

Virginia Branch

OF THE

Woman's Auxiliary

TO THE

Board of Missions.

Seventh Annual Report

May, 1896, to May, 1897.

President's Address.

Again, dear friends, we meet to confer together in the interests of the cause we love. We greet with pleasure old friends, and gladly welcome the new, among the delegates. Let us try to realize one truth, above all others: the presence of our Lord here in our midst this day, set apart for the final rendering of our year's work, which together we have undertaken for His sake. We have consecrated ourselves anew to His service in the holy Eucharist; we have asked His blessing, let us expect that He will draw near to guide our deliberations. In the course of our history we have completed the circle of the five places appointed for the annual meetings. As a body of Christian workers we should have carried with us an influence recognized and felt in each place, by more interest roused, more zeal inspired. We should feel more missionary light has been diffused, more faith and love awakened for missions, which would have been lost, had we not carried with us some subtle influence that was left behind, just because earnest, consecrated women were in their midst. We also recall that to-day we reach our first Sabbatical term of seven years of loving service. Each year we take our annual survey of the work of the Virginia branch, and it seems to sum up a good record; but if we are honest hearted we must be impressed, in spite of self-gratulation, with three facts: 1. "How much more might be accomplished by a more united, systematic effort;" 2. "What great opportunities are offered, especially on educational and spiritual lines, for more effective missionary work;" 3. "How little we have really done to alleviate the need." In the survey let us consider the three great aims set before us: "Daily prayer for missions. Study of missions. Systematic giving to missions." 1. Do you *pray* daily for missions? If so, you are living up to a high privilege, and success is pledged to you. Do you *study* to learn what is needed and where the weak places may be made strong? Do you know where our missions stations are located; who are the bishops, the clergy? Does each one know our own Virginia women

in this work, or the three women we help to support? How can you pray for a shadowy idea. Take up the plan for the half-hour reading club, or missionary class, and be intelligent members of the Auxilliary. Lastly, the proportion is fixed for us by a higher law than Auxiliary thought. The amount, "one-tenth;" the time, "first day of week;" the spirit, "willingly with his heart," "the Lord loveth a cheerful giver. Dear women, take home to your hearts these simple Bible truths; tell them to others. Let us make the coming year fuller and richer of prayer, of knowledge, of gifts, that the King, who has commanded us to "occupy till He come," may soon return and take the kingdom to Himself, to reign over all the world.

The annual meeting in Christ Church, Alexandria, was the largest in number of delegates and friends we have ever gathered. To me, its memory is so sweet and sacred, I can only repeat what I then said: "It will ever stand out in bold relief against all other days, with a brightness all its own, to gild the future" that I was permitted to meet with you in my own old hallowed church and welcome you to our hearts and home. It was unique, in that circumstances made it possible to gather so many distinguished speakers, which may never occur again. The women of Alexandria were fully repaid by the privilege of welcoming to their homes so many charming people, and friendships were formed that can only be born out of the sympathy that springs from the interchange of kindred minds and the close bond of the W. A., as to *it*, as to a common center, gravitate our truest, most devoted women. The Grace Church branch were equal to the occasion, and filled their part of the welcome in the most agreeable and gracious manner. We cannot forget that solemn early hour, when we met in old Christ Church and heard words of cheer from our bishop, and then knelt together, "one in Christ and one in heart," to pledge ourselves anew to Him and His cause in loving service, united by that act then (and to day) in a closer bond as co-workers, "Let us hold fast to this truth as year by year in that "holiest of all places," which our Saxon fathers called the "Holy Communion" we meet, not with an absent master, whose will has grown dim through the long centuries, but with a present Christ, who, as you kneel at the chancel rail, through the Holy Ghost, who keeps up the life current between disciples on earth and their Lord in Heaven, will give Himself to you, We have not come to the mount which might not be touched, but to Mount Zion, to an innumerable company of angels and to those who in the thickest fight have pressed on and

