



ROBERT W. DE FOREST,  
PRESIDENT.

CHAS. S. FAIRCHILD,  
1ST VICE-PRES.

CHAS. D. KELLOGG,  
2D VICE-PRES.

J. PIERPONT MORGAN,  
TREASURER.

EDWARD T. DEVINE,  
GEN'L SEC'Y.

## CHARITY ORGANIZATION SOCIETY, OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

CENTRAL OFFICE,  
UNITED CHARITIES BUILDING,  
105 EAST 22D STREET.

April 2nd, 1897.

TELEPHONE NO. 380 18TH ST.

CABLE ADDRESS, "CHARITY, NEWYORK."

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO "THE CHARITY ORGANIZATION SOCIETY."

The Third General Conference of active workers of the Charity Organization Society will be held on Thursday, April 8th, at 8 P.M., in the Library.

The subject selected is "Friendly Visitors, and the formulation of a Definite Plan for the Treatment of Cases." The discussion is therefore practically a continuance of that with which the last Conference closed, taking up the positive side of the work of the Society.

It is hoped that there will be a large attendance and that it may be the beginning of an aggressive forward movement for the work of next winter.

Samuel Macauley Jackson,  
Secretary.

Raphael Benjamin,  
Fred. G. Smedley,  
F. H. McLean,  
Committee on Arrangements.

STATE OF NEW YORK )  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK. ) S. S.

Grace Hardy duly sworn deposes and says, that

in October 1890 she was appointed Night-Matron of the New York County Penitentiary on Blackwell's Island, her appointment being comprised on December 4th, 1890, she having passed a Civil Service Examination with a percentage of 94%. On April 13th. 1896 she was dismissed by Commissioner Wright, no cause being assigned for such dismissal and no complaint being lodged against her. Later and during an interview with Commissioner Wright the deponent says that she told the Commr. that she had in her possession a letter written by Head-Matron De Graffe to an ex-prisoner named Mary Pleasure in which Mrs. De Graffe used these words.

"Friend Annie:-

Yours received. You are kind to remember me as to those things that are in hock. I will gladly receive them at your convenience. Anything sent to me will reach me

O. K. "

Deponent says further that she told the Commissioner that the ex-prisoner Mary Pleasure said she had other letters in her possession from Mrs. De Graffe. Commissioner Wright thereupon told deponent that he would appoint her night-matron at the Tombs. He asked her for a copy of the letter which she gave him. She was appointed to the Tombs, to the position promised. Some days later Warden Vandecar asked deponent for the original of the letter for Commissioner Wright. Deponent gave up the letter on March 1st. 1897. deponent was dismissed for no cause and deponent says that to the best of her belief Commr. Wright appointed her to the Tombs wholly and solely for the purpose of obtaining from her the letters in question.

Deponent says further that she knows of Matron De Graffe receiving and asking for presents from female prisoners, such as a ring, breast pin, and brooch. Of her own knowledge deponent knows too of the Matron having ordered a prisoner to write to, and order a friend to take out of pawn a piece of silk of which she the prisoner had the pawn-ticket; the name of the prisoner was Mary Smith. Deponent saw the silk in the Matron's possession. Deponent of her own knowledge knows too that because a Mrs. Hoffman a prisoner refused to give Mrs. De Graffe a number of pawn-tickets, she the prisoner was put to work to scrub flagstones.

When Mrs. Hartell was on the Island she was permitted to be abusive to her fellow prisoners, and insolent to the Matron Mrs. Hartell's cell door was left unlocked all night and she had many unusual privileges not allowed to other prisoners.

Deponent has seen Warden Pillsbury in a state of intoxication on the boat coming to the Island.

Sworn to before me  
this 20th. day of  
March 1897.

(Signed)  
G. B. Douglas

Notary Public,

N. Y. Co.,

(Signed)

Grace Hardy.



STATE OF NEW YORK )

COUNTY OF NEW YORK. )

S. S.

Mrs. Annie Defiganieri of No. 258 West 27th. Street City of New York, being duly sworn deposes and says that she was a prisoner at the Blackwell's Island Penitentiary from May 5th. 1896 until March 5th. 1897 that she had frequently noticed that Mrs. Hartell a fellow prisoner had special privileges, including freedom of the corridors at all hours of the day, that she had a female prisoner detailed to manicure her, (Mrs Hartell's) feet and hands, that special food was procured daily for Mrs. Hartell, and that the latter often took meals with Matron De Graffe. Mrs. De Graffe also told deponent that she deponent could have whiskey or wine if she wanted it, and that she so did get wine a portion of which deponent gave to Mrs. De Graffe.

Sworn to before me )

this 20th. day of )

March 1897. )

(Signed) )

G. B. Douglas )

Notary Public, )

N. Y. Co., )

(Signed)

Annie Defiganieri.



STATE OF NEW YORK                    )  
  )  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK.            )   S. S.  
  )

Miss. Mary Scott of #419 West 18th. Street, New York City of N. Y. being duly sworn deposes and says that she was appointed Assistant Matron from April 30th. 1896 to Feb. 1st. 1897at the Blackwell's Island Penitentiary on which date she resigned.

Deponent says that ~~it~~ was common gossip on the Island that Matron De Graffe was in the habit of asking for and receiving presents from prisoners, and furthermore Mrs. Hartel told deponent that she(Mrs. Hartell), had expended the sum of Eight hundred dollars during the term she served in the Penitentiary. Deponent also knows that Mrs. Hartell had these privileges in the Penitentiary, taking meals with the Matron, freedom of the corridors, cell doors not locked at night, massage and manicure by a female prisoner, receiving and sending unlimited correspondence, the privileges of abusing unchecked matrons and prisoners.

Sworn to before me	)	
this 20th. day of	)	
March 1897.	)	
(Signed)	)	(Signed)
G. B. Douglas	)	Mary H. Scott.
	)	
Notary Public,	)	
	)	
N. Y. Co.,	)	



STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF NEW YORK.

S. S.

Mrs. May Wormsley of the City of New York, being duly sworn deposes and says that she was a prisoner in the Penitentiary from May 27th. 1896 to November 26th. 1896.

Deponent gave Mrs. De Graffe the head-matron of the Penitentiary Five dollars to insure good treatment from the Matron in accordance with the usual custom of prisoners, and deponent says further that she has repeatedly seen the Matron destroy mail sent to female prisoners and deponent has been

directed to make away with a letter partially destroyed by the Matron in the manner described in order to punish such prisoners.

Deponent also knows of the peculiar privileges accorded to Mrs. Hartell during the latter's imprisonment including the freedom of the corridors, and the female prisoners who was ordered to massage Mrs. Hartell's limbs daily. Mrs. Hartell also told deponent that she (Mrs. Hartell) had paid Mrs. De Graffe Two hundred and fifty dollars in money besides giving her a pair of diamond earrings.

Sworn to before me

this 20th. day of

March 1897.

(Signed)

G. B. Douglas

Notary Public,

N. Y. Co.,

(Signed)

Mrs. May Wormsley.



STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF NEW YORK.

ss.

Mary Pleasure, being duly sworn deposes and says I reside at No Eighty One West Third Street New York City. I was a prisoner in Penitentiary on Blackwell's Island from April 9th, 1895, and was discharged Oct. 1895.

Before being discharged Mrs. Isabella De Graff the Matron called me from the Hall in to a cell, and says to me, say Matthews (my name was Matthews under conviction) what do I get for this, I have treated you well, I know what you have in office safe, now what are you going to give me when you get out. I promised her Twenty dollars and a pawnticket for a diamond ring. She took me down to office and got my things; I was about to hand her the money and the pawnticket when she said not here- there were several keepers around. She told me to leave the parcel at Adams Grocery Store 52nd Street and First Ave, where she said she got her groceries. I did not leave the money or ticket. Two days or about after I left I received a letter from Mrs. De Graff asking why she had not heard from me. I sent her the ticket and told her to look for the Twenty dollars. In her second letter she sent back the pawnticket and asked me to take the ring out for her.

Mrs. De Graff, told me when I entered that if I had any money owing me or wished any one to bring money to me, they could have a chance of transferring it privately in office while talking to me.

Mrs. De Graff, would call me up almost every day and promised me special privileges if I could tell her something against Miss Griffin, the Ass. Matron and often said I will never rest till I get Miss Griffin discharged, the mean Irish thing. I was night watch and Mrs. De Graff often asked if Miss Griffin had slept through the night, and would call Miss Griffin a nasty dirty Irish thing. She would be angry with me because I would not assist her to put up a job to get rid of Miss Griffin.

Mrs. De Graff was very abusive to the Assistant Matrons before the prisoners; I have heard her say to Miss Jamieson an Ass. Matron, I'll fire you off the Island, and abuse Miss Jamieson until she cried. I have heard Mrs De Graff calling the prisoners prostitutes and thieves, and abuse them.

Sworn to before me

this 23rd, day of

March 1897.

(Signed)

George B. Douglas

Notary Public,

N. Y. Co.,

(Signed)

Mary Pleasure.



STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF NEW YORK. ) S. S.

Charles L. Coppins, being duly sworn deposes and says that he served as Deputy Warden of the New York Penitentiary on Blackwell's Island from August 12th. 1895 to Jan. 15th. 1897, that he resigned his position, and of his own knowledge knows of many flagrant irregularities in the management of the Department of Corrections, to the detriment of discipline and the general well being of the department, and the deponent further asserts that during the time that he was Deputy Warden, the discipline of the Penitentiary was sacrificed to the political needs and aims of the Commissioner, and the latter's proteges. Incompetent persons were appointed to positions of trust, regardless of the requirements of said positions, or the abilities of the appointees. The only recommendation of these persons were their kinship to the Commissioner. Salaries were reduced on the score of economy, and that to such an extent that it was impossible for the victims to support themselves or their families, the money obtained from these reductions was used to pay the holders of specially created sinecure offices. An example of these superfluous positions created by Commissioner Wright, was that of a General Inspector of the Department at a salary of \$2000. per annum. The duties of this official are to "inspect" at stated periods, the day and hour of such inspection being known to all concerned, with the result that the inspection is as formal as it was superficial. The Commissioner is also a strong exponent of nepotism. During the 16 months that deponent served as Deputy Warden, Commissioner Wright made but one official visit to the Island, and that in company with Mayor Strong and other officials. On another occasion he made a social call on the Warden.

Competent keepers and guards have been discharged to the harm of the discipline and efficiency of the Department in order to make room for men who were absolutely useless as prison officials. Some of these political appointees of Commissioner Wright could not discern objects 25 feet distant. The Commissioner was notified of their physical defects, but no notice was taken of the complaints, the men were retained to the detriment of discipline and the safe keeping of criminals.

Deponent also knows of Keepers being detailed to act as watchmen for the personal property of the Commissioner. This may appear to be a trivial matter to the outside public, but anything that detracts from the working force of the Penitentiary is a very serious matter indeed.

Officials who worked hard to make their administrations successful were superseded by men whose only object was the acquisition of the Almighty dollar, and the political power that comes from office-holding. These men were almost without exception members of the party whom Commissioner Wright, the Mayor and others were supposed to have worked hard to drive out of office during the Campaign of 1894.

The chief positions in the gift of the Commissioner are filled by members of Tammany Hall.

The Commissioner has persistently violated, ignored and treated Civil Service Laws with contempt. The Department, in the belief of the deponent, needs a searching investigation from top to bottom. Many matters to which no allusion has been made would bear, and indeed require ventilation. Such an investigation would be fruitful with startling results. I have read the affidavits of Annie Defigandere, Mary Scott, May Wormsley, and the latter portion of the affidavit of Grace Hardy, and I can vouch for the truth of the same.

Sworn to before me  
(Signed) this day 3rd. April 1897. ) (Signed)  
George B. Douglas ) Charles L. Coppins.  
Notary Public, N. Y. Co., )



1 Madison Avenue,

April 5th. 1897.

Hon. William Strong

Mayor of New York City.

Sir:-

I herewith present for your consideration a number of affidavits<sup>to</sup> which I deem it my duty as a citizen, to call your attention. These affidavits, as you will see, reflect on the methods of the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections, as well as on those of some of his subordinates. As I take it, the Commissioner is legally if not morally responsible for the acts of those over whom he has authority, and hence the affidavits, as on a whole, have a direct bearing upon the personal and official administration of "Mr. Wright". I beg respectfully to suggest, that the tenor of these affidavits, point to the need of a searching inquiry into the conduct of the Department. The statements of the deponents merely indicate the lines of investigation. With the resources at the command of your Honor, I do not doubt but that the results of an inquiry would be as fruitful as they would redound to the public welfare.

