

REPORT OF THE
Triennial Meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary
OCTOBER, 1895.

DEAR FRIENDS: The inspiration and enthusiasm that marked the great Triennial Meeting, is faintly echoed in this imperfect report; yet I would bring you in touch with that meeting in which you personally shared by your part of the United Offering (Woman's Auxiliary, \$525; Juniors, \$25; Babies' Branch, \$5; total, \$555), and by the generous thought that sent the diocesan officer as your representative. The opening services of the General Convention, October 2d, were very imposing, after which the diocesan officers repaired to the parish house of St. Mark's Church, where a nice lunch awaited them. This was a pleasant feature of the occasion, accompanied with greetings and reunions of friends or fellow workers, strangers in name, but each known by their diocesan badge. The meeting was called to order by Miss Emery, who introduced Mrs. Brunson, President of Minnesota Branch, as presiding officer. The roll call showed 103 officers, representing 55 dioceses and jurisdictions. Mrs. Brunson extended a cordial welcome to the delegates and announced the order for the business meetings. Debate followed, as to the presentation of "United Offering," resulting in giving it to the Board to be known as the "Woman's Auxiliary Endowment Fund," respectfully suggesting *Alaska* as the jurisdiction. The Offering for '98, with other matters, was discussed, and the meeting adjourned with eager anticipations of the morrow.

No more beautiful day ever dawned than on Thursday, October 3d. The sky was bright with glorious sunshine, the air was crisp with autumnal freshness as our women gathered from all over the world for our consecrated Auxiliary day, with one heart and mind to join in the great Eucharistic service, and to lay on God's altar for the missionary work of his Church, in lowly love, with grateful hearts, their united offering. Women from far and near; women representing fifty-eight Dioceses, from Maine to Florida, from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, had crossed the Mississippi to meet in this far Western city of St. Paul, and, like DeSoto, to consecrate their first visit to its head waters by planting the standard of the cross with their triennial gift, which would for all time give to some missionary jurisdiction a shepherd of souls to care for the scattered sheep.

Early in the day were seen wending their way those intent upon reaching Christ Church in time for the opening service at 9:30 a. m. The church was filled to overflowing, all hearts aglow with the spirit of enthusiasm born of the great occasion, and in full sympathy with the hymns and prayers and splendid address of that great apostle of all missionary effort—Bishop Whipple—who urged that as we "gave our offerings, we should *first give ourselves.*" He thanked the women for their presence in a land where, only about forty years ago, there was neither

Bishop nor Priest nor church, and now was ready to welcome this great body of workers by whose prayers, sympathy and gifts they were to-day so strong. The united offering was then made—four of the clergy taking it up. The vast congregation arose at once and joined in the beautiful hymn:

"Holy offerings, rich and rare"

Over and over again rose the rich refrain:

"On Thine altar laid, we leave them:
Christ present them! God receive them."

as one by one the bags were collected that contained the several amounts of money which had been gathered with patience and much self-denial, making them so consecrated, each telling in some distinctive way from whence it came—the "eel-skin" bag from Alaska, "the lace bag," made by Miss Carter's Indian women (as well as the badges worn by the Minnesota officers), others simply telling the name of each Diocese, but holding its rich offering of self-denial and love, while from our far-off sisters of China and Japan, came their gift in a "Furushiki," made by a heathen girl for her Christian friend, with a *cross*, the symbol of her faith, embroidered in gold on crimson cloth, a symbol, too, of that peace now reigning between those great empires, which were represented in the persons of Mrs. Dr. Haslep, from China; Mrs. McKim and Mrs. Francis, from Japan. Many of our well known Indian workers were there, as Miss Carter, Miss Peabody, and twelve Indian women (lace-workers) whose peaceful faces told of the new born faith within. There were some who met there for the *first*, it may be for the *last*, time, ere we meet in the kingdom of God's dear Son, whose coming the work of this grand Auxiliary day may hasten.

After the celebration of the holy communion, when a thousand women knelt as one in Christ their Head, they repaired to the Presbyterian church, admirably arranged for such meetings, where the ordinary work of the day was carried on, and where our hearts burned within us as we heard from our various missionary fields of work done, or needs to be supplied. All hearts were anxious to know how near we had come to the amount we set before us, though the overflowing gold alms basin—the very alms basin presented to the American Church by the Mother Church of England—seemed to promise *fulfilment* with its "suitable receptacles," glittering in gold and purple and scarlet and blue, or the less conspicuous ones, *simpler*, but no less valuable. The tide of enthusiasm rose high, with joyful anticipation, as it was late in the afternoon before Dr. Langford appeared to tell the grand result, and when Miss Emery read out the total of \$54,000, it was meet and right, that in one burst of praise we should rise and sing: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow;" so all felt, and with such inspiration and intent will we go to our separate homes specially grateful for the sweet intercourse of friend with friend, and all that it means to confer together. No one who had the blessed privilege of *joining* in the sacred service can ever forget *that* day, no one who had the *smallest* share in that offering will ever regret it! And for those who were neither there themselves, nor through their gifts, how

we sympathize with them in the lost opportunity, and offer another in the *United Offering* for 1898.

