June, 1832, the charter thereof being enrolled in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth in Charter Book No. 5, page 1, and being a corporation of the first class specified in the second section of the Act of Assembly of April 29th, 1874. That said corporation is desirous of improving, amending and altering the articles and conditions of its charter and specifies the following improvements, amendments and alterations desired: Strike out the following fundamental rules and regulations:

V. That there be a special meeting on one day in each week at which one of the managers and three of the subscribers be required to attend, for the purposes of weighing out articles of manufactory, and giving out work.

VI. That an acting committee be appointed at every weekly meeting, to attend to the duties of the society the ensuing week, and be required to give over their report to the succeeding committee.

XII. Persons not returning work at the specified time, a committee shall be appointed to notify them of the omission; and that the work which is returned be examined weekly to ascertain whether it be correct.

And by adding thereto the following additional fundamental rules and regulations:

I. The managers shall meet at such times as may be provided by the by-laws.

II. The interest and income of the corporation shall be expended by the managers for the relief of the worthy poor in such manner as to them may seem best.

III. A record of the mode and manner of such expenditure shall be kept and produced at the annual meeting.

IV. The treasurer shall give bond with sufficient surety to be approved by the managers for the safe custody of all moneys and securities which may come into his hands, and for the faithful performance of the duties of his office.

<sup>7</sup> The Union of Tuesday, September 30th, 1834, contained an announcement that Jacob Eichholtz, local artist, intended to indulge his fellow-citizens with a view of three of his splendid paintings, as follows: "The Inside of a Capuchin Chapel," "The Lord's Supper" and "The Death of Abel." These beautiful productions of his genius were to be exhibited in Masonic Hall, 13 West King street, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, October 6th, 7th and 8th. The advertisement stated that "an opportunity will be presented to the citizens of Lancaster to satiate their curiosity and gratify their taste, and

During the year 1835 the expenditures exceeded the receipts by \$29.51.<sup>8</sup> The expenditures incurred by the society from the distribution of work, articles manufactured and raw materials purchased, amounted to \$151.56; while the receipts from subscriptions, dividends and sale of manufactured articles, totaled \$122.05.

No report of the society's activities appeared in the local papers for 1836. The receipts and disbursements for 1837 amounted to \$133.78.<sup>9</sup>

In the summer of 1838, William Kirkpatrick, a zealous worker in the Presbyterian church, a liberal contributor to all benevolent enterprises, and one of the noblest men who ever walked the streets of old Lancaster, passed to his heavenly reward. His will, dated August 6th, 1838, and proven on the 20th of the same month, contained the following item:

"I give and bequeath to the trustees or managers of an institution lately incorporated in this city by the name of 'The House of Industry and for the Prevention of Pauperism,'<sup>10</sup> (the benefits of which I wish to be extended to all denominations of good moral character, but not to the vicious or intemperate), the sum of five hundred dollars, to be vested in a safe, productive fund; and the interest only to be applied to the institution."

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while the eye sparkles with pleasure, the heart will dilate with rapture from the consciousness of having done a good action. The money received for admittance, will be paid to the treasurer of 'The Society for the Promotion of Industry;' a society more actively engaged than any other in our city in works of usefulness and benevolence—a society, whose means ought to be made proportionate to its demands for relief.

"Ye, who take pleasure in the performance of a charitable deed, go and contribute to the comfort of the widow and the orphan. God blesses the cheerful giver; your own hearts will thank you, and conscience will whisper in its still small voice, *such are the fruits of charity.*"

The admittance for adults was twenty-five cents; children half price.

The succeeding issue of *The Union*, dated October 7th, stated that the exhibition of Mr. Eichholtz's paintings was unavoidably postponed until Wednesday, October 15th.

<sup>8</sup> Lancaster Journal, Friday, January 15th, 1836.

<sup>9</sup> The Lancaster Union, Tuesday, February 13th, 1838.

<sup>10</sup> Although this is not the name that was used in the incorporation of the organization, yet there is no doubt but that Mr. Kirkpatrick intended his bequest to be used by the "Society for the Promotion of Industry and Prevention of Pauperism." His executors, in the effort to carry out his wishes, wisely paid the money to this noble institution.

The Examiner and Democratic Herald of Wednesday, January 22nd, 1840, contained a statement of the finances of the society covering the two years' period from January, 1838, to January, 1840. The receipts amounted to \$262.50; the expenditures, to \$355.28. Appended to the statement was the following:

"This report comprehends a space of two years, during which period we have sustained the loss of one of our earliest subscribers, the excellent Mr. Kirkpatrick, that friend to all philanthropic institutions, and the hospitable entertainer of the clergy. We cannot forbear expressing our grateful sense of his remembrance of our society by a bequest of five hundred dollars, rendered doubly gratifying from the consideration he manifested for its interest, by requiring that it should be exempt from the collateral inheritance [tax]. It is necessary to inform our subscribers that we have not yet received the money, though [we are] hoping it will not longer be delayed. The circumscribed state of our funds debars us from doing that extensive portion of good we could wish, particularly at this inclement season, when the wants of the poor are numerous; and we feel it a severe trial to be under the necessity of withholding from the hand of industry that aid for which so large a number weekly solicit."

