

WEST TEXAS BRANCH
OF THE
WOMAN'S AUXILIARY
TO THE
BOARD OF MISSIONS.

SECOND ANNUAL MEETING
HELD IN SAN ANTONIO,
MAY 5, 1897.



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MAVERICK-CLARKE LITHO CO., STATIONERS AND PRINTERS.
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Officers.

MRS. J. S. MUIR, 615 Hays Street.....President
MRS. J. T. HUTCHESON, 1029 Olive Street.....Vice-President
MISS ROBERTA JOHNSTON, 309 Pecan Street.....Secretary
MRS R. H. MCCracken, 707 Avenue C.....Treasurer

Report of Secretary.

This is the "day of small things" in the Western Texas branch of the Woman's Auxiliary, and your Secretary has but a meagre report to make, but she hopes neither you nor she will be unduly discouraged by this; not resting satisfied, of course, with the small things we have done, but remembering there have been advance and improvement, and "taking heart of grace" for the coming year.

We feel sure that, if the women of our church will try to *understand* the Woman's Auxiliary, cease to think of it as a vague sort of bug-bear, coming to demand money and interfere with their other church work, and will recognize the dignity and breadth it adds to their labors in the Church, they will rally to its support, and then, if our ministers will give it their earnest, hearty, intelligent co-operation (as I fear they have not done so far) it will grow from strength to strength in this western country, as it has done in all the older and more eastern dioceses, becoming one of the greatest factors for good in our lives and church. We, for whom the missionary spirit has done, and is still doing, so much, cannot afford, now that we are getting out of swaddling clothes to ignore the value of missionary work and spirit.

The Woman's Auxiliary was really organized in West Texas only two years ago, when the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. A. T. Twing, visited us, and, with her

spiritual earnestness and enthusiasm for the work to which she and her sister have devoted their lives, aroused in us for the first time the desire to be connected with it. None of us who met and listened to her will ever forget the Convocation of 1895.

At that meeting it was decided to organize the Woman's Auxiliary in Western Texas, and Mrs. J. G. Mulholland was elected Secretary for our Jurisdiction. She was in every way eminently fitted for the work, but unforeseen sorrows, cares and responsibilities crowded upon her that year, and it was impossible for her to give it the necessary time and labor. So, while something was done, several branches formed and the spark kept alive, the result of the first year's experience was not inspiring.

With regret Mrs. Mulholland's resignation was accepted, and, as you have seen from the minutes, an Executive Board elected to take her place.

The good seed Mrs. Twing had planted, Mrs. Tuttle watered, and gave, thro' her experience, calm judgment and wise insight, a more practical turn to the work. She emphasized (and your officers have tried to do the same) that money is not the *chief* thing in this work. Poverty is no excuse for parishes or individuals refusing to connect themselves with the Woman's Auxiliary—with missionary work of any kind. Fill your minds with missionary intelligence, fill your hearts with missionary zeal, and you will find the means, never fear, to help the great work.

I wish there were time to read the report lately sent me of the fourth annual meeting of the Florida branch of the Woman's Auxiliary—a diocese almost as new as

ours, and quite as weak and poor, yet already making an auxiliary report not to be ashamed of, not because they are doing such great things, but doing so many little things faithfully and well, and working together for the common cause.

If each woman, nay, if each earnest woman in our Church in Western Texas would give her little mite, do a little missionary work and reading, say her prayer for missions each day, and put herself thus, as is her privilege and duty, in touch with the great work the women of our Church are doing in all the world, it would no longer be the "day of small things" in Western Texas, our meetings would be looked forward to each year by our Churchwomen, and be of such importance and interest that, if the Convocation could spare us only an afternoon, we would have to hold our annual meetings at another time, our reports would go forth to encourage and stimulate weaker dioceses, as theirs do ours now, and the Church in Western Texas, being of age to speak for itself, would come to the front bravely to do God's work, and fight His battles; helped so long, ready now to help others, strong in the might of Christ our King.

During the past year, your Executive Board has met regularly on the first Tuesday in each month, to transact business, discuss the work, and try to devise means to get in touch with you. We had much to learn, and feel that we have not done all that might have been done. Have you helped us all you could? Unanswered letters, unacknowledged mite-boxes and reading matter have not been encouraging.

I append a detailed account of the Auxiliary work for the year, as near as I could gather it from reports sent

me by the different branches. Number of branches, sixteen, being an increase of eight over last year; of these several pledge themselves only to missionary reading, and several to the use of the mite-boxes for the united offering, in connection with their regular parish societies. This does not include the Junior Auxiliary—five branches—whose report appears separately and of whose faithful, earnest loving work in many directions your Secretary wishes she had time to speak more fully; nor members of the Baby Branch, grown, through Mrs. Massey's loving interest and labor here, into such a beautiful and important part of our Auxiliary.

