

An account of the Foundling Hospital, in London, for the maintenance and education of exposed and deserted young children / [Sir Thomas Bernard].

Contributors

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Bernard, Thomas



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AN
ACCOUNT
OF THE
FOUNDLING HOSPITAL
IN
LONDON,
FOR THE
MAINTENANCE AND EDUCATION
OF
EXPOSED AND DESERTED
YOUNG CHILDREN.
THE SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR THE HOSPITAL,
BY THOMAS JONES,
CLIFFORD'S-INN-GATE, FETTER-LANE,

M.DCC.XCIX.

TO THOSE GOVERNORS OF
THE FOUNDLING HOSPITAL,
BY WHOSE SUCCESSFUL AND PERSEVERING CO-OPERATION
THE FINANCES OF THE CHARITY
HAVE BEEN RETRIEVED
AND ITS BENEFITS EXTENDED,

This account is respectfully inscribed by their
affectionate friend, and faithful servant,

*Treasurers Apartments,
Foundling, 21 June, 1799.*

THOS. BERNARD,



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P R E F A C E.

THE instinct which protects our helpless offspring, and which is denominated *parental affection*, is bestowed upon all animated nature. In common with the human species, it is possessed by the wild beast of the forest, and by the tame and humble dependent of man. But HUMANITY *, the desire of assisting our fellow creatures, of relieving their distresses, and promoting their happiness, belongs exclusively to the human race. Without it, in the advanced state of civil polity, misfortune would in vain look up for protection, and the best directed laws for the relief of the sufferer would be utterly incompetent to their object.

* If the reader wishes to see from what source the sentiments of this preface have been derived, he has only to refer to an excellent periodical work, intitled "*Bibliothèque Britannique*," published by Professor Pictet, at Geneva; in a late number of which, he will find an animated and well drawn picture of the English Foundling Hospital.

In

IN the infancy of society, while population bears but a small proportion to the sources of subsistence, individual benevolence *may* be adequate to the relief of individual distress: but when millions are united in one community, they may exist together in the same metropolis, as much strangers to the detail of each others concerns, as we are to those of the inhabitants of China. It is then that individual efforts are incapable not only of affording adequate relief to the unfortunate, but even of distinguishing and selecting the proper objects of benevolence.

Is man then to weep in silence over the sufferings of his fellow creatures, or to withdraw the eye from the observation of that misery, which he must despair to relieve?—No.—What *individually* he cannot remedy—that evil which might be increased by the interference of the state—may be corrected by co-operation and united efforts; which, excluding the petty motives of self interest and personal favor, are conducted by impartial kindness, and instructed by experience.

W H E N

WHEN the exertions of many individuals are directed by one spirit, to one object, they acquire a *momentum* of power, which never can be attained by an unconnected individual; not even by the administration of government itself. They have one single point in view, to which they devote all their efforts; they act with a degree of zeal and perseverance, transmitted in corporate succession, and ever attending the emulation of many, labouring disinterestedly and strenuously in a common cause.

To a great and extended kingdom, it is of infinite benefit that its members should be habituated to co-operate for these purposes, and to devote a part of their time and attentions to the well-being of their fellow subjects. Uniting the opinion, and concentrating the confidence of many, a single individual may be almost equal to any thing. A centre of action being thus obtained, man may acquire the same interest in the happiness of others, that he possesses in his own; and the best and the purest species of public spirit may be generated and preserved in a great country.

THIS principle of association is one of the most honorable and characteristic traits, which distinguishes the British nation; a nation affording examples of a variety of noble and useful establishments, in their object philanthropic, and in their nature purely disinterested. To such charities let those repair, whose youthful minds have been delighted with the theories of benevolence, and the reveries of philanthropy. Let them there ascertain how such institutions may be formed, and how they may be best administered. In such occupation they will enjoy pure and undisturbed satisfaction; a satisfaction, which will be repeated with increased effect, whenever the interesting sight of the charity, and its beneficial effects, shall be renewed in their recollection.

ACCOUNT

A C C O U N T
OF THE
FOUNDLING HOSPITAL.

THE English nation possesses ^{Introductory} so distinguished a pre-eminence ^{observations.} in every act of benevolence, that it appears scarcely credible that there should have been a period, when hospitals, for the preservation of exposed and deserted infants, had been opened at Paris, Madrid, Lisbon, Rome, Venice and Amsterdam, and no charity of that kind existing in England. — In the reign of Queen Anne a scheme of this nature had been projected, but for want of exertion it had not succeeded. In consequence however of the subject having been agitated, some persons had by their wills given legacies for the benefit of a Foundling Hospital, whenever it should be established.

In 1713, Mr. Addison, in one of his periodical * essays, directed the public attention again to the subject. “ I will mention” (says he) “ a piece of charity which has not yet
 “ been exerted among us, and which deserves
 “ our attention the more, because it is practised by most of the nations about us. I
 “ mean a provision for foundlings, or for those
 “ children who, through want of such a provision, are exposed to the barbarity of cruel
 “ and unnatural parents, One does not know
 “ how to speak on such a subject without
 “ horror; but what multitudes of infants have
 “ been made away with by those who brought
 “ them into the world, and were afterwards
 “ ashamed or unable to provide for them !

“ There is scarce an assizes, where some unhappy wretch is not executed for the murder
 “ of a child. And how many more of those
 “ monsters of inhumanity may we suppose to
 “ be wholly undiscovered, or cleared for want
 “ of legal evidence? Not to mention those,
 “ who by unnatural practices do in some measure defeat the intentions of providence, and

* See No. 105 of the Guardian.

“ destroy

“ destroy their conceptions even before they
“ see the light. In all these the guilt is equal,
“ though the punishment is not so. But, to
“ pass by the greatness of the crime (which
“ is not to be expressed by words) if we only
“ consider how it robs the commonwealth of
“ its full number of citizens, it certainly de-
“ serves the utmost application and wisdom of
“ a people to prevent it.—

It was near ten years after, that Charter obtained
Mr. Thomas Coram, a master of a 17 Oct. 1739.
trading vessel to the American colonies, a man
singularly endowed with active and disinterested
benevolence, undertook and, after a labour
of 17 years, succeeded in the establishment
of the Foundling Hospital. Before he pre-
sented his petition to the King, he was ad-
vised to procure a recommendation of the
design; and he succeeded in obtaining a *
memorial signed by some ladies of rank, and

A 2

another

* The following is a copy of it.

“ Whereas among the many excellent designs and
“ institutions of charity, which this nation, and
“ especially the city of *London*, has hitherto en-
“ couraged and established, no expedient has yet been
“ found

another by several noblemen and gentlemen;
both of which were annexed to his petition
to

“ found out, for preventing the frequent murders of
“ poor miserable infants at their birth; or for sup-
“ pressing the inhuman custom of exposing new born
“ infants to perish in the streets; or the putting out
“ such unhappy foundlings to wicked and barbarous
“ nurses, who undertaking to bring them up for a
“ small and trifling sum of money, do often suffer
“ them to starve for want of due sustenance or care;
“ or, if permitted to live, either turn them into the
“ streets to beg or steal, or hire them out to loose
“ persons, by whom they are trained up in that in-
“ famous way of living; and sometimes are blinded,
“ or maimed and distorted in their limbs, in order to
“ move pity and compassion, and thereby become fit-
“ ter instruments of gain to those vile merciless
“ wretches.

“ For a beginning to redress so deplorable a grie-
“ vance, and to prevent as well the effusion of so much
“ innocent blood, as the fatal consequences of that
“ idleness, beggary, or stealing, in which such poor
“ foundlings are generally bred up; and to enable
“ them, by an early and effectual care of their edu-
“ cation, to become useful members of the common-
“ wealth; we whose names are under written, be-
“ ing deeply touched with compassion for the suf-
“ ferings and lamentable condition of such poor
“ abandoned helpless infants, as well as the enormous
“ abuses and mischiefs to which they are exposed,
“ and

to the King ; who on the 17th day of October 1739, granted his charter to the governors and

“ and in order to supply the government plentifully
“ with useful hands on many occasions ; and for the
“ better producing good and faithful servants from
“ amongst the poor and miserable cast-off children
“ or foundlings, now a pest to the public, and a
“ chargeable nuisance within the bills of mortality ;
“ and for settling a yearly income for their maintenance and proper education, till they come to a
“ fit age for service ; *are desirous* to encourage, and
“ willing to contribute towards erecting an hospital
“ for infants, whom their parents are not able to maintain, and who have no right to any parish ; which
“ we conceive will not only prevent many horrid
“ murders, cruelties and other mischiefs, and be
“ greatly beneficial to the publick ; but will also be
“ acceptable to God Almighty, as being the only remedy of such great evils, which have been so long
“ neglected, tho’ always complained of ; provided
“ due and proper care be taken for setting on foot so
“ necessary an establishment, and a Royal Charter be
“ granted by the King to such persons, as his Majesty shall approve of, who shall be willing to become benefactors for the erecting and endowing
“ such an hospital, and for the receiving the voluntary contributions of charitable and well disposed
“ persons, and for directing and managing the affairs
“ thereof *gratis*, to the best advantage ; under such
“ regulations as his Majesty in his great wisdom shall
“ judge

and guardians of the Foundling Hospital; constituting them a corporate body; authorizing the purchase of real estates not exceeding £.4000 a year, and appointing courts, (at which the presence of 13 governors at least should be required) for the election of committees, a president, and other officers, and for the general acts of the corporation.

