

REPORT G.

WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' HOMES.

To the Chairman and Members of the Convention :

Your Committee on Widows' and Orphans' Homes, ask leave to make the following report :

We find that some friends at Galveston have succeeded in obtaining a charter for such an institution, but as yet nothing of importance has been done. However, the enterprise is worthy of our most hearty endorsement.

Thousands of children drift to ruin or go to the penitentiary annually, for the want of proper care and protection while they are young.

Your committee do not deem it necessary to make a lengthy report, but trust this body will in some way bring the subject before the people of this State, so that at an early day something may be done for the unfortunate children of our race.

S. A. SOLOMON, Chairman.

J. J. HAMILTON, T. G. NICHOLS,
J. W. M. ABERNATHY, K. W. WILLIAMS.

REPORT H.

MECHANICAL ASSOCIATION.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Convention :

Your Committee on Mechanical Association beg leave to report, that in casting around to determine in what branch of pursuit we are most deficient, find that to be the mechanical branch, the main lever by means of which all greatness is derived. Here we are most deficient, and we cannot prosper as a race until this main arm of our body has been strengthened.

We cannot expect to cope successfully with other races until we can have an association in which our youth can become graduates, as those of other races. We find that even at the North the prejudice is so great against the colored people, that they cannot get their boys into a machine shop or mechanical institution. We can never consider ourselves on the road to greatness till we can turn out first class mechanics. There is a great tendency among our people to misrepresent themselves. There are too many botches among us. We find that as the people advance in science and education, greater is the demand for skilled mechanics.

We would respectfully recommend that a Mechanical Institution be established somewhere in the State of Texas, in which our young men and boys can learn trades to some degree of perfection. This we regard as one of the most important matters to be taken into consideration by this Convention, as hand in hand go education and skill in the mechanical arts—both building up a race. Should every member of this Convention look at this matter properly, and give it due consideration, something will be accom-