won the victory." I trust as we laid our offerings on God's altar, we laid that which is above price, our hearts, at the feet of Jesus. But as we meet face to face it is better to confer about future work and plans that will rouse the desire to produce results, than to dwell on the meager results accomplished. The Virginia branch has met its annual pledges—\$75 for thank offering—and added to the amount for training a Virginia girl \$54.50; also \$50 life insurance Rev. C. Brown, Brazil. The three Virginias unite in sweet fellowship in this work for Rev. Messrs. Morris, Meem and Brown. Your own special work has been kept up and new efforts made. Those who are engaged in work do well; but, oh, the vast majority who stand aloof, pass by on the other side like priest and Levite, while the kindly deed and little mite of the few are owned and blessed by the Father, who knows when the cup of cold water or box of precious ointment represents the best we can do: Twenty-six branches contributed to current expenses, ~~\$34.95~~; on hand, \$15; expended, \$69.95. I have visited a majority of the branches and formed ten new ones, whose faith and zeal are commendable. I have written 720 letters and received 700. Directly after the Council I went to Albemarle and found much interest roused by the reports of delegates. Then went on to Wytheville to attend the delightful annual meeting of Southern Virginia. It is right that you should know the royal way in which your officer is always received and welcomed. In August, I went to The Plains, found an earnest, devoted band of workers and a well organized Junior Department. Both have materially added to our strength by efficient work. August 12th, I had the privilege of being with the dear women of St. Stephen's Church, Culpeper, in their all-day meeting. I call attention to it, as I believe if we could cultivate these friendly relations by occasional meetings, other things being equal, we would increase missionary zeal and effort, and deepen individual spiritual life by the "benediction that follows after prayer." Such was the day in Culpeper to us all. The zealous president, Mrs. Bell, planned and carried it out to minutest detail, ably assisted by her members and the rector, and to her was the success due; and that she thought and planned it all made it doubly dear to me. Let it be an object lesson for you all to copy where possible. The pleasure given and the good done may not be estimated, but the seven branches, represented by at least seventy-five women, must have been cheered and inspired to greater efforts, while their hearts were grateful for the holy service, for suggestions as to work, for privileges granted by the "in touch" with many earnest

workers, and for the abounding hospitality enjoyed by all. It is by free and full discussion thus obtained that we can put our work on a more intelligent basis, and the social feature establishes a closer bond among scattered, isolated branches and workers. I urge you, if possible, to adopt some such plan, and I will always gladly aid you. In October I was invited by Mrs. Lloyd, of Lynchburg, and Miss Taylor, to join with them and the women of Lynchburg in a "Quiet Day." It was a precious privilege, and some day it may be possible for us to introduce this feature into our work; but it needs a specially fitted leader to conduct such a meeting. Dr. Meade, of Roanoke, and Dr. J. Lloyd, of Lynchburg, were just suited to take us "apart to rest awhile in the green pastures and by the still waters" that God has provided in the ministrations of His Church. On my return, I visited the branches in Charlottesville and Culpeper, and by request of Rev. J. O. Mead, of Fauquier visited his three churches and organized a branch in each, finding the women ready and anxious to know and unite in the work of the Woman's Auxiliary. By request of Rev. Everard Meade, evangelist, a warm friend of the Woman's Auxiliary, I attended the fall convocation at "The Hague," in order to confer with several rectors about the work. Visited Warsaw, and with consent of the rector, formed a Junior Department to their Woman's Auxiliary. At an early hour next day drove seven miles to the ferry and crossed the lovely Rappahannock in a row boat. How I enjoyed it! The eastern sky was aglow with the light of the morning sun, whose bright rays, shimmering on the rippling waters, made them dance with joy, while the broad track of light made a golden pathway for our little boat. Methought, as we neared the farther shore, with its little city, our destination, it was like a vision of the Eternal City beyond the River we all must cross, over whose dark waters shall stream for each faithful soul the golden light from within the Gates. Through the energy of the president, a goodly number were present. This branch, with its Juniors, gives great promise. Hurrying from the lavish hospitality offered, I took the steamer in company with that godly man and friend of missions, Rev. Mr. Powers. The beautiful trip was over, as the setting sun found me welcomed by friends at Port Royal, where Rev. Mr. N. Dame was holding a most successful mission for Rev. S. S. Ware. On Sunday afternoon a very large women's meeting was held in the quaint, old-fashioned parlor of Miss P. I do not say the "men only" meeting of Mr. Dame gave any special interest to the "women only" one, but it was inspiring and

