THE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Church Mission to Deaf-Mutes,
NEW YORK, 1873.

J. H. DUYCKINCK, STATIONER & PRINTER,
164 PEARL STREET.
1873.
THE CHURCH MISSION TO DEAF-MUTES.

OFFICERS:

President.
The Rt. Rev. HORATIO POTTER, D.D., LL.D., D.C.L.

Vice-Presidents.
D. COLDEN MURRAY, JAMES M. AUSTIN, M.D.

Secretary and Treasurer.
ISAAC H. HOLMES.

General Manager.
The Rev. THOMAS GALLAUDET, D.D.,
No. 9 West Eighteenth Street.

Board of Trustees.


P. W. GALLAUDET.
THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Of The Church Mission to Deaf-Mutes was held in St. Ann's Church, 18th St., near the 5th Ave., on Sunday evening, Nov. 2d, 1873. An address was expected from the Rev. Benjamin J. Haight, D.D., who, in the fall of 1852, took a personal interest in founding St. Ann's Church as the spiritual home for the deaf-mutes of New York and vicinity. He was, however, prevented from being present, to the great regret of himself and the friends of the Mission.

The Reports of the Trustees and the General Manager were read by the Rev. Dr. Gallaudet, and an offering made for the Home for Aged and Infirm Deaf-Mutes.
The meeting which resulted in the organization of this Society, was held in St. Ann's Church for Deaf-Mutes, New York, on Wednesday evening, Nov. 29, 1871. The Bishop of the Diocese presided and made an address in favor of the object. After addresses by Dr. I. L. Peet, Principal of the New York Institution for Deaf-Mutes, the Rev. Dr. Montgomery, Mr. John Carlin and the Rev. Dr. Gallaudet, setting forth the advantages of the proposed society, a Committee, consisting of Rev. Dr. Gallaudet and Messrs. Murray, Stewart, Haight, Comstock and Carlin, was authorized to take the necessary steps to have it incorporated and organized.

At a meeting held in St. Ann's Church, on Friday evening, Nov. 1, 1872, the Committee reported that they had accomplished the work entrusted to them. They presented the Act of Incorporation and the Constitution, which are printed in the Appendix. The List of the Trustees and the Officers elected under the Constitution precedes this Report.

At the very outset of its operations, the Society manifested its desire to supplement and make more effective the special work among adult deaf-mutes which had been undertaken by St. Ann's Church.

The Rector, Rev. Dr. Gallaudet, was chosen to be its General Manager, and the Assistant, Rev. Mr. Chamberlain, to be also his Assistant in the Society. Reference is made to the Report of the General Manager, for an interesting history of the events which led to the formation of "The Church Mission to Deaf-Mutes."

The associates in this Mission are the Rev. Dr. Gallaudet, General Manager, the Rev. John Chamberlain, Assistant, the Rev. F. J. Clerc, D.D., Rector of Burlington College, New Jersey, the Rev. Thomas B. Berry, Pastor of St. Paul's Mission Chapel, Albany, N. Y., and Mr. Samuel A. Adams, Baltimore, Maryland.

During the year ending Oct. 29, 1873, these Associates held services for Deaf-Mutes in St. Ann's Church, New-York, St. Stephen's Church, Philadelphia, Grace Church, Baltimore, St. Paul's Church, Albany, Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Boston, Grace Church, Mexico, N. Y., Trinity and Grace Churches, Watertown, St. Paul's Chapel, Troy, St. Mark's Church, Tarrytown, St. Peter's Church, Port Chester, Zion Church, Rome, Grace and Trinity Churches, Syracuse, Trinity Church, Geneva, St. Luke's and Christ Churches, Rochester, Christ Church, Buffalo, St. Mark's, Washington, D. C., Church of the Mediator, Allentown, Penn., St. James' Church, New London, Conn., St. Paul's Church, Hartford, Christ Church, Norwich, Christ Church, Springfield, Mass., 'All Saints' Church, Worcester St. John's Church, Lowell, Christ Church, Biddeford, Trinity Church, Saco, Me., St. Paul's Church, Flint, Michigan, St. Mary's Church and Church of the Messiah, Brooklyn.
This Society has founded a Home for Aged and Infirm Deaf-Mutes, at No. 220 East Thirteenth St., New York. It is under the care of Miss Jane Middleton. During the year it has had nine inmates, four men and five women. One of the former died of consumption, and two of the latter left. The present number is six, two old men, one man with paralysis, and three young women with very imperfect sight. In the care of these inmates, the professional services of Drs. Budd, Howe, and Sabine, are gratefully acknowledged. Several have been kindly treated at the Eye and Ear Infirmary, corner 2d Ave. and 13th St., by Drs. Derby and Noyes, to whom our sincere thanks are offered.

