

# The Liverpool Echo Saturday, April 8, 1893

Liverpool Seamen's Orphanage

Annual Meeting

## **The Bishop and the Naronic.**

The annual meeting of the Liverpool Seamen's Orphanage was held yesterday afternoon, at the Town Hall, his Worship the Mayor (Mr. R. D. Holt) presiding. There was a good attendance, including the boys and girls from the institution.

Among those present were the Bishop of Liverpool, Sir James Poole, Mr. J. A. Willox, M.P., Mr. R. Neville, M.P., Mr. A. Turner, (president of the institution), Admiral Gough, C.B. Mr. R. Brocklebank, Mr T. H. Ismay, Mr. G. Holt, Mr. S. S. Bacon, Mr. R. G. Allan, Mr. C. G. Rome, Mr. E. Beazley, Captains Price, Davies, Durrant, and Hamill.

The committee, in their twenty-fourth annual report, acknowledged the prosperity which had continued to attend the charity. It pursued the even tenor of its way, helping to lighten the burdens of many poor widows, and standing by them in their time of greatest need.

During the year 1892 49 boys and 20 girls had been admitted to the institution, while 52 boys and 37 girls had been placed on the outdoor list.

It would be remembered by the friends of the institution that children not suitable for admission to the orphanage were eligible for grants of £6 a year, with boots and clothing. The number of children in the institution on December 31st 1892, amounted to 331 - viz., 203 boys and 128 girls, the average for the year being 322. The total number assisted with outdoor relief throughout the year was 463.

During the year 1892 39 boys and 20 girls had attained the prescribed limits of age or had been withdrawn by their relations and friends, and had gone out into the world.

The institution was honoured last year by a visit from his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught. Advantage was taken of his visit to ask him to unveil a brass tablet which had been erected in the chapel by the committee to the memory of Mr. James Beazley. Since then another brass had been erected as a memorial to Mr. R. Brocklebank

The committee had to recognise once more the great interest which had to recognise once more the great interest which was taken in the institution by the commanders, officers and crews of ships sailing out of Liverpool.

Their own contributions to the charity were considerable, and it was quite evident that without their hearty co-operation and personal efforts it would have been impossible to collect the large amount of donations which had been received from passengers, especially those in the great ocean-going steamers. there was no cessation of the claims that were made upon the charity. Its resources were taxed to the utmost, and the more money it had the more destitute and necessitous cases it could assist.

The Mayor, in moving the adoption of the report, remarked that he was no particular striking features upon which to comment. In a great seaport like Liverpool it was unnecessary to dwell upon the great advantages, and usefulness, and necessity for such an institution as the Seamen's Orphanage.

It dealt with that large class of our community to which the merchants owed so much of their prosperity and success (applause). To the fatherless children of our sailors, he felt that the merchants of Liverpool owed, and recognised, a deep debt. In Liverpool they had on the whole discharged their obligations, but the treasurer of that institution would inform them that if its usefulness was to be extended, more money would be required.

The necessary funds, he felt sure, would be forthcoming. Among what he might call the windfalls for the year, the institution had received from the late Mr. Jackson £10,000. The late Mr. Jackson fully recognised the usefulness of the work carried on in the place. He was pleased to hear that a memorial tablet had been put up in the orphanage to the memory of Mr. Ralph Brocklebank, who took such a deep interest in the institution (applause). It was only right that his name should be perpetuated by some lasting memorial (renewed applause).

Mr. Alfred Turner, in seconding the motion, remarked that the orphanage was still doing a good work. There was no more interesting sight than to go through the institution and see the happy faces of the inmates. Liverpool might point with pride to the Seamen's Orphanage. The motion was unanimously carried.

The Bishop of Liverpool moved - "That this meeting fully recognises the strong claims which the Seamen's Orphanage has upon the ship owners of Liverpool, as well as upon the community at large, and calls for more adequate provision for the increasing number of orphan children whose applications continually come before the committee." He remarked that it had always afforded him the greatest pleasure to confirm the children at the Seamen's Orphanage. The sight was always an impressive one, and he never attended a confirmation service now but that he missed the presence of their late venerable friend Mr. Ralph Brocklebank.

When living, Mr. Ralph Brocklebank always found time to see the children confirmed, and his venerable figure, seated near the chancel, was one of the things he always should remember. If they had more friends who valued the Seamen's Orphanage as Mr. Brocklebank did, the institution would never suffer from want of funds.

They were all aware that nothing had been heard of the White Star steamer *Naronic*, and the chances of it turning up were becoming smaller and smaller as day after day went by. He believed that if ever there was a ship well built, strongly constructed, and fitted to meet any danger she might encounter in crossing the Atlantic, it was the *Naronic*, coming from a company well known for the admirable manner in which its steamers were constructed. How many orphans would be left behind by the loss of the [Naronic](#) who could tell? When people thought of these things he hoped they would not forget in their charity and in their giving to the Seamen's Orphanage. Liverpool of all places in this country was bound not to forget her sailors, for if it was not for her sailors, Liverpool would never be the place she was (applause).

Mr. J. A. Willot, M.P. in seconding the motion, referred to the good work accomplished by the institution, and to the claims which our sailors and firemen had upon our sympathy and support. The sailor encountered considerable danger in the course of his duties, and it was only right, if anything happened to him, that the community should look after his children (applause). The motion was carried unanimously.

[Mr. R. Neville, M.P.](#) in moving the appointment of the committee for the ensuing year, said that he knew of no institution which could so appeal to their hearts as the one under whose auspices they had met that day. The sailor's business was an arduous and dangerous one, and one upon which our commercial prosperity depended.

Sir James Poole, in seconding the motion, said that Mr. Ralph Neville had announced his intention of becoming an annual subscriber to the institution. Mr. Neville was giving a very handsome sum (applause). The motion was carried.

On the motion of Alderman Gough, C.B., seconded by the Rev. C. E. Gausson, a vote of thanks was passed to the Mayor for presiding, and the meeting terminated.