promises much. We gladly welcome these branches, with Rapidan just formed, which are represented to-day. Thanksgiving Day I went to Berryville to organize a branch, by invitation of Rev. Mr. Wall, then to Millwood, which has been in line from the first, and whose members are zealous and faithful. In March I visited all the branches in Richmond, and my heart was cheered by what I found there. I had the special privilege of uniting with them in their union service at Holy Trinity on the Feast of the Annunciation, observed as one of the four prayer days of the Virginia Branch. Mr. Gravatt's earnest, helpful advice as to the power of prayer to save us from form was admirable. We thank him. I cannot close this notice of "journeyings oft" without reference to my delightful experience as the invited guest of the North Carolina branch, at their annual meeting, through their president, Miss Horner. The cordial and gracious reception was all the heart could wish. I feel I have not attained to the full measure of my responsibility. Where I fail I ask your indulgence. Where aught is gained, it is due to your cordial support. And, now, turning to the future. Take a few things back to your branches to think and act upon. 1. Strive to make your monthly meetings more profitable, by each one bringing something besides her person; a paper, a bit of missionary news, a hint as to better work; learn something about missions, and let others know it, too. Form classes for mission study, and so train its members for future work, and you will be surprised at the interest created. Bring in members, and if all the women of your church belong, well done. But then go to work for the Juniors and B. B., and you will find plenty to do. Then try to observe the four prayer days. Meet your pledges promptly, each one. The officer is often hampered for lack of promptness, and while always fully paid, delay causes anxiety, specially as to current expense fund. Then work for and encourage the "C. P. C." Its librarian, Miss Blankenship, deserves our help. She asks for a secretary in each parish—so little for each one to do: A paper or magazine, the penny stamp, the time to address it, and you have sent on the wings of faith and prayer a token of cheer that will gladden the heart of many of God's chosen; yet weary workers; or, if no paper or books to send, help by a small contribution—gratefully received. What we need is renewed vigilance each year, that we let nothing undertaken slip from our grasp. And, last of all, the United Offering. Do you fully realize that in only a little more than a year (its sands will run as swiftly as these others) we are to take up our United Offering to lay on

God's altar for the grandest, most comprehensive object ever
 laid before the women of Christ — "To train and support
 women workers? I have at interest \$150. I could get 6 per
 cent for all I could handle. I hope you are all at work. I
 want to know the number of boxes distributed. I urge you
 to scatter them through the parish. Many will take a box
 who may not wish to attend the meetings. We want every
 woman in Virginia to attend the triennial meeting in 1898.
 You do not want to go empty-handed. Stir up your wills,
 your energy. Get boxes; interest every one in the grand
 object; men, women, children. Let Virginia bear a noble
 part in that great Eucharistic Offering, that our girls, ready,
 willing to give themselves, may feel their sisters bid them
 "God speed" in their sacred calling by helping to furnish the
 means. Each of you must be thrilled through and through
 by the idea of the grand object of the next United Offering.
 May God put it in all our hearts to give, even as he gives to
 us. "full measure, running over," so that if the English-
 speaking race is to dominate the world, Christ's gospel may go
 into all the earth through the English language, saturated with
 Christian ideas wherever spoken by our missionaries, "trained
 and supported" by the United Offering in '98. "This is the mis-
 sionary era, and with it the era of the Epiphany of woman.
 In her hands seems placed the key to unlock heathen doors
 barred 'gainst man's entrance." Now is her opportunity.
 One hundred thousand dollars is needed for the object set
 before us. What are you 'laying by in store' for the in-
 gathering? 'Twas said when the rays of morning broke over
 the plains of ancient Egypt the harp of Memnon, held in the
 hands of the famous statue at Thebes, poured forth sweet
 music as the waves of light swept gently over its chords.
 Dear women! the rays of the morning of a new century
 break over the earth. Let its waves of light wake a glad
 song of thanksgiving in each heart for what Christ has
 done for her, that shall be poured forth in a great thank
 offering for those who know Him not. Then when earth's
 shadows flee away, before the dawn of that day which ushers
 in the coming of the King, our harps shall give forth sweet-
 est music, as we join the glad song of the redeemed, and
 count souls saved by our prayers our loving gifts.

Cordially,

SALLIE STUART,
President Virginia Branch

Report of Dioeesan Secretary.

WINCHESTER, May 20, 1897.

Dear Friends of the Woman's Auxiliary:

Just about this time last year, while we were being so hospitably and delightfully entertained in Alexandria, it fell to my lot to suggest that the clergymen of Virginia were not taking the interest they might in the Junior Branch of this Auxiliary. As I finished, Mr. Gray, then rector of Trinity, Fredericksburg, Va., very courteously took my side and offered to form a branch in his church. This year I have the pleasure of reporting a branch, not only in Trinity, but also in St. George's, so that in coming to Fredericksburg we cannot but feel doubly welcome.

