

## FIRST ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

### *Woman's Auxiliary in the Diocese of Pennsylvania.*

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IN December of 1874, the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Pennsylvania addressed a Circular Letter to his Clergy, of which the following is a copy.

REV. AND DEAR SIR :

It has long been in my heart to take measures for the greater increase of Missionary zeal and work among the women of this Diocese. As a means to secure this end, I have invited Miss Emery, the Secretary of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Board of Missions, to meet and confer with several ladies in this city ; and the result has been the adoption of a plan which it is believed will, with God's blessing, accomplish the desired purpose. It is proposed to organize this effort in behalf of the General Mission work of our Church into four Departments, *viz.*, the Foreign, the Domestic, the Freedmen and the Indian, which united will constitute the Woman's Auxiliary in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Each of these Departments will be placed under the care of persons selected by the ladies and approved by myself, who will constitute a staff of officers for each division of the Mission field, and to whom will be entrusted the work of extending their several Departments into each parish in the Diocese.

To aid in perfecting this organization, I earnestly beg that you will appoint from among the workers of your parish, two ladies for each of the four branches, being eight in all (or six if you have already appointed Delegates to the Indians' Hope), who can act in your parish as collecting and distributing centres, gathering in the funds and diffusing the needed information for keeping up the interest in the several fields of labor brought before them. I should be glad to see each parish actively co-operate with these central Committees, and thus brought into union as one Missionary working force, for the increase of needed funds and the diffusion of needed information. Will you kindly aid in this important work, not only by making the nominations requested, but also by



doing what you can to awaken zeal and intelligent interest in this noble work?

Praying God to bless you in this effort to promote the advance of the REDEEMER'S Kingdom, I remain,

Very truly yours,

(Signed)

WM. BACON STEVENS.

A number of replies to this letter having been received, a meeting, called by the Bishop, was held at his house on January 30, 1875, when Officers were elected, and the several Committees, to be composed of Delegates from all parishes in the Diocese willing to engage in the different Departments of Missionary work, were duly organized. The Indians' Hope, so long and so well known in its labors for the Red Man, naturally became the Committee on Indian Work, and also served as a model to the other Committees in their first efforts.

Exactly one year after this initiatory meeting, on the evening of Sunday, January 30, 1876, the first Anniversary of the Society, in the form of a General Missionary Meeting, was held in the Church of the Holy Trinity, Philadelphia, Bishop Stevens presiding. After the opening Services, which were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Spear and the Rev. Dr. Hay, the following Reports were read by the Rev. Dr. Robins.

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORK FOR DOMESTIC MISSIONARIES.

At a call from Bishop Stevens, a meeting of Delegates from different parishes in the Diocese, was held at his house on Saturday, January 30, 1875. At this meeting the "Committee on Work for Domestic Missionaries" was organized. Its object is to send out boxes of clothing, etc., to Missionaries throughout the country, and to do this in such a systematic way, that the relief will be more equally distributed than would be possible without some such organization.

Letters are received from Missionaries, stating their wants, and giving the ages and measurements of every member of the family. These letters are distributed at the monthly meetings, to the parish societies that are ready to fill orders. During the year twenty-one such letters have been distributed by the society, and sixty-six boxes have been reported as sent. This includes the work of parish societies that have received their letters in other ways, but have reported their work to us.

At the first meeting nine churches were represented by thirteen delegates, but the number has gradually increased to twenty-five churches, represented by fifty-six delegates who either come in person or communicate by letter.

As the interest in the work increased, it was decided to include needy Clergymen as well as Missionaries in our efforts.



The society held its first meetings at the house of its President, but after the summer recess, the Sunday-school room of St. Mark's Church was kindly offered for that purpose. The meetings are held on the last Tuesday in every month, at 12 o'clock; they are open to all interested, as well as to the delegates, and are varied by the reading of letters of thanks from those who have received aid (always suppressing the name), and by addresses. It is hoped that these meetings will every month increase in interest, and that they will not fail to excite a deeper zeal, and greater activity in this noble work.

