

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY.

Southern Virginia Diocesan Branch.

JUNE 1893.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY DAY IN NORFOLK.

FROM THE SOUTHERN CHURCHMAN.

On Thursday, the second day of the Council, the chapel of St. Paul's Church was put at the disposal of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Board of Missions, and there from 10 a. m. until nearly three was held our first annual meeting in the new Diocese—a meeting of such interest and variety that in writing of it the difficulty is how to pack to advantage so many good things into a shape and size for their niche in the SOUTHERN CHURCHMAN.

Early as was the hour, up the walks of the beautiful old churchyard came a goodly number of women, many of them busy housekeepers, but bent on this day of rare privileges to be not "cumbered with much serving." There was a steady tide of arrivals from that time on, until every seat, and the chancel step itself, was filled.

The meeting was opened by the Rev. Mr. Logan, of Wytheville, by prayers and a short address. He then withdrew, and the chair was taken by our diocesan secretary, Miss L. L. Taylor, with Mrs. Conway Sams, secretary *pro tem.* Miss Taylor delivered a message from the Bishop expressing his disappointment in not having been with us, as he expected, in the opening service; this he had been prevented from doing. Miss Neilson, president of the Norfolk Branch, extended a cordial welcome to the delegates present, and added earnest words "putting us in remembrance" of the motive, the spiritual spring, underlying all our Auxiliary work.

Fifteen delegates responded to the roll-call, and twenty-one parishes; also members of the Junior Auxiliary from one church.

The secretary, Miss Taylor, gave her report of the work done by the Auxiliary in the Diocese of Southern Virginia in the past year. For the benefit of those not present it was resolved that this be published.

The meeting was spirited and full of interest throughout. It was now given to the considering of steps taken in different branches to increase our gifts, widen our membership and deepen our interest in missions. Two accounts were given, one from Roanoke, upon the envelope system, full of valuable suggestiveness as to the way of making systematic giving a habit, and of putting this privilege into the power of the holder of the mite equally with the stewardess of the rich things of the King's household: the other from St. Luke's church, Norfolk, upon the method of its monthly readings in behalf of Missions, with results, through increase of information, of added interest and membership.

Miss Emery, the general secretary, gave us some pointed and helpful words upon systematic giving and the good done, too wide and deep to measure.

A most important matter was then presented—that of the united offering of the Auxiliary. At the General Convention in Baltimore in October it had been resolved that at its next triennial meeting in 1895 in Minneapolis this should be devoted to the endowment of a Missionary Bishopric, either domestic or foreign. There was some discussion on this subject, but the resolution passed by a large majority that the Auxiliary of Southern Virginia should share with the other Dioceses in the building up of this endowment fund. Mrs. Hubard read an excellent paper upon this subject, written by a member of the Virginia Branch for the Auxiliary day in Winchester a few weeks ago. Two most valuable suggestions were adopted by us—one that mite boxes for the collection of this fund should be used by any who asked for them. These had been provided, and many were promptly called for. These are to be opened twice a year, or oftener if full, and given into the hands of the respective treasurers until finally handed in to the General Convention. Of course these contributions are not to take the place of any of our regular gifts, but to consist of such extra gifts and stray pennies or dollars as may be given besides.

The other suggestion adopted from the Virginia Branch paper was this: that we choose the same days for special intercessions for Missions as had been set apart in the Diocese of

Virginia—Eve of Epiphany, January 5th; Eve of Annunciation, March 24th; Eve of Transfiguration, August 5th, and Eve of St. Andrew's day, November 29th.

The Society for Collecting and Distributing Prayerbooks here came before us with interesting reports and discussions. We then had the closing and crowning feature of the morning's programme, an address from our beloved general secretary, Miss Julia C. Emery, who held the rapt attention for nearly an hour of an audience now packed to the last seat. She spoke on the subject of the united offering; and oh! that I might so convey the effect of her heart-thrilling words that those of us who heard her might seem to catch again the sound of that pathetic, pleading voice, be lifted anew, as she lifted us then, to the mountain tops of vision, where, rising above the mists of our comforts and interests, of our blessings and privileges, rich as countless, we catch glimpses of the world as it is; of the loneliness in one part of the field of a life working only for the Master, away from home and kindred; of the discouragements of another, whom we send to some far outpost and there forget; of another life alone in some great city of heathen multitudes who know not God; of the little things and the great things needing to be done, which we can do if we will; of the human hearts and needs of every child of man—Chinese, Indian, black or white; of the need of each for another's sympathy; of the encouragements, too, that come to the missionary as he sees the lifted life, the illuminated face; of the blessing that goes with the circulation of the Divine currency, as she expressed it, which gives to the poor man's gifts as to the rich man's the power to gladden, when given "in His name" and so stamped with his image. Would that all could be so told, that those of the Auxiliary who were not present would henceforth never fail to attend these meetings, save for reasons that God himself imposes. No written account conveys the inspiration of such addresses as we listened to this day. There is fire here to light one's torches by, to be carried hither and thither through the

Diocese. We want to be inspired of God with the spirit which He alone gives—the spirit of Missions—that we may inspire those next us, and these annual meetings are very fountain heads of this supply.

