

**STOCK IMAGE BRIEF NARRATIVE OF FACTS
RELATIVE TO THE NEW ORPHAN HOUSES, ON
ASHLEY DOWN, BRISTOL, AND OTHER OBJECTS
OF THE SCRIPTURAL KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTION
FOR HOME AND ABROAD: CONTAINS THE
RECORD FROM MAY 26, 1867, AND
CONSTITUTES THE TWENTY-EIGHT REPORT**

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GEORGE MÜLLER

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BRIEF NARRATIVE OF FACTS

RELATIVE TO

THE NEW ORPHAN HOUSES,

(FOR 1,150 CHILDREN),

ON ASHLEY DOWN, BRISTOL,

AND

THE OTHER OBJECTS

OF THE

Scriptural Knowledge Institution

FOR HOME AND ABROAD.

BY

GEORGE MÜLLER.

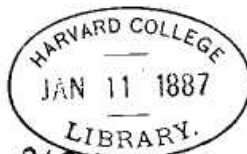
This Narrative contains the Record of the Period from May 26, 1866, to May 26, 1867, and constitutes the TWENTY-EIGHTH REPORT of the Proceedings of the above Institution.

1867.

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Sarah C. Hall,
Dorchester.

NOTICE TO THE READER

THE reader who desires to have a minute account of the Scriptural Knowledge Institution *from the commencement*, and, in particular, respecting the Orphan Establishment, will find it in "A Narrative of some of the Lord's dealings with George Müller," Nisbet, London (to be had through any bookseller). Sixth edition. Three Parts. 604 pages. Price 3s. 6d. These three parts contain the Life of the Author before his conversion, the circumstances under which he was converted, the reason of his coming to England, the account of the Lord's dealings with him since he has been in England, many answers to prayer with respect to his own personal circumstances, and the whole account of the Scriptural Knowledge Institution up to July 14, 1844, from whence the Fourth Part, published at Nisbet's, London, in 1856, 402 pages, forming a second volume, price 2s. 6d., carries on the Narrative to May 26, 1856. By sending 6s. in Postage Stamps to Mr. James L. Stanley, Manager of the Bible and Tract Warehouse of the Scriptural Knowledge Institution, No. 34, Park-street, Bristol, both volumes will be sent postage free. Should the reader desire any of the last eighteen Reports, they may yet be obtained, through a bookseller, from Messrs. Nisbet & Co., or post free from Mr. Stanley, by sending the money in postages to him.

It has repeatedly happened that donors have not known my address, though it has been given at the end of each Report, and I have therefore been desired to give it here, in compliance with which I request that all letters for me be addressed to my private dwelling, No. 21, Paul-street, Kingsdown, Bristol.

GEORGE MÜLLER.

BRIEF NARRATIVE OF FACTS

RELATIVE TO THE

NEW ORPHAN HOUSES AND THE OTHER OBJECTS

OF

The Scriptural Knowledge Institution

FOR HOME AND ABROAD.

As year after year passes, I feel, on the one hand, more and more the solemnity of writing these Reports, on account of the wide circulation they have, and am, therefore, continually led to the Lord for help; yet, on the other hand, my heart is encouraged to do this part of my work joyfully, because of the abundant blessing, which it has pleased the Lord to cause to rest upon these pamphlets; and because I have, in this way, the great honour of being permitted so widely to sound forth the praises of the Lord, in speaking well of His name.

The Institution of which this Twenty-Eighth Report gives an account, has been more than Thirty-three years in operation, having been formed on March 5th, 1834. Its beginning was most small, but it has since then been almost year by year enlarged, and that to such an extent, as that the expenditure in connexion therewith, during the past year, of which this Report speaks, amounted to £34,849. 0s. 6d. To large houses of business, or even to some private wealthy individuals, this sum may not appear a very large one; but it is to be kept before the Reader, that the means to meet such an expenditure are obtained simply by asking God to work in the hearts of His stewards to help us; for in no case is an appeal made to any individual for help. From this we abstain, not that we consider it sinful in itself to apply to individual *believers* for help in the cause of Christ; but, because one of the especial reasons for the formation of this Institution, and especially of that of the Orphan Work, was, that it might be seen to the glory of God, how much can be accomplished simply through the instrumentality of prayer and faith; in order that thus there might be, in this work, a witness to the faithfulness of God for the believer, and that the unbeliever might see, in it, the reality of the things of God, and thus be led to seek Him while He is to be found.

Before entering upon the different parts of the Report, I notice a few out of the many especial blessings, mercies, and answers to prayer, granted to us during the past year, for the encouragement of the Christian readers.