M. G. CONNELL,  
*Secretary.*

#### REPORT OF THE INDIANS' HOPE ASSOCIATION.

The Indians' Hope Association has just entered upon its eighth year. In common with the other Indian Aid Societies, it can record a steady growth of interest in the work it has undertaken; but this very growth, enabling it to survey its field of work more broadly, has revealed an extent of need far beyond its ability to meet.

Until lately this Association has simply aided Indian Missions in general; it has now undertaken the entire support of one, hoping to be able to do this without withdrawing utterly from the general work. Annual subscriptions are especially needed, forming, as they do, the only income for meeting the regular expenses of Missions. A reduction in these is a great source of anxiety to all upon whom the responsibility rests.

Thirty-seven parishes coöperate in the Association. During the past year their contributions amounted to \$3,787.94, while in addition fifteen valuable boxes were sent where the need seemed greatest—five from the Association, the other ten directly from coöperating parishes, to which they were acknowledged.

The meetings of the Association, held on the last Monday of each month, at 11 o'clock, in the parish building of the Church of the Holy Trinity, are open to all interested. Letters are constantly read which keep up communication with the Mission household, and show where help can be most effectually given.

We still sometimes hear that "Indian Missions are a failure," but it would be difficult to find proof for the statement. Many and great proofs of success could be given by those who have watched these Missions. Perhaps the long failure of other influences in civilizing the Indians shows in its true light one result of Mission work. It is now several years since over one hundred of Mr. Hinman's Santee converts gave up rations, and all dependence upon either the Government or Missions, took farms, and have been ever since quietly supporting themselves as American citizens.

SARAH NEWLIN,  
*Secretary.*



## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORK FOR FREEDMEN.

In response to the Bishop's appeal to the Rectors of the several parishes to appoint delegates to the four different Departments of work in connection with the Woman's Auxiliary, some ten or twelve ladies offered on behalf of the Freedmen.

Great difficulty was experienced in finding any one willing to undertake the Presidency of the Committee; and when this post was filled, there was much trouble in obtaining the other officers and in getting the Committee together.

By this time the summer was reached, so that but little could be done beyond the making up and sending a box of clothing, valued at about \$50, and the collection from one parish of \$14.07.

This autumn the President resigned, and it was not until late in December that another appointment could be made and the Board reorganized. A determined effort has been made, however, to secure delegates from all parishes interested in the matter.

Some twenty parishes are now represented by about forty delegates, and at the second meeting held this winter, eighty dollars were handed in, or promised, and thirty dollars' worth of garments given.

The Committee has determined to undertake the support of one of the teachers in a Church school for colored youth in Charleston, S. C., and hope to be able to supply the scholars, some two hundred in number, who are in need, with clothing—in addition to which, several parishes will doubtless make up boxes, to be sent to some of the Missionaries laboring among the Freedmen. This certainly is a field for Missionary labor which has not yet received the attention it deserves. Surely it appeals as much to Christian charity as either of the others, for which we have done comparatively so much. Certainly the negro in the South has as much need of the Church's offices as the Western settler, and he is surely as capable of moral and spiritual elevation as is the Indian.

We confess we cannot understand how Christian people can allow any political or social prejudices to prevent their carrying out the first precept of their religion, in sharing its blessings with every race.

The fact that in some of the States the negroes now control the political power, in no way exonerates us, but should rather impel us the more to do all that we can for the elevation of those who exercise such responsibilities. And there is no gainsaying the truth, that vast numbers of them are poor and destitute, both physically and spiritually. And, surely, if one be in need of bread and clothing we should not stop to inquire as to his color, or his political sympathies, before we relieve him; nor ought the Church to fail in her endeavor to supply any spiritual want that she may recognize. The negroes are notoriously susceptible to religious influences, and the best religious guides they possess are ignorant, fanatical, and often unprincipled men.



We trust the time is coming when the Church will arouse itself to this work, as nobly as it has done to the work for the Indians ; and it shall be the endeavor of this Committee to enlist the interest of our women in this neglected cause, as their hearts are often quicker to discern and readier to relieve need, wherever seen.

