

REPORT OF THE VIRGINIA BRANCH OF THE WOMAN'S
AUXILIARY TO THE BOARD OF MISSIONS.

MAY, 1899.

Rt. Revs. F. M. WHITTLE and R. A. GIBSON,

Presidents ex-officio:

The past year has marked a most important onward step in the work of the Virginia Branch of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Board of Missions.

The meeting of the General Convention, to be held so near the old Diocese, seemed to bring a flood-tide of missionary enthusiasm to the women of Virginia, who made special effort to be present to catch the inspiration that comes from such a wonderful gathering of like-minded women, not only from every part of our great land, but representative women of a large number of those reclaimed in heathen lands—even from China, Japan, Africa, Brazil—through Missions our own American Church has planted, and which is the proud privilege of the Church people of Virginia to claim, with its history dating back to the founding of the Church on this Continent, and whose missionary zeal runs almost parallel, by sending her sons and her daughters as pioneer missionaries to the lands of the Orient; to the dark Continent, and where the Southern Cross points from the sky to cheer the workers in Brazil, her children stand, to plant the standard of Christ and his Church, and she will ever keep the unbroken succession of faithful Missionaries, and by her prayers and gifts be true to her great heritage.

Not only has the general work of the Branch been carried on, but all the special pledges have been met, and with the splendid result in the endeavor to present a sum worthy of her missionary zeal in the share, she had in the United Offering in Washington, October, 1898, of \$2,310.27, of which \$750.00 was given to the American Church Missionary Society for Brazil, for "training and supporting women workers in Mission fields," of whom are to be many daughters, ready and willing to go. The reports show more careful thought, as to what really belongs to the work of the Auxiliary, and, in some cases, causes a decrease in the sum-total, but in this we gain, losing the undue anxiety, to swell the report of work and gift, we get more of the motive and spirit that must underlie and actuate all our effort,

if it is to abide. We note a greater desire to look forward, to what ought to be done—rather than backward with self-esteem at what has been done—realizing in their year of service, that they have scarcely “touched the hem of His Garment,” with the time, or talent, or money, which they could have used, to advance Christ’s kingdom, and which is so freely given to the things that perish with the using. Yet the Secretary would encourage the work on the whole, by saying of each Branch, “well-done.”

The four prayer days have been observed; in some Branches, a “Mission’s Study Class” has been organized, with good results—in the interest increased—by the knowledge gained of the missionary work of the Church and which meets a felt need, and helps to develop the spiritual side of the work, as in recognition of their own unnumbered blessings, they share them, with those less favored women, in heathern lands. To emphasize their zeal, the reports show that the church women of Virginia, through organized effort, have first, as always, sent cheer and substantial comfort to many missionaries within the Diocese, in sad need of both, by well filled boxes; Mission Chapels have been aided, the Diocesan Missionary and the Education Societies, have been remembered, while here and there some lonely, Christian woman, with consecrated will to serve, has been able to start or carry on effectively, from week to week, some work where God’s poor lie scattered (without the Church or knowledge of His love), to find reward in the consciousness of duty done, and in the moral improvement in the whole neighborhood. To these isolated women, both money and boxes have been sent.

On every line of Diocesan effort, including the colored missions, the women have worked faithfully and lovingly to the amount in value of boxes and money of \$1,169.37. The usual gifts have been sent to China, Japan and Africa, as they aid in the salary of a Virginia woman, or other work, to the amount \$470.88. To Brazil, they are cheerful givers, as they enable a missionary to carry a Life Insurance or buy an organ, or contribute to his salary and help the entire mission, with gifts, interest and prayer to amount in money \$507.00.

Turning to the Domestic field, we find Alaska and the Indian work generously aided, while boxes have been sent to missions and missionaries in many Dioceses in the South, amounting to \$472.73. The pledge to Bishop Gray of \$100 to sustain a missionary to the Seminoles in South Florida, or do better Hospital work, has been redeemed, while the little orphans under Mr. Osuga in Japan, receive liberal aid. Through the consecrated zeal of one woman, the Virginia

Branch has added to its record its own representative worker, in a medical missionary in China, Dr. Mary Glenton.

We close this report with grateful hearts for the "onward step" in missionary endeavor, and the privilege of comradeship with those who "count not their life dear unto themselves," so they may go forth to publish "tidings of Jesus," "redemption and release," to a sin-sick world, while we fully know how we fall behind in what we might have done.

We thank the Rectors, who have been so cordial in their interest, and specially call attention to the seven new branches (fifty-eight in all) formed since last May. To our Bishops we would renew our pledge of faithful service, with very grateful appreciation of their cordial support and sympathy.

SUMMARY.

Woman's Auxiliary—

Foreign Missions,	-	-	-	\$977 88	
Domestic Missions,	-	-	-	472 73	
Diocesan Missions,	-	-	-	671 51	
Boxes valued,	-	-	-	497 86	
Offertory '98,	-	-	-	55 00	
United offering '95-'98,	-	-	-		\$2,310 27
Through Virginia Branch,	-	-	-	300 00	
Total,	-	-	-		2,974 98

Junior Auxiliary—

Foreign Missions,	-	-	-	\$292 50	
Domestic Missions,	-	-	-	22 50	
Diocesan Missions,	-	-	-	288 50	
General Missions,	-	-	-	22 90	
Total,	-	-	-		626 40
Babies' Branch,	-	-	-		153 85
Grand Total,	-	-	-		\$6,065 50

Respectfully submitted,

SALLIE STUART,
President and Secretary Virginia Branch.

Original document located in The Archives of the Episcopal Church.