In the annual report of the society, which appeared in the Examiner and Democratic Herald of Wednesday, December 23rd, 1840, the treasurer acknowledged, for the first time, the sum of \$29.75, being the interest from Mr. Kirkpatrick's legacy. The receipts were \$190.16; the expenditures, \$142.86.

Local papers do not contain a report of the society's activities for 1841. The year following, the receipts amounted to \$136.27; the expenditures, to \$148.79.<sup>11</sup> Appended to the report for the year 1842 was the following:

"We cannot but think, that were the object of this society, and the plan of its operation, more generally known, it would receive a more hearty support. When it is considered that by affording employment to the industrious poor, it discourages pauperism, the same objections cannot be made to it as are often advanced towards those societies which afford a mere temporary

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<sup>11</sup> Lancaster Examiner and Democratic Herald, Wednesday, February 8th 1843

relief. The society is very much crippled in its efforts from want of means to extend its agency, and would earnestly call upon the citizens to contribute to its support, having often to refuse work when it is earnestly sought.

“Miss Jordan, the treasurer of the society, will receive donations either in money or in raw material.”

It will be noted that most of the information about the society was obtained from reports in local newspapers. What has become of the minute books or other records is not now known. It would also be interesting to learn the names of our townspeople who took an active part in its affairs.

We are including a list of the receipts and expenditures of the society during a period of fourteen years,—from 1843 to 1856, inclusive, together with the dates of local newspapers from which the information was obtained. In the annual reports of the society, published in local papers, are detailed accounts of the society’s activities, so far as receipts and disbursements are concerned. The list is as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>Newspaper</i>	<i>Date</i>
1843	\$158.54	\$153.10	Examiner	January 3rd, 1844
1844	162.43	157.51	“	January 1st, 1845
1845	204.92	192.86	“	January 7th, 1846
1846	198.07	160.45	“	December 23rd, 1846
1847	228.44	215.89	“	January 19th, 1848
1848	144.28	137.58	“	December 20th, 1848
1849	250.07	184.04	“	January 9th, 1850
1850	269.13	164.79	“	January 15th, 1851
1851	262.19	206.03	“	December 31st, 1851
1852	156.35	178.32	“	January 12th, 1853
1853	212.48	137.37	“	March 8th, 1854
1854	157.23	103.06	“	January 24th, 1855
1855	140.73	140.33	“	February 4th, 1857
1856	308.82	250.95	“	“ “ “

The receipts during these fourteen years amounted to \$2,853.68, an average of \$203.83 per year; while the expenditures were \$2,382.28, an average of \$170.16 per year.

In the Woman’s Edition of the Lancaster Examiner of Saturday, September 26th, 1896, appeared an article on the “Society for the Promotion of Industry and Prevention of Pauperism.” It was prepared by the late Miss Susan Carpenter Frazer, and is as follows:

“This society was started and afterward endowed by a Christian philanthropist, William Kirkpatrick, an elder in the Presbyterian church of Lancaster, an eminent man in his day, who died August 18th, 1838. Dr. Samuel Humes<sup>12</sup> also left money for the endowment fund, as did Mr. King, father of Mrs. Major Ditmars.

“In the early days of the society, up to the War of the Rebellion, it was partially supported by weekly contributions of a stated sum, given by persons of means in the city.

“These weekly stipends were collected each week by a person appointed and paid for that purpose. Employment was given to spinners and weavers. A room was rented from the Misses Jordan, who lived at 235 East King street, on the site where Mrs. William L. Peiper’s home now stands.

“In it were held the meetings of the society. The goods made by the poor consisted of towels, sheeting of linen, napkins, table linen, carpet chain, etc. In this room these articles were stored and displayed. Miss Juliana Jordan attended to the sale and paid the poor for their work. Beside the room rent, she was allowed a commission on sales. To this unostentatious room the wealthy of our town went to buy their stores of linen for daily use, thus giving employment to the poor in their midst. The materials all had to be bleached by the housewife after purchasing. Was this society not a beautiful charity? The wealthy giving their weekly stipend and then purchasing for their own homes the materials made, thus teaching the poor the dignity of honest labor and preventing pauperism; the title of the society expressly stipulating the latter.

