

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



1876.



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THE Seventh Anniversary of the "SISTERHOOD OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD" was celebrated by Divine Service, with the Holy Communion, in St. Barnabas' Chapel, 306 Mulberry street, on the Second Tuesday after Easter, St. Mark's Day, April 25th, 1876, at 9:30 A. M.

The Bishop of the Diocese being prevented from attending, the service was conducted by the Rev. Messrs. Woodruff, Warner and Holmes, and the Pastor. The latter read the Seventh Annual Report. The offerings were appropriated to the Sisterhood Fund. Quite a number of the friends were present, including representatives of two Orders of Deaconesses and four Sisterhoods. After the services they visited the House and expressed their interest in the work.

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

In commemorating the Seventh Anniversary of our community life, we present to the Trustees of the New York Protestant Episcopal City Mission Society, and to all other beloved friends, another brief report of the stewardship committed to us.

It is one of the pleasant coincidences of our work that our anniversary occurs midst the encouraging associations of Easter-tide. We behold, in imagination, the risen Saviour inspiring His followers with confidence in His power to give life to those whom He had redeemed from sin and death by His precious blood-shedding on the Cross. We think of the resurrection of our Lord, as preparing the way for the wonderful events which happened after His ascension to the right hand of the Father, the out-pouring of the Holy Ghost, and the founding of the Christian Church. Our faith in this Church is quickened, and we are filled with more earnest desires to lead the poor and the suffering, with whom our lot is cast, to the possession of the life, which, in the name of the Good Shepherd, it so freely offers to all. We trust at these Easter-tide anniversaries

we shall be specially remembered in the prayers of all who have become interested in the Mission entrusted to our care, that our humble ministrations may be blessed in persuading many to die unto sin, and to rise unto righteousness through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In following the order of the Church's year, we use, on this, our seventh anniversary, the Collect, Epistle and Gospel for the Festival of St. Mark's Day. What a practical lesson is set before us in the words of the good man who wrote the Book of Ecclesiasticus: "Make not a hungry soul sorrowful; neither provoke a man in his distress. Add not more trouble to a heart that is vexed; and defer not to give to him that is needy. Reject not the supplication of the afflicted; neither turn away thy face from a poor man." In the Second Lesson we find the invitation of our blessed Lord which we would fain help to extend to all who are out of the way: "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink." In the Collect, we pray for steadfastness. In the Epistle we are taught that all our work should be for the edifying, that is, the build-

ing up of the Body of Christ ; and in the Gospel we read of the true vine, whose living branches are graciously purged by the infinite Husbandman, that they may bring forth more fruit. We know that the faithful Evangelist, whose life and character the Church specially commemorates to-day, and all his co-laborers of the Apostolic times, caught the true spirit of the lessons to which this brief reference has been made, and acted it out in their daily lives. God grant to the workers of the present generation grace to realize that the mantles of the early Christians have fallen upon them, and strength to accept the regimen of the Kingdom which is not of this world

The Sisterhood of the Good Shepherd at present comprises three Sisters, one Assistant Sister, one Probationer, three Visitors, and twenty-four Associates.

During the year ending April 1st, 1876, we had fifteen ladies assisting us in the House as Visitors. Three of these on leaving became Associates, and are looking forward to yearly visits to the House. On the Feast of St. Simon and St. Jude, one who had been with us more than three years

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as a Visitor, was received as a Probationer. The service was held in St. Barnabas' Chapel, and the address was made by her former pastor, the Rev. S. O. Seymour, whose presence with us added much to the pleasure of the occasion.

The work has continued the same as last year, the charge of St. Barnabas' House and Day-Nursery, weekly visits to Bellevue and the Hospitals on Ward's Island (including this year the new Homœopathic Hospital), eight hundred visits to families in the neighborhood of St. Barnabas House, the charge of the Infant and two other classes of the Sunday School of St. Barnabas' Chapel, and, during the winter, a social evening passed with the women of the Chapel congregation in the dining-room of the House, on every Tuesday of the month except one, when the Chaplain had a reception in the Reading-Room. The object of this was twofold: to enable the Sisters to become better acquainted with those whom they wished to help, and to brighten the lives of these poor, hard-working women by giving them at least one cheerful evening each week. We were much encouraged by the attendance, and

only discontinued the meetings, when the Lenten evening services took their place. The Chaplain added much to the good accomplished by these social gatherings in closing them with short devotions.

