

THE  
FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SISTERHOOD  
OF THE  
GOOD SHEPHERD,  
*NEW YORK.*

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1873.



NEW YORK :  
Julius Schlueter, Printer, 27 Rose Street.



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THE Fourth Anniversary of the "SISTERHOOD OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD" was celebrated by Divine Service and the Holy Communion in St. Barnabas' Chapel, 306 Mulberry Street, on the second Tuesday after Easter, April 22nd, 1873, at 11½ o'clock A. M.

The Bishop of the Diocese, who is the head of the Sisterhood, being unavoidably absent, the service was conducted by the Rev. Drs. Peters and Gallaudet, and the Rev. E. K. Smith.

After an address by the Rev. H. C. Potter, D. D., the Fourth Annual Report was read by the Pastor.

THE FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The pleasant associations which clustered around the third anniversary of our Sisterhood soon received a tinge of sadness as

the news reached us that our kind and sympathizing friend, MR. JOHN DAVID WOLFE had been gathered to his fathers. He had made frequent visits to St. Barnabas' House and had often cheered our hearts, when some severe trial had fallen upon us. He had evidently appreciated the self-denying work which was being done by the Pastor of the Chapel. He had smiled upon the children of the House and the Day Nursery, and they knew that he loved them. He had always been so considerate in relation to all our wants, especially at the Christmas-tide, and midst the summer's heat, that he seemed to have become part of our life. We found it, therefore, very hard at first to feel resigned to the will of the gracious Being who ordereth all things for the best. But as time moves on, the power of the Comforter is felt, and now, instead of dwelling upon the great sorrow we have experienced, we would rather strive to look forward with hope to the re-union which will take place bye-and-bye in the rest of Paradise. We are very thankful that the daughter of our departed friend has continued to

the different departments of our work the support which he so generously gave.

During the year, one of the Visitors was received as a Probationer. One was obliged to leave on account of ill-health. The third remained till her year of service was nearly completed, when she felt that rest was requisite for a time. The fourth, who was absent on account of ill-health at our last Anniversary, was transferred to the Sisterhood of St. John, Washington, D. C., as she could not endure the winters in New York, and is now doing good service as a Probationer in St. John's Hospital. Eight Visitors were received in the house during the year. Four of these are now with us. One of the Associates has been with us as a Visitor for nearly six months. Two were compelled to resign. Four were received, making the present number twelve. Beside these, several other ladies aided us during the winter by giving a portion of their time each week.

During the year, 1657 persons were under our care in St. Barnabas House. We found work for 595 ; homes in other Institutions for 546, while 412 were returned to

their friends. We gave daily familiar instruction to those under our care ; 18,013 lodgings were furnished, and 81,642 meals given.

Beside these, we had 101 children under our care in the Day-nursery. Of these 58 left, generally because of the parents removing to another part of the city. Seven died, leaving the present number in attendance 36. During the extreme heat of last summer, we felt most deeply in need of an Infirmary for these little ones. We did what we could by visiting them when sick, but the mothers rarely knew how to take proper care of them, and we could find no hospital that would admit a child with a contagious disease. If our number had been equal to the additional care, we should have appealed for funds to open an Infirmary, where we could, at least, have nursed our own sick children that could not be received in the Day-nursery with contagious diseases.

We feel very grateful to the friends who supplied us so abundantly with the means of making the sick as comfortable as circumstances would admit in their own homes ;

also, to all who contributed to the fresh-air fund. We would mention especially the thoughtfulness that sent us a free pass to Fort Lee for all our children during the summer, allowing not only our own sixteen in the house, but our Day-nursery children, with their mothers and others, to share in the pleasure. The delightful day in Astoria will never be forgotten by the children, or those in charge of them.

The kindness of Miss WOLFE furnished the means, as her father had done the year before, for two weeks board in the Highlands for Sisters and children.

The weekly visits to Bellevue Hospital and Ward's Island were kept up. Since Jan. 1st, by the invitation of the First Directress, we have also made weekly visits to the Hospital at the corner of Lexington Avenue and 51st st. We were able to make only 198 visits to families in our neighborhood, reaching in this way and in the Hospitals 3,680 persons during the year. We must again thank all who furnished the means to enable us to take to the sick such comforts as they required. We feel very grateful to those

who made us their almoners, so that no family under our care suffered during the winter for want of coal or food, while six at Thanksgiving, and ten at Christmas, had bountiful dinners provided for them at their homes, beside 1,050 who, on these days, were bountifully feasted at St. Barnabas' House. The pleasure of the Christmas Tree was very much increased by our ability to give to the mothers of the Day-nursery children such clothing as they greatly needed to make them comfortable.

We have been much encouraged by many tokens of confidence, and by gifts from valued friends. The flagon for our Communion service is the first thank-offering of the first child of our first Associate. Coming to us from a distance, it shows how the heart-interest in the work lives on.

The thanks of the Sisterhood are due to Dr. O. W. Armstrong, for the faithful services he has constantly rendered to all who were working at St. Barnabas' House.

We were again enabled to pay the rent and other expenses of the Day-nursery by Miss WOLFE's donation of \$100, supplementing the

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amount of \$260.25, made up in small daily payments by the mothers of the children.

The year began with the loss of a faithful friend by death, and it closes with the loss of our beloved chaplain, Rev. Arthur H. Warner, by the resignation of his office in consequence of ill-health. The intimate relations which exist between St. Barnabas' Chapel and House have brought the Chaplain and the members of our Sisterhood into daily consultations; and the more thoroughly we have known him, the more earnestly have we esteemed him for his unwavering kindness, sympathy, and fidelity. His parting gift, the beautiful Cross upon the altar, bearing this touching inscription: "In Memoriam, Sister Serena," will always be associated with pleasant memories of his self-denying, self-sacrificing ministrations in St. Barnabas' Chapel.

In closing our Fourth Anniversary Report, we feel constrained once more to appeal to all who love systematic work for the Master's sake, for more means and more workers. The Report of the Sisterhood Fund indicates that as yet our means have been



very limited. Are there not Christian women able and willing to support a Sister to do the work which providential circumstances prevent their personally undertaking? There may be others who would take pleasure in continuing labor begun by dear ones now resting in Paradise, and contribute enough for the perpetual support of a Sister. Though by no means discouraged at the slow growth of the Sisterhood, we feel that the time has now come for us to expect a more earnest and wide-spread co-operation on the part of our friends among the clergy and laity. We ask that the attention of Christian women, seeking for opportunities to do good, may be more positively directed toward the Sisterhood of the Good Shepherd. The work which we have begun is capable of great expansion in this city. Thus far we have been able to respond to only a portion of the calls which have been providentially made to us for assuming additional responsibilities. Waiting and hoping for more means and workers, we ask, for another year, the sympathy and prayers of all who believe

that the Son of Man came to save that which was lost.

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## 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.

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 positions 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, St. Barnabas' House, No. 304 Mulberry Street, or to the Pastor, the REV. DR. GALLAUDET, No. 9 West Eighteenth Street, New York City.