It may be necessary to shew how far the Foundling Hospital differs from all foreign charities for foundlings; and to explain why a limited establishment of this kind is proper in England, altho' the system of general reception is rendered unnecessary, by the institution of our poor laws.—The existence of such a code, and the establishment

“ judge most proper for attaining the desired effect of
“ our good Intentions.”

Charlotte Somerset.

S. Richmond.

H. Bolton.

Anne Bolton.

J. Leeds.

A. Bedford.

M. Cavendish Portland.

J. Manchester.

F. Hertford.

M. Harold.

S. Huntingdon.

F. Wa. and Nottingham.

E. Cardigan.

Dorothy Burlington.

F. Litchfield.

A. Albermarle.

F. Biron.

A. Trevor.

A. Torrington.

E. Onslow.

A. King.

establishment of a permanent and certain provision for the aged and the helpless, not of occasional bounty but of uncontrovertible right, and the anxious care which has watched, tho' not with equal success, over every abuse or neglect in the execution of them, may be placed in competition with the greatest of our national achievements. To those, however, who have paid much attention to the execution of these laws, it must have occurred that there are some cases in which, from the necessary imperfection of all human establishments, the remedy is rendered very inadequate: such, among others, is the instance of those unhappy females, who by broken faith, by unprincipled seduction, or by some unfortunate circumstance, are placed in a situation, where indigence and excess of bodily pain are aggravated by the prospect of hopeless contumely and irretrievable disgrace; and who have sometimes been driven to a crime, which no mother could ever have imagined, who was not first reduced to the extreme of agony and despair.

These are the objects, to which the benefits of this charity are peculiarly directed. In such a city as London there always will be some

some instances, in which the existence of the child, and the future welfare and good conduct of the mother, can only be secured by such an establishment, as that of the Foundling Hospital: and it may be questioned, in many instances, whether even the preservation of the helpless and unoffending infant is so meritorious and beneficial an act of charity, as the rescuing the wretched mother from a course of infamy and prostitution, and restoring her to character and the means of honest industry.

The selection of these cases, with a competent attention to circumstances, is one of the most important duties of the acting guardians of the charity. In this respect this hospital differs from those in other countries, where the law has not appointed any peculiar provision for the poor. Theirs are necessarily open and universal: ours, except during a short period, when the system was totally and very improperly changed, extended only to those cases, where the poor laws do not afford competent relief.

An objection
considered.

The inconvenience to be apprehended from such an asylum, is the encouragement that may be given

given in some instances to licentious habits of life, *by the ease of providing for the consequences of it.* But no such ill effects could ever ensue, if the sufferings * of these penitent and unhappy women were fully known to those who might otherwise have been inclined to follow their example. And it is deserving of observation, that no instance has come to

* My reader will be gratified by a perusal of the following remarks on this subject, extracted from a discourse of the Reverend Mr. Hewlett — “ Could we pourtray a mother’s sufferings before she resolves to forsake her child, what forms of agony should we not exhibit!—She is herself deserted first, and finds herself the victim of *treachery and voluptuousness*, where she fondly hoped to be the object of *pure and individual love*. At a time when the languor of the body and the growing anxiety of the mind powerfully claim, and, in general receive, additional tenderness, she is obliged to endure the severest affliction, that fear could imagine, or unkindness produce. This alone, you will admit, is distressing enough; but to this is added the loss of honor, that can never be retrieved; a sense of shame, and a dread of infamy, which none but a woman, and a woman thus degraded, can ever feel. These are her present sufferings: if she looks forward into futurity, poverty and hunger pursue her; or, at least, her melancholy lot is daily to eat the bread of affliction, and to drink the tears of remorse.” 17 June 1799.

the knowledge of the committee, of any woman so relieved, who has not been thereby saved from, what she would in all probability have been involved in, a course of vice and prostitution. The detail of their wretched and deserted situation, some times too well confirmed by the almost starved condition in which some of the infants are brought into the hospital, is one (I might say the only) painful circumstance to those who attend as the acting administrators of the charity; a detail which, if it could be given to the world without injury to the unhappy subjects of it, would serve to deter from vice those who might otherwise have been the victims of seduction.

The first general court of the
Proceedings of
the corporation. new corporation was held at
 Somerset-house, on the 20th of
 November 1739; the chairman being the
 Duke of Bedford, who, for a period of above
 30 years, continued to be president of the hos-
 pital, until his death in 1771. At this court
 the corporation proceeded to the election of a
 committee of fifty governors (including the pre-
 sident, vice-presidents and treasurer) to manage
 the estate and effects of the Hospital for the en-
 suing year. The

The governors immediately instituted an enquiry respecting legacies and benefactions ; and opened books for subscriptions and annual payments, affording by their own donations a liberal example to others. Accounts of the institutions and regulations of similar* charities abroad were immediately applied for, and obtained ; and a regular system was prepared for the arrangement and government of the hospital.

In the general court, held immediately after Christmas-day 1739, a proposal was made for taking a 21 years lease of Mountagu-house, for the use of the charity : but some difficulties arising from the nature of the Duke's estate in it,

* In Sir William Mildmay's account of the police of France published in 1763 (which I have been favoured with by the honourable John Yorke) there is a very curious account of the Foundling Hospital at Paris ; which seems to have been attended with nearly the same effects, both good and bad, as accompanied the indiscriminate reception of children, at one period. into our hospital.—It appears by several documents stated by Sir William, that *one fifth* of the children then born at Paris were sent to their Foundling Hospital ; and that *one third* of the persons who died in Paris, during that period, died in an hospital.

19 June 1799.

Ranelagh.

Ranelagh-house, Strafford-house, Essex-house, and several other situations were successively in contemplation. In the mean time the governors had engaged some tenements in Hatton-garden for the temporary accommodation of the charity; and the admission of children to the benefit of the institution commenced on the 25th of March 1741.

To increase and perpetuate the funds of the charity was, at a very early period, the object of very strenuous exertions, of the most active governors and benefactors; among which we may distinguish the names of Mr. Coram, Mr. Martin Folkes, Mr. Taylor White and Mr. Hume * Campbell. A plan, not perfectly free from interested motives, was at that time presented to the corporation; by which it was proposed to enrich the hospital with perpetual

* The second brother of the late Earl of Marchmont.—It is a singularly favourable circumstance to the charity that that care, which fostered the infant establishment in 1743, should, after an uninterrupted period of 52 years, be now continued by his elder brother's widow, Lady Marchmont; who is at present so kind as to act, as an inspectress of the foundling children, in the neighbourhood of Hemel Hempstead.

13 Jan. 1796.

and

and ample revenues, to add a fund of £.30,000 for the purposes of building, and to give the charity the indefeasible possession of a noble estate ; for all which benefits the projector asked only a participation of profits ; which, though not exceeding 3 per cent. was to have produced a very sufficient reward for his speculations. The committee enquired into the nature of the first of his five proposed resources. This proved to be a tax *to be* imposed by Parliament on all coals exported from Great-Britain ; a tax which the corporation not having any pretence for asking, or probability of obtaining, he received thanks and praise ; and there the dream of wealth ended.

In the ensuing session the governors applied for and obtained an Act of Parliament, confirming their charter, with the addition of some further powers, and the exemption of the hospital from parochial jurisdiction and interference. A special committee was appointed to prepare bye-laws, and the general committee was directed to consider of a plan for the further execution of the charity, and of the purchase of land as an investment of part of the money of the

Act of Parliament obtained.

the corporation. Circular letters were in the mean time distributed about the kingdom, soliciting information with regard to the management of the hospital, and particularly where nurseries might be procured, and children well taken care of, at the most reasonable prices.

The securing of an healthy and convenient scite for the hospital, was a subject, to which the governors had paid an early attention. In October 1740, the committee had been authorized, to purchase of the Earl of Salisbury, the two fields on the northern side of Ormond-street; the situation appearing to be extremely eligible for the charity. His Lordship declined treating, unless all his land there, extending to Gray's-inn-lane, was included in the purchase; and named as a price for the whole, what his agent stated to have been already offered, the sum of £.7000. Difficulties however arising, on the part of the governors with respect to the amount of the sum, the Earl very liberally obviated them, by a donation of £.500 towards the purchase; reducing it thereby to £.6500. The general court immediately accepted

accepted the offer, and gave orders for a completion of the contract.