For the support of this Home, donations are continually needed.

The Church Mission to Deaf-Mutes has been instrumental in providing employment for a large number of persons. It has also ministered to the sick and given the bodies of the dead, Christian burial.

This brief sketch of the objects of the Society, it is hoped will commend it to the favor of all who desire to promote the temporal and spiritual welfare of our adult deaf-mute brethren. Its operations will be extended throughout the different parts of our country, in proportion to the increase of its means.

New York, October, 29th, 1873.
Written language was also constantly used by both teachers and pupils in the exercises of the schoolroom. The great object of the system was to lead deaf-mutes from the darkness and ignorance of their isolated position, to a knowledge of the language of books, and an understanding of the facts of man’s existence in this world and in the world to come. While the system recognized the importance of teaching articulation and lip-reading, as an accomplishment to those who had the capacity to respond to patient efforts on the part of the instructor, it clearly set forth the necessity of signs as a necessary means, analogous to sounds, for reaching the will and quickening into activity the faculties of the spiritual life which deaf-mutes have in common with their more favored brethren.

On his return to his native land, Dr. Gallaudet had the great privilege of being accompanied by one of the Abbe Sicard’s favorite teachers, Mr. Laurent Clerc, himself deaf-mute and a master of the sign-language. The 20,000 deaf-mutes of this country should be devoutly grateful to their heavenly Father for the faithful and indefatigable labors of Gallaudet and Clerc in founding, 56 years ago, the first Institution for their inestimable benefit.

From time to time, similar Institutions were established in different parts of our country, receiving a generous support from the Legislatures of the States in which they were situated. At the present time there are nearly forty of these Institutions, the one in Washington, D.C., having a department called the National Deaf-Mute College, the President of which is Edward M. Gallaudet, LL.D., the youngest son of him whom the children of silence affectionately regard as their apostle on this western continent.

The system pursued in our American Institutions, has been mainly in accord with the one which was brought to this country from France. The sign-language, however, has been perfected, and various appliances have been introduced for aiding deaf-mutes in overcoming the difficulties of correctly writing the English language. It may not be amiss to state in passing, that French and American deaf-mutes have the sign-language in common, while they differ, as others do, in their knowledge of the language of books.

At the opening of the Institution in Hartford, a practice, unknown to the European schools, was at once begun. The pupils were brought together in the chapel, twice every Sunday, for divine worship and religious instruction, conducted in the sign-language. They also had morning and evening prayers, daily, during the week. This custom has been faithfully followed in all the Institutions of our country, and has proved a great blessing in cultivating spiritual life and growth.

These general remarks upon the education of deaf-mutes, would be incomplete without reference to the efforts which have been made to teach articulation and lip-reading. These efforts have been most successful among the semi-deaf and the semi-mute, though some very remarkable results have been accomplished among the congenital deaf-mutes. Some attention has always been given to this subject in the Institutions referred to above. At the present time, in several of the larger ones, there are special departments in which those who show any aptitude
for instruction in this accomplishment are placed to receive the patient training which is essential to their progress. There are, moreover, several Institutions, recently established, the one at Northampton, Massachusetts, being the most prominent, in which the education of the pupils is carried on by articulation and lip-reading, the use of signs and the manual-alphabet being discarded. In due time, practical results will show which system is, on the whole, best adapted for the education of the greatest number of deaf-mutes, in matters which pertain to their spiritual as well as their material interests.

Out of the education of deaf-mutes at the various Institutions, there has gradually arisen the necessity for systematic efforts for their benefit, as they have gone out from the loving care of their instructors, and striven to support themselves in the various vocations for which they were fitted. These efforts have led to the formation of our society, which now fairly takes its place among the benevolent organizations of our country.

I desire the privilege of placing upon record, with as much brevity as possible, the providential circumstances which have led to the results for which we are specially grateful on this, the first Anniversary of the Church Mission to Deaf-Mutes.

