

First Annual Meeting
of the
Woman's Auxiliary Society
for Missions
in the
Diocese of Florida.

THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
WOMAN'S AUXILIARY SOCIETY FOR MISSIONS
IN THE
DIOCESE OF FLORIDA.

CHRIST CHURCH, PENSACOLA, May 6, 1891.

At the opening services of the Diocesan Council, the Bishop requested the ladies of the Auxiliary to meet for organization immediately after service.

The directress not being present, the secretary stated the purpose of the meeting, and it was concluded to adjourn until to-morrow morning for organization.

ASCENSION DAY, May 7, 1891.

The Society met pursuant to adjournment of yesterday.

The Bishop opened the meeting with prayer and made an address setting forth the good effects of the meeting together of persons engaged in any common work. What would the diocese be without a council? How could its work and business be carried on without it? Every character has two sides, some seeing things in one light, some in another, and to exchange ideas in person, by discussing points of interest, throws much light upon any subject, arouses enthusiasm and, in this cause, promotes devotion.

He spoke of the Fifteenth Auxiliary Report, read last night at the missionary meeting, as being very gratifying to him. He was surprised at the amount collected, for, although the actual figures were smaller than last year, he thought it showed really more work in view of the pecuniary depression of last summer, especially in some portions of the diocese. He had traveled, he said, from place to place for a week at a time, where people lived in nice houses but had no income, where he had not seen fresh meat in all that time, fruit and some vegetables being the chief means of subsistence—he remembered one dinner of lettuce with vinegar and sugar dressing. He only mentioned these things to show how difficult a period last summer and fall had been—the most difficult since he had worked in Florida. He had had to reduce the number of his clergy as much as possible and refuse many who wished to work here. At the last council [May 1890] there was \$1,500 surplus, all of which was used up before the winter in paying the pitiable stipends of the missionaries. Things were better now, people had realized somewhat from their property.

He wished the Auxiliary workers to realize the necessity for exertion. He then suggested that some improvement might be made in the mode of our collections in some places, illustrating by an account of the great difficulties of one lady, in particular, who had to go to places four and five miles distant for that purpose, often having to repeat her journeys three and sometimes four times before obtaining the small amount asked for. He thought people so scattered might be asked to make a deposit with the Treasurer from which she might pay the monthly dues. He suggested, also, that *men* be allowed to contribute—here the secretary interrupted, asking leave to explain that it is a WOMAN'S society *only* in the *work*, that by one of our rules *all communicants* are members. Other ladies then spoke, confirming this assertion and saying they, themselves, collect from gentlemen.

The Bishop was pleased to hear this, but said he had in mind some places where only a dozen or fifteen ladies were the sole contributors and advised that that rule be printed in large type and distributed. He also thought that general meetings twice a year would be advantageous.

He asked the directress for suggestions, who spoke of a frequent revision of the list of contributors in each parish, the visiting of strangers and persistency in the work. He then invited her to the chair and returned to the council.

The Directress, Mrs. Swart, after calling the meeting to order called for names of delegates and found present:

Trinity, St. Augustine—Mrs. E. G. Weed.

St. John's, Tallahassee—Mrs. D. S. Walker, Miss Eva B. Cameron.

Holy Comforter, Crescent City—Miss Bessie Williams.

St. Luke's, Marianna—Mrs. Jno. Woart.

St. John's, Jacksonville—Mrs. H. Swart, Miss. H. R. Parkhill.

Christ Church, Pensacola—Mrs. McClay, Mrs. Davison, Miss Carrie Blount, Miss Hyer.

Reports from branches were then in order and the secretary, Miss Harriet R. Parkhill, was requested to read that from St. John's, Jacksonville, as follows:

ST. JOHN'S PARISH,

JACKSONVILLE, May 8th, 1891.

St. John's Branch of the Woman's Auxiliary Society emerged from what was known as the Ladies' Aid Society of St. John's Church, which was organized May 6th, 1874. The object of this Society, we find in the original form of organization was "to carry out the system of collecting by the mite chests—and such other efforts for advancing the material interests of the church, as may not be inconsistent with the sacred purposes in view."

We find also recorded in the minutes of its first meeting that "the ladies do hereby organize themselves, on the plan proposed by the vestry of the parish, into a central committee to be known as the 'Ladies' Aid Society, in aid of the new church building.'" The first officers elected were: President, Mrs. W. O. Jeffreys; Secretary, Mrs. J. H. Burton; Treasurer, Miss. H. R. Parkhill.

The collections were at first literally *mites*, most of them being in small coin, and the first two collections exceeding \$150 each.

There was no change of officers in the Society until September 1875, when, upon the resignation of the president on account of her removal from the city, Mrs. H. Swart was unanimously elected to fill the vacancy.

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
Florida Branch
OF THE
WOMAN'S AUXILIARY.

I.