When the Cholera appeared in England, during the summer of 1866, and when there were even some cases in Bristol, it had been, from the commencement, our special prayer, that, if it might be, the Lord would mercifully shield the Orphan Houses against this fearful disease. And so He did. Not a single instance occurred. We had, however, many applications for the admission of children, who had lost both parents by Cholera, and in one single letter 23 such children were applied for.

During the past year the Hooping Cough again broke out among the Orphans. We asked the Lord, that, if it might be, He would graciously prevent the spreading of this trying malady; and He did deal very pitifully with us; only 8 children, out of all the hundreds under our care, took the disease.

During the summer and autumn of 1866 we had also the measles at all the three Orphan Houses. After they had made their appearance, our especial prayer was, 1, That there might not be too many children ill at one time in this disease, so that our accommodation in the Infirmary rooms or otherwise might be sufficient. This prayer was answered to the full; for though we had at the New Orphan House No. I not less than 83 cases, in No. II altogether 111, and in No. III altogether 68, yet God so graciously was pleased to listen to our supplications, as that when our spare rooms were filled with the invalids, He so long stayed the spreading of the measles till a sufficient number were restored, so as to make room for others, who were taken ill. 2, Further we prayed, that the children who were taken ill in the measles, might be safely brought through and not die. Thus it was. We had the full answer to our prayers; for though 262 children altogether had the measles, not one of them died. 3, Lastly we prayed, that no evil physical consequences might follow this disease, as is so often the case; this was also granted. All the 262 children not only recovered, but did well afterwards. I gratefully record this signal mercy and blessing of God, and this full and precious answer to prayer, to the honour of His name.

During the whole year, of which this Report treats, we have been mercifully preserved from trying infectious fevers. I gratefully mention this particular mercy of God, to the praise of His name.

There never was a year, since this work has been in existence, that our current expenses were so great as during the past year, which was occasioned by the high price of provisions, etc.; added to this, the three Orphan Houses have been taxed, with all the ordinary City taxes, which for more than 30 years before, while the Orphan Work was in operation, had not been the case. But while, on the one hand, our outgoings were greater than ever they had been, since the 5th of March, 1834, our income too was greater

than during any previous year, since the Institution had been in existence; whereby God not only has again shown how able He is to meet the increase of expenses in connexion with His work, but He is, as it were, likewise saying to me, I will also provide means, when the two new houses, now in course of erection, shall have been filled with destitute Orphans.

We record it as a marked blessing from God, that we have had no difficulty during the past year, nor for a number of years past, in placing out the Orphans, when ready to leave the Institution; but have had far more applications for apprentices and servants, than we were able to supply.

I cannot pass over noticing especially the small number of deaths we have had during the past year among the Orphans. Only eleven have died, out of 1804 who were under our care from May 26, 1866, to May 26, 1867. When it is considered, that by far the greater part of these Orphans lost one or both parents in consumption, and that, therefore, almost all inherit from their parents a weak constitution; we have especial cause for thankfulness in the smallness of the number of deaths. We indeed see, on the one hand, the importance of cleanliness, regular habits, wholesome food, and suitable clothing with regard to these children; and we are, moreover, fully convinced, that for want of these requisites, so many tens of thousands of the children of the poor go to an early grave; yet, on the other hand, we do own the gracious blessing of God upon these means, which are used for the preservation of the health and life of these children.

The greatest of all the blessings, however, which it pleased the Lord to bestow upon us in connexion with this Institution, in answer to daily prayer, was the mighty awakening among the Orphans, which occurred while I was writing the last Report, and to which I then referred, though strictly speaking it belonged to the year from May 26, 1866, to May 26, 1867. This was the greatest spiritual blessing we ever have had among the Orphans, at one time, the precious results of which continue up to this day.

The total income for the various Objects of the Institution amounted, during the past year, to £32,514. 19s. 4d.; and there has come in, since the commencement of the work, altogether Three Hundred and Sixty-Nine Thousand Pounds, by which sum, since that time, above Sixteen Thousand children or grown up persons have been taught in the various Schools, *entirely* supported by the Institution; more than Forty-Two Thousand Copies of the Bible and nearly Thirty-Four Thousand New Testaments, and above Ten Thousand Psalms and other smaller portions of the Holy Scriptures, in various languages, have been circulated since the formation of the Institution; and about Twenty-Nine Millions of Tracts and Books, likewise in several languages, have been circulated. There have been, likewise, from the commencement, Missionaries assisted by the funds of the Institution, and of late years more than One Hundred and Twenty in number. On this

Object alone Seventy Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty One Pounds have been expended from the beginning. Also 2263 Orphans have been under our care, three large houses, at an expense of about Sixty Thousand Pounds, have been erected, fitted up and furnished, and two other houses are now being built for 850 more Orphans. With regard to the spiritual results, eternity alone can unfold them; yet, even in so far as we have already seen fruit, we have abundant cause for praise and thanksgiving.