“As the town advanced with the progress of the age, the occupation of these spinners and weavers was declining. When the Rebellion came these goodly women of the society decided to give yarn to the poor and have stockings knit for the soldiers. After that source of revenue was ended, it was deemed wise to employ the women to sew, which has now been done for many years.

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<sup>12</sup> The will of Dr. Samuel Humes is dated October 24th, 1851, and was proved on October 4th, 1852. In it appears the following item:

“I give and bequeath to the Female Industrial Society of Lancaster of which Miss Jordan is one of the officers, One Hundred Dollars, provided that society is general in its aid to all applicants without reference to sect.”

“Some sew carpet rags, for which they are paid by the society. Our stores will take them in exchange for muslin, which is given to other poor women to make into garments, for which sewing they are paid, and the garments clothe the poor of the ‘Dorcas’ or the children of the ‘Children’s Aid.’ A pathetic scene occurred the day before last Christmas, when a woman was paid seventy-five cents for some sewing she had done at nights, after hard days’ manual labor. The tears of joy rolled down her cheeks as she said, ‘Now my children can have a Christmas.’

“In 1835, Miss Catharine Yeates was the first president of whom there is a record. Other names prominent on the books are Mrs. Elizabeth Huffnagle, Mrs. Frederick Muhlenberg, Miss Ellen Bowman, Miss Louisa Hayes, Miss Musser, Miss A. E. Muhlenberg, Miss Susan Smith, Miss Elizabeth Franklin, Miss Reigart, Mrs. Amos Henderson, Mrs. Mary E. Bell, Mrs. D. W. Patterson, Miss Ann C. Slaymaker, Mrs. Susan B. Hart, Miss Shirley and Mrs. Rosina Hubley. For various reasons the number of members had decreased to two, Mrs. Amos Henderson and Mrs. Mary Bell, when on December 7th, 1870, they met at Mrs. D. W. Patterson’s for the purpose of reorganizing. Miss A. C. Slaymaker became secretary, which office she filled until leaving Lancaster for a new home in Lebanon. Mr. W. A. Atlee was unanimously elected treasurer. Mrs. Henderson was president until her death, when Mrs. Mary N. Robinson was elected. Miss Susan C. Frazer was elected secretary to fill Miss Slaymaker’s place. On November 13th, 1885, Mrs. Hugh S. Gara and Miss Anna M. Hurford were elected members. Mr. Wm. A. Atlee resigned, and Mr. Charles H. Locher was elected. After the death of Mrs. Gara, Miss Elizabeth B. Gara was elected to fill her mother’s place. The society now consists of five members, Mrs. Robinson, Miss Frazer, Miss Hurford, Miss Gara and Mr. Locher. On the 17th of June and 17th of December, Mr. Locher pays the interest of the endowment fund to these four ladies, who give out the work and pay the poor for doing it.

“For many years the name given in mirth to the society was ‘The Tow Society.’ It is generally known as ‘The Industrial.’

“Much good has been done in a quiet way. Very few persons living even in our midst to-day know of its existence. It is hoped that this paper, which is published for the aid of suffering human-

ity, may give an insight into this humble charity and induce those whom God hath prospered to add to the endowment of it and thus give the members a larger field of work."

It will be noted that the society was in existence at least seventy-four years, and during that time doubtless many deserving cases of suffering were relieved, and many worthy men and women were enabled to add to their meager income through honorable industry. This noble philanthropy might well be imitated in many places at the present day. The plan was an ideal one, — that of giving to needy and respectable labor a chance to be independent of charity. All honor to these noble women whose kindly thought of others, more than a century ago, was destined for more than a generation to relieve want in many humble homes and to bring comfort to many sorely troubled hearts!

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

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## LANCASTER COUNTY TEMPERANCE SOCIETY

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

A MEETING of citizens was held in Saint John's chapel, Lancaster, on Friday evening, November 30th, 1832. George Bryan was called to the chair, and George H. Bomberger was appointed secretary. The following preamble and articles were read, discussed and adopted as the Constitution of the Lancaster County Temperance Society:<sup>1</sup>

"Whereas, it is now generally known and conceded that the habitual use of ardent spirits is neither necessary to health nor to the successful prosecution of any business, trade or profession; but on the contrary, that it renders men less capable of performing labor or enduring fatigue and exposure; and moreover leads almost necessarily to intemperance by gradually and imperceptibly producing those morbid sensations and cravings, which can only be appeased by resorting to its use in ever increasing quantity; and

"Whereas, it has been found, by experience, to be the source of most of the pauperism, crimes and wretchedness of the community, to increase the number, frequency and violence of diseases, to produce in the children of

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<sup>1</sup> Lancaster Examiner, Thursday, March 7th, 1833.