



Albany, Apr. 20 1897

Hon William L. Strong  
Mayor &c

Dear Mr. Mayor

I had intended to call upon you Saturday and urge you to approve the Bill of Sen. Ahearn No. 1278 in relation to children committed to charitable and public institutions in the City of New York.

It seems to me that it is a worthy bill to accomplish a charitable object  
Yours truly

Frank D. Pavy

New York 4/21.97.

Dear Mayor I take  
liberty in asking you  
to sign the ahearn  
bill in before you  
as it will be one  
of the best bills  
for the public's good  
that was ever before  
you. signed

one of your 9.<sup>th</sup> ward  
City Constituents

14 EAST 31<sup>ST</sup> STREET,  
NEW YORK.

April 21. 1897.

To his Honor

The Mayor of New York

Dear Sir:

We the undersigned respectfully bespeak your consideration of the bill recently passed by the Legislature relative to the care of children in their homes at public expense. We trust that you will refuse to sign this bill not because it lays additional burdens upon the taxpayers, but because it is a demoralizing species of out-door relief. The bill is so plainly subversive of public health and opposed to the principles of true charity that it can have no support from those who have the interests of the poor children at heart.

Respectfully yours: Samuel Macauley Jackson  
(Mr.) W. C. Weidmayer,  
Geo. Thos. Jackson (M.D.)  
Caroline W. Jackson



CONSTANT A. ANDREWS, PRESIDENT.

JOHN HYSLOP, TREASURER.

UNITED STATES SAVINGS BANK,

THIRD AVENUE AND 62d STREET.

NEW YORK,

April 21, 1897.

Hon Wm L. Strong,  
Mayor of the City of N.Y.

Dear & Hon Sir,

I was unable to remain  
longer at the hearing on the Abear  
Bills, and you escaped the in-  
fliction of further argument in  
opposition thereto -

On behalf of the Association for  
Improving the Condition of the Poor,  
whose disapproval I filed with  
you stenographer, I ought to  
say, that the Association is  
not one of the institutions which



is described as being "financially" affected by the Bill. It is our duty carefully to study the problems, and deal with the conditions of the poor as we find them; and it is the unanimous opinion of our Board - after very careful consideration of the Bill - that the practical working of the Bill, if it became a law, would be injurious to the parties it is intended to benefit -

After 15 years of constant dealing with, and treatment of, the various forms of poverty, I cannot recall one single case of Commitment of children where Mr. Ahearne's proposed law would have been welcome. The Association desired me to protest as emphatically as I could: hence these lines.

Faithfully Yours -  
Christina Andrews -

317 East 56 St.

New York. Apr. 22/97

To his Honor.

Mayor Strong.

I certainly favor  
the Passage of the  
Bill Introduced by

Mr. Cheadle. I think  
it a public Charity  
to defeat it would be  
Crime against the Law  
of God and Man.

Yours respectfully.  
Henry M. Harris.

New City -  
H. Graham  
April 20 1857

The Honorable  
Mayor Strong

W<sup>th</sup> I do hope in  
God you will find it in  
your judgment to  
approve Senator Sherman's  
bill. It may be a little  
crude as a first attempt  
in this country, and can  
be improved hereafter  
It is on the same lines  
as one passed by the  
House of Lords England

but rejected by the  
Commons as not in accordance  
with political economy  
It is similar to the laws  
of Holland which makes  
every orphan by the  
death of father i.e. the  
food finder a ward of  
the state  
Court. so its principles  
are approved by two  
great legislative bodies  
I know from my experience  
it is what is wanted. No  
institution, can equal a mother  
the incubator is not up  
to the old hen in bringing up  
the chickens. try it. Sir  
very respectfully  
J. R. Speaks



N. Y. Apr<sup>l</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 97.

To The Honorable Mayor.  
your Honor

Consider Senator  
Aherns bill. The most sensible  
Bill that ever went before  
the Legislature Truly hoping  
that you will approve of it