In May 1741, the general committee appointed a special committee of accounts, “to see that the accounts, of the receipts and payments for the Hospital, be kept agreeably to the plan approved of at the last general meeting; to examine the secretary’s, steward’s, and inspector’s accounts, and the several bills delivered to the corporation; and to lay the same from time to time before the committee, in order to their being allowed and paid.” The propriety of this appointment requires no comment: It has very lately been renewed, after many years discontinuance, occasioned probably by the difficulty of getting gentlemen to attend. The same cause applying, in some degree, to the general committee, an order was made at this time, for summoning it, for alternate Wednesdays only. Some arrangement of this * nature, to secure a regular and full attendance, might, with the aid and

* The regularity with which the committees at the Foundling have been attended for the last four years, has rendered any further consideration of this subject unnecessary.

co-operation

co-operation of the sub-committees, prove a considerable benefit and convenience to the charity.

It being at first thought impracticable to procure a sufficient number of healthy wet-nurses, an endeavour was made to bring up some of the children by hand; but experience being very strong against this practice, and as decisive in favor of the infants being nursed in the country, the committee came to a resolution to send all the children, which should be taken in, as soon as possible, into the country, to remain there until three years old; and as to infants, to be nursed by wet-nurses only.

The western
wing begun
16 Sept. 1742.

The land purchased of Lord Salisbury appeared so desirable a situation for the hospital, and benefactions for the intended building flowed in with so liberal a current, that the corporation very speedily took into consideration the erection of an hospital on their new estate; and on the 16th day of September 1742, the foundation stone of the western wing was laid, and building begun, upon a design prepared by Mr. Jacobsen, one of the governors
and

and first benefactors to the charity; the estimate of it amounting to £.6555 17s. 1d. A building committee was at the same time appointed for the purpose of conducting the building.

In the ensuing spring, was the first anniversary dinner of the governors. The plenty that distinguished the annual feast, could hardly exceed that of their table of diet for the hospital, which, by the over kindness and English feelings of the general committee, had then been established, and which continued for some years. It is copied in a * note. The present weekly allowance of animal food in the hospital, which has by experience

B been

* General Committee, 11 March 1740.

Resolved,

That the diet to be used in this hospital shall be as follows: Upon Sundays, roast beef; Mondays, stewed beef with turnips and carrots; Tuesdays, roast mutton; Wednesdays, boiled beef with greens or roots; Thursdays, stewed beef with turnips and carrots; Fridays, roast mutton, and Saturdays boiled beef with greens or roots, or pork with pease pudding in winter, and shoulders of veal in summer: And that the proportion of the said diet be at present regulated at a pound for each head a day one with another.

been found sufficient, is not much more than one fourth of what was then ordered.

The chapel begun in 1747. The western wing of the new hospital was finished, and the houses in Hatton-Garden given up, in October 1745. In March 1746, a subscription was opened, for the building of the chapel; and, the next year, the general committee was authorized to contract for the immediate erection of it; upon a plan presented by Mr. Jacobsen; the estimate of which was

and the eastern wing in 1749. * £.4195 17s. 4d. And in 1749 (at the instance of Mr. Emerson, one of the governors, who afterwards bequeathed to the hospital the residue of his estates, amounting to upwards of £.11,000) the general committee, in order that the girls might be kept separate from the boys, was authorized to proceed to the building of the eastern wing; which, together with the treasurer's house, appears to have been ready for habitation in 1752.

The

* It cost in the whole 6490£. being less than the amount of the subscriptions received towards it.

The whole of the building, originally calculated to hold 400 children, was intended to be plain and devoid of decoration; but the talents and public spirit of several artists benevolently varied the intention; and many ornaments were presented by them to the charity. To Mr. Hogarth, who was an active governor and an early benefactor, the hospital is indebted for three pictures; one his march to Finchley, which, in the opinion of some judges, stands first in the catalogue of his works; and another, the portrait of our founder Mr. Coram; an excellent and well painted picture. A list and description of these donations, taken from the original printed account of the hospital is inserted in a * note.

Donations of
Mr. Hogarth and
other artists.

B 2

The

* In the court room were placed four capital pictures; the subjects being parts of the sacred history, suitable to the place for which they were designed.

The first painted by Mr. Hayman, and taken from the 2d chapter of *Exodus*, ver. 8, 9. the words of which are, “ The maid went and called the child’s
“ mother, and Pharoah’s daughter said unto her, take
“ this child away and nurse it for me, and I will
“ give you wages.”

The

and of Mr.
Handel.

The charity is under very great obligation to the benevolence of Mr. Handel; who, upon the building

The ensuing verse is the subject of the next picture, viz. “ And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharoah’s daughter, and he became her son, and she called his name *Moses*.” This picture is painted by Mr. *Hogarth*.

The third picture is the history of *Ismael*, painted by Mr. *Higmore*. The subject taken from the 21st chapter of *Genesis* ver. 17. “ And the angel of the Lord called to *Hagar* out of heaven, and said to her, what aileth thee *Hagar*? Fear not, for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is !”

The fourth picture was painted by Mr. *Willes*, its subject taken from the 18th chapter of *Luke*, ver. 16. “ Jesus said, suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God.” On each side of these pictures are placed smaller pictures in circular frames, representing the most considerable hospitals in and about London.

1. The view of the hospital for exposed children.
2. The view of the hospital at *Hyde park Corner*, called *St. George’s* hospital. These two by Mr. *Wilson*.
3. The view of *Chelsea* hospital.
4. The view of *Bethlem* hospital. These two by Mr. *Haytley*.
5. The view of *St. Thomas’s* hospital.
6. The view of *Greenwich* hospital.

7. The

building of the chapel, gave the hospital an organ, and the benefit of his oratorio of the Messiah,

7. The view of the *Blue Coat* hospital. These three by Mr. *Whale*.

8. The view of *Sutton's* hospital, called the *Charterhouse*. By Mr. *Gainsborough*.

Over the chimney is placed a very curious bas-relief carved by Mr. *Rysbrack*, and presented by him, representing children employed in navigation and husbandry; being the employments, to which the children of this hospital are destined.

The other ornaments of the room were also given by several ingenious workmen, who had been employed in building the hospital, and were desirous to contribute to its establishment.

The stucco work was given by Mr. *William Wilton*. The marble chimney by Mr. *Deval*. The table with its frame enriched with carving, by Mr. *John Sander son*; and the glass by Mr. *Hallet*.

In the other rooms of the hospital are the following pictures. His most sacred Majesty King *George the Second*, *Patron of this Hospital*, by Mr. *Shakleton*, painter to his Majesty. The right honourable the Earl of *Dartmouth*, one of the vice-presidents of the hospital, by Sir *Joshua Reynolds*. *Taylor White*, Esq; treasurer of the hospital, in crayons, by Mr. *Coates*, Mr. *Thomas Coram*, and the march of the guards to *Finchley*, by Mr. *Hogarth*; Mr. *Milner*, and Mr. *Jacobson*, by Mr. *Hudson*; Dr. *Mead*, by Mr. *Ramsay*; Mr. *Emerson*, by Mr. *Higmore*; *Francis Fauquier*, Esq; lieutenant governor of *Virginia*, by Mr. *Wilson*. A large sea piece by Mr. *Brooking*; and a fine landscape by Mr. *Lambert*.

Messiah, the performance of which he conducted himself. This he repeated for several years, with an advantage to the funds of the charity, amounting in the whole to upwards of £.6700; and at his death, in 1759, bequeathed his property in the music of that oratorio to the hospital.

In March 1751, Mr. Coram,
 Death of Mr. Coram, the benevolent founder of the hospital, died, in the 84th year of his age. In consequence of a wish, expressed in his life-time, he was interred under the chapel, in the midst of that charity which he had founded; a monument more noble and dignified, than ever wealth or pride obtained. His funeral was attended with every honourable respect by the governors of the hospital, preceded by the children and their nurses; and the choir service was performed by gentlemen of St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey. His life had been so totally devoid of self interest, * that he left behind him property

* There is an honourable testimonial in favour of Mr. Coram's character, in a letter from Mr. Horace Walpole, then ambassador at the Hague, to his brother

perty hardly sufficient to have discharged the expences of his funeral. The Foundling Hospital had not been the only object of his exertions: He was an active contributor to the establishment of the new colonies of Georgia and

ther Sir Robert Walpole, dated the 18th April 1735; where in a colonial matter of considerable importance, which is the subject of the letter, Mr. Walpole closes with these words: "Lose no time in talking with
" Sir Charles Wager, Mr. Bladen, and ONE CORAM,
" THE HONESTEST, THE MOST DISINTERESTED,
" AND THE MOST KNOWING PERSON about the
" plantations I ever talked with" *Cox's Life of Sir Robert Walpole*, 3d. vol. 243.—Indeed Mr. Coram had been so disinterested, and so inattentive to his own pecuniary concerns, that, at the age of 82, he was the subject of the grant of an annuity, the original of which, by favor of Mr. Wilmot, is now deposited at the Foundling. It bears date the 30th of March 1749, and recites his public services in contributing in the beginning of this century to England's being supplied, at a very reduced price, with tar from the Northern Colonies of British America, and with deal boards, and fir timber, from the Netherlands and Germany, and in a later time to the foundation of the Foundling Hospital; and contains a grant to him, on very honourable terms, of 161 guineas a year for his life, the Prince of Wales contributing 20 guineas a year, and the other subscribers in general a guinea each. He lived to receive two years payment of it.

