

Philadelphia Association
for the
Protection of Colored
Women



Report of Fourth Year's Work
1908

The Philadelphia Association

FOR THE

Protection of Colored Women

The protection of Southern colored women who come each year to our Northern cities looking for work was begun in 1905, in New York and Philadelphia, where local associations were organized. A study was made of the conditions on board of boats, on the docks and at the stations, and the first step made was to place matrons at the docks to meet and direct the girls to safe lodgings and employment. It was found very soon, however, that this was not enough. Many girls who left the South did not come by boat, some were induced to leave trains before arrival, and others were totally unfitted for life in Northern cities. Both preventative and protective work was needed further South, and, in order to meet this need, the National League was organized. It is composed of representatives from the local associations and those interested in giving Southern women a fair industrial opportunity in the North.

Its object are four:

1. To organize and assist in supporting and directing the work of local associations at the important centers from which colored women migrate and to which they come.
2. To provide a system of protection along uniform lines which will render impossible, or at least largely negative, many of the methods of exploration during the journey and at ports of arrival.
3. To study the conditions which influence the moral and industrial opportunity of Southern Colored Women seeking to become wage earners in Northern cities.
4. To educate women intending to leave the South upon such matters as industrial conditions, wages, opportunities, surroundings, competition, etc., which they must meet in Northern cities.

Secretary's Report

Formerly any reference to the Negro problem with suggestions for methods of its solution the scene of such working out was considered to be almost entirely in the South. The situation is now changing. Negroes are coming North more rapidly than many people realize. Large cities like Philadelphia, have big Negro populations. Philadelphia has now a Negro population of 80,000, within themselves a larger population than the mixed population of many important Southern cities. There are reasons for this immigration; employment agencies and other influences offer big inducements to this class, who come North often by having industrial opportunities here misrepresented. Many of these negroes bring North with them the same general conditions that need correction through education and industrial training in the South—thus they are unfitted to meet the big city conditions and the serious competition of the industrial classes. Because of these conditions many are ensnared, demoralized and become a public charge, who otherwise, if advised and guided upon their arrival, would become industrious and useful, filling the many demands for good domestic service and other kinds of labor. Therefore, the problem of the negro (as well as that of the European immigrant) is very complex and should have the consideration of the best people and best institutions devoted to civic and moral improvement.

The work espoused by the Philadelphia Association for the Protection of Colored Women is along lines indicated. This Association has found that bad employment agencies have operated through organized methods to import Southern colored women to Philadelphia and exploit them for immoral purposes. The Association has accomplished much toward correcting these evils by meeting immigrants upon their arrival and finding them employment, and through training classes and clubs has helped them become self-supporting, self-reliant and useful members of the community. We can with pride say that conditions on the river front are much improved. Because of our vigilance river sharks and disreputable men have not so free a field of operation. In this and other phases of our work we have the hearty co-operation of the Police Department of the city.

Mrs. H. F. Lanning, our dock worker, daily meets the boats at the Ericsson Line (Baltimore Boat Company) and the Merchants' and Miners' Line (Charleston and Georgia Boats) bringing passengers from the Southern States. The courtesy of the boat companies is yet accorded to our worker. Following is a report of the total number of persons met during the year:

Virginia	458
Maryland	368
West Virginia	213
New Jersey	47
South Carolina	46
Pennsylvania	60
Delaware	59
Georgia	55
North Carolina	45
Total	1351

With the 35 cases reported by Mrs. Prudence Penn makes a total of 1386.

This shows an increase of 494 cases over that of last year. In the 1351 cases under our direction there were five (5) maternity cases. We report also from this number two (2) deaths and the marriage of two (2) of our girls.

The following from the report of the Philadelphia Research and Protective Association will throw some light on the employment agency situation:

EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

"The law for the licensing and regulation of employment agencies, which was framed by this association, has now been in effect one year. We feel that our efforts to obtain this law have been justified by the results which we have already seen. The proper enforcement of such a law is a long tedious struggle, but in one year there is a marked improvement in the tone and business methods of many agencies, and some of the worst ones have been forced out of business entirely. At present there are ninety-three licensed agencies in the city, and so far as business details and office regulations they are all apparently conforming to the law.

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"Through the courtesy of the Department of Public Safety we have been enabled to keep in close touch with all the efforts of that department to enforce the new law. We wish to take this opportunity to thank the department for this courtesy, and for the help and assistance which its officials have rendered us on several occasions."

AUXILIARY TO ASSOCIATION.