The business meeting was opened with prayer by Bishop Gilbert. Miss Emery called the roll, 163 officers represented 58 dioceses, with more than 1,000 Auxiliary Women present. The delegates were assigned to seats and every attention paid to their comfort. The Triennial report was read by Miss Emery. Mrs. Twing spoke on the spiritual side of work, in connection with her report. Noon-day prayer was followed by luncheon for 1,500 people, all bountifully served in the most gracious way by the Minnesota Branch. Twelve of Miss Carter's Indian lace makers occupied one room, where their beautiful lace was displayed and where they sat, busily working at the intricate patterns, with "little Winona" (aged 5) weaving a tiny lace braid, living witnesses to Miss Carter's genius.

When the session was resumed, addresses were made by Mrs. Twing, Miss Peabody, S. Dakota; Dr. Marie Haslep, China; Mrs. Francis, Tokio; while Bishop McKim read the report of the Japan Branch and Bishop Graves gave an interesting sketch of the work in China, with words of praise from both Bishops of our missionaries. Bishop Ferguson presented "*Thomas*," a native African prince, 12 years old and 3 feet high, given to him to train, who repeated *Psalms*, and sang in good English. Great interest was roused for that consecrated worker, Mrs. Brierly, and \$4,000 was pledged to build a school house at Cape Palmas, as her memorial.

An informal meeting held on Saturday, resulted in pledging \$1,750 to enable Bishop Hare to support seven daughters of his clergy, at All Saints' School, S. Dakota, his own broken health preventing him from collecting it this year. A telegram was sent to relieve his mind, and the Doxology was sung. The adjourned meeting was held in St. Mark's parish house Monday, the 7th. The next Triennial offering was discussed, and it was finally resolved, "that the Auxilliary aim to raise a yet larger sum to be devoted under the direction of the Board to *training, sending and supporting women workers* in mission fields." Reports from dioceses were called for and appeals were made. The diocesan officer from New York made a touching appeal for S. Florida, told of Bishop Gray's work, and the destructive results of last winter's freeze. At once our Southern sister was pledged \$2,150. Mrs. Gray, till then a stranger, turned and said, "thank all Virginia, I am one of you; born in Hanover, my father one of the older rectors." \$250 was pledged for a school in Vale Crucis, N. C. Miss Carter told of her need for help, now that failing health called a halt, in active effort to secure money. Of course \$500 was gladly pledged. Wives of Missionary Bishops or Clergy told of need for money, and consecrated trained women; of the valuable help received; of the solid comfort of the boxes, with the picture, or dainty article, speaking of sympathy for their refined taste, in a field, often uncongenial, yet Christ's work.

Women of Virginia, we cannot do too much to cheer and help these *our workers*, nor know the sweetness of life till we give our prayers, our interest, our money and ourselves to the missionary

work, to hasten the coming of the King. So highly prized was the privilege of conferring together that numerous informal meetings were held, and methods, or plans discussed, with many valuable hints. The four Prayer Days were dwelt upon, with the request from thirteen dioceses for leaflets, and information, thus widening the influence of a new venture which the Virginia Branch in faith inaugurated.

The annual meeting of the Minnesota Branch, October 9th, was full of interest. Addresses were made by many well-known missionaries; the secretary's report showed activity and zeal. The four advisory committees were appointed, with some changes. The Virginia officer is again one of the Committee on Missionary Workers, which was formed to relieve the board, by giving information, as to the fitness of those applying for work, that when indorsed by the committee their appointment may be considered as opportunities offered for women workers. The five applicants from Virginia were referred to the diocesan officer, and her indorsement accepted by the committee, as a whole, to be acted on by the board. It is a most important trust, furnishing, as it does, women, fitted by careful training, for mission work. Their last report showed 101 applicants: of these, two have gone to Africa, two to Alaska, one to China, and one to Indian Territory; two others have gone to India and Thibet, under other societies. At present there are twenty-five persons, giving good promise of usefulness, in places of trust, and as trained nurses. The Triennial Meeting is over; but the results are grand and far reaching, through renewed zeal and effort, and by the pledges, which you have the privilege to share.

The 1,200 earnest women I was honored by representing, were ever before me as I voted, or pledged, or offered resolutions that would aid the work—or interest the Branch which stands pledged, \$25 to Bishop Hare's scholarships; \$25 to Mrs. Brierly's memorial, Africa; \$25 to Miss Carter's Indian work; \$25 to South Florida; only \$100 in all, which should be promptly paid by every branch sharing the privilege of giving, if only a little, that, with the "thank offering" and mite boxes for the next united offering, we may feel we are circling the world as we join hands with the Woman's Auxiliary, as she reaches out, at home and abroad, to help the work and the workers everywhere.

The sweet intercourse drew us very near each other and nearer the Christ we serve, as we said good-bye, hoping to meet again in 1898, with offerings doubled for the Master's work.

Gratefully and cordially,

SALLIE STUART,
President Virginia Branch.

N. B.—A suggestion has just come from Rev. Mr. Cole, General Secretary, "that the Virginias pledge the life insurance of our Brazil missionaries, Rev. Messrs. Morris, Meem, and Brown. We assume \$50 per year for one. S. S.