I am Sir,

yours most Respectfully

Thos Moore  
148 Cherry Street  
City

151 West 63 St  
April 22<sup>nd</sup> 1897

Hon. Wm L. Strong -

Sir -

I write relating to an  
extremely interest State in  
the excellent bill of Senator  
Charn - I have for  
years had considerable  
experience among the  
poor of the East and  
West sides of the City  
and have found many

deceiving mothers who  
have been literally torn  
from their children through  
extreme poverty and who  
had no refuge other  
than to apply to the Courts  
to have their little ones  
sent to an institution where  
as if the law provided  
not a small sum it  
would have been amply  
sufficient to have kept  
mother and child together.  
How quite an extremely  
deceiving case that  
of Margaret Sanlon



of \$334 East 115th who  
was deprived of her  
husband through a  
sudden fit of insanity  
having a little child  
about seven years and  
being obliged to make  
a living could not leave  
the child to the tender  
mercies of neighbors  
applied to the Court since  
then her husband  
died she works very  
hard but is not in  
good health the small  
amount provided by  
Mr. Harris will with

her earnings would  
be plenty to keep them  
together - Sincerely  
trust you will give  
your extreme attention  
to the bill and that  
it will meet with your  
approval -

Very Resp<sup>t</sup>  
Chas. H. Combs

New York Apr. 22<sup>nd</sup> 1897.

To our Mayor, of New York.

As I am a poor woman and left with 6. children one of which is in an institution and the others are about to follow him I hope before they do that Senator Ahearns bill will pass and help the Mothers of New York to keep them. I have worked hard since the 27<sup>th</sup> of Sep 18.96 to try to keep them and I see the Societies are not willing to give me a little Hand to assist me to feed or clothes them and I am not very strong after having a young baby not 9 weeks old and my heart is broke if I have to part with them until death which certainly deprives them of Sisterly or brotherly love or love for a Mother I hope from a broken hearted Mother that Senator Ahearns bill will Pass.

From  
Mrs J. Dorsey No 169 E. 102<sup>nd</sup> St



New York,  
Apr. 22/1897.

To the Honorable Mayor  
New York City.

Dear Sir—

I am heartily  
in favor of Senator Cheever's  
Bill, for the benefit of  
poor Mothers, to enable  
them to keep their child  
ren at home. I hope  
you also will approve  
of it, and give it your

signature

Yours Respectfully.

Wm. Gritmore

#633-First Ave.  
City.

374-2<sup>nd</sup> Ave  
April 22/97

Hon. W. M. Strong, Mayor.

The undersigned am heartly in  
favor of Senator Sherman's Bill  
relating to, and for widowed moth-  
ers, as I think it is a just  
and favorable Bill for the poor  
widowed mothers that they  
may bring their children up  
to love and appreciate their  
mothers, whereas at present  
they are compelled to part  
with them for an indefinite  
period, and then have only  
certain days in the month



in which to see them and  
then only for a short time  
each day; Now you know these  
widows are all hard working  
people and think twice be-  
fore they spend their money,  
and the money that they  
would spend in going to  
from those institutions to see  
their loved ones, would buy  
a few loaves of bread for her-  
self and the remaining ones  
should there be any; Natural-  
ly if a child don't see their  
mother their love for her  
grows cold and the poor  
mother feels her loss keenly.  
So humbly petitioning your

Honor to act in favor  
with the (Widowed mothers)  
Believe me,  
Sincerely Yours  
Mrs M. Bennett.

N. Y. City

April 22/77

Hon. Wm L. Strong.

In reference  
to the Ahearn bill I would  
say that it is worthy of  
the consideration of every  
honest mind and heart.

I am sure it is a greater  
act of charity to pay Two  
Dollars to a worthy parent  
and have children enjoy  
the comfort of a home no  
matter how humble it  
may be than to send them

to a public institution  
where they know not the  
love of a parent. brother or  
sister and are also deprived  
of that freedom of home  
The bill speaks for itself  
Gen. A. Hearm has left.

nothing unsaid in behalf  
of the little orphans and  
I think that every person  
with a spark of love for  
Gods poor should give the  
bill their hearty approval  
by all means sign it

Mayor Strong it is one  
of the most worthy ever  
presented before the  
Legislature.

Resp.

Mamie M.



New York

April 22<sup>nd</sup> 1897

Hon William Strong  
- Mayor of New York

Dear Sir.-

As I am interested  
in the Ahearn Bill, I  
wish to be counted with  
those who favor the  
measure, as I believe  
it to be a much needed  
want.

If there is no  
law to help the

worthy address - who  
will?

I know of a case  
personally - And God  
only knows how many  
other such cases there are  
- where a mother is toiling  
day and night, to feed,  
clothe, and shelter three  
helpless children, and  
rather than part with her  
little ones, - which she  
would be obliged to do  
in case of sickness -  
would stop at nothing.