This Association shall be called the Florida Branch of the Woman's Auxiliary.

II.

The object of the Association is to pray for GOD'S blessing upon the Church, and to obtain contributions for missionary work.

III.

Any person may become a member of this Association, who may be admitted thereto, by the Directress, of one of the Parochial, or Mission organizations.

IV.

There shall be a President, Vice-President, Diocesan Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary appointed by the ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese.

V.

This Association shall have an organization in every Parish and Mission. The Rector, or Missionary in charge, shall appoint a Directress, Secretary, and Treasurer, whose duty it shall be, to divide the Parish, or Mission, into districts of convenient size, assigning to each, a Collector, or Committee of Collectors, who shall, each month, collect the pledges; once a year, to procure from the Rector, or Missionary, a list of the members of the Parish, or Mission, and try to secure from each member a contribution of one cent a day.

In case a Parish or Mission is vacant, the Bishop may appoint the officers.

VI.

There shall be a Diocesan Committee composed of the President, Vice-President, the Diocesan Treasurer, the Recording Secretary, the Corresponding Secretary and the Directresses, or the accredited representatives of the Directresses.

The President, or the Vice-President acting for her, and any of three of the above named officers shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

In case, both the President and Vice-President are absent from the Diocese for more than

one month, then one of the Secretaries of the Diocesan Committee may call the meeting to order, and any three of the above named officers shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

VII.

The President of the Association shall have general supervision of the Association, and shall decide in all cases of dispute. The Vice-President shall act for the President when she is absent from the Diocese for more than three months. When requested by the President, the Vice-President may act for her, at any time. When acting for the President, the Vice-President shall exercise all the authority of the President.

The Diocesan Treasurer shall have charge of the funds of the Association, and shall keep a correct account of the same. She shall make disbursements according to the direction of the ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese.

The Recording Secretary shall keep, in a book provided for that purpose, the minutes of the Diocesan Committee, and attend to such other work as the President may request.

The Corresponding Secretary, shall, under the direction of the President, correspond with the organizations in the Parishes and Missions, and

obtain information concerning their management and general welfare, and give such advice as the occasion may require.

The Treasurers shall remit to the Diocesan Treasurer on the first day of each month the funds which they have in hand.

VIII.

The Diocesan Committee shall meet on the first Wednesday of each month, and may be called together at any time by the President.

The Parochial or Mission organizations shall meet on the first Monday in each month, and may be called together by their respective Directresses at any time.

All meetings wherever and whenever held shall be opened with prayer.

IX.

This constitution may be altered by the Bishop of the Diocese, after giving one month's notice of the proposed change to the officers of the Association.



Directions for the Organization and Working
OF THE
Woman's Auxiliary Society
FOR MISSIONS
IN THE DIOCESE OF FLORIDA.

1. A committee of three ladies residing in Jacksonville, nominated by the Standing Committee and approved by the Bishop, shall serve as a Diocesan Committee, and shall be styled Diocesan Directress, Diocesan Secretary and Diocesan Treasurer.

2. Branches shall be organized in every parish and mission by the appointment of the clergyman in charge of three ladies, to be styled Parochial Directress, Parochial Secretary, Parochial Treasurer. Vacancies occurring in these three offices shall be filled in the same way.

3. The duties of parochial officers are as follows:

a. To divide the parish into districts of convenient size, assigning each to a committee of collectors when the work is more than they themselves can perform.

b. To procure from the clergyman annually a list of the members of the parish, and try to secure from each a contribution of *one cent a day*, or more, if possible.

c. The collectors shall go *in person* to each contributor on one of the last days of every month to collect pledges.

d. The officers and collectors shall meet on the first Monday of each month to pay their collections to the Treasurer, to transfer contributors, who have removed from one district to another, to their respective committees, to report new names and to transact any other business that may arise.

e. The Treasurer shall remit the funds to the Diocesan Treasurer promptly.

4. The duties of the Diocesan officers are as follows :

a. To keep up as much communication with the branches as possible—directing, encouraging and advising.

b. The Diocesan Treasurer shall send a receipt promptly to each parochial Treasurer for money received.

c. She shall pay the whole amount monthly to the Treasurer of the Diocese, who will disburse these funds as directed by Diocesan authority, keeping a separate account of the same and reporting to the Annual Council.

d. This committee shall meet on the second Monday in each month for the transaction of business and for consultation.

e. It shall send a report of work done and money received to the Annual Council of the Diocese.

5. Every meeting, whether of Diocesan or Parochial committees shall be opened with prayer.

NOTE.--*The above rules for Diocesan work are not intended to prevent or discourage any branch or member from aiding the work of the Church outside of the Diocese.*

The Diocesan Committee would affectionately offer the following suggestions :

1. That this is a *woman's* society only in so far as a woman does its work.

2. That it is the privilege and duty of every member of a parish or mission, male as well as female, to contribute.

3. That each branch closely and systematically follow the foregoing rules, both in organization and manner of working.

4. Yet individual branches and collectors are at liberty to adapt the rules to their special circumstances as may best serve the end in view.

