### The Story Of Charles Loring Brace And The Children He Saved And Failed

Once upon a time, there was a man named Charles Loring Brace who embarked on a mission to save the lives of destitute children in New York City. Brace, born on June 19, 1826, was a social reformer and philanthropist known for his dedication to helping those less fortunate.

During the mid-19th century, New York City faced serious challenges due to urbanization and a rapidly growing population. Poverty, crime, and disease were rampant, and child welfare was an issue that desperately needed attention. It was in this context that Brace took up the cause of rescuing orphaned and abandoned children.

Brace founded the Children's Aid Society in 1853, an organization committed to providing shelter, education, and a better future for these vulnerable children. The society aimed to remove children from the harsh living conditions of the city and place them in caring families in rural areas across the United States.



#### Orphan Trains: The Story of Charles Loring Brace and the Children He Saved and Failed

by Stephen O'Connor (Kindle Edition)

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Language	;	English	
File size	;	6374 KB	
Text-to-Speech	;	Enabled	
Screen Reader	;	Supported	
Enhanced typesetting	;	Enabled	
Word Wise	;	Enabled	
Print length	;	386 pages	
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To carry out his mission, Brace implemented a program called the "Orphan Train." This venture involved transporting children from overcrowded city streets and placing them on trains bound for rural communities. Those communities, in turn, would be responsible for taking in and raising the children. The hope was that these placements would offer the children a fresh start in life, away from the hardships they faced in the city.

Brace firmly believed that these children, with the right guidance and love, would be able to break free from the shackles of poverty and become contributing members of society. However, his efforts were met with mixed results. While many children found loving families and a chance at a better life, others faced unfortunate circumstances. The lack of proper oversight and screening sometimes led to placements that were less than ideal. Some children ended up in abusive households or as laborers in challenging conditions.



Moreover, the program encountered resistance from rural communities at times. Struggles arose between locals and the influx of unfamiliar children, causing tensions and stigmatization. These clashes often stemmed from cultural differences and the fear of economic strain on these small communities.

While Brace's intentions were undoubtedly noble, the challenges and limitations of his efforts were apparent. As the program progressed, he began to realize that

simply placing children in new homes was not enough to guarantee their safety and well-being. Brace understood the importance of follow-up care and support to ensure positive outcomes for these vulnerable youth.

With these realizations in mind, Brace and the Children's Aid Society pivoted their approach. They shifted their focus from purely placing children on trains to establishing "Lodging Houses" in cities across the country. These facilities served as temporary shelters where children could receive care, education, and vocational training.



Through these lodging houses, Brace hoped to provide children with the tools they needed to succeed independently in life. The society aimed to equip them with valuable skills and education to break the cycle of poverty and secure a brighter future.

While Brace's work undoubtedly made a significant impact, the journey was far from perfect. It is essential to acknowledge both the successes and failures of his efforts in order to understand the overall legacy of his work and the broader child welfare movement.

Despite the challenges and setbacks, Charles Loring Brace's dedication to the well-being of vulnerable children paved the way for important advancements in child welfare and protection. His work led to the establishment of stricter guidelines for child placement, requiring more comprehensive screening processes and regular monitoring.

Furthermore, Brace's advocacy for academic and vocational education for children in need contributed to the development of public schools and vocational training programs. Today, these institutions continue to play a crucial role in providing children with opportunities for a brighter future.

Charles Loring Brace passed away on August 11, 1890, leaving behind a legacy of compassion, resilience, and lessons learned. While his efforts were not without flaws, his commitment to saving children's lives and advocating for their wellbeing paved the way for ongoing advancements in child welfare.

The story of Charles Loring Brace and the children he saved and failed serves as a reminder of the importance of continuous improvement and reflection within social reform endeavors. It teaches us that even with the best intentions, addressing complex social issues requires an ongoing commitment to learning, adapting, and advocating for those in need.



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The true story behind Christina Baker Kline's bestselling novel is revealed in this "engaging and thoughtful history" of the Children's Aid Society (Los Angeles Times).

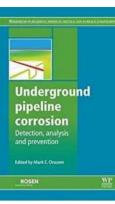
A powerful blend of history, biography, and adventure, Orphan Trains fills a grievous gap in the American story. Tracing the evolution of the Children's Aid Society, this dramatic narrative tells the fascinating tale of one of the most famous —and sometimes infamous—child welfare programs: the orphan trains, which spirited away some two hundred fifty thousand abandoned children into the homes of rural families in the Midwest. In mid-nineteenth-century New York, vagrant children, whether orphans or runaways, filled the streets. The city's solution for years had been to sweep these children into prisons or almshouses. But a young minister named Charles Loring Brace took a different tack. With the creation of the Children's Aid Society in 1853, he provided homeless youngsters with shelter, education, and, for many, a new family out west. The family matching process was haphazard, to say the least: at town meetings, farming families took

their pick of the orphan train riders. Some children, such as James Brady, who became governor of Alaska, found loving homes, while others, such as Charley Miller, who shot two boys on a train in Wyoming, saw no end to their misery. Complete with extraordinary photographs and deeply moving stories, Orphan Trains gives invaluable insights into a creative genius whose pioneering, if controversial, efforts inform child rescue work today.



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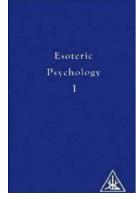
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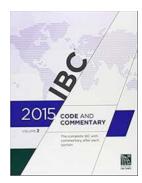
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