In the firm belief that the matter now being in your Honor's hands will meet with the treatment that it needs, and indeed demands.

I Am Very Respectfully,

*George B. Douglas*

*Other affidavits including one from  
Deputy Warden of Workhouse to follow,  
also evidence regarding Manner &  
Contract in a few days.*



COPIES OF LETTERS RECEIVED BY MRS & MR GLEASON.

Sunday 29th,

Mrs. Gleason:-

I think it is time that I should write and return thanks for all your kindness to me while with you and I do so most gratefully. I felt sorry the day I left I had to spend so much time in the cell, when I could be helping you to sew; they made a mistake in not calling for me at 2 P. M. I am not in a ward, but in the sewing room at present for they have plenty of ward help unless some more patients come up. The seamstress that was here left a few days before my time was up, which was very lucky for me, I made a waist for the Matron to wear on Thanksgiving night to dinner and she was so pleased with it that she gave me a dollar, so you see Mrs. Gleason I was lucky all through thank God. I had two letters from my son since I came up, he is not in hospital, but still he is not in good health and out of work, so you may imagine how I feel. I hope you will excuse me for writing so familiar to you, but it is my way, and I know you are kind enough to forgive me. My kindest regards to Mrs. Gleason, Miss Gleason Gussie, Ethel, hoping Mr. Gleason and all the rest of your family are well. You will hear from me again, I will finish and wish you all the best of luck and happiness.

Yours Respectfully,  
Norah Ahnon

North Brother Island.

New York March 8th, 1897.

Mrs. Gleason:-

Dear Lady and best friend, I now most humbly ask your pardon for my ingratitude in not writing to you before this, thanking you for your great kindness to me for which I cannot forget be able to do as long as I live, However dear lady accept my most humble thanks and I assure you I shall never forget; may the almighty God protect and bless you and your family may God bless them will be my constant prayer I hope yourself & family are well also Miss Gleason I hope she is better and alright, give my best wishes to all William the Warden, Mrs. Gleason, Miss Gleason Master Gleason last but not least my little friend Miss Gleason. Now about myself I have been very sick and never drank anything since the day I saw you, but I hope I never shall with gods help, I shall always think of you and your family as God gives me breath. I shall drop up some day to see my young friend. I have a great deal to say but this will have to do again. My dear lady I thank you and your kind family. May God bless is the Prayer of your most

John M. Herris

26 Madison Street,

P. S. I was told by one of the court officers, a friend of mine what great trouble you had in going my bail and how you fought it through.

New York April 8th, 1897.

Mr. Gleason:-

Deputy Warden,

Dear Sir:-

I beg to address you to thank you for your noble kindness you bestowed on me while I was confined at the Workhouse, and I wish to say that you give justice and kindness to every prisoner whom is under your care. I want to thank you for your justice and kindness to me while there. I hope God will bless you and may God prosper you and all your family.

Respectfully Yours,  
William Blake.

Copy of  
St. Leonards  
Letters

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# State Charities Aid Association,

## BOARD OF MANAGERS.

HON. JOSEPH H. CHOATE, - - - PRESIDENT.  
MRS. WILLIAM B. RICE, - - - VICE-PRESIDENT.  
HON. CHARLES S. FAIRCHILD, - - - TREASURER.  
MRS. HENRY OOTHOUT, - - - LIBRARIAN.  
MISS ROSALIE BUTLER, MR. CHARLES H. MARSHALL,  
PROF. CHARLES F. CHANDLER, MR. JOHN A. MCKIM,  
PROF. FRANKLIN H. GIDDINGS, HON. CARL SCHURZ,  
DR. CHARLES HITCHCOCK, MISS LOUISE LEE SCHUYLER,  
MRS. LYDIA M. HOYT, DR. GEORGE G. WHEELOCK,  
MR. ALFRED T. WHITE.  
MR. HOMER FOLKS, - - - SECRETARY.  
MISS MARY VIDA CLARK, - - ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

UNITED CHARITIES BUILDING,

105 EAST 22D STREET,

ROOM 503.

New York, April 10 1897

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

My dear Sir:-

I am informed that Senate Bill No. 1278, introduced by Senator Ahearn, has just passed both branches of the Legislature and now comes to you for a hearing. There were, if I am correctly informed, no hearings at Albany upon this measure. It was passed by the Senate April 8th, and by the Assembly April 9th.

The provisions of this bill relating to payments by the City of New York to parents for the support of their children, are so extraordinary,,that one could hardly believe that it was seriously proposed. I am confident that many organizations and individuals will desire to be heard before you in opposition to this bill, and I am writing to ask you to fix the hearing at such a date as to give us ample time to prepare for the hearing, and also that you will kindly have notice sent to me as soon as the date of the hearing is fixed.

Thanking you in advance for your kindness, I beg to remain,

Yours very respectfully,

Homer Folks

Secretary.





Department of  
*Public Charities,*  
*Commissioners Office,*  
*66 Third Avenue,*

*New York,*

April 12th, 1897.

*Silas C. Croft, President.*  
*John P. Faure, Commissioner.*  
*Geo. R. C. Beirne, "*  
*H. G. Weaver, Secretary.*

Hon. Job. *E.* Hedges,  
Secretary, Mayor's Office.

Dear Sir:-

By direction of the Board, I have to request that you inform me of the date of the hearing, if any is allowed, on the so-called "Mother's Bill" introduced, I believe, by Senator Ahearn, and which provides for the payment of \$104. per year to the mother who is too poor to care for her child.

Yours truly,

*H. G. Weaver*  
Secretary.





Department of  
*Public Charities,*  
*Commissioners Office,*  
*66 Third Avenue,*  
*New York,*

*Silas C. Croft, President.*  
*John P. Faure, Commissioner.*  
*Jas. R. O'Brien, "*  
*H. G. Weaver, Secretary.*

April 8th, 1897.

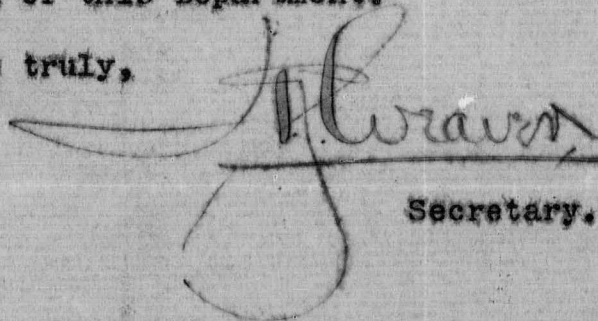
Job E. Hedges, Esq.,

Secretary, Mayor's Office, New York.

Dear Sir:-

By direction of the Board, I have to inform you that the letter from J. S. Seidemann referred here by you on the 7th inst. concerning alleged cruel treatment of his son at the Juvenile Asylum, has been referred to President Gerry of the S. P. C. C., as the Asylum is not within the jurisdiction of this Department.

Yours truly,



Secretary.





Department of  
*Public Charities,*  
*Commissioners Office,*  
*66 Third Avenue,*  
*New York,*

*Wm. C. Croft, President.*  
*John P. Faure, Commissioner.*  
*John R. C. Birney, "*  
*H. G. Weaver, Secretary.*

April 8th, 1897.

Mr. Julius Seidemann,

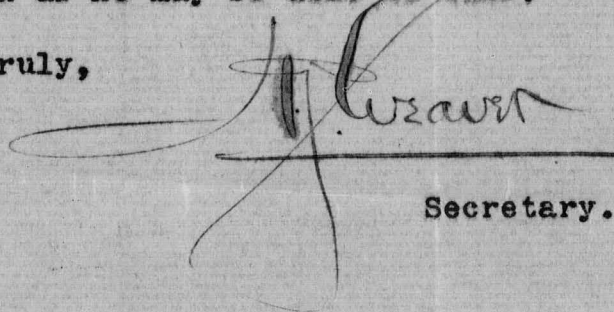
976 Third Ave., New York.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of the 30th ultimo to the Mayor in regard to the treatment of your son, has been referred here.

The institution in which he is does not come under the jurisdiction of this Department, but I have referred your letter to Mr. Elbridge T. Gerry, President of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, for such action as he may be able to take.

Yours truly,

  
Secretary.



Copy.

New York, April 12, 1897.

Hon. H. G. Weaver,

Secretary to the Commissioners of Public Charities.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your letter of April 8, 1897, relative to the complaint of Julius Seidemann in relation to the ill treatment of his son at the New York Juvenile Asylum, let me state that upon its receipt I immediately communicated with the President of that Institution and am now advised that both Mr. Bombard, the head of the shoe shop, and his assistant, Mr. Yerkes, have been discharged from the employment of the Asylum, and that another man is now in charge of the shoe shop. I do not think there will be a recurrence of the trouble complained of.

I have the honor to remain,

With great respect,

(Signed) Elbridge T. Gerry,

President etc.



Department of  
*Public Charities,*  
*Commissioners Office,*  
*66 Third Avenue,*  
*New York,*

*Edw. C. Croft, President.*  
*John P. Faure, Commissioner.*  
*Jas. R. O'Brien, "*  
*H. G. Weaver, Secretary.*

April 13th, 1897.

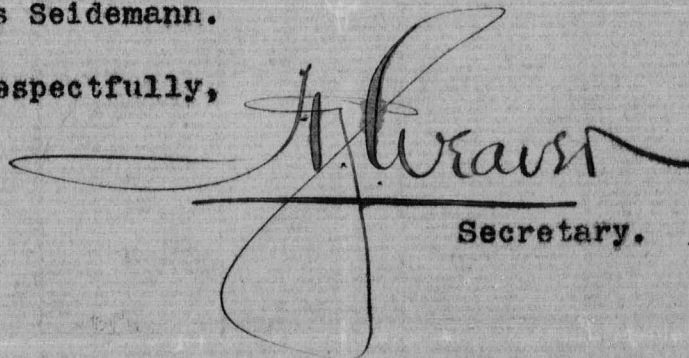
Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor, New York.

Dear Sir:-

By direction of the Board, I enclose herewith copy of a communication from President Gerry, showing the result of his action in the case of the son of Julius Seidemann.

Yours respectfully,

  
Secretary.



# American Female Guardian Society

AND

## HOME FOR THE FRIENDLESS,

29 E. 29th St., and 30 E. 30th St.

MRS. HENRY C. HOUGHTON,  
PRESIDENT.

MRS. C. M. HERTZEL,  
RECORDING SEC'Y.

MRS. FRANK S. EVANS,  
CORRESPONDING SEC'Y.

MRS. CHARLES H. KNOX,  
TREASURER.

New York, April 14<sup>th</sup> 1897  
To His Honor  
William L. Strong  
Mayor.

Senate bill No 1278, introduced by Senator Shearn, in relation to children committed to charitable and public institutions, came before the Executive Committee of the American Female Guardian Society and Home for the Friendless, at their meeting.

After due consideration the Secretary was authorized to write you and present the protest of the committee to the passage of the bill.

The text of the bill seems very unjust, and would seriously interfere with the work of the Society, since it would seem that a society with which we are not connected, would be allowed to come in at any time and

remove children from the Home, without  
our consent.

Will you kindly give the subject  
your earnest consideration, and for the  
best interests of the Society, veto the  
bill.

On behalf of the committee

C. Mc. Hertzog.



# State of New York.

3d Rdg. No. 596.

No. 1278.

Int. 1015.

## IN SENATE,

March 30, 1897.

Introduced by Mr. AHEARN — read twice, and by unanimous consent the rule was suspended and said bill ordered to a third reading and printed, and referred to the committee on affairs of cities, retaining its place in the order of third reading.

### AN ACT

In relation to children committed to charitable and public institutions in the city of New York.

*The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:*

- 1 Section 1. When any child shall hereafter be committed to the
- 2 care of any institution in the city of New York, the Society for
- 3 the Prevention of Cruelty to Children in said city shall, upon the
- 4 application of the parent or guardian of such child, in a proper case
- 5 after a careful and thorough inquiry, direct that the custody of
- 6 such child be given to its parent or guardian, and in such event
- 7 the comptroller of said city of New York is authorized to pay said
- 8 society for transmission by it to such parent or guardian, the
- 9 money allowed by law for the maintenance, care and welfare of
- 10 such child and paid by said city to the institution to which it may
- 11 have been committed.

