

community, and left a legacy to that end. He depicted the past, and pointed out the path of duty to meet the increasing calls and necessities in a spirit of unselfish philanthropy.

The ceremonies of the cornerstone laying were attended by the civil authorities of the city, and by many prominent personalities, and a large number of the members of the Association and their families.

At the first semi-annual meeting of the Association, held October 7th, the Finance Committee submitted a very comprehensive statement. The members' roll exhibited 135, at \$12.00 annually, to which must be added the yearly contributions of Mr. George Jonas, \$100; I. L. Florence, \$100; and A. Bloch, \$50—an annual revenue, therefore, of \$1,870, leaving a balance exceeding \$1,000 to be provided for. The following was the statement as to the estimated cost of establishing the Home:

Cost of lots, \$4,065.00.

Construction of the Home building, including Architect and Superintendent's fee or commission, \$11,275.00.

Probable cost of cisterns, fence, grading, etc., \$1,660.00.

Probable cost of furniture, stoves, etc., etc., \$1,500.00.

Total, \$18,500.00.

Exclusive of the support for widows and orphans, pending the erection of the Home building, amounting to about \$800.

At the Board meeting of October 2, 1855, Mr. Joseph Cohn tendered his resignation as Secretary, which he had filled with much zeal, from the incipency of the organization, which, being absolute, was accepted with regret, and Rev. James K. Gutheim was elected in his place.

On the 18th day of December, the Board of Officers decided to dedicate the new Home on the 8th day of January, 1856, and adopted a programme for that purpose. Rev. James K. Gutheim to open the dedication ceremonies with prayer, and Mr. B. F. Jonas to deliver the dedication oration. The dedication took place on the day designated, and both the prayer of the minister and the address of Mr. Jonas produced a profound impression.

Mr. B. F. Jonas, the eloquent

orator of the day, is, thanks to a kind providence, yet amongst the living—one of the very few remaining links that connect the present with the past. He has lived to see his glorious prophecies and predictions, at that dedication, more than realized. It may be of interest to state that Mr. Jonas, in the course of his prominent and distinguished career, occupied a seat in the United States Senate, as Senator for the State of Louisiana.

The Dedication Day was also the first anniversary of the Association, and such was the enthusiasm that about \$3,000.00 were donated during the collection the Board of Directors had provided for the guests, thus enabling the administration to meet the needs of the institution for that year; for there were not, as yet, sufficient members to make good the annual expenses, which would amount to \$3,500 or \$4,000.

And, as anniversary followed anniversary, it became, as it were, an unwritten law—a custom—for our men and women, and the children, too, to attend them, to meet our orphans face to face, and to gather the lesson—aye, the inspiration—of the moment. All differences of rank or station were forgotten on these days—all met upon the same broad platform, that of generous sympathy for the unfortunate and the forlorn. The poor widow's mite, the little savings of the children, all, offered at these anniversaries, were of the same precious value, than the offerings of the wealthy. The whole community became as one.

And as time progresses, independent of the grand lesson imparted to both old and young, there was a material side to the question. For without the donations at these anniversaries, it would have become impossible for the administrations following each other to meet the ever-increasing demands and costs. These donations were absolutely necessary to the very life of the Association.

On the 1st day of February, 1856, the Home was opened for the admission of widows and orphans, and, to the number of thirteen, say, one widow and her five children, and seven other

(Continued on Page Six)

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