The Auxiliary continues as a helper to the work of the Association. Its special work is devoted to the securing of the co-operation of the colored people through the Churches. The Social Worker Department (reported last year) is represented by Mrs. Prudence Penn, ex-President of the Auxiliary, who reports 35 cases where helpful work was done among unfortunate women visited in the various maternity hospitals of the city. Some of these were restored to their homes and families, and employment secured for others. In no case have we consented to the separation of mother and child. All of these young women might have otherwise drifted to the bad districts and become criminal had it not been for the faithful work and advice of Mrs. Penn. We hope the Auxiliary will continue this important phase of work this year.

WORKING GIRLS CLUB.

This Club has been benefited by the Course of Talks delivered by interested friends to the girls of the Home during the past year. These talks have been practical and instructive, the girls have shown interest and appreciation by coming and bringing their friends. Another course has been outlined for this year. Miss Annie Water, President of the Club, and Miss Maggie Smith, Vice President, have shown much zeal in promoting the interest of the club as well as of the Auxiliary.

Perhaps the most serious difficulties in the city we have to counteract are the kinds of amusement and recreation afforded colored working girls. The most popular and attractive kinds are the dance halls and "amusement parlors." These places are generally frequented by a very bad class of men who are allied with institutions that seek the demoralization of colored girls. We must remember that servant girls need diversion and will seek it just as other people, and we seek through our Club and classes to meet these needs as best we can. We most cordially invite our friends to visit our Home on Thursday evenings and see what we are doing, and perhaps someone will become interested to help us conduct better classes and equip our Home so that we may accomplish larger things in another year.

OUR IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Our immediate needs are many and pressing, while the demands upon us for help and the extension of our work are more. Hundreds of colored girls needs the protection, advice and training for domestic service we could give them if we were financially able to do so. Then we could take in the many we meet and who apply to our Home, instead of turing them away. We need more workers; we need a larger and better equipped Home with a well-fitted kitchen to teach practical and fancy cooking; we need other things to teach table waiting properly; we need a laundry to teach the girls to do laundering and to do laundry work, which would help with the expenses of the institution. We need a larger classroom to be used for the sewing classes and where the girls should be taught to mend, remodel and make their own clothes. We also need a "recreation room" to afford attractive diversion to counteract the dance halls and other unsafe places of amusement afforded colored girls on the outside. We earnestly hope that some friends may be found who will respond to this great appeal. Where do the hundreds of colored girls go who we cannot care for and what becomes of them? We do not know and fear to suggest. Who is responsible for their failures? I leave you to think. Will you help us to reach those who need our help? Despite the financial depression of the past year, we have been encouraged by the contributions that have come to us. The Home has against it a Mortgage, which is a great burden to the Association, and we hope to find friends who will be willing to remove it as soon as possible. As at present conducted the monthly operations of the Association cost about \$125.00. We thank the friends who have responded to our appeals and hope that you will continue to support this worthy charity and more liberally if you can. I wish to thank friends who have sent to our office advice and helpful suggestions and we ask that this may continue.

S. W. LAYTEN, Secretary.

REPORT OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Owing to the absence of our Chairman this winter and the few brief visits paid to the Home by members of the House Committee our report must be very inadequate.

The Home is meeting a very necessary need in this city, giving shelter and protection as well as advice and a good moral influence to young colored girls coming here without friends or family. Through our agent at the piers many are saved from wrong-doing and kept from being led to houses where they would not go if they but knew what reputation they bore.

The Home is kept filled all the time, often cots being put up in the parlor rather than turn anyone from its doors. More room is needed to comfortably house these people. We also greatly need a good place for the girls to store their trunks, when they go out to service. If the trunks can be taken care of the girls come back to the Home and we can keep up an interest in them and their welfare. We now have 30 trunks left in our care.

Through the efforts of the Matron money was raised to paper the halls and paint the stairway. The floors are badly in need of paint, and much of the house needs repair.

We have had 108 applications for help. Over 200 visitors have come to the Home and we have given out 105 articles of clothing.

The Dressmaking Class is in charge of Miss Carrie G. Cline. The girls are fond of singing and their love for music is encouraged, and under the direction of Miss Lillie Capps. We thank a friend from Massachusetts who kindly sent us a number of books for this class, which are greatly appreciated by the girls. To this same friend we are indebted for several pairs of curtains for the Home.

This year we are in need of teachers for waiting and cooking, but cannot employ anyone. We are hoping some kind friends may volunteer at once to teach these classes.

The evening talks to the girls are continued and well attended. Sunday afternoon classes for the study of the Bible are under Dr. S. G. Miller and Miss Louise Herndon, of the Baptist Training School, assisted by Miss May Lind.

A neat little sum was realized from a rummage sale given last spring for the Home. We wish to thank the friends who contributed so generously the articles for this sale.

If we could only build a trunk room and put the house in repair those coming there would very soon be able to take care of it, and I am sure with their help it would become self-supporting.