5. That *one cent a day* be asked for in every case, but less never be refused from those who cannot or will not give it.

6. Use every endeavor to induce those who are able to give more that the average may be attained, for our Bishop says "these contributions are the sinews of my work."

We have never reached one-fourth of the amount possible as the perfect result of this plan, therefore let us press toward the mark here set before us.

The Bishop approves the above.

MRS. H. SWART, Directress.

MRS. M. R. BURTON, Treasurer.

MISS H. R. PARKHILL, Secretary.

Jacksonville, Fla., July 1891.

Prayers

For use at the Monthly Meetings, and in the private devotions of the members of the Woman's Auxiliary, on Monday of each week.

For Guidance.

DIRECT US, O LORD, in all our doings with Thy most gracious favor, and further us with Thy continual help: that in all our works, begun, continued and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy holy name, and finally, by Thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

For the Bishop and Clergy.

REMEMBER, O LORD, the Bishop and clergy of this Diocese, and all others whom thou hast called to labor in Thy vineyard, that by them Thy holy name be forever glorified and Thy blessed kingdom enlarged; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Perseverance.

O GOD, who hast vouchsafed to raise up in every age defenders of Thy holy name, grant that we following their footsteps, may so abide in Thy service that we may give thanks unto Thee in Thy Holy Church, and rejoice in Thy perpetual peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

For Grace.

O GOD, The Father of Lights, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift; we come before Thee in an humble sense of our own unworthiness, acknowledging our manifold transgressions of Thy righteous laws. We pray Thee to pardon us by Thy mercy, and quicken us by Thy grace; so that we who have freely received Thy blessed gift may fully impart to those who are in darkness and error, and finally, by Thy mercy rejoice together in the everlasting light of Thy Heavenly Kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Our Father, etc.

The Grace of our Lord.

The work went on harmoniously and successfully for two years for the same object—the erection of the new church building—the sum collected in that time amounting to \$1,960.42.

We find in the minutes, May 1875, the close of the second year: "Funds having been provided by willing givers for the completion of St. John's Church building, Jacksonville, the receipts of the Ladies' Aid Society will be diverted into a new channel and devoted to the cause of missions in Florida. The name will also be changed to the Woman's Auxiliary Society for Missions, whose officers will be a directress, a secretary and a treasurer."

This organization was to cover a much wider field, as it was to embrace the whole diocese, and "each parish, where it was practicable, was to have its own branch and its own parochial officers. These were to be appointed by the clergyman in charge of the parish, with the concurrence of the vestry, where there was one." The several parochial branches were to be presided over by three diocesan officers, these to be appointed by the Board of Missions, with the approval of the Bishop. The first of these officers were those acting for St. John's Parish Branch, Mrs. H. Swart, Mrs. J. H. Burton and Miss H. R. Parkhill. These continued to discharge their double share of duty until relieved by the appointment of the following new parochial officers April 1880: Directress, Mrs. J. F. Young; Secretary, Miss A. J. Drew; Treasurer, Mrs. F. P. Fleming. Two of these still continue in office, no appointment having been made since. On the resignation of the treasurer ——— 1885, Mrs. Ada N. Mitchell was appointed to fill the vacancy.

We have gone hastily over this ground, giving a few main points, to show that the branch of this society in our parish had its birth seventeen years ago May, 1874-91, and has existed under its present name and organization since 1876. It presents a record, which for a society is rather remarkable — but one radical change of officers from its very beginning, and that only to avoid the confusion that might arise from having the same officers in both diocese and parish, and also not to impose duties too laborious on willing hearts. Three of the original members of 1874 are still active members; and seven who began the work under the new organization in 1876 are still faithful in the discharge of duty. In the past fifteen years of its existence the collections have been made every month, and the meetings of officers and collectors always held. There never has been any break or

intermission in the work, perfect harmony having always existed among the members.

The total amount collected by the Woman's Auxiliary Society of St. John's Parish for missions is \$11,589.

By those who may have observed the Diocesan Treasurer's monthly reports it may have been noticed that for several years past there has been some falling off in the returns made by this parish. This is in part attributable to the loss of some of our most generous contributors by the scourge of 1888, and to the general depression that followed that period and from which we are just recovering, and also to the withdrawal and organization into independent parishes of the several missions, offshoots of the mother church, which at one time poured their gifts into her treasury.

There has undoubtedly been much to encourage us in our work, but we would not leave the impression on any mind that we have not met with difficulties, and sometimes discouragements. This we must expect in every field of labor, and when our efforts are for the advancement of our dear Lord's Kingdom the difficulties we surmount seem to but heighten the glorious results.