In the last Report but one I stated at length the reasons which had led me to adopt the plan of issuing a supplement to the Report, printed only for the donors who have contributed during the year to which the Report refers, which supplement contains an account of *every* item in money and articles contributed throughout the whole year, under the initials of the donors, or their place of abode, or otherwise, as they themselves wished it, without, however, in any one instance giving the names of the donors; for I have all along desired to hold out no inducement to the contributing for the sake of applause. I feel grateful for every donation, even the smallest; but if Tens of Thousands of Pounds could be obtained, by holding out such an inducement, God continuing to help me, as he has done hitherto in this matter, it would not be held out.

To save needless expense, there will be only *one* copy sent of this supplement to the Report, though there should be several donors in the same family, who all contribute through one individual; and the donor, through whom they contribute, and to whom therefore this supplement is sent, is respectfully requested to have the kindness to show it to the other donors, so that each may thus be satisfied, that his or her donation is accounted for. In case of anonymous donors, their donations are accounted for in this supplement, as the other donations, to be found under the date on which they came to hand, and under the object for which they were contributed; but if the application was left to me, then they must look for the date under the different headings for the various objects of the Institution.

The order, which I purpose to follow in writing the Report, is the same which has been adopted in former years,—viz., I shall first refer to matters connected with the present contemplated enlargement of the Orphan work; then give a few specimens as to the manner in which it pleased me to supply me with means for the School—, Bible—, Missionary— and Tract Fund; next, give also some specimens as to the manner in which means came in for the support of the 1304 Orphans who were under our care during the past year; and lastly, enter upon the operations of the various objects of the Scriptural Knowledge Institution themselves. But as this Report is intended for the spiritual benefit of the reader, so, as God shall help me, the whole will be interspersed with practical remarks, as either the subjects or dates may lead to them, though these remarks should not be immediately connected with giving an account of my stewardship.

I. *Donations given towards the Building Fund of the intended New Orphan Houses, No. 4 and No. 5, for Eight Hundred and Fifty Poor Children, bereaved of both Parents by death. Practical Remarks, Letters from Donors and Orphans, &c.*

In the twenty-second Report I gave, at length, the reasons which led me to decide on a still further enlargement of the Orphan work, so that the present accommodation for 1150 Orphans might be extended to that for 2000. The readers, who are unacquainted with these reasons, are respectfully informed, that the Report, which contains them, may yet be obtained. I can here only repeat, that, after much prayer and exercise of mind, I determined, in dependance on the Living God alone, my never-failing Friend and Helper, to go forward, though this contemplated enlargement would require not less than Fifty Thousand Pounds; and though the current expenses for the work, already in existence, were becoming larger and larger. In the last Report, the twenty-seventh, I showed how it had pleased the Lord to help me in connexion with this object, and that I had in hand on May 26, 1866, £34,002. 2s. 0½d.

The position in which I was, at the commencement of the last period, with this £34,002. 2s. 0½d. in hand for the Building Fund, was this, that I had been able to sign the contract for the New Orphan House No. 4, and that house had also been commenced on May 7, 1866; but I wanted about £7000. more, in order to be able to meet the expenses for the contract of No. 5, the signing of the contract for this fifth house having been, by agreement between the contractors and myself, made to stand over till Jan. 1, 1867. I might have signed the contract for No. 5, without having the whole amount of the money in hand, and said to myself, that the Lord would send me the means, before what I had in hand (£34,000.) was actually expended on the buildings, which would be enough for about 18 months; but I adhered to the principle on which I had always acted in reference to this Institution, viz. never to go in debt, even for the work of God. I had, on the contrary, always said this to myself, Just because it is the work of God, if indeed I am the person who has to do this work, and if *His own time* is come, I may expect to be supplied with means; but if, for the time being, I have not the needed means, it is plain, that I am either not the person to do the work, or the Lord's time is not yet come. On this ground I did *not* sign the contract for No. 5, but preferred, to the honour of the Lord, to wait yet further on Him in patient, believing, and expecting prayer, until He should be pleased to give me all I required, that thus I might honour Him in this particular. And now see, dear Reader, how abundantly the Lord recompensed my quiet, patient waiting.

In the following pages only some of the donations are referred to, by which it pleased the Lord to help me further with means for the Building Fund, merely as specimens; but every one of them may be seen recorded in the Supplement.