

Looking back: The McLean Tavern makes a good home for children 1887...

The children of the Vernon Home on Friday were found romping around the yard, eight happy little barefooted boys and one little girl. They attend the district school and church. They are bright and intelligent looking, and compare well with the children of any well-to-do people in the county. They rank well in school, and enjoy their studies. Their more fortunate school-mates appear to pity the little waifs, and are very kind to them...

The children rise at 5:45, breakfast at 6:30, take dinner at 12, supper at 5:30, and go to bed between 6:30 and 7.

On the first floor is a spacious hall, to the right of which is the reception room, and on the left the family sitting room, both rooms well and comfortably furnished. In the rear of the hall is the large dining room, with painted floor, and in the center is the table, with little chairs surrounding it. The children eat plain, wholesome food, with very little pie and cake. In the morning, when they sit down, they repeat in concert the Lord's Prayer, and when the meal is finished the oldest asks that they be excused, all waiting until the last has finished.

Adjoining this is another room where the children wait until called to the table. From the other side of the room opens to the sink room where is a pump with nice well water and shelves, etc. The kitchen is a large one, neatly kept, similar to the kitchen of any farm house.

Opening from this is a room where are kept clothes and contributions sent in for the children's wear.

The people are very generous, although

there is a tendency to send clothing for larger children than is needed.

There is also connected with the house a back kitchen or work room. A woman is employed to assist Mrs. Moody at her work.

At the time of the inspection, Friday, the kitchen was filled with the children as they ran in and out about their play. They frequently stopped to ask some questions or to show some plaything to "Mamma" Moody, as they called the smiling matron.

In connection with the clothes room, it should have been remarked that this is something that they did not have at Andover, but a place much needed. Every child when he leaves the home, is provided with one good suit of clothes.

On the second floor in the main hall is the sleeping apartment of Mr. and Mrs. Moody and a spare room; from a similar hallway opens the room of the boys. From the main hall opened another long back hall with several rooms, none in use except one occupied by the little girl. Here, in case of sickness a child can be placed entirely separate from the others. Mrs. Smith remarked that the house seemed built for the purpose to which it was now put.

On the third floor was a large playroom filled with toys, dolls, books, scrapbooks and playthings of all kinds, contributed by generous friends, most of them by the Sister Dora Society of Hartford, they readily detecting their kind of friend in that large-hearted lady who has given her life to this work

History of Tolland County Connecticut, J. R. Cole (New York, Preston & Co., 1888), p. 70-72.