23d May, 1799.

and Nova Scotia; and made some progress in the foundation of a school for the education of Indian girls. An * inscription to his memory was

* The following is a Copy of it.

CAPTAIN THOMAS CORAM,

whose name will never want a monument,

so long as this Hospital shall subsist,

was born in the year 1688;

a man eminent in that most eminent virtue,

the love of mankind:

little attentive to his private fortune,

and refusing many opportunities of increasing it,

his time and thoughts were continually employed

in endeavours to promote the public happiness,

both in this kingdom, and elsewhere;

particularly in the colonies of North America;

and his endeavours were many times crowned

with the desired success.

His unwearied sollicitation for above seventeen years together

(which would have baffled the patience and industry

of any man less zealous in doing good)

and his application to persons of distinction of both sexes,

obtained at length the Charter of the Corporation,

(bearing date the 17th of October 1739)

for the maintenance and education

of exposed and deserted young children,

by which many thousand of lives

may be preserved to the public and employed in a frugal

and honest course of industry;

He

was placed in the centre of the southern arcade of the chapel; which having been originally in wood, and decayed by time, has been very recently replaced in stone.

The number of children received
Number of children main- into the hospital, before the end of
tained. the year 1752 was 1040; of which
559 were then maintained by the
hospital, at an expence, as is stated in the minutes of the general court of 27th June 1753, of upwards of £.5000 a year; to which the permanent income of the hospital, which did not then exceed £.1050 a year, bore no proportion. A reduction was therefore proposed in the number of children: This however does not appear to have taken place, as in the year 1754, we find that there were 600 children then on the establishment. The zeal of the acting guardians of the hospital, and their desire

He died the 29th of March 1751, in the 84th year of his age; poor in worldly estate, rich in good works: and was buried at his own desire, in the vault underneath this chapel (the first there deposited) at the east end thereof; many of the governors and other gentlemen attending the funeral to do honour to his memory.

R E A D E R,

Thy actions will shew whether thou art sincere,
in the praises thou mayst bestow on him;
and if thou hast virtue enough to commend his virtues,
forget not to add also the imitation of them.

fire of making it at that early period extensively useful, seems to have carried them rather too far; and to have induced them imprudently to risk, by premature exertions, the permanent welfare of the institution. Mere strangers, however, cannot be fully aware of the powerful inducements, which they had to extend as far as possible the benefits of the charity; as the value and consequence of those benefits can only be correctly appreciated by those, who have *personally* assisted in the execution of the charity.

Application to
Parliament in
1756.

In March 1756 the governors presented a petition to the House of Commons, stating the incorporation and parliamentary confirmation of the charity; and the manner in which the petitioners had proceeded in execution of the trust reposed in them: that they had educated the children under their care with the utmost frugality; and in such a manner as that they might become useful servants of the public: that they had expended great sums of money; and at the same time, from the insufficiency of their income, had been compelled, to their great concern and to the detriment of the public, to reject many pro-
per

per objects of the charity: that from the different accounts received from foreign countries, where charities of the like kind are established, it appeared that the expences of those establishments could not be maintained merely by private donations; and that they have therefore constantly had the aid of the public. Upon these grounds they prayed the house, to take such measures for the extension and support of the charity, as should be deemed wise and proper.

The House of Commons * voted the petitioners the sum of £.10,000; accompanied

* The following were the previous resolutions of the House of Commons; 6 April 1756.

“ That the enabling the hospital for the maintenance
“ and education of exposed and deserted young children
“ to receive all the children that shall be offered, is the
“ only method to render that charitable institution of
“ lasting and general utility.

“ That to render the said hospital of lasting and
“ general utility, the assistance of Parliament is necessary.

“ That to render the said hospital of general utility
“ and effect, it should be enabled to appoint proper
“ places in all counties, ridings or divisions of this
“ kingdom, for the reception of all exposed and deserted
“ young children.”

with

with a condition for the reception of all children, that should be offered under a certain age; an age which the corporation first fixed at two, then at six, and afterwards at twelve months. The gates of the charity were immediately thrown open for all the children not exceeding the then proposed age of two months; and on the 2d of June 1756, the first day of general reception, 117 children were received. From that time to the 31st of December 1757, five thousand five hundred and ten children were admitted into the hospital.

The charity obtained the splendid name of a national establishment. The King had declared himself its patron. Large sums of money were annually granted to the corporation; and the number of children, of an infantine and helpless age, supported by the hospital, was, in 1760, increased to above 6000; a number, which, at the rate of £.7 10s. each, required an income of above £.45,000 a year to maintain; and which must have been soon trebled by the continuance of the system of general reception.

The

The magnitude of our buildings bore no proportion to the increase of our system. The corporation directed by Parliament, extended its views to distant counties; and country hospitals were established, in the ensuing year at Ackworth in Yorkshire; in 1758 in Kent, Shropshire, and Buckinghamshire; and afterwards in Cheshire, and at Barnet; with large rolls of county governors, and county committees, for the management of these numerous subordinate establishments.

A charity so boundless and undistinguishing, and so unnecessarily varied from its original institution, Abuses in consequence thereof. could not but be attended with ill consequences. The scite of the hospital was in many instances converted into a burying ground; and parental care, though perhaps it would not have deserted an healthy or hopeful child, carried the diseased and expiring infant, in some instance, almost stripped of its cloathing, to take the chance of a change of air and situation, and of the efforts of medical skill and care: and, failing those, to receive the certainty of a decent interment. So far extended was this practice, a practice that has done infinite prejudice

prejudice to the character of the hospital, that I have been informed by a late respectable and active governor, that there were many instances in which the child received at the gate, did not live to be carried into the wards of the hospital.

There was another species of abuse.—Parish officers, in some instances by fraud, and in others by force, had sent in the children of poor parishioners, some from a great distance, in order to secure the parish against the risk of future charges.—The children were immediately returned to their parents; and the criminals, for they deserved no better name, prosecuted to conviction and punishment, at the expence of the charity.

By the present practice of the
 Present mode of reception of children.
 hospital, something more than the mere necessity of the mother and desertion of the father is requisite. The previous good character of the mother is enquired into, and this important circumstance is ascertained, that the reception of the child, together with the secrecy observed as to the situation and misfortune of the mother,

ther, will be attended by the probable consequence of restoring her to a course of virtue, and placing her in a proper service, or in some other way of obtaining an honest livelihood. By these precautions an evil consequence is prevented, which, it must be allowed, during the continuance of the parliamentary grants (a period in which the plan of the charity was entirely changed) did attend the indiscriminate admission of children into the hospital;—the increase of prostitution, by the extreme facility of providing for the produce of it. But at the same time when we consider, how many deserted infants were received into the Foundling at this period, it is impossible not to deduce this truth, that numbers of infants have perished in this country, both before and since that period, for want of the public care. And it is more than a mere probability, that, of the 4400 * children which (of those admitted at this time) were afterwards apprenticed and placed

* Of these the greater part were apprenticed to husbandry, or other country situations. — It were to be wished, that more of the girls could be placed in proper services in the country; especially if those services could be obtained on the recommendation of the inspectresses.

placed out in the world, the greater number must have been lost in their infancy, but for their reception into this hospital.

The general reception discontinued. The inconveniencies, which attended the unmanageable magnitude of the establishment, drew the attention of Parliament in

April 1759; when the House of Commons expressed itself strongly against the practice of conveying children from distant situations to the Foundling Hospital. In the next session an enquiry was instituted, and, on the 8th of February 1760, the House of Commons resolved, that the general admission of all children, indiscriminately, under a certain age, into the hospital, to be maintained there at the public expence, had been attended with many evil consequences, and that it be discontinued. The house, at the same time, ordered an estimate of the expence of maintaining those already in the hospital, up to the 31st of December, 1760.

The governors of the hospital, on the next day, came to a resolution to continue to execute the purposes for which they were incorporated, so far as they were, or should be enabled by law

law so to do, not doubting but Parliament would enable them to support all such children as they had received, or should receive, in obedience to the resolutions of Parliament.

In this confidence they were not deceived. The sums which Parliament granted to them, during the next ten years, were very considerable, though possibly not adequate to the expence, to which the new system had subjected them. There were, at this time, above 6000 children on the establishment; almost all of them under five years of age. Six years passed before the number was reduced so low as 4300; and it was not till after the year 1769 that, by apprenticing all who could be placed out, they were reduced below 1000.—The average number of children, during the period of those ten years, was rather above 4300; the current expence of which, could not, upon the whole, be less than 35,000*l.* * a year.

* The average amount of the Parliamentary grants for the 15 years from 1756 to 1771, when they ceased, was £.33,000 a year.

Reception of or-
phans, of soldiers
and sailors, in
1761.