In September, 1843, it was my privilege to become an instructor in the New York Institution for Deaf-Mutes under the late Harvey P. Peet, LL. D., whose reputation as an educator and author caused him for so many years to be regarded as the Nestor of our profession. The example of my father, the training of my deaf-mute mother and my early associations, all pre-disposed me to enter upon my duties with genuine enthusiasm. In process of time, God gave me in holy marriage one, whom He had seen fit to deprive of hearing and speech, and thus the ties which seemed to bind me to my deaf-mute friends for a life-long work were strengthened. In June, 1850, at St. Stephen’s Church, N. Y., I was ordained a deacon in the Church of Christ. Soon after this there was heard a voice, surely it was the gentle voice of the brooding Spirit of God, calling on me to do something for the deaf-mute men and women residing in the city of New York and its vicinity. I tried to respond, though feeling it my duty to continue teaching at the Institution. A bible class was begun in the vestry room of St. Stephen’s Church, by the kind permission of its Rector, the Rev. Dr. Price. It soon became so largely attended that we were obliged to seek another room. Calls were made among the sick and poor. Several were baptized, confirmed and received to the Holy Communion. We were laying foundations for a super-structure of which we then had no conception. After my ordination to the priesthood in the summer of 1851, more definite thoughts of future work were suggested to my mind, though I must admit the light dawned very gradually. A few months passed away, and I found myself a frequent visitor at the bed-side of Mary C. Lathrop, one of the most interesting and lovely of all my deaf-mute friends. On several occasions I gave her the Holy Communion, and tried to the best of my ability, in various other ways, to smooth her pathway to the grave. Her end was peace. I look back upon my ministrations to this faithful follower of Him who had said “Ephphatha” to her trusting spirit, as having providentially led to the foundation of St.
Ann's Church for deaf-mutes and their friends. The first services of this church were held on the first Sunday of October, 1859, in the smaller chapel of the New York University. In due time the parish was organized with its wardens and vestrymen, and I was chosen the Rector. At several public meetings of its friends, we received the hearty approbation of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Wainwright, and several of the clergy and laity of the city. Dr. Peet, Principal of the N. Y. Institution, and the Rev. Dr. Haight very kindly assisted as a committee in sending out the first circular, calling attention to the necessity of systematic work to improve the temporal and spiritual welfare of adult deaf-mutes, and the importance of having public worship for them in the sign-language. From year to year we seemed to have God's blessing resting upon us. Quite a large number of our baptisms, confirmations, marriages and burials were among deaf-mutes and their families, and for a while the large majority of our communicants were deaf-mutes. In the Fall of 1857 we removed to the Historical Society Building, and there gained so much parish strength, that it soon seemed my duty to leave the Institution and give myself more fully to the work which had been thus providentially marked out for me. With the cordial approval of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Potter, this result was reached in October, 1858. Soon the unseen hand was guiding us towards one of the most important events of our interesting parish history, and in August, 1859, we were providentially given possession of the property in 18th Street, a little west of the 5th Avenue, with which the progress of St. Ann's Church has since been identified. We bought from the Baptists the building which had been originally consecrated as Christ Church, assuming a very heavy mortgaged debt. Our sittings were continued as free to all who would occupy them. Our efforts at improving the condition of our deaf-mute parishioners were made with greater earnestness than ever. The Lord helped us and raised up for us many sincere friends. The debt steadily decreased, and the special work among deaf-mutes was so enlarged, that services were occasionally held for those residing in other cities. I received from time to time the assistance of the Rev. Dr. Clerc, the oldest son of my father's associate, the Rev. Dr. Ewer, the Rev. Messrs. George C. Pennell, Eastburn Benjamin, Stephen F. Holmes, John Chamberlain and Thomas B. Berry, and Mr. Samuel A. Adams, a deaf-mute.

At length all the workers who had in different parts of the field so kindly acknowledged the guidance of the Rector of St. Ann's Church, began to speak of themselves as associated in the Church Mission to Deaf-Mutes, and to feel that a definite organization was needed to secure greater efficiency. The greater portion of the debt of St. Ann's Church had been paid by the loving co-operation of members of other parishes, and the remainder had been provided for by legacies. It had become a self-supporting parish, doing all in its power for the deaf-mutes of New York and its suburbs. It was felt by several appreciative friends of extended systematic benevolence among adult deaf-mutes, that the time had come for supplementing and making more effective the exertions of St. Ann's Church. It was thought, moreover, that kind-hearted people of our city and country, who desired to promote the welfare
of the largest number of deaf-mute men and women would more understandingly and readily send their donations to a society expressly incorporated for this object, than to a church which had become self-supporting, and which was composed of hearing and speaking persons as well as deaf-mutes.

