

believe that the improved condition of our jails is largely the result of their efforts, that called attention to the abuses that have since been rectified.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice Brooks.

Friends Sewing Society.

In 1838 the Women Friends of Courtland Street Meeting (Orthodox) concluded to establish a society for the assistance of the needy, to be called "Friends Sewing Society for the Relief of the Poor". This, we believe, was the first sewing society established in this City.

The first meeting was held First Month, the 4th, 1838, at the home of Mary R. Brooks, the wife of John Brooks, who was appointed Directress. The treasurer was Louisa Landis, afterwards Louisa Carsler; the secretary, Julia Thomas, afterwards Julia Valentine. The Managers were Hannah Stapler, Mary Ann Meetien, Ann Jones, Ruth Ann Balderston, Mary Morton, Mary Ann Fowler.

A room was hired for a meeting place, and the friends concluded to divide the City into districts, and a visiting committee was formed, consisting of Julia Wilson, Evelin Reed, Rachel Brooks, Margaret Hopkins, Johanna Meetien, Julia Thomas, Mary Talbot, and many others.

The City was divided into districts, and two or three Friends were appointed for each section, to inquire into, and relieve the needs of the poor. That they worked faithfully was proved by the fact that during the first year, 1838, three hundred and eighty-three garments were made and distributed, and in 1839, four hundred and seventy-three, and in 1841, six hundred and forty-four.

In 1840, in addition to the sewing and visiting, we read "that during the present season we have under care a number of poor children to instruct in sewing, and that Tacy King and Mary Medcalf are appointed to "assist Mary Kelso" in giving work to and teaching them to sew."

In 1843 the interest of some of the Friends seems to have flagged, and one of the reports speaks feelingly of the luke warmness of the members, for we read again, "Why are these things so? Can pure disinterested charity become old and decay? Can the sufferings of our fellow men be a matter that concerns us not? Or shall we, feeling that we have aided some few sufferers, now wrap ourselves in the too well loved mantle of self complacency, and leave to our more persevering neighbors the care of the rest? But we hope better things of you, though we thus speak.

But the Meeting did not die, although in a little while a change was made in it, and it became literally a moveable feast, as the Friends concluded to successively offer their houses, and provide a substantial supper for those who meant to sew for the poor. The meetings varied in size according to the weather and the popularity of the