The House was overcrowded most of the year, and many had to be sent away for want of room. The whole number under our care in the House was 1602. For many of these women good situations were procured. The lodgings amounted to 21,812, and the meals to 133,592, an increase over the preceding year of 1,264 lodgings and 26,727 meals. The Day Nursery was at times so full that children had to be refused. 165 children received its care. One death occurred, 104 removed from the neighborhood, leaving 60 in attendance at the present time. We greatly need more room and better accommodations for this department of the work. We are unable to take infants, causing frequent disappointment to mothers who know not what to do with their children while they strive to earn their daily bread. We are indebted to Miss Wolfe for one-third of the rent, which otherwise could not have been met.

The kindness of friends again enabled us to supply Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to all the children connected with the Mission, as well as the House, together with such mothers as were in need. The Christmas Tree was once more bountifully supplied with gifts for the House and Day Nursery children, enabling us to clothe every child comfortably for the winter. A dear little girl added the most acceptable present of a pair of shoes to each child in need of them, while Mr. Peter Cooper's annual donation for shoes gladdened many a heart.

On Washington's birth-day the whole household had a very pleasant surprise in an unexpected festival, while the children are still rejoicing in the Easter remembrances of the kind friends who never forget them.

We were again indebted to Miss Wolfe for the delightful visit of two weeks, enjoyed by the Sisters and children, at St. Johnland. Other friends added another week, made necessary by the painting of the children's dormitories. We were grateful to the President of the Long Island Railroad Company for his kindness to our whole party in this summer recreation.

We have also to thank the friend of the Sisters who celebrated her little boy's second birthday by inviting all our children to pass the day in her pleasant grounds, giving them an abundant feast on the lawn. The Morrisania Steamboat Company kindly gave us a free pass on this occasion. We are under renewed obligations to Mr. J. M. Goetchius for a free pass to Fort Lee for the season, thus not only giving the House children "fresh air," but enabling us to take all the sick children of the Day Nursery who could be carried to the boat. Very grateful were their mothers to exchange the hot room on the top floor of a tenement house for the refreshing trip on the Hudson river. We would thank all the contributors to the "Fresh Air Fund," and only wish they could have seen the children on these excursions, or at the Park.

The following words are taken from our last Report: "We need a Sisters' house in the country, where the Sisters and other workers could go for rest, and the children could have their summer holiday, and where we might add a Convalescents' home." Most unexpectedly this want has been sup-

plied. Through the Rev. R. B. Post, Rector of Christ Church, South Amboy, New Jersey, the use of the Orphanage, adjoining the Church, has been given us by the Trustees, free of rent, and they have also appropriated two hundred dollars toward supplying the necessary furniture. Here we hope to take our children early in June for the summer; and, as our means will enable us, to add to their number, from time to time, such of the Day Nursery children as may need country air. The kindness of friends has already made the "Fresh Air Fund" sufficient to warrant the acceptance of this generous offer, and we believe it needs only to be known to place the means in our hands for remaining the whole summer, and extending its benefits to as many as the house will accommodate.

To all the kind contributors to the "Poor and Sick Fund," and the "Coal Fund," our sincere thanks are given. We bless God for putting it into their hearts to minister to Him in these poor and sick, and very glad are we to be the channels of their ministry.

We trust it may not be thought out of place to express our deep appreciation of

the loving services of the Associates, who, when two of our little band were stricken down by severe illness, came at once to our help, assisting in every department of the work, and sharing the night watches till the danger was past.

The Sisterhood desires to record with gratitude the kindness which its members have received from Dr. O. W. Armstrong, the House physician, Dr. Flint and Dr. Seguin, the Rev. S. F. Holmes, Chaplain of St. Barnabas', the Rev. C. T. Woodruff, Superintendent of City Missions, and the Trustees. To all our dear friends we say: God bless you for what you have done to aid us in our work.

Once more we extend a cordial invitation to Christian women to become members of our Sisterhood. We ask those who are providentially free to permanently share the privileges and the trials of community life, to tarry with us for a while as Visitors, for thus can they most satisfactorily determine whether they have a vocation thereto.

The clouds of prejudice and misunderstanding which have so long enshrouded this whole subject of Sisterhoods in the Church,

seem to be gradually vanishing as the light of experience dawns upon those who are willing to be taught, and it is more and more clearly seen that there are certain kinds of work which can be most effectively accomplished by organizations.