On behalf of the Committee,

M. DEV. HODGE,  
*President.*

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORK FOR FOREIGN MISSIONARIES.

It seems proper, at this time, to give some account of the Ladies' Foreign Committee of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, although it has not been in existence quite one year, having been organized March 1, 1875.

The meetings are held the first Monday in every month, at the residence of Bishop Stevens. Only eighteen parishes, out of more than one hundred, are working with us. It is greatly to be desired that others should join in this department of Missionary work. We cannot believe there is a parish in this Diocese unable to furnish at least one woman imbued with sufficient Missionary zeal to be willing to do what she can to promote a Missionary spirit in her own parish, and to solicit subscriptions for this object. We appeal to these women to offer their services to their Rectors, who will not then refuse to appoint them as delegates. We would like, before the end of the year, to obtain representatives from every congregation in this Diocese.

The result of our labors seems small, but we feel encouraged to have made a beginning, and rejoice at being able to send nearly \$500 in money, and boxes to the value of \$150, as the fruit of our first year's work.

Holy Trinity Church must be gratefully named as having materially helped us with the collection taken at Rt. Rev. Bishop Jaggard's Consecration, viz., \$207. Valuable aid has also been rendered by the Parishes of Christ Church Chapel, St. Stephen's, St. Clement's, St. Peter's, Germantown, and the Church of the Redeemer, Seamen's Mission ; also from the Bishop Potter Memorial House.

The meetings, since October 1, have been better attended, and a growing interest in the work has been manifested. The ladies are at present preparing a box intended for the Christian natives at the Orphan Asylum, Cape Palmas. Owing to the war now in progress between the natives and the Liberians, much distress prevails at the Mission, many of the Missionaries being compelled to withdraw for a time. The Christian natives and the orphans of the Asylum, with their faithful teacher, Miss Botts, are especially in need of sympathy and assistance. Contributions to this particular object will still be welcome.

For the benefit of those unacquainted with this work, it may be well to state the objects we had in view when we commenced. Our first



object was to raise a fund, out of which should be paid the amount necessary to make all our Foreign Missionaries members of the Clergyman's Insurance League ; thus making some provision for their families in case of their death. The sum of \$50 per annum will insure a Clergyman in this league, as well as pay his mortuary dues. How easy it would be for one parish to raise this sum without burdening any one ! The second object, was to aid the Foreign Committee in paying the pensions of those Missionaries who have broken down in health in the service of the Divine MASTER, and are now dependent on the living care and sympathy of the Church at home for their support. It is especially fitting that such a tender ministration should be left to the women of the Church, not one of whom, we think, will refuse the opportunity of taking some little share in the good work.

We hope another year to assist in paying the salaries of our unmarried female Missionaries. A step has been taken in this direction, by undertaking the support of Miss Nelson, the youngest Missionary ever sent out by the Board.

The Foreign Committee have just issued an Appeal, from which we extract the following item : "While the embarrassments of the Committee continue, we do not think it right to send out new laborers, or even to supply the places of those who may be providentially removed. We trust the Committee and the Church will be spared the grief and humiliation of having to recall any of the laborers now in the field." Will not the women of the Church come to the help of the Foreign Committee in this dark hour ? Women's hands and women's gold have often come to their country's aid in the hour of peril. Shall they do more for their land than for their God ?

E. CLEMENT,  
*Secretary.*

At the conclusion of the reading of the Reports, very interesting Missionary addresses were made by the Rev. C. C. Tiffany, of the Church of the Atonement, New York, in behalf of the Freedman ; by the Rev. Dr. Rudder, of St. Stephen's Church, Philadelphia, in behalf of Foreign Missions ; by the Rev. Dr. Rumney, of St. Peter's Church, Germantown, in behalf of Domestic Missions ; and by the Rev. Dr. Henry, of Stamford, Conn., in behalf of the Indians. The Bishop then made the concluding address, dwelling particularly upon the *practical* aspect of the work undertaken by the several Committees, and encouraging each in turn by kindly words of praise and counsel. The Meeting was then closed with the Benediction, pronounced by the Bishop.