EXPLANATION.—Matter underlined

is new; matter in brackets [ ] is

1    § 2. The said society may revoke any such change of custody and  
2 return such child to the institution to which it was originally com-  
3 mitted whenever in its judgment the interests of said child will be  
4 benefited thereby.

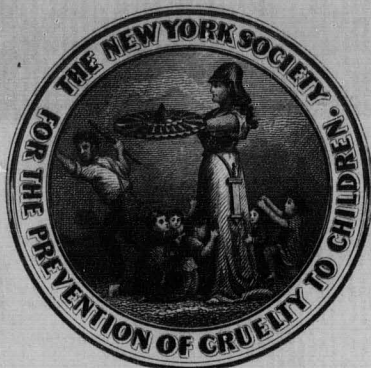
5    § 3. The said society, together with the comptroller of the city  
6 of New York, are hereby authorized to make any and all proper  
7 rules and regulations for the purpose of carrying out the provis-  
8 ions of this act.

9    § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

*Put*

*At the City*





CABLE ADDRESS:  
"GERRY, NEW YORK"

# *The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.*

Nº 297 FOURTH AVENUE. (CORNER EAST 23<sup>RD</sup> STREET.)

*New York*, April 14, 1897. 18

At the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Board of Directors of The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, held at the Office of the Society, on Tuesday, April 13, 1897, the following preamble and resolution were unanimously adopted:

"W h e r e a s,- The Legislature of this State, at the instance of Hon. John F. Ahearn of the Senate, has recently passed a bill by the unanimous vote of both houses (Senate Bill No. 1278), conferring upon this Society additional powers in the dispensing of money for the relief of the Poor, in connection with Children in Institutions,

"RESOLVED,- That the Society, while deeply appreciating the great compliment paid it by the unanimous action of the Legislature, and the expression of confidence in its work implied thereby, and recognizing, also, the action of the distinguished Senator as an additional proof of the deep interest which he has always shewn in the work of the Society, at the same time is unwilling to accept the power sought to be conferred, as some of the provisions of the bill do not properly come within its corporate functions."

*True copy  
O. Hellous Jenkins  
Secretary*

Charles S. Fairchild, Pres.  
William L. Strong, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.  
Abram M. Hyatt, 2<sup>d</sup> Vice Pres.  
Osborn W. Bright, Secretary.  
Delah Van Loan, Asst. Secretary.

Trust Department.  
A. Murray Young.

*New York Security & Trust Co.*

*44 & 46 Wall Street,*

*New York,* April 14th, '97.

His Honor, The Mayor of the City  
of New York,

Dear Sir:-

I have read the bill (Senate No. 1278) in regard to the disposition of children in this city. It seems to me that the bill is manifestly improper and should not become a law.

Yours truly,

*Charles S. Fairchild*

W.S. & B. PARAGON LINEN  
MADE IN U.S.A.



J. E. ROOSEVELT,  
GEORGE C. KOBBE,  
JAMES A. SPEER.

LAW OFFICES OF  
ROOSEVELT & KOBBE,  
BANK OF AMERICA BUILDING,  
44 & 46 WALL STREET,

New York, April 15<sup>th</sup> 1897

Hon. Wm. L. Strong  
Mayor New York City.

Honorable & Dear Sir:

I am mailing to  
you to-day a protest by Mr. James Pott,  
President of the Children's Fold, and  
also of the Shepherds' Fold, against  
Senate Bill No. 1278, entitled  
"An act in relation to children com-  
mitted to charitable and public in-  
stitutions in the City of New-York".

I respectfully ask leave, as Secretary  
of the Shepherds' Fold and as Counsel  
to several charitable and public  
institutions, and as a member  
of a Committee from the directors

of the Shepherd's Fold appropiated for  
the purpose, to join in that protest.  
The bill, as you will see, proposes  
to allow children who may be  
committed to institutions to be  
returned in certain cases to their  
parents, the latter thereof to  
receive from the City Treasury  
the same amount per week, or per  
year, for the support of each  
child, as the institution was  
receiving. As is well said in a  
Communication relating to this proposed  
Act, addressed to the Presdt. of  
the Children's Fold by the State  
Charities Aid Association,  
"the proposition to pay parents  
two dollars per week for the



May 1899.

J. F. ROOSEVELT.

GEORGE C. KOBBE.

JAMES A. SPEER.

LAW OFFICES OF  
ROOSEVELT & KOBBE,

BANK OF AMERICA BUILDING,  
44 & 46 WALL STREET,

2.

New York, ..... 189

support of each of their children who may have been returned to them from institutions is so startling that we can hardly believe that it is offered seriously. It seems to us that a more effective plan for pauperizing whole classes of the community and interfering arbitrarily with the rights, both of duly incorporated institutions, and of parents, could scarcely be devised. It would seem to be unnecessary to add anything to what I have above quoted to characterize the bill as it deserves, especially

in view of the fact that I am addressing  
a gentleman of large experience,  
in municipal, business and philan-  
thropic matters.

I beg to remain, Hon. Sir,

Very respectfully Yrs.  
George C. Robie



# State Charities Aid Association,

## BOARD OF MANAGERS.

HON. JOSEPH H. CHOATE, - - - PRESIDENT.  
MRS. WILLIAM B. RICE, - - - VICE-PRESIDENT.  
HON. CHARLES S. FAIRCHILD, - - - TREASURER.  
MRS. HENRY OOTHOUT, - - - LIBRARIAN.  
MISS ROSALIE BUTLER, MR. CHARLES H. MARSHALL,  
PROF. CHARLES F. CHANDLER, MR. JOHN A. MCKIM,  
PROF. FRANKLIN H. GIDDINGS, HON. CARL SCHURZ,  
DR. CHARLES HITCHCOCK, MISS LOUISA LEE SCHUYLER,  
MRS. LYDIG M. HOYT, DR. GEORGE G. WHEELOCK.  
MR. ALFRED T. WHITE.  
MR. HOMER FOLKS, - - - SECRETARY.  
MISS MARY VIDA CLARK, - - - ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

UNITED CHARITIES BUILDING,

105 EAST 22D STREET,

ROOM 503.

*New York,* April 15th 1897

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,

Private Secretary to the Mayor,

City Hall, New York.

My dear Sir:-

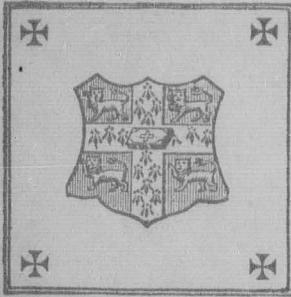
May I ask you to kindly inform me at how late a date  
the Mayor may return to Albany Senate Bill no. 1278, introduced by  
Senator Ahearn.

Thanking you in advance for your kindness, I am,

Yours very truly,

*Homer Folks*

Secretary.



James Pott & Co  
Fourth Avenue & 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
New York



April 15/97.

189

Mayor Strong,

N. Y. City.

Honorable & Dear Sir:-

As to-morrow, (Good Friday) is the day appointed for a hearing in regard to the law just passed by the Legislature allowing children to be boarded by their parents at the expense of the city, I am prevented from being present.

Allow me respectfully to enter my protest against this law. The effect of it would be to make our Institutions merely "feeding ground" for parents. We would be at the expense of keeping up our Institutions without retaining the children long enough to obtain any remuneration from the city. After a time these wards of the city would be deprived of proper oversight and in many cases be brought up in the midst of dirt, ignorance and immorality.

I do hope that this law may not be endorsed by yourself and the Governor.

Very truly yours,

James Pott  
President Children's Home



191 Madison Avenue.

April 16<sup>th</sup>/97

To Hon William L. Strong  
Mayor City of New York  
Dear Sir

The accompanying "Reasons  
for Changing The present Scheme  
of Hospital Appointments".  
And also "Reasons why at  
least one Commissioner of  
Charities should be a Physician"  
are respectfully submitted for  
your consideration

Very respectfully yours

Committee  
of the  
New York County  
Medical Association

J. E. Lawrence M.D.  
Geo. T. Harrison M.D.  
Douglas H. Stewart M.D.

191 Madison Ave.

1616  
April 1897.

To

Hon. William L. Strong,  
Mayor City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

The accompanying "Reasons for Changing the present Scheme of Hospital Appointments" and also "Reasons why at least one Commissioner of Charities should be a physician" are respectfully submitted for your consideration.

Very respectfully yours,

Committee  
of the  
New York County  
Medical Association.

J. E. Janvrin M. D.  
Geo. T. Harrison M. D.  
Douglas H. Stewart M. D.

Copy of Letter.



REASONS FOR CHANGING THE PRESENT SCHEME OF HOSPITAL APPOINTMENTS.

1ST.

Because the present scheme is unjust. It excludes some of the ablest men of the profession. It confines appointments to a narrow clique of 110 men excluding 2800 absolutely. It is complete favoritism.

2ND.

Because the men controlling the positions at present are not the representative men of the profession. They have always stood in the way of better education and advancement. They operate close corporations i.e. the medical colleges for their own personal interests. These interests are not at all the interests of the public, of the taxpayer or of the Board of Commissioners of Charity.

3RD.

Because it is sometimes claimed that the colleges have special rights and claims upon the Commissioners of Charity. This statement is a fallacy. The colleges have no more claim upon the officials of this city than a gas company, and they have hospitals in abundance outside of the department— and such hospitals are not fully utilized for teaching purposes.

4TH.

Because the clinics operated by the College of Physicians and Surgeons are not attended by the students of that college on account of the distance. Such clinics are now practically useless for teaching purposes and are occupied by members of the college appointees to the exclusion of others. This college has more material than it can possibly utilize.

Vander-  
bilt Cli-  
nic pa-  
tients in  
1896  
145,000  
Roosevelt  
55,000  
200,000  
and many  
others.

5TH.

Because the representative Medical Societies of this City are ignored, and their scientific members are snubbed..



6TH.

Because The Commissioners have acknowledged the injustice of the whole business. Have said the results were unsatisfactory. Have promised to right it by giving the profession at least half of the nominations. They have done nothing but promise for two years. The President of the Board sent word to the County Medical Association in October 1896. "That the injustice would be righted and we could tell our Association it would be settled satisfactorily in ten days".

7TH.

Because the so-called "Fourth Division" which has been claimed to represent the medical profession at large is in nowise such a representative. It is composed of seven (7) men who have the power to nominate (and this means an election) to the Commissioners for any vacancy in their ranks. They represent no one but themselves and they constitute the closest corporation imaginable. These seven men representing nothing whatever except themselves, have one fourth of the nominating power for medical appointments under the Commissioners of Charities. Two large organizations the N. Y. Co. Med. Association and the N. Y. Co. Med. Society representing nearly (3000) three thousand physicians and surgeons have no voice whatever in these appointments as the matter now stands.

The nominating power for no less than half of the whole number of medical appointments under the Commissioners of Charity should be given to the two bodies before named (viz. Co. Society and Co. Med. Association) they presenting the names of their nominees to the Commissioners after a properly Constituted Committee of examiners (from each body) shall have made their report recommending each candidate or candidates.



8TH.

Because the university and Bellevue have consolidated and if the present arrangement is continued all the patronage will be divided between two colleges: which will make it a still greater and more inexcusable outrage upon the profession.

*J. E. Smolin M.D.*

*Douglas St. Stewart M.D.*

*Geo. T. Harrison M.D.*



REASONS WHY AT LEAST ONE COMMISSIONER OF  
CHARITIES SHOULD BE A PHYSICIAN.

1ST.

Because of the fitness of things. i.e. for the same reason that an engineer is put in charge of a locomotive.

2ND.

Because a great share of the department work is performed by medical men: it is performed gratuitously: and the department is engaged almost entirely in caring for sick and injured people. No non-medical man can judge of the quality of work performed by the attendant physicians and surgeons.

3RD.

Because a physician would be a protection to the taxpayers. He would understand the proper management of hospitals and could see that the city was getting a fair return for the money expended in charities. Commissioners who are laymen have to obtain advice from physicians at all times. This advice is usually given in a manner to benefit the doctor giving it. With a practical physician in the "Board" outside council is unnecessary and an adviser with an axe to grind could not have the opportunity to mislead the Commissioners. The ignorance of lay (non-medical) commissioners of all medical and surgical matters, places them at the mercy of any dishonest, unjust or designing physicians who may obtain an audience. And it has been evidenced that lay commissioners are not even competent to judge of the honesty or ability of their advisers.