After several consultations among those holding these views, it was determined to have a meeting for the purpose of incorporating and organizing a society to be called "The Church Mission to Deaf-Mutes." The meeting was held in St. Ann's Church, Nov. 29, 1871. The Rt. Rev. Bishop Potter presided, and expressed himself warmly in favor of the proposed society. Addresses were made by Dr. I. L. Peet, Principal of the N. Y. Institution for Deaf-Mutes, Rev. Dr. Montgomery, Mr. John Carlin and myself. It was a pleasant thought to me that as Dr. Peet, the father, had encouraged me at the beginning of my parish work, so, Dr. Peet, the son was present to aid in organizing our much needed society. The meeting having approved of the organization, and also of including within its operations the care and support of a Home for Aged and Infirm Deaf-Mutes, a committee was appointed to take the necessary steps for carrying the object of the meeting into effect.

As the result of the action of this committee, The Church Mission to Deaf-Mutes was duly incorporated under the general laws of the State of New York, in relation to Charitable Societies, in October, 1872. At a meeting held in St. Ann's Church, November, 1872, an organization was effected, the Constitution was adopted, and twenty-five trustees were chosen as the Board of Management.

I have thus tried to put upon record some account of the providential circumstances which led to the formation of the Church Mission to Deaf-Mutes, hoping that it will prove of interest and benefit, not only to those who are now striving to do good to their fellow men, but also to those who shall take up our work when we shall have been gathered to our fathers.

I trust that as this society advances in the course which its founders have marked out for it, God's blessing will ever rest upon it.

I trust that it may have the means and the men to establish church services for deaf-mutes in all the larger cities of our country. I trust it may ever take a true interest in every thing which may promote the temporal and spiritual welfare of our deaf-mute brethren, encouraging them to make the best use of their education at the various Institutions, co-operating with them in their efforts to obtain proper employment, guiding and counselling them in all their difficulties, watching over them in times of sickness and trouble, receiving them, when necessary, to a cheerfully appointed and well administered Home, and at last, in the touching rites of Christian burial, consigning their bodies to the dust in hopes of a joyful resurrection, when all human imperfections shall be done away forever. I trust that as the years move on, the practical results accomplished by our recently founded society will, with God's blessing, be so apparent, that it will have the active sympathy and co-operation, not only of all the deaf-mutes of our country, but also of the Directors and Instructors of all the Institutions. All are working for one common object, the enlightening, the
comforting, the elevating of those children of the Heavenly Father whom He has in His wisdom deprived of hearing and speech.

At the meeting of the Trustees of the Church Mission to Deaf-Mutes, held December 11, 1877, I had the honor of being appointed General Manager. Since that time I have striven to mould the whole work into homogenous organic life, and in this attempt have had the hearty sympathy and cooperation of my associates. I have had from time to time reports from the different parts of the field our society has thus providentially occupied, and I feel greatly encouraged to think, that with God's blessing, we shall accomplish much more in the second year of our progress than we did in the first. Hoping that as time passes on, our society may become more and more effective in the important work it has undertaken, I am

Yours respectfully and sincerely,

THOMAS GALLAUDET,
General Manager of The Church Mission to Deaf-Mutes.

NEW YORK, October 20, 1873.

LIFE MEMBERS.

Mr. JOHN ACKERS,
Mrs. JOHN ACKERS,
Mr. R. J. LIVINGSTON,
Mrs. G. P. CLAPP,

Mr. WILLIAM O. FITZGERALD,
Miss CATHERINE BLAUVELT,
Mr. D. COLDEN MURRAY,
Mr. E. B. WESLEY,

Mr. J. C. TRACY.

DONATIONS, 1873.

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APPENDIX.

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
OF THE
CHURCH MISSION TO DEAF-MUTES.

In conformity with the provisions of the Act entitled “An Act for the Incorporation of Benevolent, Charitable, Scientific and Missionary Societies,” passed the twelfth day of April, 1848, and the several Acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto, the subscribers, of full age, citizens of the United States, and of the State of New York, and residents within the City of New York, in said State, being desirous to associate themselves together for the purpose of promoting the temporal and spiritual welfare of adult deaf-mutes, and to be a body politic and corporate for that purpose, do hereby make and sign this certificate.

1. The name or title by which said Society shall be known in law, shall be “THE CHURCH MISSION TO DEAF-MUTES.”

2. The particular business and objects of the said Society, shall be the promoting of the temporal and spiritual welfare of adult deaf-mutes.