The corporation not only did not abandon the infants it had received, but in the ensuing spring, and in several succeeding years, opened its gates to the orphans of * soldiers who had fallen in the German war. The ages of those admitted were from four to twelve years. At the same time the court came to a resolution that if, at any future time, an application should be made for the reception of any other children, in the same or other similar circumstances of distress, the general committee should be empowered to receive so many of such children as they should think proper, their ages not exceeding five years; a limitation which, upon a further reception of orphans of soldiers in July 1761, was done away, and the

* The greater part of those admitted at this time, had been made orphans by the battle of Minden. It is hardly possible for the mind not to recur to the feeling and beautiful lines of Langhorne.

“ Cold on Canadian Hills, or *Minden's* plain,
“ Perhaps that parent mourn'd her soldier slain;
“ Bent o'er her babe, her eye dissolv'd in dew,
“ The big drops mingling with the milk he drew,
“ Gave the sad presage of his future years,
“ The child of misery baptiz'd in tears.”

committee

committee empowered to receive such orphan or otherwise deserted children, whether of soldiers or sailors, although the age should exceed five years, the number and particular circumstances of such children being specially reported to the next general court*.

Of so large a number of children, as had been admitted, it could not be hoped that all would be capable of being placed out, as apprentices, in the world. Some unfortunate instances of imbecility of body, or mind, were to be expected.—They still remain in the hospital, as comfortable and useful as their capacities will allow.—Besides this, the magnitude of the scale and system of the establishment, during the period of the parliamentary grants, notwithstanding all the economy since adopted, has entailed a considerable expence on the charity: and, what has been severely felt, the source of private donations was greatly impaired in consequence

C 2

* See the Minutes of the General Court, 14th May, 1760, 1st July, 1761, 30th Dec. 1761, and 30th March 1763.

sequence of parliamentary interference.—We must not therefore wonder that, for a series of years, it should have suffered a diminution of income and property; and should have been generally, though unfairly, aspersed for that waste of capital, which, without driving from its walls a number of helpless objects, could not have been prevented.—The assertion of general abuses, in the management of a public trust, is made with ease; but not repelled without trouble and detail, even if the public attention can be drawn to it; and I am sorry to add, is very willingly advanced, or credited, by many, who too easily admit private motives to influence the conduct of public concerns.

Reduction of
establishment. The governors, without giving
up the original object of their in-
stitution, adopted and pursued a
steady and regular plan of * economy; and
as

* It was probably one of the consequences of this system of economy, that a custom has ceased, (which had prevailed and had been authorized by one of the regulations of the hospital) of making a present to the children of the hospital, at the expiration of their apprenticeship, in case of testimonials of good behaviour. This practice might be renewed with very good effect

as soon as it was practicable, apprenticed out the children, and discontinued and disposed of the country hospitals; reducing their establishment, as far as could be done, to what their permanent and contingent income was adequate to. Indeed it is impossible to refer to the minutes of the general courts, or of their committees, during this or any periods of the history of the corporation, without feeling how providentially the succession of benevolent care and attention, has been, in every part of that history, directed to the essential objects of the charity.

In addition to a general plan of retrenchment and economy, the Plan of building on the hospital estate, in 1764. attention of the governors was, at this time, first directed to the improvement of revenue, which the corporation might derive from granting building leases, of such part of the estate purchased of Lord Salisbury, as was not wanted for the immediate

fect on the morals and conduct of the children; and the public appearance in the chapel, of those who had distinguished themselves by their good behaviour, might operate as an incentive and example to the other children.

diate accommodation of the hospital; and, in June 1764, the land in the south front of the hospital was advertised to be let on a building lease. For want, however, of proper arrangements, the measure was then unsuccessful: and nothing further appears to have been done until May 1775; when a resolution was passed, that the general committee should be empowered to receive proposals, treat and agree, for letting on one or more building leases, for any term not exceeding ninety-nine years, the land on the south side of the private road leading into Gray's-inn-lane.

The measure
postponed.

This resolution, however, was soon after rescinded; and the further consideration of the scheme of building was postponed till the leases of the Rugby charity were expired, or near expiring; or the treaty, of exchanging ground with that Trust, could be settled. On this account the improvement of the hospital estate was deferred for some years; at least no general system was adopted: the few leases granted before 1789 (the whole rents reserved on which amounted only to 81*l.* 3*s.*) being rather to be considered as matters of personal accommodation

tion to individuals, than as part of a general plan of increasing the funds of the charity.— When, however, the period of maturity for the agreement with the Rugby trust arrived, it appeared that no arrangement could be made with that *rival* property: and, in May 1780, the consideration of any exchange of land with that charity, was after a reference to a special committee, indefinitely postponed.

The increase of the income, arising from the chapel, was an Increase of revenue from the chapel. object of the next importance in point of revenue; and in this the charity was more early in its success. The general committee, in order to ensure a maintenance to a blind boy of the hospital, had in 1758 been induced to give directions for his being regularly instructed in music, at the expence of the charity: a similar order was made in 1768, and again in 1771; and the seeds of benevolence in these, as in most instances, have been returned with tenfold produce into the bosom of the charity; for the three persons so * instructed have lived to contribute very

* The orders for the instruction of these three persons are subjoined, with a view of reminding the conductors

very abundantly, and with credit and advantage to themselves, to the funds on which their

ductors of the charity, how honourably this example of benevolence has been repaid by the gratitude and services of the objects of that benevolence; and how proper it will be that these orders should be occasionally adopted as precedents.

“ General Committee, 28th March, 1758.

“ Resolved, That Tom Grenville, a boy of this
“ hospital who is blind, be taught music by the
“ assistant to the organist of the chapel of this hos-
“ pital, at the price of two guineas per quarter, for
“ instructing him four times a week for the first
“ quarter, and three times a week for the two next
“ quarters.

“ 13th May, 1760.

“ Mr. White acquaints the committee, that the
“ person who was appointed to teach the blind boy,
“ used him with great severity, and neglected instruct-
“ ing him; and proposed Mr. Cook should be ap-
“ pointed to teach him in his place.

“ Resolved,

“ That the Treasurer be desired to agree with the
“ said Mr. Cook on the best terms he can.

“ 18th Nov. 1767.

“ Read a letter from Mr. Mynd to Lady Sophia
“ Egerton, together with a copy of an agreement of
“ the parishioners of Ross in Herefordshire, purport-
“ ing

their comfort and independence, and most probably their existence, have depended. The attention of the governors to the management of the chapel, and to the instruction of the children in sacred music, has, from that time, been attended with great emolument to the charity. From the annual sum of 37*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.* the whole receipt from the chapel in 1766, it had in 1776

“ ing that the said parishioners had agreed to employ
“ Tom Grenville, who has been employed as an assistant organist in the chapel of this hospital, allowing him 25*l.* a year for his service as organist
“ of the said parish of Ross.

“ Resolved,

“ That the thanks of this committee be given to
“ Lady Sophia Egerton, for her protection and the
“ service done to the said Tom Grenville, and that he
“ shall be dispatched in a fortnight or three weeks.

“ 10th Feb. 1768.

“ Resolved,

“ That Mr. Cook, the organist, be employed to
“ teach the blind boy, John Printer, music, at the
“ salary of 12*l.* 12*s.* per annum, to commence from
“ Christmas last.

“ 16th of October 1771.

“ Ordered,

“ That Mr. Philpot, the organist, do teach the
“ blind girl, Blanch Thetford, music.”

increased

increased to 340*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.* in 1786 to 881*l.* 4*s.* 1*d.* and in the last year (1795) to 1594*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* to which, by the united labour and attention of some of the governors, a considerable addition is expected still to be made.

Reduction of
expences.

The general committee had, in 1771, made an arrangement for the reduction of the servants of the hospital; and, in February 1773, the general court appointed a special committee, to consider as to any practicable diminution of the expences of the hospital. The committee reported that any further reduction in the number of officers in the hospital (who were then six in number, the secretary, steward, apothecary, matron, clerk, and schoolmaster) could not be made, unless by a consolidation of the functions of any two officers; a measure which the general court did not then approve, but the trial of which was afterwards made in 1780, by uniting the appointment of clerk and steward in the person of Mr. Biggs. The consolidation was then of very short continuance. Since that time, however, the union of the two offices of secretary and steward has been made, and continues without any inconvenience, in the person of
Mr.

Mr. Merryweather*. The number of servants in the hospital had been reduced from fifty to thirty-two; in which number were included (that which is common to all public establishments) some aged persons, who having spent their best days in the laborious work of the house, remained there as an asylum; and (what is peculiar to the Foundling) several of those unfortunate persons, who had been taken in during the period of general reception, and who, by reason of mental or bodily defects, were incapable of being placed out in the world; and could therefore render but a very imperfect service in the hospital. This part of the establishment, and the expence of the kitchen garden, it was apprehended, could not be lessened†.

To

* Upon his death, in the beginning of March 1799, a further reduction has been made in the secretary's salary, and in the appointment of the clerk; for which last duty only occasional assistance is now engaged, without residence or board in the house. A similar arrangement had been made upon the late apothecary's resignation, in November 1797. The saving in the three appointments is about 100*l.* a year to the charity.

† Since the publication of the 1st edition of this account, a kitchen has been fitted up at the Foundling Hospital, upon the plan, and under the direction, of Count Rumford. It has now been in constant and daily

To diminish the charge of repairs, it was thought proper to employ a regular surveyor; and the medicinal service of the hospital was referred to future consideration.