4TH.

Because the majority of the medical profession desires it; i.e. 2800 voters to 110 opposed. Those opposed form the small majority commonly known as the "College Ring". A physician in the Commission would recognize and defeat any effort of



any clique of doctors to secure special and private advantages. Strict justice would be likely to be done, to every interest and every man.

5TH.

Because, in view of the splendid showing made by physicians who have been members of the Board, any talk of "lack of business ability" is futile and is only made for partisan purposes.

6TH.

We suggest that any physician appointed a Commissioner shall be familiar with the necessities and duties of the position and of the department: and shall give up his practice and all business, not connected strictly with the department, during his term of office.

*A. E. Sanborn M.D.,*  
*Geo. T. Harrison M.D.,*  
*Douglas H. Stewart M.D.*



We the undersigned hereby certify that the present President of the Board of Charity Commissioners stated to us during the months of October and November 1896.

That:-

1st. The Board of Charity Commissioners believed that an injustice had been done to the Medical Profession by the so-called "Reorganization plan".

2nd. The services rendered by the present professional attendants were not satisfactory.

3rd. The commissioners proposed to settle the injustice in a manner satisfactory to the profession at large.

4th. The changes necessary would be made in a week or ten days at most.

5th. That he had sent for us in order to make the above statements.

*Geo. D. McCauman M.D. Vice Chairman Committee on Hospitals  
Co. Med. Assoc.*  
*Douglas H. Stewart, M.D. Corresp. Sec. Com. on Hospitals. Co. Med. Association,*  
*Thomas H. Mosely, M.D. Chairman of Committee on Public Health.*  
*F. R. Sturgis, M.D.*



Medical Hospital

for Billings

Hon. William L. Strong  
Mayor - City of New York.

76.



To the Honorable

The Mayor, Aldermen & Commonalty of the City of New York.

The Annual Report of the Comptroller of  
The Trustees of the Sailors' Snug Harbor in the City of New York  
showing the Receipts & Disbursements of the Trust  
from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January to the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December 1896;  
Showing also the present state of the Funds.

Receipts

The Balance of Cash on hand 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 1895 was  
Sundries sold by the Governor of the Institution  
for Account of the Trustees

Rents during the year

Interest on Investments &c

On account of Loan on Bond & Mortgage

Disbursements

Temporary Deposits in Trust Companies

Arrears of Taxes on No. 777 Broadway on assignment  
of the ground lease to the Trustees

Expenses of the Institution for maintenance of the  
Inmates, - including Taxes & Insurance

Improvements & repairs to the buildings & grounds

Balance of Cash 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 1896

\$23,499 71

2,959 46

318,219 63

24,191 04

5,000 -

\$65,000 -

1,988 05

224,005 33

42,795 31

40,081 15

\$373,869 84 \$373,869 84

Statement of the Funds.

Buildings obtained by purchase

Temporary Deposits in Trust Companies

Loans on Bond & Mortgage

New York City Registered Bonds

Balance of Cash 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 1896

\$289,096 21

145,000 -

443,750 -

100,000 -

40,081 15

\$1,017,927 36

New York Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 1896

Wm Greenleaf

Comptroller



The Trustees of the Sailors' Snug Harbor in the City of New York report that the account of the Comptroller from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January to the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December 1896, inclusive, together with the vouchers for the disbursements charged therein have been duly examined and found to be correct in all respects; that the securities held by the Trustees have also been duly examined and found to be correct in all respects; that on said last mentioned day there was a balance of cash in favor of the Trustees amounting to \$40,081.15 and that the same was deposited to the credit of the Trustees as follows:

In the Manhattan Company	\$20,041.90
" Merchants' National Bank	20,013.54
Balance of Petty Cash in Trustees' office	25.71
	<u>\$40,081.15</u>

New York April 17<sup>th</sup> 1897

*A. E. Ott* President of the Board  
*John W. Hoff*  
*Wm. A. D. M.*

*Austin Jayne*

*Geo L. Norton*

*Howard Duffield*



# State Charities Aid Association,

## BOARD OF MANAGERS.

HON. JOSEPH H. CHOATE, - - - PRESIDENT.  
MRS. WILLIAM B. RICE, - - - VICE-PRESIDENT.  
HON. CHARLES S. FAIRCHILD, - - - TREASURER.  
MRS. HENRY OOTHOUT, - - - LIBRARIAN.  
MISS ROSALIE BUTLER, MR. CHARLES H. MARSHALL,  
PROF. CHARLES F. CHANDLER, MR. JOHN A. MCKIM,  
PROF. FRANKLIN H. GIDDINGS, HON. CARL SCHURZ,  
DR. CHARLES HITCHCOCK, MISS LOUISA LEE SCHUYLER,  
MRS. LYDIG M. HOYT, DR. GEORGE G. WHEELOCK,  
MR. ALFRED T. WHITE.  
MR. HOMER FOLKS, - - - SECRETARY.  
MISS MARY VIDA CLARK, - - - ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

UNITED CHARITIES BUILDING,

105 EAST 22D STREET,

ROOM 503.

*New York,* April 21st, 1897

Hon. William L. Strong,  
Mayor of the City of New York.

My dear Sir:-

At the regular meeting of the Board of Managers of the State Charities Aid Association held Tuesday, April 20th, 1897, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, Senate Bill No. 1278, An Act in Relation to Children Committed to Charitable and Public Institutions in the City of New York, has passed both branches of the Legislature; and

Whereas, a hearing upon this measure is to be had before the Mayor of this city on Wednesday, April 21st, - therefore

Resolved, That the State Charities Aid Association respectfully requests His Honor, the Mayor, to return the bill without his approval, for the following reasons:

1. The proposed legislation would re-establish in this city a system of public out-door relief, a system which in large cities has always been found to promote pauperism, to discourage self-reliance and thrift, and to be especially liable to flagrant abuses.

2. The system of out-door relief proposed by the bill is particularly dangerous and objectionable in that it proposes a grant of a fixed sum of money per year for each child, without reference to the particular circumstances and needs of the family or to changes that



may occur in such circumstances.

3. The bill places the entire responsibility for the actual administration of the proposed system of out-door relief in the hands of the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, which is a private corporation and has no direct responsibility to the people of this city.

4. The bill authorizes the summary re-commitment by such Society of children who may be discharged from institutions under the bill, and who may subsequently have been with their parents for a term of years - a power which is now, and should ever be, entrusted to none but duly constituted judicial authorities, and the exercise of which should be safeguarded by the statutory requirement that in every case there shall be a hearing, after due notice to all parties concerned, and that there shall be a record of the evidence presented.

5. The duty of formulating rules and regulations to govern the administration of such out-door relief is imposed solely upon the Comptroller of New York City and the above-mentioned Society, no part of such responsibility being vested in the Mayor of the City, the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, or the Department of Public Charities, which in all other respects is charged with the public relief of the poor of this city.

Resolved, That we desire to hereby place on record our conviction that children should not be committed to institutions for the sole reason that their parents are destitute, except as a last resort, and that cases of hardship should be obviated, so far as possible, through a more effective co-operation between private relief-giving charities and committing authorities, and not through public out-door relief."

I beg to remain,

Yours very respectfully,

*Howe Folks*

Secretary.



*William Blake,*  
Superintendent.

*Department of*  
*Public Charities,*  
*Out Door Poor Department,*  
*66 Third Avenue,*  
*New York,*

April 21, 1897.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor, City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

With the approval of the Commissioners of Public Charities I beg to submit for your information a paper bearing upon the "Mothers Bill" upon which there will be a hearing before Your Honor to-morrow. My duties in this Department bring me in contact with the questions at issue, and I have taken the liberty of expressing my views and herewith beg to submit them for your consideration.

Very respectfully,

(Mrs.) KATE F. HALL,

Visitor of Out Door Poor,

Department of Public Charities.

DEAR SIR:-





Department of  
*Public Charities,*

*Out Door Poor Department,*

*66 Third Avenue,*

*New York,*

April 21, 1897.

*William Blake,*  
Superintendent.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor, City of New York.

Dear Sir:-

Having read the articles contained in the bill known as the "Mothers Bill" now before you for signature, I feel it my duty to the citizens and taxpayers of the City to call your attention to some of the evils existing at the present time and which will increase threefold in the event of this bill becoming a law.

As Visitor to the Out Door Poor of the Department of Public Charities of the City of New York I am in daily contact with the parents and children at their homes who would be recipients under this law, therefore have several suggestions in mind which it would afford me great pleasure, as well as in line with my duty, to communicate, in calling your attention to the scope of evils existing at present and will try to point out the few facts which will undoubtedly follow under this unjust bill should it become a law.

Fully ninety per cent (90%) of the mothers who would receive this maintenance are "Foreign Aliens" who in many cases are not the twelve months in the County required by law.

The worthy mother never seeks but always tries to shield from the public her needs. She very seldom parts with her children as there are several charitable societies in this City who seek and help such worthy mothers to be self-supporting, and inspire their children to be moral and upright, thereby reducing pauperism.

Frauds of all kinds are constantly being perpetrated upon our Courts where these parents apply for aid.

By allowing this bill to become a law it would act as an incentive to the lazy and incompetent parents and guardians to increase destitution.

In most cases these parents are reduced to this state through their indolence, vicious and criminal habits.

The surroundings of these children are most deplorable. They will never progress but would degenerate through such surroundings as they will be compelled to live in to derive the benefit under this law.

The Board of Education has increased their force of Attendance Officers largely to compel these parents to send their children to school, but they neglect and permit them to stay home to seek amidst their surroundings the foundations of crime and vice, inculcating them with vicious habits, thereby making them undesirable citizens.

Our charitable institutions are filled to overflowing with the legal and illegitimate children of these parents, and are idiotic, epileptic and cripples for life by ill-treatment and abuse in infancy and childhood. If allowed to remain with the parents and guardians it will be but for a short duration as through their negligence they will be endangered to the contagious and incurable diseases so prevalent in the overcrowded and congested districts they are forced to live in, and eventually will become by such diseases extra charges.





*William Blake,*  
Superintendent.

Department of  
*Public Charities,*

*Out Door Poor Department,*

*66 Third Avenue,*

*New York,*

(2)

In permitting the parents and guardians the custody of the children they cannot nor would not give and devote their entire care to the moral education and physical welfare of the child, as this would be impossible, owing to the circumstances in which they are placed; while in the institutions where dependent children are placed they protect and inculcate all that is good for the child.

Heretofore these parents have through the Courts committed their children to our institutions, thereby relieving themselves of the responsibility of motherhood, and allowing them more time to carouse in their immoral, vicious and criminal habits.

The present law committing children is very lax. The Magistrate has no means of verifying the applicants' statements except through the agent of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, who is not an official or public officer and in many cases misrepresent to the Magistrate the proper facts in the case. Being a private Society it cannot be held responsible for its agents' errors and in incurring great expense upon the City.

I find the existing law relating to the committing of dependent children defective in this one particular. The Magistrate cannot be censured for committing illegal or improper charges upon the County when there are no other means available only as above.

I would respectfully suggest that you authorize and compel the Department of Public Charities at once to appoint a Custodian of Dependent Children, with an efficient staff of Examiners. The Magistrate could then submit to this public official all applications of aid for children, thus relieving the Court from incurring thousands of dollars expense upon the City.

The Department of Public Charities organized in March, 1896 a staff of Examiners for Dependent Children in Institutions, and have through their investigations visited 11,384 parents of children, and returned as improper charges 3,276 children, thereby saving the City many thousands of dollars, they having been committed from the Courts to our Institutions either by their parents or through the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and were found upon investigation by our Examiners not to be proper charges, as their parents' circumstances permitted them to care properly for them, or else proper charges for other Counties and States.

I am constantly transferring these illegal dependents to all States and Counties where they come from, knowing how very lax the laws in relation to the committing of children are in this City.

The late and lamented Superintendent Blake had several conferences with me on this matter, and in 1896 comprehended the necessity of bringing this matter before the proper authorities to amend the present and inefficient law relating to dependent children.

Our official records show that injustices are imposed upon the City by allowing this branch of Public Charities to be governed by a private Society, who are not held responsible for their errors in incurring expense.