After an intermission for lunch, we gathered again, and were much interested in an account by the Rev. J. J. Gravatt, of Hampton, of the work done among the Indians of Southern Dakota. Later, Miss Stuart, diocesan secretary of Virginia, gave us a beautiful address on the aim and scope of the Auxiliary in the world, and of its effect upon the spiritual life of the individual member, showing how it proved the truth that “he that watereth shall be watered also himself.” Among many other valuable points was one concerning the supreme importance of the Junior Auxiliary, urging upon mothers and all in contact with children the great trust reposed in them of moulding a future generation of missionaries and missionary workers.

Had this address been the only one even, the day would have been a memorable one for our Auxiliary. Miss Stuart gave us a message of love from the mother Diocese, and hearty were the wishes exchanged that we might ever remain as one in interest and love. The one shadow in this day of heavenly brightness was in the thought of Miss Stuart, for three years our beloved and invaluable secretary, being officially cut asunder from us by the division of the Diocese,—asunder in no other way, we know, and truly do we hope to have her with us always at these annual re-unions, with her words of eloquence and cheer.

Various resolutions were passed, for which space is wanting, with these exceptions: that Miss Taylor, who had already been appointed by the bishop diocesan secretary, resigned her seat, but was unanimously re-elected; also that secretaries of the four Convocations were appointed to have general supervision in the Convocations and report to the secretary; also a diocesan secretary of the Junior Auxiliary was appointed.

As we reflect that it was at our very first annual Council meeting that this Auxiliary meeting was held, so replete with missionary interest and spirit, found standing ready to the work, equipped in number and enthusiasm, entering in life full grown as it were, like our first parents, does it not appear that a glorious missionary future must be in waiting for our dear new Diocese, and that these annual meetings in the coming years may be, if we will rise to our opportunities, the records of and thanksgiving for the honour granted us of sending the Divine message of peace to more and more of the weary and heavy laden, and by the hands of our own sons and daughters, who will turn in the far-distant lands to call us blessed, who have by our prayers and zeal aroused and nerved them to the work which we can only help from afar?



REPORT of the Diocesan Secretary of the Southern Virginia Branch of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Board of Missions, for the year ending May, 1893.

In representing the first Annual Report (since the division of the Diocese) of the Southern Virginia Branch of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Board of Missions, the Diocesan Secretary would most gratefully record the hearty endorsement of and ever ready co-operation in the work of the Auxiliary which she has met with from our Bishop, and express the hope that at no distant day, the scope and intention of the Auxiliary may be fully understood and appreciated by all the clergy in the Diocese, and as heartily endorsed by them.

In twenty-two parishes of the Diocese to-day is the Auxiliary represented, and in many of them the work is being most vigorously carried forward.

The total amount of money and boxes that has been contributed this year is \$2844.00, of which \$393.45 were given to Missions within the Diocese, \$286.00 to Domestic Missions, \$620.80 to Foreign Missions.

The value of the boxes sent by the Auxiliary during year is \$1507.50, and \$36.50 has been contributed to the Fund for Central Expenses of the Diocesan branch.

The Missions in China and Japan have had a goodly share of remembrance, nor has Brazil been forgotten, nor the Indians in South Dakota and Minnesota, and one branch has remembered far-off Alaska.

Almost all of the boxes were sent to clergymen in our Diocese, and we trust gave as much pleasure to the recipients as we feel sure they did to the loving Christian hearts that prepared them. But several, I am glad to say, found their way to clergymen in other Dioceses, and also to Indian Schools, and to struggling Sunday Schools in the mountains of Virginia and North Carolina.

In several cases I am happy to note, that boxes were prepared by the united efforts of several branches

of the Auxiliary, making thus substantial boxes, which the individual branch alone could not have been able to send. Another instance of united work was the making up of the sum to be used in helping to defray the expenses of Miss McRae, a trained nurse in Wuchang, China, in which several branches took part.

In the United Offering at the General Meeting of the Auxiliary at the time of the General Convention, in Baltimore, Southern Virginia bore her part, though in a smaller way than we could have wished, and several parishes sent contributions for this object to the Diocesan Secretary.

It is to be regretted that the Junior Auxiliary has as yet been established in only eight parishes, but a steady increase of the Junior Auxiliary is what we hope for in the future.

As has been stated, in 22 parishes of the Diocese is the Auxiliary organized, but what of the remaining 42? Let us remember that to establish branches of the Auxiliary in these 42 parishes should be the constant and unwearying endeavor not only of the Diocesan Officers, but of every member of the Auxiliary in the Diocese.

If faithful branches of the Auxiliary are found among the Indian women of South Dakota, in China, in Japan, and even on the West Coast of Africa, can there be any parish in our old Diocese that can truthfully say it is too much burdened with parish cares to be able to take an interest in Missions, and to join the army of Christian Workers, scattered over the length and breadth of our land, under the name of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Board of Missions?

Respectfully submitted,

L. L. TAYLOR,

June, 1893.

Dio. Sec'y. Wo. Aux.