The object of these sheets is to present a detail, possessing probably no other interest than what it derives from the subject, of the measures which have, at different periods, either been adopted or rejected by the founders and friends of the charity; and to remind the governors of the neces-

Project of a music school. daily use for three years; and, *the direction, with regard to the quantity of fuel having been strictly adhered to, it has been found to answer very completely.* The saving in coals to the charity has been 25 chaldron a year. Two cooks were employed before, and in very warm service; there is now only one, and (the first instruction properly attended to) she finds it an easy duty. The iron work requires occasionally some repair; but not so much as the old kitchen did, or so much as would be required by any common kitchen, from whence 250 persons were to be supplied with their daily food. During the present warm weather, the flues retain the heat so well, that half a peck of coals, with cinders, is as much as is now used for either the boiler or roaster. In winter it amounts to about a peck of coals, of the inferior and smaller sort, that will not burn in common fires.

19 June, 1799.

fity

sity of frequently recurring to first principles, and of correcting, with temper and attention, the defects and abuses which will attend the progress of every human establishment. A work of this kind, if prepared with any degree of industry, must have the merit of collecting together, for the convenience of the present and future guardians of the hospital, a considerable part of the experience and information of their predecessors. In this view many things, in themselves trifling, acquire an interest from situation and consequences.—Music had been a source of very considerable benefit to the charity; and, by the benevolence of Mr. Handel, very large sums had been added to the funds of the corporation. In July 1774, Doctor Burney and Mr. Giardini presented to the general court a plan for establishing a public music-school at the hospital; a plan which promised considerable, though no immediate, advantage to the charity. The proposal was accepted; a subscription roll opened for donations, and a special committee appointed to arrange and execute the measure. An adjourned court, however, was held that day fortnight, and the clause in the act of parliament read, authorizing the corporation to detain and employ the children
in

in any sort of *labour* or *manufacture*; and it appearing to the general court, that music was not either a labour or manufacture, the plan was * rejected, as not warranted by the act of parliament.

Regulations as
to the health of
the children, in
1759.

The infirmary of the hospital had, by a resolution of June 1755, been directed to be placed in the western wing, at the south end of the upper floor. By subsequent resolutions different situations were appointed for it; and as is usual where there are various measures and various directions, without any fixed or particular attention to the subject, it had at length sunk

• This may be a proper subject for reconsideration. The scheme, as then offered, seems to have been chiefly exceptionable, because the projectors extended it too far. How far, cannot now be precisely stated, as the plan was returned to the projectors, and no copy kept.—A musical school within the hospital, for the children incapable of any other means of livelihood, might, under proper limitations, prove a benefit to the funds of the hospital, and a source of inestimable charity; by giving comfort and independence to any of the hospital children, whose sight may fail, and in some cases to children deprived of sight, the peculiarity of whose distress (like that of the blind orphan very lately admitted) may intitle them to the protection of the charity.

into

into a low damp confined building, near the hospital gate; destitute of convenience; incapable of separate accommodation for the sexes; and bidding defiance to medical skill, to restore the inhabitants to the free air and healthy apartments of the hospital.—Hopeless labour is generally void of exertion.—In the present instance, the unfavourable situation of the infirmary seems to have produced an extraordinary effect of inattention and want of cleanliness in those who had the care of it; and this, and the other evils attending the site of the infirmary, being increased by two epidemical disorders in December 1789, the quarterly court referred the whole to the investigation of the general committee; the result of which was a systematic regulation as to the cleanliness, management, and diet of the children; which has been since very well observed:—the establishment of a regular visitation of the hospital; and the restoration of the infirmary to its originally intended site; a change which has operated as a charm on the sick list of the hospital, and reduced it to half of its former average.

The great object of enquiring Report as to the
into the income and expenditure of finances in
the hospital, from the time of the 1790.
last parliamentary grant, was at the same time

referred to a special committee of five governors; who in June 1790, presented their report on the subject to the general court; and orders were made, in consequence, to bring the expenditure within the income of the hospital.

Plan of building resumed.

To the plan of re-establishing the finances, and perpetuating the funds of the charity, by granting building leases, objections had always been made, which, for a series of years, had prevented the improvement of the hospital estate.—The original price of that estate, containing fifty-six acres of land, purchased of the Earl of Salisbury in 1740, after allowing for his benevolence of 500*l.* amounted to 6500*l.* Of that land, nearly ten acres had been occupied by the site and conveniences of the hospital; the addition of as much more, in the areas of the squares and spaces immediately surrounding the hospital, is the least quantity that has ever been proposed to be left uncovered by buildings: so that the hospital, in any event, was to stand in the centre of twenty acres of ground. From the remaining thirty-six acres, the zeal and sanguine hopes of some of the governors had induced them to expect to secure to the charity an annual income, not much inferior

ferior to the original price of the fee simple of the whole estate. Reasons, however, had always occurred to prevent the charity receiving the benefit of this addition to its funds; reasons, which tho they would not have influenced for a moment the concerns of an individual, were nevertheless said to be intitled to weight with the guardians of a public trust; and which, for a succession of years, continued to have the effect of deferring the improvement of the corporation estate. However, in May 1785, the governors being alarmed by the circumstance of the expenses of the hospital having for some time exceeded the income, a committee of enquiry was appointed; and, in March 1786, after a pause of above ten years, the consideration of the improvement of their estate was resumed; and a special committee directed to make a survey of the ground belonging to the corporation, and to recommend some plan of building thereon to the general court. In March 1787, the general committee was empowered to receive proposals, for taking any part of the hospital land on building leases: a power that was recalled by the next court; which resolved, that “to erect any building on the lands be-
“longing to the hospital, on which no buildings

“ were then erected, by which a free and open
“ circulation of air was then enjoyed by the
“ children of the hospital, would be detrimental
“ to their health, and contrary to the original
“ institution of the charity.”

The authors of this resolution seem to have presumed, that an original intention of using, or not using, brick and mortar, had made part of the fundamental constitution of the charity; and, in the centre of a dry and elevated situation of twenty acres of ground, trembled for the noxious influence of confined air on the health of the children. The resolution, however, met the fate it deserved. It was rescinded at the next meeting; and, in December 1787, it was resolved that such part of the estate, as laid south of, and adjoining to, the road leading from the gates of the hospital to Gray's-Inn-Lane, should be let on building leases: and the general committee was desired to advertise the same; and to lay all proposals, which they should receive relating thereto, before the next court.—This was confirmed in March 1788: and the ground of the hospital was then ordered to be advertised generally, to be let on building leases, and the most speedy and effectual

tual measures to be taken, for letting the same.

In April 1789, with a view of proceeding to build on the western part of the estate, a special committee was appointed to wait on the Duke of Bedford, and to request his assistance, in promoting the interest of the charity, in their building plan, by permitting openings into his private road. To this, no favourable answer being obtained, the general committee was, in December 1789, desired to proceed, with all possible dispatch, in causing the eastern part of the hospital land to be staked out; and was empowered to treat with any persons who should be inclined to take any part of the ground on building leases.

The experience of fifteen years had shewn the impracticability of executing this plan of improving the funds of the charity, whilst a measure, complicated and difficult in itself, and requiring a fixed and continued attention, was to be carried into effect by a numerous and fluctuating body. It was therefore found necessary, to intrust the conduct of it to a select committee of five persons; to whom, in June

Building committee appointed in 1790.

1790, it was referred, to take such steps as should appear necessary, for carrying into execution the resolutions of the corporation, for letting the land adjoining to the hospital on building leases ; and to report their proceedings to the next Christmas Court.

The building committee, with the aid of Mr. Cockerell, prepared a general and very full report on the subject; and (in case of the success of the measure) stated the probable accession of ground rents at the annual sum of at least 4000*l*-. What has been since let amounts to 2008*l*. 14*s*. 4*d*. a year, making, with the 81*l*. 3*s*. before let, the net rental of 2089*l*. 17*s*. 4*d*.—If the other part of the land can be as successfully disposed of, the whole will produce a clear ground rent of above 4000*l*. a year.

At a special court, held on the 26th of January 1791, a plan, prepared by Mr. Merryweather, the Secretary of the hospital, and possessing considerable merit, was adopted for the proposed buildings ; in which the opening of Queen-square, tho with some diminution in the amount of the expected ground rents,

rents, was proposed to be continued of the same width over the estate; a benefit which, after every effort of persuasion, the proprietors of that square * have declined to accept.

In June 1791 the building committee made their first report of any land let by them. The progress, since that time, has been regular and continued. In December 1794, they had the satisfaction of reporting to the court the success of their treaty with the Duke of Bedford, for four openings into his road at the north end of Southampton-row. The confirmation of this agreement was carried only by a small majority. Its effect was wholly to remove the chief objection to building on

The plan of building succeeds.