The Matron, Mrs. Julia A. Piney, has worked faithfully and well.

The Emergency Committee, of which Miss Maggie Smith is chair-lady, still continues and has been helpful in securing coal and adding many comforts to the Home. On behalf of the Committee,

MARY C. G. FOX.

TREASURER'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Association
for the Protection of Colored Women

RECEIPTS

From January 1st, 1908 to March 5th, 1908

Balance received from John N. Frazier, former Treasurer	\$539 52
Subscriptions and Donations.....	483 02
Income from Home.....	16.77
From National Association toward their share of Office Rent.....	40.26
Return from Telephone Bill (overcharge).....	2 51
	\$1082.08

Signed, JOHN T. EMLLEN, *Treasurer pro tem*

* Part of Report submitted by Treasurer and published March 5th, 1908, used to show Total Receipts for 1908.

Report from March 5th, 1908 to May 20th, 1908
of JOHN T. EMLLEN, Treasurer Pro tem

RECEIPTS

Balance on Hand, Mar. 5th, '08	\$ 62.14
Subscriptions and Donations	104.25
Income from Home	23.15
Debate at Union Baptist Church	20.62
Tuesday Missionary Bible Class	40.00
Orchestra Concert	38.77
Public Meetings	6.35
Rummage Sale	14.16
	\$309.44
TOTAL	\$309.44

EXPENDITURES

Incidentals	\$ 33.16
Salaries	100.00
Printing	38.00
Office Rent	41.68
Interest on Mortgage	45.00
H. Gerdau, Aud'r.	15.00
Rummage Sale	4.00
Bell Telephone	5.57
Balance on Hand, May 20th, '08	27.03
	\$309.44
TOTAL	\$309.44

*To the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia Association
for the Protection of Colored Women:*

Your Treasurer submits the following report from May 20th, to
December 31st, 1908.

RECEIPTS

Balance from John T. Emlen, former Treasurer pro tem	\$ 27.03
Contribution, from Individuals, Churches, etc.	455.70
From the Home.	53.75
“ National Association.	93.78
“ Teavillers Aid.	35.00
“ Loans	350.00
	\$1015 26
Balance27

DISBURSEMENTS

On the Home, 1506 Catharine St.	
For Insurance.	\$ 36.00
“ Water Rent.	11.00
“ Taxes	63.00
“ Interest.	106 00
“ Salaries.	483.00
Phone.	44.90
Incidentals, including Stationary, Postage and Printing.	83.03
Office Rent.	187.56
	\$1014.99

E. B. Palmer, Treasurer

GEO. H. WHITE }
WM. F. SILKNITTER } Auditors

TOTAL RECEIVED IN 1908

From January 1st, to March 5th,	\$1082.08
“ March 5th, to May 20th,	309.44
“ May 20th, to December 31st,	1015.26
	\$2406.78

Total amount received by the Association, from the Auxiliary from March 10th, 1908 to March 10th, 1909—\$44.66

E. B. Palmer, Treasurer

Contributors

Mrs. Finley Acker
 Miss Maud Adams
 Miss Sarah G. Allen
 Anonymous
 Miss Maria Blanchard
 Miss Josephine Brazier
 Mr. George Burnham, Jr.
 Miss Mary A. Burnham
 Mrs. Margaret Brown
 Mr. S. J. M. Brock
 Miss Bertha Black
 Gen. H. H. Bingham
 Miss J. S. Cox
 Mr. John H. Converse
 Mrs. Levi Cromwell
 Mrs. Cyrus Curtis
 Mr. Henry C. Cook
 Mrs. S. W. Colton
 Miss K. Cattell
 Miss Cole's Bible Class
 Miss Emma Donahugh
 Mrs. Edmund deSchweinitz
 Rev. Simon P. Drew
 Mr. Israel W. Durham
 Mr. John T. Emlen
 Mr. W. W. Frazier
 A Friends
 Mrs. Charles Y. Fox
 A Friend
 Miss Hannah Fox
 Mrs. John Gribbel
 Mrs. W. F. Hamilton
 Miss Edna Hogg
 Misses Hallowell
 Mrs. H. M. Housekeeper
 Mrs. H. H. Houston
 Mr. Jerry Henry
 Mrs. John Hall
 Dr. T. C. Imes
 Mrs. William F. Jenks
 Miss Dora Keen
 Mr. Edward Kirk
 Miss M. Lewis
 Mr. Josiah Leeds
 Mrs. E. B. Leaf
 Mrs. Enoch Lewis
 Rev. John W. Lee
 Mr. Theo. Morris
 Mr. S. Roland Morga.
 Mr. Elliston P. Morris
 Mrs. L. C. Madeira
 Mr. R. W. Meirs
 Mr. Wm. J. Milburn
 Rt. Rev. Alex. Mackay Smith
 Mr. George L. Morris
 (?) Mr. J. M. Morris
 Miss Elizabeth Norris
 Mrs. Rollin Norris
 Mr. Timothy O'Leary
 Mr. Clement B. Penrose