I sincerely hope your  
Honor will give the

Bill your hearty support  
and approval.

I remain  
Very Respectfully  
Yours.

R. F. Hockey  
152 E. 41<sup>st</sup> St.  
New York, City

Temporary Headquarters of Good Government Club O,  
145 East 18th St., New York City,  
April 22nd, 1897.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

My dear Sir:-

I am instructed by the Board of Directors of Good Government Club O to state that the Club has had under consideration Senate Bill No. 1278, introduced by Senator Ahearn, an act relating to children committed to charitable or public institutions in New York City, and begs to state its convictions that the enactment of the proposed legislation would be most unfortunate to the community as a whole, and especially to the people whom the bill is desired to aid. The Club is of the opinion that no greater harm could befall the wage earners of New York City than the establishment of a system of official out-door relief, and begs to urge your Honor to return the bill without your approval .

In behalf of the Board.

Yours very respectfully,

*Wm. Folks*

Secretary.



April 22, 1897.

Hon. W. L. Strong.

Dear Sir:

The opponents of the Shearn Bill who presented themselves before you yesterday, were a true type of the so-called charitable institutions which they represented. They, indeed, must be cold, hard-hearted and unnatural, who would raise a dissenting voice against a bill so promising of good to the worthy

mothers, and that removes from  
the filial and maternal heart a  
sorrow or punishment worse than  
death — a separation of the dear  
and loved ones from their  
natural guardian. By all  
means it is hoped your Honor  
will sign the bill and show to  
the world that you are able to  
see the true from the false, the  
genuine from the counterfeit.  
Hundreds of thousands of New York's  
most reputable citizens will  
endorse it and echo the praises  
of our honored Mayor in remembering  
the widows and orphans —

I remain your most humble  
servant P. E. Lynch



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the filial and Maternal heart a  
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Servant P. E. Lynch

New York

April 22/97

Hon. W<sup>m</sup> L. Strong. Mayor.

I am greatly  
in favor of the A. Hearn Bill. I  
think it one of the best,  
introduced in favor of the  
deserving poor widow. It  
will give her an opportunity  
to keep her children from  
the vice of others that are  
committed. charged with crimes.  
& thus keep them from bad  
example

A. mother.



April 22<sup>nd</sup> 1897

Hon W L Strong  
I hope Senator  
Ahearn's bill will  
meet with favor  
on all sides. I  
am a widow  
with six children  
three of whom  
would come within  
the pale of charity

anywhere. I am  
doing my best to  
keep my children  
around me. There  
is no influence  
no case no training  
like a mother's

I am certain  
Senator Wheeler's  
bill if it becomes

me Am invalid  
from infancy. I  
have struggled  
for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years. To  
keep my family  
together. I have  
had many. Many  
days. With scarcely  
sufficient food  
to go around  
I have never  
applied for charity

59

A Law Would  
be a boon to  
Many a Deserving  
Widowed Mother  
Wishing the bill  
Success. I am  
Yours truly

Mary L W<sup>c</sup> Cate  
144 West 52<sup>nd</sup> St  
City



# The "Little-Mothers' Aid Association.

OFFICE: 57 THIRD AVENUE,

59

New York, April 22<sup>d</sup> - 1897 -

Mayor Strong:

My dear Sir:

While receiving the views of Institutions regarding Sen. Hoar's Bill and the ideas of people who are in contact with the beggar element of the community, you have probably heard little or nothing from the Mothers who are forced to ask the aid of the City to maintain their children.

I am in a position to see & hear both sides.

I know the heart-break when work fails and bread is lacking; when the rent is due and money is gone; I have seen the agony of the hour when the parents take each child one by one asking which must be put away? the terror of the little one sacrificed; the anguish of the parting; the bitter reproach which has followed the unavailing cry "If I could

now  
the price the Institution gets  
I might have kept the home  
for us all! — Then I have watch-  
ed the hardening process: the deteri-  
oration of character: the other  
children given away. The home  
~~remains~~ <sup>remains</sup>! Seen the beauty and  
brightness of child-life fade: the  
individuality disappear. The pauper-  
izing atmosphere absorbed in the  
blood: the decay somnolence of food  
clothing, employment obliterate the  
personality: If as in some (few) cases  
sufficient affection and energy has  
been preserved in one or both pa-  
rents and the home has been re-  
stored ~~and~~ the children rejoined,  
the Institution child is an alien:  
morose, shy, dependant, inefficient.