William Blake,  
Superintendent.

Department of  
*Public Charities,*

*Out Door Poor Department,*

*66 Third Avenue,*

*New York,*

April 21, 1897.

(3)

This bill to become a law would incur very great expense in visitations to the homes of these children to investigate whether the recipients were worthy, etc.

This law as it stands would be unjust as well as unlawful to permit a private Society to act with the Comptroller in the distribution of the funds of the City.

The perusal and analysis received in this protest will suggest other specific topics of investigation and inquiry, which will lead to further information and visitation, if deemed needful to make this report exhaustive and complete.

I trust this will meet your hearty approval and support, and remain,

Very respectfully,

*Wm. Blake*

Visitor of Out Door Poor,

Department of Public Charities.



# Department of Correction.

Commissioner's Office.

148 East 20<sup>th</sup> Street,

New York,

April 21st, 1897.



Robert J. Wright,  
Commissioner.

Arthur Phillips,  
Secretary.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of New York City.

Dear Sir:

The "Evening News" states in its issue of this date, that "Mayor Strong is in receipt of a number of charges against Commissioner of Correction Robert J. Wright", &c.

Referring to the above, I desire to say that if such charges have been made, and if you believe them worthy of notice, I am ready at any time to have them investigated, believing that you will, after the strictest investigation, absolve me from any and all charges of "neglect of duty", "irregularities" and "nepotism".

Yours, very respectfully,

*Robert J. Wright*

Commissioner.



New York, April 18, 1897.

HONORABLE WILLIAM L. STRONG,

Mayor, City of New York.

The bill, (Senate No. 1278), which provides for the payment to mothers of certain moneys now given to various institutions for the care of children, having passed the Legislature by a unanimous vote, is now, pursuant to the constitution, before you, awaiting your approval.

In connection with the hearing you have ordered, and which, in view of the necessity of my attendance at the scene of my legislative duties, I shall not be enabled to attend, I ask your permission to give, in this way, some of the reasons which suggested the introduction of the bill, and an answer to some of the objections, which I anticipate may be made, to the giving it your approval.

The district which I represent in the State Senate is composed, principally, of people not blessed with an over-abundance of this world's goods, although hard-working and thoroughly industrious.

During my life which has been wholly spent among the people of the East Side of the City of New York, I have had opportunities of witnessing privation and distress, such as have fallen to the lot of few men in public life, and the nature of the duties I have been called upon to perform, gives what I shall say here, not a little authority.



Four of the busiest years of my life, were spent, as clerk of the Essex Market Police Court, and it was during this time that I received the first impressions, which since have become a conviction, that the existing system of dealing with poor children left without parents, and particularly bereft of fathers, was radically wrong. The almost daily procession of women, left widows without means and with several children, whom to support while giving them that care and home training so necessary to good citizenship was a physical impossibility, was a sight which might well engage the best and most serious thought of our time.

Under the present system, no remedy in such cases is suggested, except the commitment of the children to charitable institutions at the City's expense, and the consequent loss to the children of the home influence, which, it must be conceded is the best influence that could surround childhood. In this disposition of the case, is involved the loss of the love, and care and guardianship of a good mother, the depriving of brothers and sisters of the opportunity of knowing that love, which, naturally, they should have for one another. This affection is an impossibility without the influence of the home.

The bill before you seeks to keep children so circumstanced, under that influence, that thereby, there may be developed those qualities which will make of them worthy men and women.



Under existing laws, poverty would seem to be regarded as criminal, since a good mother left husbandless without means must suffer the severest penalties in being deprived of her children, to whom she is attached by the highest laws of God and nature.

This bill does not attack or antagonize charitable institutions, but it must be admitted that such institutions, no matter how well conducted, can never take the parents' place towards the child, nor foster and develop those home instincts--the affection for parent, brother and sister, which are the outgrowth of the home associations.

The bill is not mandatory, but recommendatory. It leaves to the wise discretion of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, the power to refuse the benefits of this act to all undeserving parents, and to withdraw those benefits from parents, whenever in its judgment, the child would be benefited by such action.

The bill, it must be remembered, is not retroactive. It does not affect the cases of children now in the care of such institutions, but provides for the better exercise of charity, and a greater exercise of justice, in the future.

The objections which probably will be made, are first, that of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children of which Mr. Gerry is President, and whom no one in this State respects more than I do, that the "power



sought to be conferred does not properly come within the corporate functions" of that Society, and second, the objection that it might be establishing a bad precedent, that of giving the money of the state to individuals.

To the first of these it may be stated, that this objection, or this suggestion of an objection does in no way affect the merits of the bill, and its real object.

These are the promotion of the welfare of children, and this I must insist is most decidedly a corporate function of the Society.

To the second objection, that of the doubtfulness of the wisdom of the payment of State moneys to individuals, that precedent has already been established, in the cases of the payment of public moneys to war vetrans, under provision of Chapter 261 of Laws of 1888, entitled "an act to provide for the relief of indigent soldiers, sailors and marines, and the familiar of those deceased, and the payments of public moneys to the indigent blind. The payment in both cases being made through the Department of Public Charities.

There is one other objection which may be made, and of which I hesitate to speak. It is the probable objection of those institutions which are now the recipients of public moneys for the care and maintenance of children, and who seek to maintain this system which is not entirely profitless.



Regarding this, I am sure that no consideration of selfish, financial reasons will induce the withholding your approval.

Surely no harm can be done by, at least giving it a trial. If during the ensuing months of this year, it should be found to be impracticable, it can at the next session of the Legislature, be repealed.

If the powers of the Society charged with its enforcement are not now sufficient, experience, that best test, will suggest their broadening.

The good the bill seeks to accomplish must commend itself to every one having truly at heart the welfare of the weak and unfortunate, and believing in the sancity of the home, and the far reaching effect such an influence must have on society and the State.

Very Respectfully  
John T. Ahearn

Senata Ahearn

174.

C





STATE OF NEW YORK.

STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT.

54 WILLIAM STREET, NEW YORK.

*31 Nassau Street*

POST OFFICE BOX 258.  
TELEPHONE 3269 CORTLANDT.

April 21, 1897

Hon. William L. Strong,  
Mayor's office, City.

Dear Mayor Strong,

Thank you for the patient hearing you gave this afternoon to those opposed to Senator Ahearn's bill providing for the placing out of children in New York City with their own mothers. I enclose copy of the brief which I read at the hearing, and which may contain suggestions for your consideration in formulating your action.

May I be allowed respectfully to suggest that if Your Honor does not approve of the bill it should be kept in your office until the very last moment allowed by the Statutes. The Legislature is in the hurry of adjournment which is set for Saturday, and will not probably consider the bill if not returned until Friday or Saturday.

Yours very truly,

*Wm. R. Stewart*

1 enclosure.

# Conference of Charities

OF

The City of New York.

(The Conference of Charities, composed of active workers from many societies, holds monthly meetings for the informal discussion of topics of present interest.)

CHAIRMAN, SELECTED FOR EACH MEETING.  
SECRETARY, MR. HOMER FOLKS,

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY:  
105 EAST 22D STREET.

New York, April 22nd, 1897. 189

Hon. William M. Strong,

Mayor of the City of New York.

My dear Sir:-

At the regular meeting of the Conference of Charities of the City of New York, held at 4 P.M., April 21st, 1897, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED: That the Conference of Charities of the City of New York expresses its strong disapproval of the bill introduced into the Legislature by Senator Ahearn and now in the hands of Mayor Strong, relating to the payment of money by the City to the parents of children committed by the Courts, and urges his Honor the Mayor, to veto it. We ask this action believing that the provisions of the bill, if it became a law, would tend to break down moral character and pauperize those whom it is the duty of the State to protect.

I beg to remain,

Yours very respectfully,

Homer Folks

Secretary.





Department of  
*Public Charities,*  
*Commissioners Office,*  
*66 Third Avenue,*  
*New York,*

*Elas C. Croft, President.*  
*John P. Faure, Commissioner.*  
*Jos. R. C. Beine, "*  
*H. G. Weaver, Secretary.*

April 22d, 1897.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor, New York.

Dear Sir:-

In consequence of very important Department matters I was unable to attend the hearing on the "Mother's Bill" yesterday, and referred the matter to Commissioner Faure.

Supplementary to what has already been said, I desire to say that I believe such a bill would be an incentive to pauperism, as many deserving and worthy mothers who have heretofore through their own efforts become self-supporting, would under the provisions of this bill at once apply for aid. In all large cities, and particularly in this City, much depends upon the various charitable and private societies. They are incorporated under the laws of the State of New York, after a very rigid investigation by the State Board of Charities, which is composed of citizens with the highest reputation, who exercise supervisory powers over them. Under the constitution and laws of these societies relief is given to destitute mothers.

It seems to me to be very unwise to give to these mothers the control and support of their children, inasmuch as the stipulated al-



lowance would be insufficient to rear them in such a way as to become desirable citizens. Many of these institutions and societies have during the last half-century reached a very high standard, as applied to moral, educational and physical benefits to children under their care.

This bill further gives to these private societies the power to act with the Comptroller, and this seems to me unwise, if not unconstitutional, for the following reasons:-

The Superintendent of the Out Door Poor connected with this Department has carefully recorded all applications for aid for children with the following results: In 1896 there were 22,800 applicants, of which the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children reported to the Courts in favor of over 17,000. In March of the same year, this Department organized a corps of Examiners of Dependent Children in Institutions, and these Examiners visited the homes of 11,384 children, and found 3,276 improper charges upon the City. These were returned to their respective homes, thus relieving the City of the expense for their care; and proving that the system inaugurated and under Departmental control, is the more effective.

I am, therefore, strongly of the opinion that the provisions of this bill would not be in the interest of the people it is desired to benefit, but would very largely increase the cost of their maintenance.

Yours very truly,

*366107*  
President.



New York, May 4th, 1897.

To the Hon. William L. Strong,  
Mayor of the City of New York.

Honored Sir;-

We respectfully present for your favorable consideration the following statistics of the Mount Sinai Hospital, covering a period of five years, from December 1st, 1891, to December 1st, 1896.

PATIENTS TREATED.

In 1892-----	3,159	
" 1893-----	3,225	
" 1894-----	3,065	
" 1895-----	3,211	
" 1896-----	3,106	Total 15,766

Average for each year 3,153

Number of patients treated in the Mount Sinai Hospital Dispensary.

In 1892-----	31,720	
" 1893-----	34,663	
" 1894-----	35,849	
" 1895-----	35,707	
" 1896-----	33,694	Total 171,633

Average for each year 34,326

In addition to above, there were treated on an average about 600 accident cases at the Hospital, and, for want of room, about 180 worthy cases at the homes of the patients during each year from 1892 to 1896 inclusive, which are not included in above statistics.

Number of Hospital cases refused for want of room.

In 1892-----	1,870	
" 1893-----	1,504	
" 1894-----	1,496	
" 1895-----	1,412	
" 1896-----	1,429	Total 7,711

Average for each year- 1,542

Percentage of patients occupying beds in the Hospital treated free of charge-

In 1892-----	88.6/100
" 1893-----	89.
" 1894-----	89.
" 1895-----	88.6/100
" 1896-----	86.1/100

Average for each year--- 88.26/100 per cent.



The statistics of the "Hospital Saturday and Sunday Association" show that our Institution has done more free work than any other Hospital in this City.

EXPENSES OF THE HOSPITAL.

In 1892----	\$114,275.36	
" 1893---	111,572.48	
" 1894----	118,034.35	
" 1895----	119,633.20	
" 1896----	120,837.10	Total-\$584,352.49

Average for each year\$116,870.50

Per Capita cost per patient per day.

In 1892-----	1.27 $\frac{3}{4}$	cts.	per	day
" 1893-----	1.22	"	"	"
" 1894-----	1.33 $\frac{3}{4}$	"	"	"
" 1895-----	1.26 $\frac{1}{8}$	"	"	"
" 1896-----	1.25 $\frac{5}{8}$	"	"	"

Average for each year.-- 1.27 cts. per capita per day

Towards this we ask for 40 cts. per day for each patient, or  $31\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of the actual cost.

Permit us in this connection to call your attention to the fact that this act previously passed, providing for other Hospitals and Medical Institutions, makes the following provisions-

For the Nursery and child's Hospital for Lying in patients  
\$5. per week or 71 cts. per day.