Experience has taught us, that the secret of success in the work of the Woman's Auxiliary Society is system and regularity in the collections. But few hesitate to give the sum we ask (one cent a day), and if this is collected, without fail, each month the amount is so small that it is not felt, but if allowed to run for a longer time our demand is not so cheerfully or readily responded to. The majority, we find, hesitate to make up arrears, sometimes, it may be, from inability to do so, but in any case when it is not done it is a rebuke to those who have been placed in the position of trust and honor—that of gathering from the Church's children their part in the missionary work, which each ought to feel in giving his mite is a blessed privilege.

The effort to hold, in connection with the Diocesan Council of the Church, a general meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary Society our parochial branch is in thorough sympathy with, and we trust it will prove a very happy occasion. It is a step forward, which is but in keeping with the spirit of the age in both state and church—there seems to be no stand still period in anything, as soon as we cease to go forward we go backward. But it is with pleasure that we note, from year to year, the gradual growth of the Woman's Auxiliary Society in the diocese of Florida. Our good Bishop does not hesitate to

admit his dependence upon our work for the progress of his own and we feel that we fail doubly in our duty if by our own neglect we allow it to lag or fall behind. What a sweet bond of union it is too, among the sisters in the great family of the Church, working throughout this broad extent of country with no selfish motive but to help to uphold and strengthen those who are younger and more feeble than ourselves until they grow into full manhood, and vigor and strength. God will bless our efforts and increase the results, if we but work on in simple faith and untiring love.

The Branch of St. John's Church, Jacksonville, sends a hearty, loving greeting to all the sister branches throughout the diocese. As perhaps, the oldest let her earnestly entreat that we strive to grow continually more and more appreciative of our work and the privilege we enjoy in being called to it. May God speed us onward until, in the Eternal Kingdom, when the fruits of the harvest shall be gathered we may reap a full reward.

A. J. DREW,

Secretary St. John's Branch of W. A. S.

Mrs. Woart, from Marianna, read some statistics and made some interesting remarks. She said that branch was first organized in 1876, had lapsed, and was reorganized one year ago. She had gathered a few little girls together and was teaching them to work but wished to organize them into a junior auxiliary.

Mrs. Walker, from Tallahassee, made some very pleasant remarks, showing that branch—of which she is directress—is slowly improving, but complained of the difficulty of making people understand “what it is for.”

REPORT FROM TALLAHASSEE.

As far as can be learned the Woman's Auxiliary Society of this parish was organized in 1876 by Rev. Edward Meany, Rector, with following officers: Directress, Mrs. Douglas; Treasurer, Mrs. Hawkins; Secretary, Mrs. Jane C. Whitner.

The only record we have of the work during the first three years is a statement in the treasurer's book to the effect that the amount collected by the society during those years was \$255. In April, 1879, a called meeting was held at the rectory, the list of communicants revised, new collectors appointed, and it was resolved that increased

efforts should be made to sustain the work with regularity. However, for the next two years no report is found, and for the year 1883 the only amount recorded is \$12.55.

On May 1, 1886, Mrs. Gertrude Wilson addressed the society making an earnest appeal in behalf of the great work which woman is doing in the Church. The parish branch of the society was then reorganized, the rector, Rev. Dr. Carter, making the following appointments: Directress, Mrs. D. S. Walker; Treasurer, Mrs. A. B. Hawkins; Secretary, Mrs. John Pearce.

In November, 1889, the parish was, for better convenience, divided into four districts. At this meeting Mrs. Pearce resigned her position as secretary and Miss Brevard was appointed in her place.

The total amount collected by the society from May, 1876 to May, 1891, is \$1,584.41. Until this year no valuation was made of Christmas boxes sent away, so the above amount only includes the last one, \$36.00.

The members of the parish branch of the Woman's Auxiliary Society feel that they have grounds for encouragement in their work. They are thoroughly in accord with the diocesan organization, and pray that God's blessing may rest upon those faithful missionaries who go forth in His Name, that His wisdom may direct them and His grace be with them forever. Respectfully submitted.

CAROLINE M. BREVARD,

Tallahassee, Fla., June 2, 1891.

Secretary.

Miss Hyer, of Pensacola, spoke of her success as a collector and the interest of her contributors in the cause.

Mrs. Weed, from St. Augustine, reminded us that the branch in Trinity Parish was first organized in 1876, had lapsed, and only been reorganized a few weeks ago; she had, therefore no report to make except that it was at present preparing a box for a clergyman in Texas, and hoped to do still better in the future.

Miss Williams, of Crescent City, spoke of having similar difficulties to the case mentioned by the Bishop, only she, having no vehicle, made her collections "in the saddle." She found difficulty in making people comprehend the cause—some who understood "what it was for" wanted to know "where the money went—one lady refused to

give at all because the ladies did not disburse the money themselves but paid it in to the treasury of the diocese.