Better the rough product of the  
unsmiling and strict than this un-  
natural thing.

As to the abuses of this law? What  
are charity organizations for? Our  
"Amelioration" or "Prevention" and  
others? except to see that these laws  
to benefit, to assist are used not  
abused. That paying the board of  
a child makes it a ward of the city,  
which becoming its Guardian confers an  
obligation upon the parents additional  
to Nature's own: thus forcing recognition  
of responsibility instead of taking it with self-  
respect away from parent and child,  
~~parents~~ — Alma Caldwell Johnston

New York

April 22<sup>d</sup> 1897

To the Hon. Mayor Strong

Dear Sir

In accordance with the invitation of the Daily News to write you on behalf of the poor little orphans and their poor heart broken mothers, who by the death of father and husband are at once plunged into a state of extreme sorrow, trouble, anxiety, care and too often hunger and starvation, I hereby come to their assistance by raising my voice and subscribing my name as an ardent and earnest advocate of Senator John D. Ahearn's Bill. Space will not permit my recording all the good things I feel like saying for the Bill and for all who in any way are trying to further its interest, and my earnest and sincere prayer for all such is "that He who said that a cup of cold water given in my name shall not go unrewarded" and when that last dread day of doom shall come may they be rewarded by those comforting words. "For I was hungry and you gave me to eat I was thirsty and you gave me to drink" St. Matt 25:35

Denis J. Long.

646 St 43<sup>d</sup> St  
New York City N.Y.



120 E. 30<sup>th</sup> St.

April 22/97

To His Honor The Mayor

Dear Sir:

I believe that the  
evil of keeping children  
shut up in institutions  
is a very great one,  
but I believe also that  
Senator Ahearn's proposal,  
that the remedy should  
be to pay parents from  
the public funds for  
taking care of them, would  
result in even a greater  
evil, and therefore I hope



you will disapprove of his Bill.

The trouble in both cases is the use of the public money to support The Children. This encourages Managers of Institutions to accept too many & keep them too long, and, if it were paid to the parents, it would produce the demoralizing effect upon the latter that public relief almost invariably does, and they would be idle and would bring up the children to be idle.

Undoubtedly many widows ought to be helped, to keep their children, but private charity should do this, and not

public relief - it can be watched, and is much less pauperizing.  
Respectfully yours  
Josephine Sewall  
(Mrs. C. A. Sewall)

New York April 22<sup>nd</sup> 97

Mayor Strong

Dear Sir

I am sure you will approve  
of Senators Chasnd bill and  
try and make thousands  
of widows and orphans happy  
for there is nothing like a  
mothers care no matter how  
well they would be cared for  
in any instatun So now I hope  
you will not hesitate but  
I design the bill and let  
become a law for there are lots  
of brothers and Sisters in these  
institutions that never seen cash <sup>what</sup>  
since they were put in these places

Yours Truly

John Barr

41 E 50<sup>th</sup> St  
New York City

New York Apr 22<sup>nd</sup> 94

To The Mayor of  
New York  
Dear Sir

I for one approve of  
Senator Thorne's bill for  
I think that every widow  
and mother should be allowed  
to have her children by her  
side and try and provide  
a little home for her children  
proceeding they are respectable  
in every way for there is nothing  
like a mother's love for a  
child and I think if that  
bill is passed it would confer  
a blessing on thousands of  
poor widows and their orphans

Sincerely Yours  
Patrick Ganahy 37 E 50<sup>th</sup> St

1874

Brooklyn April 22<sup>nd</sup>

To The Honorable  
Mayor Strong

Dear Sir I have  
been reading in the news  
about-Senator Adams bill  
Providing poor Mothers with  
the sum of 200 per week  
for each <sup>child</sup> which is put in  
a charitable Institution  
and being a poor Mother  
myself I most earnestly  
beg of you that you  
will look with favor  
on it, I am a widow  
with 6 children and 1  
over



have been forced to  
put 2 Boys in smug-  
Harbor and one girl in  
the Blind asylum and  
I have 3 girls at-home  
the oldest is 13-years old  
and works for 2.50 per  
week and the other 2 girls  
I have at-home are 2 years  
and 8 years old I have  
had such a hard time  
trying to keep the  
home together that I  
will have to put the 2  
youngest that I have  
away as I am not  
able to keep them  
only

in bread I have to  
support my Mother  
who is too old to  
work hoping that God  
will put it in your  
heart to look with  
love <sup>on it</sup> is the heartfelt  
Prayer of

Mrs Peterson  
68 Jay St-  
Per Mrs, Brooklyn  
Anderson N.Y.  
131 2nd St- Astoria

April 22<sup>nd</sup>  
1897.