For the New York Polyclinic Medical School \$1.00 per day, not exceeding \$30,000. per annum.

For the New York Homeopathic College for patients occupying a bed in the Flower Hospital \$1.00 per day.

This act as now amended provides for "The Mount Sinai Hospital" for part of the cost of board, nursing and medical or surgical aid and attendance, 40 cents per day for each needy and charity patient who occupies a bed in the "Mount Sinai Hospital" and who receives such care, support and maintenance; such payments not to exceed in the aggregate thirty five thousand dollars per annum.

Our receipts from Annual Voluntary Contributors were-

In 1892-----	\$51,220
" 1893-----	49,975
" 1894-----	44,885
" 1895-----	58,510
" 1896-----	61,280

Average for each year- \$53,174



Our permanent fund results from accumulations derived from Bequests by Will and otherwise, which were invested in accordance with the wishes of the donors and testators. Our income from this fund was as follows-

In 1892-----	\$ 11,707.14
" 1893-----	12,084.47
" 1894-----	12,722.27
" 1895-----	13,211.54
" 1896-----	14,160.55

Average for each year---- \$ 12,777.19

All other sources for our income were and are uncertain and unreliable.

During the past thirty years from 1867 to 1897, we have expended for the support of the Hospital, over 65 per cent of all receipts from Perpetual and Life Beds, and from Legacies, Bequests and Donations.

The constantly increasing demand for the benefits of the Hospital in behalf of the sick poor in our City, compels us to make provision for a larger and more modern building, constructed in accordance with the present hygienic and sanitary standard and requirements. We cannot possibly increase our work in the present one. In 1873, when our building was constructed, it was laid out for 120 beds; since then we have added, so that we now have made provision for 225 patients. Through the stress and force of the conditions in which we were placed, we have accomplished this by tacking on wherever possible until we have used every foot of space available for this purpose.

The present Hospital Building is not modern in construction nor can suitable and proper accommodations be made for the departments considered necessary adjuncts for modern Hospital work.

Friends of our Institution have voluntarily pledged subscriptions amounting to over \$300,000. <sup>for a new Hospital</sup> which, together with our present assets, will enable us to erect a building equipped with 350 beds, which are actually required for the present demands made upon our Hospital.

These assurances, ample in our judgment for the erection



of the building, do not justify us in going on with this undertaking until we are certain that the support required for its maintenance is forthcoming and can be relied upon. The obtaining of this aid for such partial support, which we seek through the act now before you for your approval, will in no wise detract from the individual efforts of the Trustees to increase the income from private sources.

The application of the fund which we now have, for the building to be erected as we purpose doing, will deprive us of the annual income of about \$12,000. thereon, while at the sametime the expenses for the support of the greater number of patients in the new building will be largely increased.

Our Hospital has been in existence since 1852. Its character and work are well known to the citizens of New York and other communities. The prominent medical men connected with it, who are in charge of our patients, give assurance that it is conducted upon the basis of modern science with every consideration for the highest principles of humanity.

Our Hospital is non-sectarian; its doors are open for the admission of all classes without regard to race, color or creed; in fact no questions are asked, and no register is kept as to the religious denomination of applicants or patients.

It is for the reasons and facts set forth herein that we ask for the partial support so much needed for the conduct of our humane work, and that we respectfully urge your favorable consideration and approval of the amended act before you.

Very respectfully,

Isaac Wallach, President

Isaac Stern Vice President

Louis Stix	}	Directors
Max Nathan		
George Blumenthal		

Committee of "The Mount Sinai Hospital."





Department of  
*Public Charities,*  
*Commissioners Office,*  
*66 Third Avenue,*  
*New York,*

*Silas C. Croft, President.*  
*John P. Laure, Commissioner.*  
*Jas. R. O'Brien, "*  
*H. G. Weaver, Secretary.*

May 6th, 1897.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor, New York.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to the recent resolution of the Board of Aldermen providing a contingent fund of \$300.00 for this Department, now awaiting your approval, I desire to inform you of the reasons for this request.

Emergencies arise almost daily in which we require a certain amount of cash; for example, - purchase of railroad tickets, etc., for the transportation of state paupers and others transferred from this Department to state institutions, and other matters of like nature. As a case in point, during the present week some seventy odd dollars were required to pay for transportation upon a number of second-hand tents, which we were compelled to purchase and were obtained at a bargain from the Barnum & Bailey Circus Co., and were stored at Covington, Ky.; and this amount had to be advanced personally by someone in the Department.

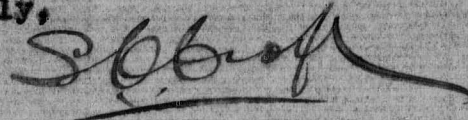
It has been the custom, heretofore, during the late Mr. Blake's administration of the Out Door Poor Department, to obtain these advances from him, and which since his death I have discovered were so made from



the excess of alimony money paid in and not required for immediate settlement. This system led to abuses which have resulted rather disastrously in our settling up of Mr. Blake's accounts; and we deem it better to have a contingent fund for this purpose, to be used pending the payment of accounts by the Comptroller when duly certified in the regular way, rather than to divert the money paid in from its proper or legitimate channels.

With this explanation, permit me to request your early and favorable action upon the resolution now before you.

Yours very truly,



President.



STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF NEW YORK.

SS.

James H. Frost, being duly sworn deposes and says I was printer in printing office in Penitentiary, from 13th July 1896 to October 8th, 1896.

I have heard John P. Dreyer swear and use vile filthy language regarding Mr. Coppins before the prisoners in printing office. When I was discharged John P. Dreyer took me to a saloon N.W. Cor. 7th Street & Ave A. and told me I could have anything to drink I wanted; treated me several times, and kept me there till morning and endeavored to get me to speak against Mr. Coppins.

I was in charge of the printing department for almost three months, and during that time I at the orders of John P. Dreyer, who is connected by the way with the Central Office, of the Department of Correction, situated at #146 East 20th. in the City of New York.

First: I received a copy of a Pool check, which read as follows, Gus Mohrs, Good for a 5c drink. These pool checks to be used as I found out later in a saloon situated at 7th, Street & Ave A. in the City of New York. I was ordered to print 500 and did so, using by the way stock which belonged to the Department of Correction.

Second: I also was ordered during my being in charge to print 100 Rules & Regulations of the Jefferson Yacht Club situated at Rockaway Beach Long L.I. and this time no material was furnished, so I had to use stock which belonged to the Department of Public Charities.

Third: And at the time ~~I was~~ I was ordered to print the names of all its members, numbering probably forty on card board, and no stock being furnished I had to use the stock of Department of Public Charities.

Fourth: Another order was given to me this time, it was to print 300 membership cards for the J. L.C. Pleasure Club, who are situated in Gus Mohrs, saloon at 7th Street & Ave A. no stock again being furnished I had to again use the stock of the Department of Public Charities. These are four cases where the irregularities are shown and only (one) branch of the institution.

In reference to the charge that Mr. Charles L. Coppins makes, they appear true as this said John P. Dreyer told me he had orders direct from Commissioner Wright, that he could visit the printing office at the Penitentiary without consulting the Deputy Warden, this is strictly against the rules of the prison, as no one but the Keepers, <sup>Warden</sup> Deputy Warden & Second <sup>Deputy</sup> Warden are allowed to enter the shops unaccompanied. The said <sup>Deputy</sup> John P. Dreyer also told me that Warden Louis Pilsbury, called Mr. Charles L. Coppins aside and lectured him because he interfered with the afore-mentioned John P. Dreyer.

Sworn to before me

this 29th, day of

April 1897.

*George B. Angles*  
*Notary Public*  
*N.Y. Co*

*James H. Frost*



STATE OF NEW YORK )

COUNTY OF NEW YORK. )

SS.

Charles R. Gleason being sworn deposes and says that he was appointed Deputy Warden of the Workhouse, Blackwell's Island February 19th 1896, after having passed the Civil Service examination qualifying him for such position; Lawrence Dumphy now deceased, then being Warden of said Workhouse.

Deponent testifies that since October 1896 when Warden E. F. Meade, the present incumbent of the Wardenship assumed what is alleged to be the active duties of the position, discipline has been ignored and was and still is lax in the extreme, rules & regulations have been persistently and flagrantly violated; the majority of the minor offices are filled by persons appointed by Commissioner Wright, not because ~~they~~ such persons were fitted for the duties of such positions but because they were either political, business, or family proteges of the Commissioner and that such persons are in the majority of cases incompetent or worse.

Deponent further asserts that there are abuses connected with the administration of affairs at the Workhouse for which Commissioner Wright and those immediately appointed by him are responsible, such abuses leading to a wilful misuse of the public money, the direct violation of law and the infringement of the rights and liberties of citizens. In proof whereof deponent gives the following illustrations which are but a few of many which he is prepared to give at the proper time and place.

Warden Meade was appointed May 29th 1896. But as intimated he continued to reside in his then home, which was at Chappaqua N.Y. until October of the same year, only taking up his residence on the Island at the last named date. The deponent in the interval administered the duties of the Warden. The office of second Deputy Warden was created by Commissioner Wright for one of his proteges whose name is Renold H. Morgan who was appointed April 1st. 1896. Mr. Morgan is about 64 years of age and, in the course of nature, is manifestly unfit for the severe duties of the position. As a matter of fact under Warden Meade the offices of the Workhouse are run by Clerks the majority of whom were formerly prisoners at the Workhouse and who

receive from \$5.00 to 12.<sup>00</sup> per month. It is the invariable rule for most of these men to go on a prolonged drunk after each pay day. Nevertheless the Commissioner through the medium of Warden Meade retains these men for political or other reasons in spite of the demoralizing effect which their example has upon the inmates of the Workhouse as a whole.

Deponent could cite several cases illustrative of the state of affairs but will only speak of two, one being a Robert Stevenson now clerk but formerly a prisoner, who was put in the dark-cell for being drunk and abusive but who was nevertheless retained in office, and a James Smith who while drunk used foul and abusive language to Warden Meade. Smith was subsequently by deponent's orders placed in a padded cell. He is still employed at the Workhouse however.

And deponent further avers that the treatment of female prisoners under the present regime calls for an immediate enquiry on the part of the authorities and for an explanation from Commissioner Wright. Mrs. Kate Card is the Matron of the Workhouse. She was appointed December 1896 by Commissioner Wright. Of deponent's own knowledge he knows of women prisoners having been placed in dark cells for trivial offences. The Workhouse rules call for the Warden's permission prior to prisoners being placed in dark cells. This rule has been persistently violated by Matron Card; furthermore in many instances prisoners who complained of being sick were punished for



failure to work on account of such sickness by being placed in the dark cell without the Workhouse physicians being consulted. This is a grave and direct violation of the law, and more than that this is as inhuman as it is unlawful. Deponent characterizes the use of the dark cell as unnecessary and tyrannous in many cases, but here again the lax nature of the discipline of the Workhouse is to blame. It will be remembered that Mrs. Lowell of the State Board of Charities recently wrote to Commissioner Wright in regard to this matter, the letter being forwarded by the Commissioner to the Warden.

Deponent could multiply instances of the utter lack of business methods which prevail at the Workhouse under Commissioner Wright and Warden Meade. For ~~an~~ example 66,000 feet of 1 1/4 inch white pine lumber which could not be used at the Workhouse within the next 15 years is now lying at the Workhouse dock, where it was delivered about a month ago. It is charged that second Deputy Warden Morgan is responsible for its delivery in as much as he should have ordered 5000. feet instead of 5000 pieces as he did. The blunder is characteristic of the general incompetence and carelessness which now exists at the present time.

Deponent further calls public attention to the number of escapes of prisoners which have taken place from the Workhouse since October last. The record is probably without parallel in the history of any prison institution of the country.

