

THE
THIRD ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SISTERHOOD
OF THE
GOOD SHEPHERD,
NEW YORK.

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1872.



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The Third Anniversary of the "SISTERHOOD OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD" was celebrated by Divine Service and the Holy Communion in S. Barnabas' Chapel, 306 Mulberry st., on the second Tuesday after Easter, April 9th, 1872, at 11 o'clock A. M.

In the much regretted, but unavoidable absence of the Bishop of the Diocese, who is the head of the Sisterhood, the service was conducted by the Rev. Drs. Gallaudet and Dix, and the Rev. Mr. Woodruff.

The Rev. Dr. Houghton preached the sermon from Heb. xiii., 20, 21.

THE THIRD ANNUAL REPORT WAS READ BY
THE PASTOR :

Another year brings no increase of Sisters or Probationers.

The two Visitors of last year are still of our number, though one, after eighteen months' service, reluctantly yielded to the advice of her physician, to try a change of climate for the winter, and was transferred to "St. Paul's Orphanage," Concord, New Hampshire, where she is still engaged assisting the lady in charge, in the school for the orphans. Five others have been with us during the course of the year, one for more than five months, one for two months, and another for only six weeks, her ill health compelling her to shorten the time of her service. The other two are now with us, making the present number of Visitors, four; three working in the House, and the other absent on account of health, for a time.

One of the Associates has removed from the city. Three have been received. The present number is eleven.

We have been assisted by several other ladies during the winter, who have given a portion of their time each week to the work. Our great need is permanent workers.

During the year, 1,705 persons have been under our care in S. Barnabas' House. Work has been found for 645 of these, homes in other institutions for 487, while 451 have returned to their friends. Lodgings have been furnished to 18,206, and 75,585 meals given. The weekly visits to Bellevue Hospital and the Hospitals on Ward's Island have been continued. The Bible class for convalescents has been kept up. The great want so long felt in our work on Ward's Island has been met, this winter, by a lady offering herself as an Associate who can speak German. This has enabled us to divide the class of children who come to us every Saturday for religious instruction, giving the Germans to her care, adding thus very much to their interest. She also visits the Germans in the wards of the Hospitals.

In our own neighborhood, the want of Sisters has obliged us to do less work ; but 106 visits to families have been made this

year. The number of persons reached in this way, and in the Hospitals, has been 2,089, making the whole number under our care, in the different departments, 4,514.

We have again to thank the kind friends who have given us the means of supplying tea and sugar to all under our care in the Hospitals, and to the sick and destitute in the neighborhood, with other comforts and delicacies as the cases required. We are also thankful to those by whose thoughtful liberality coal has been given to every really destitute and deserving family visited by us. We cannot express the pleasure it gives us to be their almoners. We are always ready to be the channels for such giving. We wish those who furnish the means for the Thank-giving and Christmas dinners, provided each year in the House, for the children of the Sunday School, the Industrial School, the boys who attend the Reading Room, the mothers of the Day-Nursery children, etc., as well as the inmates of the House, would come and share with us the pleasure they give. This year, eight hundred and nine dinners were given on these two days. A friend

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added very much to our Christmas joy, by sending, through us, the most bountiful supplies to seven poor families, that they might keep the feast at home.

In the Day-Nursery our work has increased. Forty have been admitted, making the whole number cared for, during the year, fifty-seven. Of these, twenty-three have removed to other parts of the city, and one died last summer of small-pox, under circumstances that made us realize the Providential care that has preserved us all, exposed, as we must of necessity be, from this and other contagious diseases. The present number in daily attendance is thirty-three, very nearly double that of last year. We were compelled by the heat of midsummer (the room occupied being next to a flat roof) to rent the second floor of the building. This added greatly to the comfort of the children, but it also doubled the rent. We are glad to say that the parents have themselves entirely met this extra expense. It was thought best to charge them according to their means for the care of the children and for their meals. Thirteen of the

thirty-three now in attendance can pay nothing. The remainder pay from five to twelve cents per day. In this way they have met not only the smaller expenses, but have actually paid, this year, \$200 of the rent. Mr. John David Wolfe has given each year the remaining \$100, while three friends have supplied the coal. The gift of a stove by the Rev. Dr. Montgomery has enabled us to use the school-room all winter. If any one will try to teach seventeen children (we have school three hours each day), while sixteen others, under four years of age, are playing in the same room, they will appreciate the comfort and relief afforded by this gift. We are glad to see the Day-Nursery bringing forth fruits in children coming to the Sunday School, and families in regular attendance upon the Chapel services.

We have endeavored to give two regular teachers to the Sunday School, and three of the Associates have testified their interest by making beautiful the altar linen.

To the Chaplain we are more than ever indebted—not only for the comfort of his sympathy, the aid of his counsels, and his

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willingness to assist us in every way, but also for the fulness of the Chapel services, adding to his many labors that he might afford us the refreshment and strength the Church so richly provides.

To the House Committee of the "New York Protestant Episcopal City Mission Society," our thanks are due for their continued support and confidence.

Great pleasure was given last summer by Mr. John David Wolfe, who sent us the means of taking all the House children into the country, and giving them a run there of one or two weeks. It was a pleasure that will last through life.

With much to discourage, we have been greatly touched and cheered by the gifts to the Sisterhood during the past year. One showed such thoughtfulness for our comfort; another, a Christmas thank-offering of a dear friend, has made beautiful our little room for prayer, and adds daily to the refreshment and strength we find there. The Easter gift of a beautiful cover for the Lectern, really makes bright our plain little Chapel.

The Rev. Dr. Houghton has just given the

finishing touch to the window of the Oratory by introducing into it the figure of the Good Shepherd. We have heard but one opinion of its beauty.

These manifestations of good will on the part of kind and appreciating friends, have greatly encouraged and strengthened us in the work to which we have been providentially called.

The Sisterhood Fund has received donations in money amounting to \$97.35. It has also received, as a bequest from Sister Serena, a bond nominally valued at \$1,000. This bond was originally intended to be divided between Foreign Missions and the Nashotah Seminary, but, on her death-bed, Sister Serena desired that it should be given to the Sisterhood of the Good Shepherd. We feel that it was a kind and graceful act for the Foreign Committee and the Trustees of Nashotah to favor the clearly-expressed wishes of our departed Sister, and we are sincerely thankful. We trust so to use the donations and bequests to our fund as to promote the best interests of our organization.

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As we have passed through the vicissitudes of another year, we have experienced mingled emotions of joy and pain—joy, that increased light has been thrown by wise and great men upon the vital question of woman's work in the Church; and of pain, that so many calls to us for helpers in the missionary fields of our country, and in the charitable work of our city, have been made in vain. We are asked to furnish Sisters for other portions of the Master's vineyard, when we have not enough to take care of what has been allotted to us. We are praying and waiting for the women who shall add strength and effectiveness to our organization, and make it more extensively useful.

It is our hope that as soon as the City Mission Society is ready to establish other Christian homes similar to this, the Sisterhood of the Good Shepherd will be ready to furnish the necessary Workers.

THE SISTERHOOD.

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 new 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.

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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 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.

Application for admission to the Sisterhood may be made to SISTER ELLEN, S. Barnabas' House, No. 304 Mulberry Street, or to the Pastor, the REV. DR. GALLAUDET, No. 9 West Eighteenth Street, New York City.



FORM OF BEQUEST.

I Give and Bequeath to the SISTERHOOD OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, of the Protestant Episcopal Church, in the Diocese of New York, incorporated by the Legislature of the State of New York, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one, the sum of ——— dollars, for the sole use of the SISTERHOOD.