3. The number of Trustees to manage the said Society shall be twenty five.


In testimony whereof, we have herewith subscribed our names.

ISAAC H. HOLMES,
WM. O. FITZGERALD,
JAMES LEWIS,
GUSTAVE FERSENHEIM,
HENRY J. Haight,
ORLANDO L. STEWART,
D. COLDEN MURRAY.

STATE OF NEW YORK,
CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK, \( \text{\textit{ss.}} \)

On this fourteenth day of June, in the year eighteen hundred and seventy-two, personally came before me, Isaac H. Holmes, William O. Fitzgerald, James Lewis, Gustave Fersenheim, Henry J. Haight, Orlando L. Stewart and D. Colden Murray, to me known to be the same persons who are by those names described in, and who executed the foregoing instrument, and severally acknowledge that they executed the same.

F. C. REED,
A Notary Public in and for said County.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I.

The Church Mission to Deaf-Mutes is a Society designed to promote the temporal and spiritual welfare of adult deaf-mutes. Its central office shall be in the city of New York.

ARTICLE II.

Its members shall consist of those persons paying two dollars and upwards a year towards its support, who shall be elected at any regular meeting of the Trustees. Any person paying one hundred dollars at one time, shall be eligible to life-membership.

ARTICLE III.

The affairs of the Society shall be under the direction and management of a Board of twenty-five Trustees, to be elected annually as hereafter provided. The officers of the Society shall be a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer and a Secretary, who shall be selected annually by the said Board from their own number, and shall also be officers of the said Board.

ARTICLE IV.

The Board of Trustees shall hold stated meetings at least once in three months, and may hold adjourned meetings when necessary. Seven Trustees shall form a quorum for the transaction of business, except that no purchase, lease or sale of real estate shall be made, unless two-thirds of the whole num-
ber are present at the meeting at which it is ordered. The Board shall have power to make By-Laws for its own government and for the government of the officers, and to alter and amend the same and may fill any vacancy which may occur in the Board or among its officers.

Special meetings of the Board and of the Society may be called by the President or one of the Vice-Presidents, or on requisition of five of the Trustees; but when special meetings are called, the time and place of meeting and the subject proposed to be considered shall be previously notified to the members, and no other subject shall be discussed or acted upon at such meetings.

**ARTICLE V.**

The annual meeting of the Society shall be held in St. Ann's Church for Deaf-Mutes, in the city of New York, on the last Wednesday evening of October. At this meeting the Society shall elect from its members, by ballot, twenty-five Trustees, who shall hold office for the ensuing year and until their successors are appointed.

At the first stated meeting of the Board after the annual meeting of the Society, the officers, specified in Article III, shall be chosen by ballot from among the members of said Board, and shall continue in office until their successors are appointed.

The Trustees shall present to the Society, at its annual meeting, a report of their proceedings during the previous year, a full statement in relation to the funds and property of the Society, and information relative to the objects of the Society which may be of interest to its members.

**ARTICLE VI.**

The Constitution shall not be altered unless it be at an annual meeting of the members of the Society, and two-thirds of the members then present consenting thereto, on previous recommendation of the Board of Trustees.
BY-LAWS.

1. The President, First and Second Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer, shall faithfully perform the duties usually entrusted to such officers.

2. The Trustees shall have power to appoint, by resolution from time to time, such special committees as may be necessary to accomplish most effectively the objects of the Society.

3. The Trustees shall appoint a General Manager whose duty it shall be to take the general oversight of the various departments of work, which shall be adopted to improve the temporal and spiritual welfare of adult deaf-mutes. They shall also have power to appoint assistants to the General Manager, and to fix the salaries which shall be paid to the General Manager and assistants.

4. The General Manager shall be subject to such regulations as the Trustees may adopt for his guidance, and shall present a written report of his work at every stated meeting of the Trustees.

5. With the consent of "The Rector, Church Wardens and Vestrymen of St. Ann's Church for Deaf-Mutes in the city of New York," the meetings of the Trustees shall be held in the said church.
6. At the meetings of the Trustees, the following shall be the order of proceedings, viz:

1. Devotions.
2. Reading of the minutes.
3. Communications from the officers.
5. Reports of Committees.
7. Adjournment.

7. Alterations of these By-Laws, proposed at one meeting, can be adopted at the next, by a two-thirds vote of the Trustees present, but by unanimous consent at a regular meeting, without previous notice.