She then suggested an occasional report of how the money is used, to aid collectors in answering such objections; also the use of envelopes in collecting from those too distant to be reached with regularity in person.

The following address from the Diocesan Committee was then read, all present expressing willingness to enter into the new line of work proposed:

ADDRESS OF THE DIOCESAN COMMITTEE.

DEAR SISTERS OF THE AUXILIARY: Our committee gives you kindly greeting, and we ask you to join with us in a thanksgiving for the accomplishment of what we have labored and prayed for so many years—a representative meeting of our parochial branches, and the prayer that it may be the means of much blessing to us, so that we may return home strengthened and energized by a special gift of the Holy Spirit for our future work.

We have a great advantage over voluntary and self-organized ladies' societies. *We* go out to our work, holding our commission from the Church in Florida. Its ecclesiastical authorities framed its "Rules of Organization," and putting them into *our* hands said "go in our name." They were called by the Lord Jesus, and have sent us. Bearing this in mind is a great help when we are called, as we often are, to duties from which we shrink, and a great comfort when we are termed "beggars" for we know that the Church, the Bride of Christ, whose messengers we are, is not a mendicant. This view gives us a wondrous feeling of strength and freedom in going our monthly rounds of collection, offering the privilege to one after another "to come up to the help of the Lord" and share the glory of His victories.

With God's blessing we have done much, but might have done more had the organization of some branches been more perfect and the wise rules given us followed more closely and *literally*.

We have been going these rounds month after month for fifteen years, and in that time have seen prosperity and growth in State and Church spread from the rolling waves of the heavy Atlantic to the sparkling waters of the Gulf, from our northern borders to the Keys, stretching away like a chain of jewels into the summer seas.

All this time we have been doing for home and ourselves alone—but our Master said “the field is the world” and His parting charge was “go ye into all the world” and preach the gospel to every creature,” and now the time seems come to take a step forward over our own borders—we have stood on the defensive long enough, let us join those who are going forward.

By our Rules of Organization we cannot divert any of the money of our regular collections from its appointed channels—neither do we wish it—nor to interfere with the Christmas boxes we have been accustomed to send. We must do this work as we have ever done it and this we now propose must be besides.

Miss Emery, the secretary to the Woman's Auxiliary to the General Board of Missions of the Church in America, has sent an invitation to every diocesan branch to unite in furnishing the Auxiliary rooms in the Missions House which is soon to be erected in New York city. The idea is to make us all feel that we have a claim there—that it is the home of the society. Shall we respond and join hands with our sister branches?

The other work we propose is that our diocesan branch shall offer to be responsible to Miss Emery for three boxes, to be sent next autumn or winter, to such places as she shall designate.

Our plan is for the parochial branches in west and middle Florida to contribute and fill one box in Pensacola; those in east Florida, one in Jacksonville, and those in south Florida, one in Sanford. These three branches have signified their willingness to lead in the matter. In this way it will fall lightly on all, be exceedingly interesting and pleasant work, breaking the monotony of our regular rounds, bringing us into correspondence with those who, on the out-posts of the Lord's army, are enduring hardship and danger among other peoples and in other lands.

We asked the opinion and permission of the Bishop before suggesting this addition to our work, and he replied: “I think it wise * * and I think we must if we expect to keep in touch with the Church at large, and this is very desirable for our own sake as well as theirs.”

The Presiding Bishop has made an appeal for unusual effort throughout the Church, for the cry from every land is “come over and help us.”

Bishop Boone's pathetic appeal from China sounds like a bugle call of distress from the “forlorn hope” storming the enemy's citadel and the following extracts from the words of another leader display a vivid picture of this wonderful period and the world's needs:

"There is a great deal of earnestness in the world—the nations are stirring themselves. Men and women are earnestly striving to make money and win fame. Great business enterprises are pushed forward—the people *are in earnest*,—and looking forward toward the close of this marvelous nineteenth century of the christian era we are filled with a sense of the supreme importance of the present, and of the mighty possibilities which lie just beyond, for the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The demands of the work are far greater than christian people realize. Surely this is not a time for slumber but for quickened energy. This is not a time for self-indulgence but for heroic endeavor, a time for self searching for girding ourselves that we may go in the spirit of earnest self-sacrifice to do the Lord's work.

"What has been called a 'crisis of opportunity' has arisen in the Church's mission work both at home and abroad.

"The work is expanding under strong aggressive movements, and new openings press for occupation.

"The missionary spirit has taken possession of students in the theological seminaries. Never in the history of missions have there been so many desiring to go. We are brought to a stand-still for lack of means to make new appointments. What shall be done? The young men are alert, saying, 'send me! send me!' but the money power is slumbering.

"The Church prayed for open doors, and God heard the prayer. The Church has been praying for missionaries, and God heard that prayer. The great need now is money. What shall be done? what, but pray earnestly and fervently that the Lord God, whose are the gold and the silver, will move all hearts as the heart of one man to give freely, not the surplus but from the substance of God's bounty, to them to make His way known upon earth, His saving health to all nations?