The interest thus manifested in your city is evidence of what our energetic President, Miss ~~Stuart~~, has been doing all over this Diocese. Instead of nine branches to report this year, I have twenty, and although four of these have not reported, because they are so recently formed, yet the other sixteen are most encouraging.

All the letters I have seen this year have shown much interest, and the notes of thanks from those receiving boxes prove that our work has been by no means in vain. I do not think these people would write so cordially otherwise. Indeed, I have seen letters in which they did not hesitate to criticise boxes sent, in which some of the clothing were full-dress suits for the Indians and ball dresses for their squaws. But my Juniors have taken to heart the lesson I have so earnestly set before them—*i. e.*, to send *only* what is good, serviceable and suitable.

The sixteen branches reporting aggregate \$852.15.

Domestic Missions	183	20
Foreign Missions	254	50
Diocesan Missions	414	45
		—
Total		\$852 15

including nine boxes valued at \$113.93. There were two other boxes sent—one to Brazil and one to Dakota—which were not valued at all, so that I could not include them.

It is hard for me ever to discriminate between the branches, as the number of members, means ~~at~~ their disposal, etc., co-operate in swelling or lessening the value and amount of work done. But, as usual, the Christ Church Parish Branch, Alexandria, and St. John's, Richmond, head my list. I cannot overlook, however, the branches of Hanover, under Mrs. S. S. Hepburn, and the interest she always takes in any work; and side by side with these come Culpeper, Millwood, Barton Heights, Grace and St. Andrew's churches, Richmond. Besides the splendid report already mentioned of St. John's, they have disbursed \$57.60 in their own parish, which cannot be included in my general report.

And just here let me beg you to insist that the Juniors learn

about Missions. If your branches want papers on missionary subjects, let them write direct to Miss Emery, or to me, and I will see that they are sent. Then, again, when new branches are formed, I should like to know of it through one of its officers. Very often there is work to be done in which they can join. Several branches are already at work on the boxes for next Christmas, and I should be glad to let those wanting work know the object and needs of this box. And, finally, do not forget how much depends on our earnest prayers for guidance and success. The lack of interest so often manifested *must* and can be met and overcome. Give the Juniors the work to do themselves, cutting out the garments, or gathering together interesting accounts of the mission they are working for; let one be treasurer, another secretary, and then let them help in packing and valuing the box themselves.

Next year, dear friends, we will meet in my own of Winchester. We are already looking to having you, and although we cannot *exceed*, yet we shall *most certainly* not fall behind either hospitable old Alexandria or Fredericksburg in our welcome to you, one and all.

Thanking this Auxiliary for that same welcome, and you, dear Junior, for your always ready help and sympathy, and Miss Stuart for all her work in our behalf.

Very cordially your Secretary,

G. W. BARTON.

Report of Secretary of Virginia Branch.

Rt. Rev. E. M. Whittle, D. D., President ex officio:

The seventh annual report calls to mind, in its mention of one of the "perfect numbers," that in presenting it we present the first Sabbatical term of years of the Diocesan Branch. To look back to our beginning in 1890 shows hopeful progress and positive gain over the nine parishes of the then undivided Diocese, to the present increase in the Virginia Diocese alone of fifty parish branches of the Woman's Auxiliary, twenty Junior branches, and 205 members in the Babies' branch, while it yet shows a larger field to be cultivated for the harvest of willing workers, that all our women, all our girls and boys, even the "babes" may be united in one grand missionary purpose. Slowly but surely the aim to enroll the parishes will be gained. What we need in this "new old work" before us is, first of all, greater interest on the part of the clergy. The cordial support and guidance of our revered Bishops have been the chief source of any success, but we want *no less* of every clergymen.

The responsibility of spreading missionary information, rousing zeal, unlocking the treasure house of hearts, to give to missions (even to pray for them), in too many cases rests upon the *women* of the Auxiliary, thus withholding the privilege of unity of purpose in gifts to missions from the major part of each congregation, who, from lack of intelligent knowledge, are not roused to interest and

effort. In the reports received, where the rector cares for missions, the contributions prove it, and he finds the Auxiliary a powerful factor in his work, as an organized body, so *systematized* that nothing is lost; so *wisely administered* that every *mere mite* goes straight to its mark.

