

THE
SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sisterhood

OF THE

Good Shepherd

FOR THE

Year ending Second Tuesday after Easter, 1871.

NEW-YORK :

E. BLAKEMAN, PRINTER, 157 ELM ST., NEAR GRAND.

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The Second Anniversary of the founding of the *Sisterhood of the Good Shepherd* was observed by a special service held in St. Barnabas Chapel on the Second Tuesday after Easter, April 18th, 1871, at 10 o'clock A.M.

The Bishop of the Diocese made an address and administered the Holy Communion.

The Second Annual Report was read by the Pastor.

One of the Sisters has entered into rest, leaving the present number two.

One Probationer has been received.

The Visitor who was with us last year, has given herself to the work another year. Three others have been with us, one for more than six months, another for five, and another for about six weeks.

One Associate, being about to remove to California, resigned last fall. Seven have been received, making the present number nine. There are now two Sisters, one Probationer, two Visitors and nine Associates, making in all fourteen, just double the number of last year.

The work has been the same as last year, the charge of St. Barnabas House and visits to the poor who daily apply there for food, and weekly visits to

the sick in Bellevue Hospital and the Hospitals on Ward's Island. Religious instruction has been given weekly to the Protestant children on Ward's Island and a Bible Class held for such convalescents from the Hospitals as choose to attend.

This year we have been able to give two teachers for the Sunday School of St. Barnabas Chapel. The Annual Report just made to the City Mission for the year ending April 1st, 1871, shows that 2264 persons have been under our care in the House. Of these, work has been obtained for 833, 708 returned to their friends and 617 found homes in other Institutions. 18,743 lodgings have been furnished and 82,432 meals, 286 visits have been made to families chiefly in the neighborhood of the House, and in this way and in the Hospitals to 3,521 persons. On the 14th of July, the Sisterhood opened a Day-Nursery for the City Mission, which rented the top floor of 308 Mulberry Street for this purpose. Since this date 32 little children have been received and cared for, while their mothers have been at work. They have their dinner and tea with us, and all who are old enough receive daily instruction and attend the daily services in the Chapel. Two of these have been received into the House as permanent inmates, others have removed from the neighborhood, so that the present number is 17. We hope the time is not far distant when we can have a day school in connection with the Day Nursery, and such accommodations as will enable us to receive *infants*.

We wait in faith for the *means* and the *workers*.

The Sisterhood Fund has received \$155.80

When in God's wise though mysterious Providence, the Angels bore the spirit of our beloved Sister Serena to the rest of Paradise, the dark clouds

of crushed hopes lowered for a while. But the gracious refreshing came in due time from the sympathy which was shown in our great loss, leading not less than ten ladies to offer their services for part of a day or more, each week. For these labors of love we are truly grateful.

We desire also to express our thanks to Dr. Armstrong, who has so freely given his services to the Sisters and those associated with them during the part year, and to the Rev. Mr. Warner, the Chaplain of the House, who has been ever ready to work with us in promoting the welfare of the inmates, whose sympathy never fails, and who has made the Chapel services to be a daily source of refreshment and strength. It has been very pleasant to some of our number to assist the Chaplain in the Sunday School under his charge.

We have duly appreciated the confidence which has been placed in us by those who have chosen us as their almoners to the sick poor, thus enabling us to supply tea and sugar (the most valued comforts) to the needy under our care in the Hospitals, as well as those in the neighborhood of St. Barnabas House, and during the winter to furnish the latter with coal.

We have been greatly encouraged by the unvarying kindness and sympathy of the House Committee of the City Mission, and the readiness with which they have, according to their ability, met our wishes on the important work entrusted to us. They have spoken words of good cheer when we have sometimes been discouraged by the apparent indifference and neglect of so many of the clergy and laity in furnishing the means for the daily expenses of the work and the enlargement which its necessities so strongly call for.

We trust that the example of the single Probationer who has been received will be followed by others. The Sisterhood is open to all who wish to give themselves to associate work for Christ and the Church.

In closing our second annual Report we hope that we shall not be considered presuming when we say that, notwithstanding all our trials and discouragements, we have faith in our mission, and rejoice in the thought that our Sisterhood is doing something to make more effective the Church of the gracious Bishop and Shepherd of our souls Who is with the Father and the Holy Ghost one God world without end.

The Sisterhood of the Good Shepherd is under the charge of the Bishop of New York, Rev. T. Gallaudet, D. D. being the Pastor.

Its object is to minister to the poor, the sick, the homeless and the outcast, and to care for little children.

No new work is undertaken or rule made without the approval of the Bishop.

The Sisterhood embraces five classes, Sisters, Assistants, Probationers, Visitors and Associates, over all of whom, the Presiding Sister has control.

The Associates are those, who residing in their own families are able to give only a portion of their time each week or year to the work.

The Visitors are those who wish to become probationers; or those, who desire to give themselves to the work for a limited time, residing with the Sisters, during this time.

The Probationers are those, who, having passed six months as Visitors, and then desiring to give themselves wholly to the work, and being approved by the Presiding Sister, shall assume the dress and be received by the Pastor.

The Assistants are those who wish to devote themselves to work for Christ, but whose lives have been so ordered that they are not fitted for the position of full Sisters. They are Probationers or Visitors two years, then (if approved by the Presiding Sister and Pastor) are received by the Pastor, and take the name of Sister.

The Sisters are those who having passed a probation of two years, still desire to devote themselves to the work, and being approved by the Presiding Sister, Pastor and Bishop, are received by the Bishop and known as Sisters.

Family ties being of the most sacred obligation, any Sister may leave the work of the Sisterhood at any time that family duties require it. In such case, if she desires to continue to be a Sister, she may do so, with the consent of the Presiding Sister and Pastor, returning to the work of the Sisterhood when Providence permits her.

Probationers may withdraw at any time by giving due notice to the Presiding Sister and the Pastor.

A Sister wishing to withdraw gives written notice thereof, with her reasons, to the Presiding Sister; but that due provision may be made for the work in which she has been engaged, such withdrawal does not take place, less than two months after the notice has been given, unless by special consent of the Presiding Sister.

Probationers must not be over forty, or under twenty-one years of age, without the special consent of the Presiding Sister and Pastor.

Applications for admission to the Sisterhood may be made to Sister Ellen, St. Barnabas House, No. 304 Mulberry Street, or to the Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Gallaudet, No.9 West Eighteenth Street, New York,