"If the life of the nation were in peril by the approach of any enemy, *men* would spring to its defence and *money* would not be lacking. The spirit of self-sacrifice would abound, and men would not count the cost in life or treasure. Shall the Church be less earnest to save the people for Christ? Shall christians not be jealous for God's honor?"

Sisters, these are stirring words. Now what can we do? for we also are soldiers in *this* army, servants in *this* vineyard, the call is to every one signed with the sign of Christ's Cross.

"Tell it out among the heathen, Jesus reigns above!
Tell it out among the nations that his reign is love!

Tell it out among the highways and lanes at home;
 Let it ring across the mountains and the ocean foam;
 Like the sound of many waters let the glad shout be;
 'Till it echo and reecho from the islands of the sea."

—*F. R. Havergal.*

HENRIETTA SWART, Directress.

MARY R. BURTON, Treasurer.

HARRIET R. PARKHILL, Secretary.

Mrs Cooley, of Fernandina, had prepared the following paper, but being unable to be present, it was ably read by Miss Williams:

THE NECESSITY AND DUTY OF DIOCESAN MISSIONS.

I am asked to prepare a paper on the "Necessity and Duty of Diocesan Missions." The title proving an axiom, I hope, to those to whom the paper is addressed. The Diocese of Florida is so large, many parts of it so difficult of access, and the people so scattered that the mission work would seem appalling. Not so, however, to our noble leader, by the grace of God Bishop of Florida. When one reads his itinerary in the *Churchman* the extent and expedition of the work is realized, and we are stimulated to increased effort, feeling how great a privilege it is to hold up his hands, adding our feeble assistance to his untiring endeavors.

The necessities of the mission work are great, the resources of the diocese, alas! quite limited. Florida's new population is composed very largely of persons of intelligence and refinement, seeking health or wooing fickle fortune in the orange grove or garden, and while each can give a little, few, if any, scattered settlements can do very much toward the support of a missionary. Although many of these persons are not of the Church which we hold so dear, yet they turn instinctively to the Episcopal Church, knowing the clergy to be of necessity men of intelligence and education. The field thus opened, is very large, and our duty to these people who turn to the Church so readily for comfort and strength is surely not less than our duty to numerous Church members also scattered through the less populous parts of the diocese. Bishop Weed made the statement at the meeting of the council two years ago, saying that he knew it seemed an extravagant one, that the number of Church people living in Florida who had no church services, he believed to be as great as the number who had services. Think of this! then, if any here have been in like manner deprived, the full meaning of this statement will be realized. Eight years ago, in Ocala, a lady came to me in the parlor of the hotel one

Sunday morning and asked if services were held in the Episcopal Church that day, when I replied affirmatively a look of comfort filled her eyes, she said: "I have not heard the Church service for five years. I had an opportunity to drive to Ocala, and have come twenty miles hoping to hear the service this morning, but I was not sure that I should be gratified." This could hardly happen now in that locality, but it can happen, I grieve to say, in many parts of our diocese notwithstanding the continuous and diligent efforts of our Bishop and the Board of Missions. The impression left upon my mind by the simple fervor of this woman has never left me and has proven a stimulant, if one were needed, to my work in the Woman's Auxiliary. In many places it is not possible to arrange for services, and yet these lonely communicants, who seldom hear the voice of the priest, and who may never live to see the Church established in their vicinity, may yet give their mite to the Woman's Auxiliary, thus acknowledging their membership to the great church of Christ, and assisting others to enjoy the gifts, the loss of which they, themselves, feel so keenly. The contributions of these isolated women may thus make glad some little community of souls waiting to be fed, the giver will not feel so far from the Church, and the gift, in His Name, will be registered above as an act of worship. In this way the organization of the Woman's Auxiliary near these new parts of the state can reach out to the isolated, making known to them the workings of the Auxiliary and extending to them its privileges. The collections in Florida do great credit to the zeal of the women, yet there is no parish where more might not be done if we could but make the contributors realize the importance of the work. It can only be done by telling over and over again the fact that the money is used in our own diocese, and that it is very much needed, explaining continually the methods of the Woman's Auxiliary, line upon line, not once, but many times. In our own parish I have talked and explained until I feared to make myself wearisome and then, feeling that the matter must be thoroughly understood, I have learned that some well known church member or constant contributor supposed the money went to distant countries or, perchance, to the support of the choir. Thus we can readily see that it is only by diligence and persistence that the work of the Woman's Auxiliary can be pushed forward and increased until every communicant, especially every woman, in the Church gives the mite asked for, and these mites we should gladly increase as God hath prospered us. By the report of the Woman's Auxiliary to the last convention I

learn that "the collections for 1890 amount to \$2,315.52 while, were each communicant to give a *penny* a day, the amount asked for, the collections would be \$12,376.80." Think of this as the sum for which we are striving. Look not to new branches or other parishes for the increase, but let each collector look in her own district and try to find a new contributor or to recall one who has ceased to give. The result will surprise and gratify and, what is of far greater importance, the work of our blessed Master will receive renewed strength through our efforts. How proud we should be to offer this small return for His great sacrifice!