Humbly trusting that the SISTERHOOD OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD may be divinely guided in its future life, so that it may minister wisely to the poor and the outcasts of this great city, we ask all our friends to give us for another year, their sympathy, their prayers, and their support.

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 position of full Sisters. They are Probationers two years, then (if approved by the Presiding Sister and Pastor) are received by the Bishop, and take the name of Sister.

The Sisters are those who, having passed a probation of two years, still desire to de-

vote 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.

DONATIONS.

To the Sisterhood for their work among the outside sick and poor.

Through the Offertory of Trinity Church, "Y."—"to be used by the Sisters in distributing delicacies among the sick poor."	\$150 00
Miss Cobb—"for sick".....	5 00
A Lady—"for sick".....	1 50
Cash—"for sick".....	5 00
Miss Mary S. Jones—"for sick poor".....	20 00
"To help sick or needy women and children in whatever way may be best"—Miss E. V. Clark.....	50 00
"Special cases of poor"—"O.".....	10 00
Chest of tea—Mr. W. H. Wisner.	
"For whatever you please"—A Friend....	20 00
Four pounds of tea—Mr. J. H. Boynton.	
"For sick poor"—Mrs. Carlos Cobb.....	20 00
"Special case"—Miss E. V. Clark.....	1 00
"For the poor"—Mrs. R. Sands Tucker....	50 00
"For the sick"—Miss Mary S. Jones.....	50 00
"For coal"—Mrs. Wm K. Kitchen.....	15 00
"Coal in small quantities"—Miss Cobb....	5 00
From "two poor friends to relieve cases of real distress".....	10 00
For rent, (special case)—Miss Carpenter...	3 00

An Associate, "D."—"for coal"	8 00
"For sick"—Mrs. Wm. Alex. Smith	10 00
Special case—Mrs. Wm. Whitney	20 00
Rent for widow—Mr. H. E. Pellew	5 00
"For daily applicants for relief"—E. J. F.	10 00
Jelly—Mrs. R. M. Hunt	
"For your poor"—Mrs. H. H. Bean	2 00
"For some sick child"	5 00
"Where most needed"—Mrs. J. M. Richmond, Buffalo	20 00
"For the sick"—Mrs. Moore	5 00
For special case, twenty-four yards of calico and two dollars—Miss Carpenter	
Special case—Mrs. J. M. Stokes	5 00
"Coal in small quantities"—An Associate, "D."	5 00
"For the sick and suffering poor"—S. W. G.	25 00
"For the sick"—"In Memoriam"	10 00

*Special donations to give pleasure to the sick and
poor on Ward's Island, May 13th, 1875.*

Mrs. Osgood Welsh	\$5 00
Miss Tracy	5 00
Miss Harrison	2 00
Miss Benedict	1 75
Miss Clark	2 00
For flowers—Mrs. Austin	2 00
Mrs. Hudson	4 00
Mrs. Van Brunt	1 00
Mrs. Guion	1 00

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Miss Morwood.....	2 00
Cash.....	75
An Associate, "R." eighty sandwiches.	
Flowers from several ladies.	

Fresh Air Fund For the Summer Home.

Mrs Henry Suydam.....	\$25 00
Mrs. E. M. Tyler.....	10 00
Mrs. J. M. Goetchius.....	10 00
Children of St. Bartholomew's S. S.....	50 00
Louis B. Bonnette's mite chest, Easter.....	12 00

For the Sisterhood Fund.

"D." an Associate, (annual subscription).....	\$150 00
"R" " " ".....	150 00
"C." " " ".....	110 00
Mrs. H. E. Pellew, an Associate, (semi-annual).....	50 00
"R." an Associate, (silver wedding).....	25 00
Through Miss Morgan, (monthly subscription).....	6 50
Miss H.....	5 00
Through Miss Morgan.....	9 00
Miss N. M. S., (permanent fund).....	5 00
Mrs. Wm. A. Smith.....	10 00
Mrs. Dr. Richards.....	5 00
Thank Offering, (a former Visitor).....	2 00
Friend of Sister Elizabeth.....	50 00
Miss Myer.....	2 00
Mrs. C. E. Wright.....	15 00

Mrs. Cory.....	5 00
Through Miss Morgan	18 00
“ “	9 00
A Friend.....	10 00
“ H.” an Associate.....	10 00
Miss Murphy.....	1 80
Anniversary Offerings 1875	33 43
Offerings at Reception.....	17 89