Reverend Sirs, counsel, guide, care for us. We cannot prosper without your support and oversight, nor can we reach and touch hearts as you can with a special missionary sermon (*all your own*), stirring up zeal by an intelligent knowledge of missionary enterprise at home or abroad, with a corresponding *keener appreciation* of personal responsibility, resulting in a large increase in missionary zeal and gifts for all church work. To break down the apathy and indifference to this great cause is partly the work of the Woman's Auxiliary, but it does not wholly rest there; every baptized member of the Church is pledged to and must bear his part in the upbuilding of the spiritual temple of "living stones," in our own and foreign lands, which is being raised to the glory of God, and in loving memory of all that Christ has done for us; that some day we and they may "stand complete in Him."

Turning to the year's record, we call attention, first, to Diocesan Missions, which need the prayers and gifts of the church-women in Virginia. Their claims are recognized, and various appeals met by a cordial response, which should always mark our interest in them. The amount given to missions within the Diocese is \$699.60 in money, \$395.75 in boxes.

The domestic field pleads for our help, and if we need self-interest to prompt our gifts, Virginia has her own sons and daughters in the far West in Bishop Brooke and Rev. George S. Vest, with Lucy Carter and Miss Garrett, our own Auxiliary women, with others dear in the bonds of Christian faith and work. The amount given to Domestic Missions is \$383.81 in money; boxes valued at \$681.88.

But when we turn to the foreign field, such a host of Virginia missionaries rises to view as we think of the home band in Brazil, especially our own Miss Packard, that our hearts burn within us as we pledge anew our support and our sympathy to cheer and sustain them. To Brazil the amount given is \$559.00.

And again, crossing the seas, we find ourselves linked with the Dark Continent through Mrs. Dr. Walrath, a Virginian by descent, and Miss Woodruff, by our yearly pledge. But when we turn to China and Japan, again what a glorious heritage of work is ours, through that noble band of consecrated Virginia men and women "who have gone in to possess the land" for us. Of these are Miss Ward and Miss Mann, devoted, faithful workers from the Auxiliary, banded with those other brave spirits of whom "time fails to tell." The amount given to China is \$604.50; the amount to Japan \$664; total, \$1,268.50.

Nor has the colored work in Virginia been overlooked. Here and

there kind acts and g.fts have cheered the workers on. The amount given is \$55.

As united work, the Virginia Branch has filled its pledge of \$50 to life tnsurance of Rev. C. Brown, of Brazil; \$75 to salaries of women missionaries in China, Africa and Alaska, and \$200 to train or send a Virginia girl as missionary. The four prayer days are generally observed, thus linking prayer with service in a chain that binds us to each other and closer to Him for whom we work.

To keep our record in the future, we need to be diffused in our Sunday schools *more exact knowledge* of missions, to teach and train the young for their place in the Church. We ask the co-operation of the clergy in forming each school into a Junior Department, with a systematic course of instruction and missionary literature, as by their gifts they are already *missionary* in spirit and purpose. Their aid is most valuable *now*, but as *nothing* to what it may be as adults, if trained. To our boys we must look for a response to the ever louder call for "more laborers;" to our girls to take our place in the Auxiliary and in all mission work.

Heed our request, friends of the clergy; help us in this Junior work. We thank the Bishops for their counsel and support, we thank the clergy for all their consideration and interest; and we trust each year to do *more* and *better* work, being "steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord."

SUMMARY.

Woman's Auxiliary—

Foreign Missions	\$1,268 50
Domestic Missions	383 81
Diocesan Missions	699 60
Boxes valued	1,077 72
Offertory, May, 1896	50 00
Total	————— \$3,479 63

Junior Auxiliary—

Foreign Missions	\$254 50
Domestic Missions	183 70
Diocesan Missions	414 95
Total	————— 853 15
Babies' Branch	178 75
Grand total	————— \$4,511 53

Respectfully submitted, *Brazil - 559.00*
550.78.53.

SALLIE STUART,

Secretary Virginia Branch.

N. B.—It is much to be regretted that the report of the Babies' Branch could not be received in time for printing. The Secretary, Mrs. Shields, is full of zeal and love for the work and under her skillful energy the "B. B." numbers 225, with \$178.75 given to children's work in Virginia, Brazil, China and Japan. S. S.