In regard to Manure delivered at Blackwell's Island for the Workhouse farms, deponent testifies that he has seen on scows laden with manure cards which bore the name "Kane & ~~Wright~~ Wright" and furthermore testifies that in the early part of the present year; during a conversation between him and Commissioner Wright, deponent told the Commissioner that manure was needed for use for the Workhouse farms. Whereupon

Commissioner Wright replied "I do not know about that, I have not yet been paid for the last lot"; conveying the impression to deponent that the manure alluded to had been sold by Commissioner Wright to the Workhouse, ~~enough~~. But in February a large quantity of manure was delivered to the Workhouse, enough for the needs of the farm for a year or more. This manure has been packed against the State Asylum Building, that been the only available place for its storage. In the the deponent's opinion the quantity delivered was entirely unnecessary. While manure was required for farm purposes there was no reason why a super abundance should have been sent to the Workhouse to rot, waste, and poison the atmosphere in the neighborhood of the State Asylum. During the time that deponent was in office Commissioner Wright visited the Workhouse only three times. Deponent further avers that the maintaining of second Deputy Warden Morgan is a direct violation of law on the part of Commissioner Wright, in as much as the abolishing by Commissioner Wright of the Deputy Wardenship until lately held by the deponent necessarily abolished the position of the second Deputy Wardenship. As further instancing demoralization of the Department controlled by Commissioner Wright ~~xxxHaxxxxx~~ deponent avers that M. D. Rowen detailed by Commissioner Wright as Hall-keeper at the Workhouse two months ago during the first two weeks of his holding office he discharged two prisoners by mistake and was rebuked and reprimanded by deponent for giving prison keys into the custody of prisoners. Warden Meade was notified of the occurrences but Rowen still holds his position. At the request of Commissioner Wright the boats belonging to the Island have been withdrawn from their public and actual services for the use of the Commissioner and his family. At the present moment the Workhouse is not a prison but a play house. The alleged second Deputy Warden does not visit the prison but leaves the conduct of affairs to his subordinates who act on the "Go as you please" plan. The enforced retirement of Warden Meade through his ill-health from the active duties of his position leaves the Workhouse without a head. The result is general demoral-



ization and a growth of evil which are the out come of the situation.

Deponent lastly states that in his opinion the Department of Corrections needs a thorough investigation at the hands of those who are authorized to pass upon its shortcomings.

Sworn to before me )

this 5th day of )

May 1897. )

*Charles R. Gleason*

*George B. Douglas*  
*Notary Public*  
*N.Y. Co*



GEORGE B. DOUGLAS

SAME FLOOR AND OPPOSITE  
STATE EXCISE BOARD OFFICES

1 MADISON AVENUE

NEW YORK, May 7th 1897.

Hon. W. L. Strong

Mayor of New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Affidavits relative to certain abuses which exist in the Department of Corrections already in your hands, such affidavits having been sent to you by me on April 5th. As your Honor has not as yet seen fit to order an investigation of Commissioner Wright and his methods on the strength of these affidavits, I have feared that your Honor's hands perhaps needed strengthening. In this belief I herewith forward you two other affidavits one of which - that of ex-Deputy Warden Gleason - should by reason of the unquestion<sup>ed</sup> integrity of its author receive the respect and attention that it deserves.

If you<sup>r</sup> Honor still thinks that the evidence so far presented is not sufficient to warrant an investigation, I shall be glad to be so notified in order to submit further testimony.

I am most respectfully yours,

*George B. Douglas*

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC CHARITIES.

INFANT'S HOSPITAL,

RANDALL'S ISLAND.

EDWARD KERSHNER, M. D.,  
Medical Chief of Staff.

NEW YORK.

May 8<sup>th</sup> 1897.

Hon Wm L Strong  
My Dear Mr Mayor  
Dear Sir

Having secured a position as Gate Keeper in Dept of Correction by passing a Civil Service Examination July 9<sup>th</sup> 1895 I was removed for cause Feb 15<sup>th</sup> 1896, reappointed March 1<sup>st</sup> 1896 and since that time have never to my knowledge have had any charges against me. On Jan 21<sup>st</sup> 1897 I was called in office of Penitentiary by Dept Warden Murtha and was handed a note



saying that John Callahan  
had been appointed in my  
place. I asked if there was  
any charges and was told  
no. I also went to the Com-  
missioners office and was  
told the same thing only  
that the Commissioners wanted  
to make some changes, after  
vainly trying to be re-instated  
I was told that Dept Warden  
Coppins who resigned Jan 15<sup>th</sup>  
97, had preferred charges against  
me but I have never had a  
chance to prove them false.  
I have written to Warden Pilsbury  
asking him to investigate them  
but cannot get a hearing. I  
therefore appeal to your Honor.

Respectfully yours  
Leonard J. Bush  
# 83 East 113<sup>th</sup> St

# Department of Correction.

Commissioner's Office.

148 East 20<sup>th</sup> Street,

New York, May 25th, 1897.



Robert J. Wright,  
Commissioner.

Arthur Phillips,  
Secretary.

Hon. William L. Strong,

Mayor of New York City.

Dear Sir:

I beg to enclose copy of report received from the Warden of the Penitentiary, to whom was referred your letter transmitting complaint of Leonard J. Bush, formerly a Keeper in this Department.

I would also state that Mr. Bush was a Keeper in the City Prison, and was dismissed from that position on account of having demanded and received ten dollars from a prisoner. At the earnest solicitation of his wife, who was in a delicate condition, and simply as an act of charity, I reinstated him and assigned him to duty at the Penitentiary. His record at the Penitentiary is set forth in the Warden's report.

Very respectfully,

*Robert J. Wright*  
Commissioner.



(Copy, from Books of Penitentiary. )

"MAY 16th, 1895. Keeper Bush left his revolver in Water Closet; found by Deputy Warden, and returned to Bush after a caution.

MAY 25th, 1895. Keeper Bush failed to report for duty at roll call; reported 8:15 a. m. overslept himself.

JULY 15th, 1895. Found Keeper Bush sitting down outside of Guard House on Middle Road; sent stool to prison and cautioned him against sitting down in future.

JULY 16th, 1895. Keeper Bush failed to report for duty at roll call; reported at 8.20 a. m., overslept himself.

Sept. 5th, 1895. Keeper Bush reprimanded by Warden for standing talking to a civilian for twenty minutes while on post at South end of Prison; in doing this he neglected his duty, allowing a prisoner to hold conversation with a female inmate of the City Hospital.

DEC. 31st, 1895. Keeper Bush excused by Deputy Warden Coppins for a few hours; returned so full of liquor that he was unable to do duty a. m. Jan. 1st; found him in bed at noon and ordered him to work after reprimanding him."

(Signed)

Louis D. Pilsbury,  
Warden.



( COPY. )

# Department of Correction.

Commissioner's Office.

148 East 20<sup>th</sup> Street,

New York,

May 25th, 1897.



Robert J. Wright,  
Commissioner.

Arthur Phillips,  
Secretary.

Leonard J. Bush, Esq.,

No. 83 East 113th St.,

New York City.

S i r :

Your letter to his Honor Mayor Strong having been referred to Commissioner Wright for attention, I beg to state that the Commissioner has this day forwarded to the Mayor a copy of your record while a Keeper at the Penitentiary, taken from the books of that institution, and has also stated the cause of your dismissal from the position of Keeper at the City Prison and the reason of your reinstatement in the Department.

Respectfully,

(Signed) Arthur Phillips,

Secretary.



x

x

x

x

(Copy).

New York 4" May 1897

Commissioner R. J. Wright.

Dear Sir:

I have been anxious that you may receive the appointment as Collector of the Port. so much so, that I wish I could further it, I have wandered could I help it, through 3 or 4 CongressMen I am well acquainted with, or by getting up a -- petition of Many business friends & forwarding it -- I would be pleased to do any thing to see you enstalled. You remember me -- who you one time in your private office promised to place me at once, in a Warden or Dep-Warden's place if I passed, I passed, & it seems there has been no vacancy since, except perhaps the Dept. Vacancy at the Prison now & should I fail in this Capacity I would feel more sure, you would place me as Day-Inspector of Customs -- the examination for which I have no doubt I passed at the examination of the 23d ult. at Brooklyn Post Office. Tell me what I can do in the Case. Yours &c

(Signed) Jas L O'Connor



The Hon. W. L. Strong,

Mayor of New York City.

New York 20<sup>th</sup> May 97

Sir:

Commissioner Wright, of the Department of Correction, informs me that it is his intention to appoint Colonel Middleton as Warden of the Workhouse, such position now being vacant through the recent death of Warden Meade. I respectfully, but not the less vigorously protest against this proposed action of the Commissioner on the following grounds:-

- I. Commissioner Wright had repeatedly promised me the Wardenship in question, pledging his word of honor to that effect.
- II. At the instance of Commissioner Wright, I, in October last entered the Civil Service examination for Warden. I passed successfully, obtaining 88 per cent. Middleton's first attempt to pass was a failure. Later he obtained a fraction over 70 per cent. Still later, and by means which I think call for your Honor's strict investigation, I am advised that Middleton's rating is now about 7/10 over mine.
- III. As late as the 8th inst., and the 11th inst., Commissioner Wright notified me that I was his choice for warden. On the 19th inst., he shamelessly repudiated, not only his pledge, but denied his past promises and affected to ignore the work that I had done on his behalf. (The affidavit which accompanies this letter, will tell the nature of that work in detail).
- IV. Commissioner Wright on the 19th inst., told me that on the 18th, he together with Your Honor, and Colonel Waring, had passed upon the Civil Service bill recently approved and signed by Governor Black, and that it had been determined by Your Honor, himself, and Colonel Waring, to ignore this law, and to continue making appointments under the old law. I therefore protest against the proposed appointment of Middleton, on the ground that such appointment would be a direct violation of law. At the same time, I beg leave to add that my recent experiences with Commissioner Wright suggest the unadvisability of attaching much weight to his statement that Your Honor is a party to a deliberate contempt of the laws of this State

Respectfully,

James O'Connor



-----  
State of New York " SS  
County of New York"  
-----

JAMES O'CONNOR being duly sworn deposes and says:

I reside at No 220 Waverly Place, New York City, and am a veteran of the late war, having enlisted at the first calling of President Lincoln for Volunteers. In April 1861 was wounded and honorably discharged in consequence of wounds, in October 1862. Later reinlisted, and served until the fall of 1865.

Deponent, who takes an active part in the G. A. R. affairs of this City, made the acquaintance of Commissioner Wright of the Department of Correction, in the spring of 1896, in connection with deponent's efforts to obtain employment for veterans in the department. Commissioner Wright during ensuing conversations with deponent, apparently came to the conclusion that deponent had a certain amount of influence in G.A.R. circles. He thereupon freely and spontaneously promised to appoint Deponent to the next vacant wardenship in the department of correction, adding to each promise many words expressive of his unbounded affection for veterans in general, and Deponent in particular.

At the instance of, and by the special request of the Commissioner, Deponent entered and successfully passed the Civil Service examination for Warden.

When Commissioner Wright began his canvas for the Collectorship of the Port of New York, the Commissioner urged Deponent to obtain the help and countenance of Grand Army men, and the endorsement of certain Congressmen. It was also arranged that the Deponent should go to Washington to lobby in the interest of the Commissioner, and that if the situation called for such, a Grand Army Memorial should be presented to the President.

During the time that Deponent was doing his best to secure the Collectorship for the Commissioner, the latter again and again informed Deponent that he, deponent, was slated for the next Wardenship.

And deponent avers that to the best of his belief, and in the light of



later events, that Commissioner Wright had no idea of so appointing him, Deponent, but was simply using him as a tool wherewith to capture the Collectorship.

SWORN TO BEFORE ME

THIS 20<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY? 1897.

*James O'Connor*

*Robert M. Gibbons*

*Not Public - N.Y. Co*

*W. L. G.*



# Department of Correction.

Commissioner's Office.

148 East 20<sup>th</sup> Street,

New York,

May 25th, 1897.



Robert J. Wright,  
Commissioner.

Arthur Phillips,  
Secretary.

Hon. W. L. Strong,  
Mayor of New York.

Dear Sir:

In answer to the charges made by Mr. James L. O'Connor in a letter to you, I beg to state as follows:

Mr. O'Connor says: "Commissioner Wright informs me that it is his intention to appoint Colonel Middleton as Warden of the Work House.

I positively and emphatically deny that I ever so informed Mr. O'Connor.

1. "Commissioner Wright had repeatedly promised me the Wardenship in question," (that of the Work House).

I deny positively that I ever promised to make Mr. O'Connor the Warden of the Work House, or the Warden of any other place in the Department.

2. "At the instance of Commissioner Wright, I, in October last entered the Civil Service examination for Warden."

I deny that I ever said any more on the subject of a



# Department of Correction.

Commissioner's Office.

148 East 20<sup>th</sup> Street,

New York,



Robert J. Wright,  
Commissioner.

Arthur Phillips,  
Secretary.