Miss M. W. Paul
 The Phila. Orchestra
 Mrs. Prudence Penn
 Miss F. Rosengarten
 Miss Margaret Riley
 Mrs. John B. Roberts
 Dr. I. N. Randal
 Mrs. Evan Randolph
 Mrs. J. R. Riddick
 Mrs. John Riley
 Mrs. Wm. Simpson, Jr.
 Mrs. E. L. Saunders
 Mrs. H. W. Sellers
 Miss Mary Simms
 Strawbridge & Clothier
 Mrs. Rosa Thompson
 Mr. Geo. C. Thomas
 Mrs. Geo. C. Thomas
 Travellers' Aid Society
 Mr. W. S. Vare
 Mr. Alex. VanRensselaer
 Mrs. Waters
 Mrs. Juliet Walker
 Mr. Wm. Washington
 Miss Annie Waters

Donations

A Friend-Book Contribution
 Blum Bros.
 Wanamaker's
 Lit Brothers
 Miss Margaret Riley
 " K. Curtis
 " M. Cottman
 " Annie Waters
 " Maggie Smith
 " Lucy Thompson
 " H. Morris
 " K. G. Cattell
 " A. Johnson
 " S. P. Winslow
 Mrs. Mary Obdyke
 (Typewriting)
 " Blanche Jones
 " Prudence Penn
 " J. H. Miller
 " K. Adams
 " E. B. Leaf
 " Goodwin
 " A. Sampson
 " C. Williams
 " A. Stokes
 Mr. Jacob Williams
 " Mayer
 " Harry John
 Needle Work Guild of
 America

Churches

Shiloh Baptist Church
 Richmond St. Bapt. Church
 Calvary M. E. Church

New England Baptist
 Convention
 Jenkintown Baptist Church
 1st African Preby. Church
 Church of the Crucifixion

Auxiliary to Association

Mrs. John Hall
 " Mary Haines
 " Malinda Thornton
 " Jerone Schencks
 " Prudence Penn
 " Sallie Brown
 " Ella Jones
 " Birdie Smith
 " S. Prior
 " M. Waters
 " M. McCard
 Miss Clara Boyce
 " C. M. Robinson
 " Annie Waters
 " Maggie Smith
 " Mary Davis
 " Lucy Lawrence
 " Pearl Lawrence
 " Ethel Lawrence
 " Sarah Cross
 " Lulu Wade
 Mrs. C. Hornberger
 " T. H. Cuff
 " Ella Pleasant
 " Bertha Turpin
 Mrs. Annie Stokes
 " Cordelia Williams
 " Annie Moore
 " Elizabeth Posey
 " Josephine Showell
 " Lucas Irvin
 " G. Edward Dickerson
 " Bertha Saunders
 " C. W. Jones
 " Mary Reed
 " L. Saunders
 " Ellen Wade
 " Heath
 " Margeret Cluff
 " Jessie Draper
 " Henry L. Cook
 " C. W. Jones
 " M. Saunders
 " J. Showell
 " M. Jones
 " Angelina Williams
 " Mary J. Williams
 " Morton Winston
 " A. T. Boyer
 " Mary Evans
 " Margeret Mays
 " Walter Wright
 " Ella Ringgold
 " B. T. Tanner
 " Stanton

Officers of the Association

President—Rev. Henry L. Phillips, D. D.

First Vice President—Rev. E. W. Moore, D. D.

Second Vice President—R. J. Abele, M. D.

Treasurer—Rev. E. B. Palmer, D. D.

Secretary—Mrs. S. W. Layten

General Director—Miss Frances A. Kellor

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Dr. Talcott Williams

Mrs. James H. Williams

Mr. George H. White

Mrs. S. W. Layten, Secretary, 1038 Real Estate Trust Building

Mrs. Helen F. Lanning, Assistant Agent, 1506 Catharine Street

Mrs. Julia A. Piney, Matron, 1506 Catharine Street

Miss Carrie G. Cline, Instructor in Dressmaking and Sewing

Officers of the Auxiliary

President—Mrs. Prudence Penn

Vice President—Miss Maggie Smith

Secretary—Miss Sadie Armstrong

Treasurer—Miss Annie Waters

Working Woman's Club

President—Miss Annie Waters

Vice President—Miss Maggie Smith

Secretary—Miss Myra Owens

Office of the Association—1038 Real Estate Trust Building