Honored Sir

I have read about  
Mr Ahearn's bill I hope  
and pray it will pass as  
I think it is a very good  
object. I am a widow with  
a child 4 years old we are  
depending on my Mother as  
I am not able to work.  
hoping good luck, to  
the Ahearn bill.

I am respectfully

Mrs Nolan

221 E. 106 St

N. Y.

April 22<sup>nd</sup> / 89

To Mayr Strong

I write to let you know  
what a blessing the two dollars  
a week would be to brothers  
left with a family seven years  
ago my husband was given dock  
work as watchman on west (51<sup>st</sup>)  
by Hor. George<sup>W.</sup> Plunkitt he was  
drowned and I was left with  
four little children one a baby  
ten months old <sup>which</sup> since has died  
but I have three of the finest  
children in New York to-day  
one a boy going on his fifteenth  
year attending west (44<sup>th</sup>)  
school in next to highest class  
and two girls younger going to  
west (50<sup>th</sup>) school but I will  
often remember the struggle



April 22<sup>nd</sup> / 897

To Wm Strong

I write to let you know  
what a blessing the two dollars  
a week would be to brothers  
left with a family seven years  
ago my husband was given dock  
work as watchman on west (51<sup>st</sup>)  
by Hor. George<sup>W.</sup> Plunkitt he was  
drowned and I was left with  
four little children one a baby  
ten months old <sup>which</sup> since has died  
but I have three of the finest  
children in New York to-day  
one a boy going on his fifteenth  
year attending west (54<sup>th</sup>)  
school in next to highest class  
and two girls younger going to  
west (50<sup>th</sup>) school but I will  
often remember the struggle

from the boy and myself sold  
papers in the bitter cold mornings  
when he was only eight years old  
what a help ~~that~~ would a few  
dollars each week be to me but  
thank god I struggled hard and  
I have my three children to  
day and they can say where

they are older and have more  
sense well my mother never  
sent <sup>tried to</sup> or put me in an institution  
it would have killed me to have  
to part with them there might  
be mothers now who might be  
glad to put their children  
away so they could be free

but look what it must  
cost to visit them once a  
month it would nearly pay  
a persons rent for you could  
not go to see them empty  
handed

I knew of people that  
used to visit their children  
in the catholic protection  
they would spend \$1.25 for  
a warm scarf (25) for warm  
stockings money for a ball  
to play with and lots of  
things Candy and little toys  
why I knew of a Mrs Lynch  
whom it used to cost a  
few dollars every time she  
went there and she had  
only one boy and she made  
neck ties for Pa lining and  
I knew her to be night after  
night never to undress only run  
all night to bring the  
boy a few things when she  
went to see him she could  
have kept him home with what  
she earned and (\$2) a week  
to help her along

RB hoping this will not be  
made public & am

Respt Yours

Mrs Robt Smith

723 11 ave

Mar 51 <sup>15</sup>/<sub>11</sub> St

New York April 22<sup>nd</sup> 1897

To His Hon  
Mayor. Strong

We, the undersigned  
citizens are decidedly in  
favor of the (Ahearne)  
mothers Bill.

Edw. J. McDermott 413 E. 34

Thomas Murphy 513 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.

Michael McEneaney 410 E. 34<sup>th</sup>

John Lynch 751-3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue

Wm. Burchell 415 E. 34<sup>th</sup> St

Arch. McEneaney 413 East 34<sup>th</sup> St.

R. C. Cullen 407 E. 34<sup>th</sup> St.

Geo. Heidemann 585 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.



April 22-1897

Hon. Mayn Strong

I take liberty of writing  
to you concerning Senator  
John L. Ahearns Bill.