Civil Service Examination, to Mr. O'Connor, than I have said to dozens, perhaps hundreds of other applicants for the various positions in the Department, which perhaps was: "If you expect an appointment in any City Department, you will have to pass the Civil Service Examination"; or, "Well, you will have to be recommended by the C. S. Board, before I can do anything for you"; or, "You must come to me on the Civil Service Eligible List", or some words to that effect; -- my meaning in every case being the same, viz., that I could make no appointment unless the applicant stood among the first three on the List sent me by the Civil Service Board.

3. "As late as the 8th inst., and the 11th inst., Commissioner Wright notified me that I was his choice for Warden"

This statement is absolutely false. If by "notified" Mr. O'Connor means notified in writing, let him produce such writing.

4. \* \* \* "that it had been determined by your Honor, himself, and Colonel Waring, to ignor "(so written) "this law"



# Department of Correction.

Commissioner's Office.

148 East 20<sup>th</sup> Street,

New York,



Robert J. Wright,  
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Arthur Phillips,  
Secretary.

The grain of truth in the last paragraph is that I did say to Mr. O'Connor that I did not know exactly in what position the City Departments stood, under the new Civil Service Law, in regard to appointments; that I had just seen in the papers that the Counsel to the Corporation and Commissioner Waring had decided to allow the Civil Service Board to examine applicants for them, for the present. Mr. O'Connor then said: "You mean to ignore the Law then?" I replied, "I don't know about that!"

Leaving the letter, and turning to the affidavit, I see that he uses the phrase, "many words expressive of his" (my) "unbounded affection for veterans in general"-- This portion of the phrase is very probably true, as I have often expressed myself as being desirous of showing my appreciation of those who fought and bled for the Union.

The affidavit continues: "It was also arranged that Deponent should go to Washington to lobby in the interests", &c.

Totally untrue. No arrangement has ever been made by



# Department of Correction.

Commissioner's Office.

148 East 20<sup>th</sup> Street,

New York,



Robert J. Wright,  
Commissioner.

Arthur Phillips,  
Secretary.

me with Mr. O'Connor .

In this connection, I enclose copy of a letter received from Mr. O'Connor. I answered this letter, as I have answered many others, thanking him for the interest expressed, and saying that I would appreciate anything he could do for me. Mr. O'Connor feels it necessary to say in this letter "You remember me"-- Now the fact is, that so slightly did I remember him that, I, when answering the letter was mistaking him for some one else, a gentleman with a somewhat similar name, who was also a caller at the office.

Yours very respectfully,

*Robert J. Wright*  
Commissioner.



PRESIDENT:  
Rear Admiral HENRY ERBEN, U. S. Navy.  
VICE-PRESIDENT:  
Commodore J. PIERPONT MORGAN, N. Y. Y. C.  
TREASURER:  
EDWARD J. BERWIND.  
SECRETARY:  
Lieut-Com. ARTHUR P. NAZRO, U. S. Navy.  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:  
Captain FRANCIS J. HIGGINSON, U. S. Navy.  
EUGENE G. BLACKFORD.  
S. NICHOLSON KANE.  
COUNSEL:  
GEORGE EDWARD KENT.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE SAILOR'S REST

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK,

Navy Yard. New York, May 29 1897

*At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Sailors' Rest, held in the Chamber of Commerce, May 27, 1897; the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:*

RESOLVED, that the Members of this Executive Committee and the Members of the Board of Trustees be requested, and are hereby authorized to solicit and receive subscriptions to the fund for purchasing site or sites and erecting a suitable building for the proposed Sailors' Rest.

RESOLVED, that the serving of alcoholic drinks on the premises of the Sailors' Rest be absolutely prohibited.

*Respectfully,*

*A. P. Nazro,*  
*Secretary.*

*Honorable*

*Wm L Shaug*

*Mayor of the City of New York*



Department of  
*Public Charities,*  
*Commissioners Office,*  
*66 Third Avenue,*  
*New York,*

*Silas C. Croft, President.*  
*John P. Faure, Commissioner.*  
*Jos. R. O'Brien,*  
*H. G. Weaver, Secretary.*

June 1st, 1897.

Dear Mr. Mayor:-

The friends of the Honorable Harvey T. Andrews, have arranged to give an informal dinner on Monday evening next, - June 7th, - and at the same time present him with a testimonial expressing their regard for him. The Committee of Arrangements has already extended to you an invitation, and it has requested me to supplement the same, and I do so with much pleasure. It would be very gratifying to our people if you could make it convenient to be with us on this occasion, and a source of great gratification to me personally.

I venture to express the hope that you may be able to so arrange your engagements that you may come, even though it be for a short time.

Yours very truly,

*Silas C. Croft*

To,

The Honorable Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor, New York City.



# The National Conference of Charities and Correction.

TWENTY-FOURTH CONFERENCE AT TORONTO, JULY 7-14, 1897.

President, ALEXANDER JOHNSON, Ft. Wayne.  
Treasurer, LEVI L. BARBOUR, Detroit.  
General Secretary, H. H. HART, St. Paul.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY.  
STATE CAPITOL, ST. PAUL, MINN.

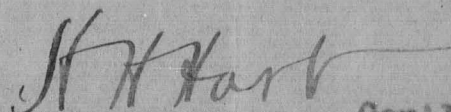
JUNE 2-1897.

TO THE MAYOR:-

You are requested to appoint delegates to represent your city in the National Conference of Charities and Correction, which will hold its annual meeting at Toronto, Ont., July 7 to 14. The Conference will discuss the problems of public charities, hospitals, almshouses, poor relief, charity organization, etc., and the leading cities of the United States, Canada and Mexico will be represented. At the Grand Rapids meeting in 1894, about five hundred delegates were in attendance.

Public officers, superintendents of the poor, trustees and officers of hospitals, asylums, or charitable societies, or other citizens interested in these lines of work, will make suitable delegates. Please appoint two or more delegates to represent your city and send me their names, in order that I may furnish them information with reference to the meeting.

Yours respectfully,



Gen'l Sec'y.

St. Saviour's Sanitarium.

P. O. STATION 5, NEW YORK CITY.

June 10<sup>th</sup>, 1897.  
To his Honor  
The Mayor.  
Dear Sir,

The Sister Mary in-  
structs me to reply - in her stead.  
to your inquiries in regard to  
Rose Adams. She is here, and has  
been here for two years; having  
been committed at the request  
of her mother, Mrs. Adams. At  
first the girl was wilful; but  
latterly she has greatly improved,  
and is trying to do her best.

There is here observed a  
regular system of marking for



good conduct, etc. The girls all fully understand the way in which this record is kept; and also know just how many marks entitle one to a discharge. If Rose keeps on in the satisfactory manner in which she is now progressing, she will earn her discharge in December.

You will, therefore, see, at once, how demoralizing an effect it would be likely to have upon the other inmates, if one girl is allowed to go when her record has not reached the required standard, unless she went for some very grave cause.

As soon as Rose has attained her standard,  
The Sister will immediately discharge her. Trust-  
ing that you will see the force of this explanation.  
Of the Sister's decision, I am

Yours truly

Mary Morgan

Sister Mary  
Sup. St. of M.



David D. Foal, M. D.

OFFICE:

151 Avenue B, bet. 9th & 10th Streets.

Opp. Tompkins Square,

New York, June 14<sup>th</sup> 1897

This is to certify that I have known Thomas Daly for past 30 years and know that while in the discharge of his duty Apr. 24<sup>th</sup> 1893 fell 5 stories and received fracture of shoulder & ribs and is disabled for life,

During my intimate acquaintance of him for 30 years he never drank any kind of intoxicating liquors. He is a Very Honest Truthful Man and in my opinion deserves consideration.

Very Resp.

David D Foal M.D.

The Bank of New York, N. B. A.  
48 Wall Street.

New York June 15 1897.

Hon W L Strong Mayor of the City  
of New York

Dear Sir

At the request of one of his relatives who  
is in our employ I write you in behalf of  
Thos Daly a keeper in the Penitentiary on  
Blackwells Island who has been recently  
discharged on account of the escape of two  
prisoners.

From the facts as shown in his  
affidavit he has been many years in the employ  
of the <sup>City</sup> has been a faithful servant is a sober  
man & of a respectable family.

It not seem that the public service would  
suffer by his re-instatement

Yours very respectfully  
R R Ferris



State of New York ,:  
:ss.  
City and County of New York.:

THOMAS DALY being duly sworn, deposes and says as follows:- I am a Tinsmith and Ironworker by trade and reside at 158 East 26th Street, New York City. Since September 3, 1882 I have been employed by the City of New York as Keeper and Tinsmith at its Penitentiary on Blackwell's Island except from February 9th to June 22, 1896 when I was assigned to duty at the Tombs in New York City. Since June 22, 1896 I have had charge of the Tinshop at the Penitentiary on Blackwell's Island and on the tenth of this month with Keepers Dolan and Bock took 70 men there to work. When it was time to stop for dinner we formed the men in double line at 11.35 and we three counted them, finding 68 men, two having gone to the Dormitory. I also counted them again just before they marched out and found the count correct and then we marched them to dinner and while at dinner two men were found missing. The rules required me to count the men again on arriving at the parade ground, and my failure to do so has caused my suspension. I respectfully ask for reinstatement on account of this being the first charge of any kind ever brought against me during the nearly 15 years I have been in the City's employ. I never lost an hour's duty except when laid up in a Hospital and at home in 1893 by a fall from a scaffold at the Penitentiary, caused by a prisoner's slacking a rope without my knowledge, fracturing my shoulder and ribs and disabling me for



life, as shown by Doctor Toal's certificate hereto annexed.

I have not used intoxicating liquor for more than 25 years.

Subscribed and sworn to before

me June 15th, 1897.

*Joseph B. Braman*  
Notary Public

City and County of New York

120 Broadway, N. Y.

*Thomas Daly*



The undersigned having read the foregoing affidavit, respectfully ask for the reinstatement of the affiant.

*J. F. Wilson, Supr Engr*  
120 Broadway - City

*Thos Cleary 120 Broadway City*

*John R. Pope 224 East 25 St.*



Affidavit of Thomas Daly and  
Petition for his reinstatement  
as Keeper and Tinsmith  
at the Penetentiary on  
Blackwell's Island .

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*Silas C. Croft, President.*  
*John P. Faure, Commissioner.*  
*Geo. R. O'Brien, "*  
*H. G. Weaver, Secretary.*

*Department of*  
*Public Charities,*  
*Commissioners Office,*  
*66 Third Avenue,*  
*New York,*

June 18th, 1897.

Dear Mr. Mayor:-

Some months ago I left for your perusal a number of papers and correspondence in the matter of proposed reorganization of the Medical Board of Bellevue Hospital. As some of them are official papers and properly belong on the files of the Department, I would be glad, if you can conveniently do so, to have them returned to me at as early a date as you may find convenient; or if you will notify me when ready, I will send for them and save you the trouble.

Yours very truly,

*S. C. Croft*

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor, New York City.





Department of  
*Public Charities,*  
 Commissioners Office,  
 66 Third Avenue,  
 New York,

Silas C. Croft, President.  
 John B. Faure, Commissioner.  
 Jas. R. O'Brien, "  
 H. G. Weaver, Secretary.

June 22d, 1897.

Hon. Wm. L. Strong,

Mayor, New York.

Dear Sir:-

In the Harlem Hospital site matter awaiting the action of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, permit me to say that we shall be ready to appear before that Board on Thursday, or any other day thereafter for which you may set to call it. I would be pleased to know a day or so in advance of the call in order to be able to notify a few influential gentlemen who have consented to appear in favor of the acquisition of the particular site named by this Board.

Yours very truly,

President.



FREDERICK E. BAUER,  
~~William B. Bauer~~  
 Superintendent.

Department of  
*Public Charities,*  
*Out Door Poor Department,*  
 66 Third Avenue,  
*New York,*

June 30 1897.

Hon. William L. Strong

Mayer. New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of 28th inst. relative to the case of Morris Banetter, of 75 Suffolk St., has been attended to with the following result: That he declines all aid with the exception that work be secured him. Of course this Department is unable to do this but if Your Honor can in any possible way secure him a position in the Street Cleaning Department I think it would be about what the man desires and would assist him very materially, as we find they are a worthy family.

Trusting this will meet with your favor, I remain,

Yours respectfully

*F. E. Bauer*

*Supt ODP*