* The refusal of the ground landlord of Queen-square, to consent to the union of that square with the Foundling estate, was reported to the general court in March 1791. The desire, however, of continuing the opening of Queen-square was not given up till December 1793; when an advantageous proposal being made for the ground lying north of Queen-square, and a meeting of the inhabitants of the square, in consequence of a message from the building committee, having produced no alteration of opinion or inclination on the subject, the ground was at length let to Mr. Burton, on a plan as favourable as well could be, to the adjoining square.

the hospital estate:—its possessing no thoroughfare, nor any immediate communication with the western part of the town.

Of the ground rents of the land already let, amounting to 2089*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* there is already (besides the rent now received for brick earth and gravel, which has been from 600*l.* to 800*l.* a year) the annual amount of 976*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.* in a course of actual receipt; and the remaining 1113*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* will commence, according to the usual allowances on building leases, part of it (294*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*) before the end of the present year, and the rest in the course of the five next years.—To this increase of rental it is no inconsiderable addition, that the obstacles, to the further progress of improvement, are now removed: and that the expences, attending the measure, are nearly, if not entirely, defrayed by the rents and profits already received.—

Reception of
children of
soldiers and
sailors in
1794.

The opening the gates of the hospital to the orphan and necessitous children of soldiers and sailors, is a measure not unprecedented in the history of the charity; but, tho the general court exercised a discretion of admitting them even to the

the age of twelve years, yet, by a resolution of the 1st of July 1761, the committee was restricted from receiving any such child above the age of five years; except, as it was soon after modified, in particular cases, which the committee should think fit to make the subject of a special report.

In January 1794, a court was summoned for the consideration of this subject; and it was resolved, that “admitting into the hospital the
“exposed and necessitous children of soldiers
“and seamen, who are, have been, or shall
“be, employed in the service of their country,
“during the present war, will be productive
“of considerable advantages to the public;
“by holding out an encouragement to the
“brave and meritorious subjects engaged in
“the public service, and securing an object of
“great importance to the community at all
“times, but particularly at present; viz. the
“preserving the lives of, and training up in
“the habits of industry, virtue, and religion,
“infants in the inferior classes of society.”—
And the general committee was authorized to admit as many such children, not exceeding five years of age, as “the funds of the charity,
“together

“ together with any additional aids that may
 “ be furnished by the liberality of the public,
 “ will enable them to maintain, consistent with
 “ a proper degree of attention to the other
 “ deserving objects of the charity.”

Observations
 upon it.

It were much to be wished, that this wise and benevolent resolution could be carried to a greater extent, and with more effect, than it has yet been; and that a part of the benefit of the increasing funds of the hospital (so far as may be done without injustice to other objects) should be permanently fixed, as the peculiar right of the children of the defenders of their country: For, exclusive of national and general views, and whether the *merit* or the *necessity* of the case is to be the subject of consideration, no child can have a better title to admittance into a national establishment.—It is the observation of a very eminent political writer, Dr. Adam Smith, when he is speaking of soldiers marriages, that “ so far from recruiting
 “ their regiment, they have never been able to
 “ supply it with drums and fifes, from all the
 “ soldiers children that were born in it. A
 “ greater number of fine children, however,
 “ is

“ is seldom seen any where than about a bar-
“ rack of soldiers. Very few of them, it
“ seems, arrive at the age of thirteen or four-
“ teen.”

There is certainly no general situation, in which human nature has, in the early period of life, a more severe and unequal contest for preservation.— But there is another benefit of our charity, to a participation of which the situation of a soldier's child gives it the strongest claim ;— the advantages of a virtuous and religious education. For, pass the age of infancy ;— suppose a contest for existence, at first apparently hopeless, to be finally determined in favour of the child :—this nursling of the camp can have little or no advantage of example or instruction ; but is unfortunately contaminated by the vices of a soldier, before he is capable of his virtues. Whether, therefore, the *merit* and *situation* of the *parent*, or the *hopes* and *welfare* of the *child*, are to be considered, it appears to me that infants of soldiers, whose parents are in the actual service of their country, have, of all claims, one of the strongest, to admittance into the Foundling Hospital ;—the parent retaining, as in other cases, the power of reclaiming the child, whenever,

whenever, on account of the termination of the war, of success and advancement in life, or any other circumstance, he shall be desirous and capable of maintaining it.

What has been said is applied merely to infants, whose parents are *living* in the service of their country. But for the child whose father—or perhaps *both his parents have perished* in the field;—his settlement and connections distant or unknown;—where can the poor orphan look for preservation and instruction, but to some national establishment, like the Foundling Hospital? If this is not an EXPOSED AND DESERTED CHILD, intitled by its own *distress*, and its father's *services*, to the peculiar protection of its country, it should seem that no such case can exist.

I am aware, that it may be objected, that some of these children may not come precisely within the scope of the institution; and that the funds of the charity are not adequate to all the objects of this class, that might offer in addition to those, which are the subjects of ordinary relief. These, however, are only objections to its being extended to a degree commensurate with

with our wishes ; and the reply is, that, if the whole cannot be done, let it be done in part ; and let a portion of that income, which we have been labouring to increase, be appropriated to so excellent a purpose. If, in aid of our present endeavours, the public or individual benevolence comes forward, and the directors of any other fund, formed for similar purposes, shall think proper to lend their assistance, the system may very soon be extended, as far as will be necessary.

The object of the foregoing detail will be answered, if it contribute in any degree to the better management of the charity,—to the systematic improvement of its funds,—and to a wise and practicable economy in the application of them ; so as to make them a benefit both to the nation, and to the individuals of which it is composed.—In this labour let the strenuous exertions of every one be united ; and the blessing of him that was ready to perish, shall come upon them.

Foundling, 26 March 1796.

SUPPLEMENT.

Progress of the buildings. **T**HE progress of the buildings, on which was placed the chief dependence for the restoration of the finances of the hospital, has been unavoidably retarded by the war. But tho' retarded, it has not, as upon other estates, been materially obstructed, or entirely suspended. Handsome edifices, and a respectable neighbourhood, have been gradually formed on the Foundling estate, in despite of the disadvantages resulting from the present situation of this country, and of all Europe. The spirit and the resources of the builders, and particularly of one active and intelligent person, more deeply engaged in the undertaking, have contributed to the success of the work: and their exertions have been encouraged and promoted by every assistance and attention on the part of the governors, who have fully felt how much the essential interests of the charity are connected with the welfare of the builders. The advantages and eligibility of the situation are now so well known, and the character of the

the

the buildings so well established, that little doubt can be entertained of the complete success of the plan, to the extent stated in December 1790, in the first report of the building committee.

Increase in the
number of chil-
dren.

The gradual restoration of the finances of the hospital, and the late increase of benefactions and legacies, have enabled the governors to replace stock which they had been compelled to sell for the maintenance of the children, to set about that general and thorough repair of the hospital, which it had long wanted, to liquidate their outstanding debts, and at the same time gradually to increase the establishment of their children, with a prospect of a further augmentation. In March last (1799) at the general court they gave notice, that the funds of the charity were so far in a state of improvement, as to enable them to make a further increase in their number of children; and that they were desirous of extending its benefits to as many helpless and deserving objects, as its present funds, or any future increase, would enable them. They therefore directed the general committee to report, in future, to every quarterly

terly court, how far the benefactions and legacies given to the Foundling Hospital, and the progressive increase of the building rents on the hospital estate, will justify an extension of the benefits of this charity, to a greater number of helpless and deserving persons. And (in order to open the doors *equally and impartially* to all proper objects) the general court directed that public notice be given, that there are, at present, vacancies for several children, to be admitted into the Foundling Hospital;—that the ordinary age of reception (except in very particular cases) is within twelve months from the birth; that, in order to the reception of the child, the previous good character and the present necessity of the mother, and the desertion of the father, must be enquired into; and also, whether the reception of the child, together with the secrecy observed as to the misfortune of the mother, will be attended with the consequence of her being replaced in a course of virtue, and in a way of obtaining an honest livelihood;—that, where these concurrent circumstances can be ascertained on the testimony of credible persons, the unfortunate mother is requested to apply herself, with her own petition; and to be assured that both recommendation and patronage

age

age will be unnecessary and useless.—It was at the same time notified, that the general committee continued to sit for examination of petitions for admission of children every Wednesday morning, precisely at ten o'clock.

Mode of reception. The monthly reception for children at the Foundling Hospital in

London is on Saturday at noon; the circumstances of each case having been investigated and ascertained during the preceding month, and wet-nurses sent up by the inspectors in the country for each of the children to be admitted. The age of admittance is, generally, within six weeks from the birth: and, unless in some very few cases of peculiar distress, is limited by the rules of the charity to twelve months.

Care of the children at nurse. The children are publicly christened the next day, in the Foundling chapel, during the Sunday evening service; and on Monday morning they are conveyed under the care of their nurses, to their respective cottages, in the neighbourhood of the inspectors, about 20 or 30 miles from London. Care is taken that no nurse shall have more than

than one wet-nurse child at a time ; and in case of the death of a child, the nurse, by the regulations of the charity, is not to be intrusted with another child ; unless, upon enquiry as to the attention she has paid it, the circumstances appear to be *very* favorable to her. The nurse is allowed three shillings a week ; and, if the child is living at the end of the first year, she is intitled to a reward of ten shillings. The mortality among the children at nurse is very small*, compared with that of infants in almost any other situation of life.