The report of 1891 is now closed, let us resolve that the report of 1892 shall testify to the earnestness and zeal of the women, not considering any contribution too small to be called for. Ten dimes make a dollar, and the dollars roll up very quickly from small sums. The importance of this work should be borne in upon the clergy. Where the parish priest sets the example and teaches with patience and persistence the duty of man to his fellow men the Auxiliary will prosper, not to the detriment of the parish, for the parish will prosper also. It is a duty to teach the pleasure of giving; those who know this pleasure can always be relied upon, those who have given will give again. Let us seek to extend this privilege to those who have not yet learned, and in promoting the work of diocesan missions we will find that we promote parish work, broadening and extending the interests, not only in St. John's, St. Peter's or St. Andrew's, but in the Church of Christ. May the love of God and His work be so deeply implanted within us that we shall be stimulated to renewed effort, and may His grace sustain us.

FLORENCE MURPHY COOLEY.

Fernandina, May, 1891.

Mrs. Davison closed with her paper on

THE DUTY OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Before leaving His apostles, that were chosen by Him to carry on the work of His most holy life, our Saviour tells them "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." It is a simple, straight-forward command, and we have no more right to set it aside and follow our own interpretations and inclinations than in the case of one of the ten commandments. Many say that our own poor at home need all of our efforts, but it is usually the case that neglect of foreign

missions causes more indifference towards the calls at home. The means are abundant and we know that most of us are able to do more for missions generally than we do. The false notion of economy, to refuse money to missions to save it for our parish or diocese, bears very small fruit. The one that gives liberally to his parish is almost always the one that opens his heart most freely to calls from other sources. We must do all that we can do ourselves, and try to educate all of our fellow christians up to know and feel the privileges and blessedness of *giving*. It is as much a part of our christian duty as prayer and praise. Many say that no good results from foreign missions. It is true that perhaps we may never know or hear of the good accomplished, but what of that? We have nothing to do with the results. It is ours to work and pray, and pray and work, and leave the rest to God. It is He that gives the harvest. There is no such word as failure in work done for Christ. Was Patteson's life a failure? Was Hannington's life a failure? Oh, no! The seed falls into the earth and God gives the return. Who can tell what it may be? The reward is certain to the one that has done the work, and it may bring forth a hundred fold if it is God's will to give us the blessedness of using us as his instruments. We must not forget that the great thing needed for the success of missionary work is the blessing of God. It is God's work, and we should plead at His throne that He will accept our efforts and grant His blessing. As is powerfully said by some writer, "What we are longing hopefully to see is the consecration of the vast money power of the world to the work and kingdom of Jesus Christ, for that day when it comes will be the morning of a new creation." It will be the answer to the prayer "Thy Kingdom come." The missionary spirit grows constantly, and now even the little children of the Church are alive to the cause of missions and their offerings alone are nearly equal to the whole amount given fifty years ago by the whole body of christians. Christianity teaches that no man liveth to himself, "Whoso hath this world's goods and seeth his brother have need and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" Who can look abroad in the great field of foreign missions and not see that "his brother hath need." In every quarter of the world we see brethren in need and it is our duty to do all we can to help them. "If thou hast much, give plenteously; if thou hast little, do thy diligence gladly to give of that little". What is needed is more means. The fields are white

for the harvest; laborers are waiting to be sent; let us do our part to help on the work, as God has given us the power.

After this the Bishop's suggestion of general semi-annual meetings of the Auxiliary was freely discussed, but decided to be impossible, at least, at present.

Meetings of branches within the boundaries of the several convocations were proposed as a substitute for one of the proposed general meetings.

Miss Williams thought the convocation divisions too large for a successful gathering of our women.

Miss Cameron suggested a committee be appointed to confer with the Bishop as to his opinion and wishes on this subject.

Mrs. Weed and Miss Cameron were then appointed on said committee.

It was agreed that these partial meetings shall be held in November and their proceedings reported to the Diocesan Committee.

An annual meeting of delegates from all branches in the diocese shall be held at the same time and place as the Diocesan Council.

Thanks were then returned, in the name of the Society, to the ladies of Christ Church for their delightful hospitality.

The meeting adjourned *sine die*.

HARRIET R. PARKHILL,
Secretary.

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY SOCIETY IN FLORIDA.

There has been the usual steady work during the whole twelve months past, with little enthusiasm but much zeal.

There has not been the growth that we hoped for from the kind interest expressed for our work by the last Council, but we are glad to report one new branch and two reorganizations.