I am very much in favor of  
it indeed. As I know of a  
case where a Mother died  
Broken hearted through the  
Separation of her children.  
I assure you would ease many  
a heart Broken Mother for  
what is worse than to take  
children from a loving  
Mother's care. no greater  
loss could be felt. you  
are a Father yourself and

can feel for others. you will  
have many a Widows and  
Orphan's Blessing if you  
sign Senator John L. Ahearns  
Bill

Mrs. Brown

1047 Park Ave  
N. Y.

New York April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1897

Dear Mayor

The bill  
for Widowed Mothers  
lies in your hands I  
hope God will give you  
strength to sign it - which  
I know you will have  
Many a poor widowed  
mother's Blessing God only  
know its hard enough  
to be poor than to part  
from her little ones

Dear Mayor have pity  
on those poor Mothers  
I do from the bottom  
off my heart. And God  
Bless. John. J. Shearn  
Mrs. M. Mullen

322 E. 69 st - 1

Her William S. Strong Mayor  
 Sir Experience of a Vet of the Mexican War

To help Mr Shearn I will give a few facts In 1886 I was asked to write a grievance for a family of 4 Man Wife 2 Children Man a cripple children under 8 I told this woman to take a basket with her She left the East Side 9 A.M. for St Johns Guild West Side and returned at 2 P.M. with 1 pint of rice and 1/2 pint whole coffee with the request to call in a week again In 1894 I asked Bill Tate our Alderman for a charity ticket He gave it I was then and am now pinched He advised me take a basket to go Murry St there I received a 5" head of cabbage & 1/2 peck potatoes - Clippings from the Press of 1894 for the benefit for the poor J Pearcepoint Morgan \$ 88.500. - Charles Stewart Smith \$45.375. J.F. Gilroy \$54.140. Total \$188.015. I went for the biggest heap Cor Wall & Broad I was beckoned to the counter with What <sup>you</sup> wish I handed the clipping stating I would except a small part of it - We dont give money away here Well desse the clipping lie - No we give it to the church to distribut - I am a nonsectarian Where do I come in Dont know - Well I said the party who suggested the giving this money to a logging institution to give to the poor Was either a knave or a fool - Tell me where Ill go - He gave me 25 Oliver St - 110 E. 14 St - 141 Henry St - The last being my Parish - It was 2 P.M. I rang the bell a woman opened the door With do you want to see the Doctor - no not so bad as that I have ther is some charity doled out here - Come after 4 o'clock Bang went the door That evening the same woman came to the door I informed her that I came to get a little assistance Nobody at Home and Bang went the door I gave it Up - Selfsticked Charitable Institutions are a big expence to themselves - If the poor get 10 out of a Dollar they are lucky

Respectfully

Ferdinand Blauz  
 5 Manhattan St 11 Ward N.Y.C.



4/23

at uno disce omnes

~~Major~~ Your Honor  
I have resided in the  
neighborhood of Franklin Square  
since 1851. therefore I am a fair  
Judge of Life and humanity  
in the East Side, or as the saying  
goes the Slums. as I have worked  
for the same firm since 1864. and have  
always been a true abiding citizen.  
and cast my vote in your favor. I deem  
it my right to inform you that,  
the ahearn mothers aid bill  
is one of the Best Laws  
Ever Presented for official Signature  
to my mind, as I can recall  
many sad heart felt scenes



where good brave mothers had to  
Part with their children and Break  
up the Dearest Spot on Earth.

Home Sweet home. Where a little  
aid. Would have saved, (even if  
given only for a few months) the  
Shelter of home and a mothers  
loving care who can guide ~~like~~  
Like a mother who can protect,  
Like her. Surely not the cold  
greedy Hand of Charity. for  
the sum it can grasp in Payment  
of a child's cure. your honor if you  
Loved your dear old mother  
and the home of your childhood  
your own heart will tell you  
to Sign in favor of Home  
and Dear old mother

Respectfully yours J. S. Ring 362 Pearl St  
City

P.S.

Kindly Excuse all  
imperfections.

Hon. Mayor Phong.

Dear Sir:-

Your im-  
partial invitation to the  
public to express its opinion  
on the "Ahern Bill" now  
under consideration can-  
not fail but meet with the  
approval of all lovers of  
advanced civilization.  
As a native of this city,  
and zealous for its  
progress in "lofty sentiments",  
I exclaim, "Sanction the  
"Ahern Bill". "Dismissing  
from the "Bill" allow me to  
cite of a practical idea,  
almost parallel, enacted  
in the Town of Vallejo,  
Solano Co. California

during my travels through  
that State seven years  
ago. The Town Council finding  
among its inhabitants several  
indigent women of advanced  
age, whom they would be obliged  
to forward to the County  
Institution, decided to grant  
these women an allowance  
whereby they might maintain  
themselves outside the  
Institution, "where he who  
enters leaves hope behind."