The children, till about four years of age, continue with their nurses, in their cottages ; under the daily observance and controul of the inspector, in whose neighbourhood they live, and from whom they receive their weekly al-

* It appears, by reference to the books of the hospital, that there has been since the end of the year 1770, the number of 1684 children received into the hospital, of whom 482 children died under the age of twelve months, being rather more than the proportion of one in four. The present management and care of the children is more successful ; the average of those who have died under twelve months in the preceding ten years, being only one in six ; and, for the last four or five years, even less than that proportion.

lowance ;

lowance; and subject to frequent visits by persons sent down occasionally, and without notice, by the general committee of the hospital. A written report is made by such visitor of the state of health and condition of each particular child by name; which report is read at the committee, and regularly filed among the papers of the charity.

At the age of four years the chil- Employment
of the children.
dren are returned to the hospital.

They are then (if not sooner) inoculated, and placed in the schools; where they are gradually accustomed to regular and early habits of order and attention; the lesser children being occasionally let out to play, during the school hours. They rise at six o'clock in summer, and at daylight in winter; part of them being employed before breakfast in dressing the little children, in cleaning about the house, and the boys in working a forcing pump, which supplies all the wards, and every part of the hospital, abundantly with water. At half past seven they breakfast, and at half after eight go into school, where they continue, the boys till twelve, and the girls a little later. At one o'clock they dine; and return to school at two, and stay there till five in
E summer,

summer, and in winter till dusk; except on Saturdays, when they have a half holiday. They are also instructed in singing the Foundling hymns and anthems, and in their catechism; and are occasionally employed in and about the house during play hours.—At six o'clock in the evening they sup, and at eight go to bed.

With regard to the employment of the boys, the little ones knit the stockings that are wanted for the children in the house: the elder boys, in their turns, work in the garden, and assist as servants in their own (the western) wing, and in working the pump, and cleaning the courtyard and chapel. They are all taught, and make a proficiency in, reading, writing, and accounts. Different occupations and manufactures for the boys have been, at times, introduced into the hospital. The last that has been tried with much effect and continuance, has been the spinning of worsted yarn. It was however attended with this inconvenience, that the boys who had been so employed, were not so much in request as apprentices, and were not placed out so speedily, or so well, as those whose writing, reading, and accounts had been more attended to, and who had been occasionally employed about the house and garden. It should
be

explained, that no apprentice fee is given with the children, and that the situation, in which the boys are very frequently placed, is with London shop-keepers; to whom their being able to write and keep accounts, is of considerable importance: and it may be stated, as a general position, that “youth being the school for life,” that is the best occupation for young persons, which fits them most completely and effectually for their future duties in society; no profit being in general to be made from the labours of children before 12 or 13 years of age, which can compensate for their being less adapted at that period, and during their future life, for useful and active employment in the situation for which they are intended.—The idea of manufactures for the occupation of the boys* has been, after some experience and consideration, given up at the Foundling.

* These observations do not apply to the situation of parish children in manufacturing towns; for there, manufacture is the general object of their destination.—But, as to country parishes, it is much to be wished, that those who are anxious to introduce manufactures into *all* country poor houses, would consider how far that kind of domestic employment may unfit them for *husbandry*, the great and necessary occupation for which they should be prepared.

The boys and girls are kept entirely separate. —The girls are divided into three classes, under the care of three different mistresses, by whom they are instructed in needlework and reading. The elder girls are also employed in household work, and assist as servants in the kitchen, laundry, and other rooms in the eastern wing of the hospital. There is a considerable quantity of needlework taken in, and done for hire, at the hospital; besides all the linen and female attire of the children, whether in the house, or at nurse. The average annual produce of the girls work (as near as can be estimated) is 12*l.* each, from eleven to fourteen years of age; and that of the little girls from the age of seven to eleven years, 2*l.* 13*s.* for each girl. Under the age of seven years, little or no value can be set upon their work.

At 12 or 13 years of age, the
 How the chil- boys are put out apprentices *,
 dren are placed out. and at 14 years the girls; whose
 apprenticeship

* With regard to the proportion of those received, to those actually apprenticed, it appears, by reference to the books, that there has been since the end of the year 1770, the number of 1666 received into the hospital, and 965 children apprenticed out to different trades and services; besides those who, on account of imbecility of
 mind

apprenticeship is sometimes delayed by the greater difficulty, that attends the procuring for their sex proper and unexceptionable services in London. The applications for apprentices always exceed the number of children to be apprenticed, notwithstanding several restrictive regulations adopted by the corporation with regard to placing them out. No child is apprenticed except to an housekeeper; a very strict enquiry being previously made as to situation and character. No girl is apprenticed to an unmarried man, nor to a married man, unless the wife has seen the girl, and has expressed her concurrence in the application. Except in a few very particular cases, the girls are never apprenticed to any family that lets lodgings, nor unless there is an established servant regularly engaged in the house.

During the time of apprenticeship the children are attended to, and frequently visited; the girls by the matron, and the boys by the schoolmaster. The general committee is always ready to interfere in matters between the apprentice and the master or mistress; their duty as guardians not being considered as discharged,

mind or body, have been retained or employed in the house. 21 Feb. 1797.

until

until after the termination of the apprenticeship at the age of twenty-one years. The last general enquiry and report * of the situation and behaviour

* The following is a copy of the report.—The treasurer reported, that (with the assistance of Mr. Atchison, the schoolmaster, and also of Mrs. Johnson, the matron) he had endeavoured to obtain correct information, with regard to the situation and behaviour of the children placed out by the hospital; and he finds that there are at present 252 children of the hospital, who are now serving their apprenticeships; of whom it appears (as far as the fact can be ascertained) that there are 166 doing well, and giving satisfaction to their masters and mistresses. That there are 15, of the remaining 86, who have turned out ill; and in some instances merely from their own bad dispositions; but in many others (in a great degree) from the impatience, or caprice of their masters. That, of the remainder, 27 are apprenticed to respectable persons, and in distant situations, and, not having been the subject of any complaint, no information has been lately had respecting them. That there are 23 others, who have been apprenticed to their own relations, and may therefore be considered as placed again under the care of their parents: and that the remaining 21, though not free from blame, seem to require only proper treatment and judicious management to make them good servants: it appearing that they have generally improved in conduct as they increased in years. He has the pleasure to add, that the proportion of good servants in place, and of industrious apprentices in trade, among the children of the Foundling, appears to be as great as from any other class of young persons; but that
the

viour of the Foundling apprentices was in May 1798, when the result was as follows :

Doing well,	-	-	166
Have turned out ill,	-	-	15
In distant situations, well apprenticed,			
and no complaint	-	-	27
Apprenticed to their own relations,			23
Not free from blame, but requiring			
judicious management,			21
			— —
Total Foundling apprentices			252

There was a period when the proportionate mortality in the hospital had been very considerable, and the children were neither healthy in constitution, nor promising in aspect; but that period is, I trust, entirely passed by.—I question whether any public establishment, or even if private families, can shew better effects of care and attention in this respect, than what is exhibited in the Foundling Hospital. This im-

the few, who have turned out ill, being more the object of enquiry, have attracted more attention, than the many, who act so as to do credit to the charity: there being many respectable persons, at present in London, married and settled in business, who have been educated and apprenticed by this charity. 2 May, 1798.

provement

provement is to be attributed to several causes;—to the removal of an ill-placed infirmary to its present airy and healthy situation;—to an increased cleanliness in the children and in the house; and to some improvement in their diet, and (which I conceive to be very important to children) a more unrestrained liberty during their hours of play and recreation.—I repeat with a confirmed and most satisfactory experience, what I have stated in the former instance, that “an happier, a more healthy, or a more
“innocent collection of beings does not exist
“in the world, than is to be found within
“the walls of the Foundling Hospital.”

At a period when the martial spirit of this country was excited, and a firm and impregnable barrier formed against the enemies of our free constitution, it has been a subject of no small satisfaction to the Governors of the Foundling, that they have been able to afford accommodation to two associated corps, equally respectable in rank, in property, in numbers, in discipline, and in military spirit.

The field to the eastward of the Hospital, is become the exercise ground of the Light Horse Volunteers; and the area in front, that of the Bloomsbury and Inns of Court Association.

ation. The latter, upon the consecration of their colours on the 2d Day of *June* 1798, presented a splendid and gratifying sight to an immense concourse of persons, assembled in the chapel and court-yard of the Hospital. The satisfaction which was then expressed by all the spectators, could only have been exceeded by the delight which, upon the visit of their Majesties to the Foundling on this day, has been felt, not only by every one in this house, but by a great number of individuals, who have attended to enjoy, and to increase, the pleasure of the scene, and the splendor of the ceremony; a delight which has pervaded the breasts of thousands of loyal subjects, on seeing their SOVEREIGN, the Father and Friend of his Country, guarded and attended by the love and veneration of a grateful and happy people.

Foundling, 21 June, 1799.

F I N I S.