The same old reason—"need at home"—is given by the parishes and missions for not joining in this Diocesan work. Besides the regular monthly collections, which amount to \$2,206.16, as in Treasurer's report appended, the following boxes have been sent:

From Christ's Church, Pensacola—	
Three Christmas boxes, value.....	\$41.00
Aid for Snowden Hall, value	50.00
From St. John's Church, Tallahassee—	
Aid for Snowden Hall, value... ..	36.00
From St. John's Jacksonville—	
Four Christmas boxes, aid for Snowden Hall.....	150.00
From Trinity Church, St. Augustine—	
One Christmas box.....	125.00
Total	\$402.00

The following work has been done by societies not connected with our organization, but is mentioned here as forming a part of what the women of the Diocese have been doing this year.

The "Bishop Weed Missionary Society" in St. John's Parish, Jacksonville, has given aid to the value of \$80.00, mostly in money, by which a scholarship in China is supported, Snowden Hall helped, and many other calls answered within and without the Diocese. It is true the separate amounts were small, but they were given in His Name who fed the five thousand with the handful of food. The "Ladies' Guild" of Christ's Church, Pensacola, sent one box out of the Diocese. A party in St. Mary's Church, Milton, sent one box to Japan through Miss Emery. The "Ladies' Guild" in Trinity Church, St. Augustine, is preparing a box for a missionary in Texas.

Fifteen years ago, when this Auxiliary Society was organized by the Church in Florida, and given *in trust* into our woman's hands as the instrument with which we were to do our part of the Master's work, the Church was weak and poor, and although "the work was great and large, we were separated upon the wall, one far from another," so that all we could do, and all we could get, had of the necessity to be kept at home—by "home" I mean the Diocese, not a congregation. In these fifteen years God has blessed our State and our Diocese with great prosperity, so we feel that now the time has come for spreading that charity abroad which *began* so wisely and bravely at home.

We fear that unless the plant has room to grow it will wither and die, and do not those efforts of other societies show that the spirit of growth is among us? With the Bishop's sanction we propose that during the coming year we respond to the invitation given to *every* Diocesan branch of the Auxiliary to unite in furnishing the Auxiliary rooms in the Missions House, soon to be erected in New York City, and also offer to furnish three boxes for such missionaries, or schools, as

Miss Emery shall designate. This we would of course do without interfering in any way with our regular collections which belong to the treasury of the Diocese.

The preparing of boxes being a different species of work, would not be confused with the other, and is calculated to awaken renewed interest in the whole cause. May we not ask a word of approval and encouragement for these new efforts from this Council, that will strengthen our hands through the coming year? Now, also, we have a representative meeting for our workers, and we ask that a separate pamphlet be printed containing this and the treasurer's report, the minutes of our meeting and the papers read there. The Branches in all other Dioceses send us their annual reports, and we feel that the courtesy should be returned. Giving thanks to our Lord and Master for His continued blessing upon our work, we again ask your co-operation, in your several fields, remembering that we are also "soldiers and servants" in the same army, belonging to the same Master as yourselves. Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) HENRIETTA SWART, Directress.
MARY R. BURTON, Treasurer.
HARRIET R. PARKHILL, Secretary.

May 1st, 1891.

Report of the Treasurer of the Woman's Auxiliary to Missions.

OFFERINGS RECEIVED.

From Christ's Church, Monticello.....	\$47.65
From St. Luke's Church, Orlando.....	34.26
From St. Mark's Church, Palatka.....	84.37
From Trinity Church, Apalachicola.....	62.80
From St. Luke's, Marianna.....	34.10
From Holy Cross, Sanford.....	74.00
From St. Andrew's Tampa.....	34.45
From Our Saviour, Mandarin.....	17.80
From St. Paul's, Key West.....	132.12
From St. John's, Jacksonville.....	859.40
From St. Mary's, Milton.....	55.04
From Christ's Church, Pensacola.....	214.40
From St. Peters, Fernandina.....	87.00
From St. John's, Tallahassee.....	169.50
From Holy Trinity, Gainesville.....	20.75
From Good Shepherd Mission, Jacksonville....	57.95
From St. Stephen's Mission, Jacksonville.....	38.02
From St. Mary's Mission, Madison.....	8.60
From ——— Kissimmee.....	26.00
From All Saints' Mission, Winter Park.....	10.00
From ——— Lloyds.....	2.00
From St. Paul's Mission, Quincy.....	6.30
From St. Luke's Mission, Myers.....	9.45
From St. Paul's Mission, Federal Point.....	10.95
From St. James' Mission, Macclenny.....	5.55
From Christ's Church, Fort Mead.....	19.02
From Bethesda-by-the-Sea Mission, Lake Worth.....	51.68
From The Holy Comforter Mission, Crescent City.....	30.00
Total	\$2,206.16

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) MARY R. BURTON, Treasurer.