That the Council never  
regretted their act I need  
hardly remark when they  
beheld the thankful faces of  
the recipients of their wisdom.

Returning to the Ahern Bill.  
I will mention a case that  
came under my observation  
with regard to a sectarian  
home --- A worthy person

the parent of two children,  
unable to support the same,  
made application to a Church  
to admit the children into its  
"home". Said "home" occupies  
a great area in this Metropolis.

After ~~pros~~ and cons the  
parent was informed that  
that panacea to a  
wounded heart, that,  
"there was no room" and that  
they'd have to be committed  
to the City. These same

sectarian homes receive  
moneys from private indi-  
viduals and from Church  
Collections, and yet they  
refuse Christian Charity to  
those of their own faith unless  
"committed to the City."

Good Old Father Tricker <sup>of</sup>  
how are great and benevolent!

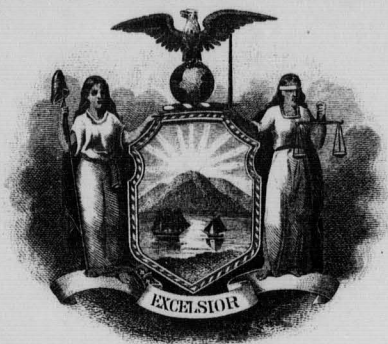


But alas, in discriminate  
These Pectarian Institutions  
draw the revenue, no wonder  
they fight against this  
Bill! However, the  
Children's Buzabos, our  
kind Mr. Gary, under the  
new regime, would be a  
perpetual Santa Claus to  
many homes. Mr. Mayor  
you have given us excellent  
reforms, crown them all  
with the approval of this  
"Bill". Yours Resp.,

Pauline Bogan.

471-2-Ave.,

April 23. 97 City



*Albany, Apr 24 1897*

*Receipt of William M. Strong,  
Mayor of the City of New York, copy  
of Senate Bill 1278 entitled*

*An act in relation to Children,  
committed to Charities and Public  
Institutions in the City of New York,*

*received by said Mayor pursuant  
to statute.*

*John S. Kemper  
Clerk of Senate  
per Geo D. Emerson*

Department of Public Works,

Bureau of Street Improvements,

Room 535 Chambers St.

New York, May 3, 1897.

Hon. William L. Strong

Honored Sir;

I am a scrub-woman in City Hall, where you daily come to your office, and since the mothers' bill has passed the Senate and Assembly I have every day watched the papers to see by your inhumanity and injustice how will the Widows and orphans be deprived of the benefits of the bill? I am a widow with seven orphans and their sole support is thirty dollars per month. with sixty cents a week deducted for car fare, and upon this we have to depend for shelter, food and clothing. If we have on many occasions, even in mid-winter been deprived of food and fire for two-days at a time, how are others, like ourselves, who have not even this source of income? And yet with all this misery and starvation I would



suffer every one of them to die  
rather than place them in a institution  
God bless our Legislature that have  
thus mitigated the ills of the widow  
and orphan; and yet we find a few  
mercenary representatives of these so-called  
Asylums daring enough to raise their  
voices in opposition to the entire Represent<sup>atives</sup>  
of this State. If your honor has not  
already signed the bill, show as a father  
that you are in sympathy with the  
widows and orphans, by promptly doing so,  
and deserve the blessing and not the curse  
of those, "we have always with us —  
the poor"

A very poor widow &

scrub. woman

City Hall



Kon Mays Strong

I take the liberty of writing  
about Senator John F. Alcorn  
Bill. I hope you will sign it  
as it will bring happiness  
to many a heart broken Mother  
you know it is a great blow  
to a parents when they have  
to part with their children.  
I can speak for myself.  
My Father died when I was  
young and My Mother put us  
in a home. There was six of  
us when my Mother died we

do not know where any my  
brothers are if there was  
a bill like this we might  
have been all together.  
Hoping you will surely sign  
this bill and receive an  
Apphans prayer.

I remain yours

Clara Jackson

117 East 9th St.