Several of the branches have done very active and efficient auxiliary work, judging from their reports, both in study, working and giving. I must mention that only four have contributed the dollar towards the Contingent Fund, which is used to supply stationery, postage, printing, etc., and only two have sent in the Quarterly Reports asked for by your Secretary, which are intended to keep her in touch with you and your work. Read the little report we send you, Churchwomen and parishes of Western Texas, and in some way unite yourself with the work, and help us to double this report next year.

Faithfully, Your Secretary,

ROBERTA JOHNSTON.

REPORTS OF PARISHES.

BRANCHES

— OF —

The Woman's Auxiliary.

SAN ANTONIO—ST. PAUL'S.

OFFICERS.

President..... MRS. J. S. LOCKWOOD
Vice-President..... MRS. Z. R. BLISS
Secretary..... MRS. J. MUIR
Treasurer..... MRS. J. T. HUTCHESON

Box.....	\$72 00
District Missions, cash.....	64 00
General Missions, cash.....	10 00
To Japan, cash	10 00
Scholarship in Alaska.....	10 00
Contingent Fund.....	1 00
From Box for United Offering.....	6 55
Total.....	\$173 55

SAN ANTONIO—ST. MARK'S.

OFFICERS—*Branch A.*

President.....	MRS. R. M. FULLER
Vice-President.....	_____
Secretary.....	MRS. C. S. AUSTIN
Treasurer.....	MRS. R. H. MCCracken

Box for Missionary in West Texas.....	\$40 00
Subscription to Spirit of Missions.....	1 00
Contingent Fund.....	1 00
Church at Cripple Creek.....	3 00
District Missions.....	25 00
Total.....	\$70 00

SAN ANTONIO—ST. MARK'S.

OFFICERS—*Branch B.*

President.....	MISS ROBERTA JOHNSTON
Vice-President.....	MRS. DUVAL WEST
Secretary.....	MRS. CHAS. JUHAN
Treasurer.....	MISS VANCE

Box for West Texas.....	\$40 00
Mailing Church News.....	18 75
Contingent Fund.....	1 00
District Missions.....	10 00
To Missionary.....	2 50
Total.....	\$72 25

SAN ANTONIO—ST. PHILLIP'S.

OFFICERS.

President.....	MRS. M. A. HILL
Vice-President.....	MRS. A. WOODS
Secretary.....	MRS. J. D. LOWERY
Treasurer.....	MISS B. BOOKER

United Offering.....	\$2 05
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ROSSVILLE—ALL SAINTS'.

President and Treasurer.....MRS. J. C. ROSS
 Secretary.....MRS. J. P. Tarren

District Missions.....\$2 50
 United Offering.....1 00
 General Mission Work.....6 35
 Total.....\$9 85

VICTORIA—TRINITY CHURCH.

President.....MRS. L. P. DE MONCHE
 Vice-President.....MRS. W. P. SAFFORD
 Secretary.....MRS. E. M. SHAW
 Corresponding Secretary.....MRS. A. W. BUNNIGS
 Treasurer.....MISS ASHWORTH

For District Missions.....\$20 00
 For Foreign Missions.....5 00
 For Domestic Missions.....6 00
 For Postage on Mite-Box, etc.....50
 Total.....\$31 50

SAN MARCOS—ST. MARK'S.

President.....MRS. L. O. HUTCHINSON
 Secretary.....MRS. YOUNG

United Offering.....\$ 2 75
 Box.....10 00
 Total.....\$12 75

EAGLE PASS—CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER.

United Offering.....\$3 27

KERRVILLE—ST. PETER'S.

OFFICERS.

President and Treasurer.....Rev. R. GALBRAITH
 Vice-President and Secretary... MRS. R. GALBRAITH

Contingent Fund.....	\$1 00
General Missions.....	6 50
Total.....	<u>\$7 50</u>

SEGUIN—ST. ANDREW'S.

United Offering.....\$2 75

UVALDE—ST. PHILLIP'S.

United Offering.....\$1 00

LAREDO—CHRIST CHURCH.

United Offering.....\$3 00

RUNGE—ST. JOHN'S.

United Offering.....\$0 92

REPORT

— OF —

Junior Auxiliary Branches.

SAN ANTONIO—ST. PAUL'S.

OFFICERS.

President.....MRS. MARY MASSEY
 Secretary.....MR. ALBERT MASSEY
 Treasurer.....MISS ALICE BLISS

Christmas Festivals to two Mission Schools.....	\$ 35 00
Gregory Massey Memorial.....	50 00
District Missions.....	5 00
"Young Christian Soldier" for St. Phillip's.....	8 10
Miss. Lenten Offering.....	18 81
Total.....	<u>\$116 91</u>

SAN ANTONIO—ST. PHILLIP'S.

To Board of Missions.....	\$2 97
Twenty-six meetings held for Missionary Study.	

VICTORIA—TRINITY.

For Church News.....	\$15 00
District Missions.....	4 00
District Missions.....	2 75
District Missions.....	5 00
Total.....	\$26 75

ROSSVILLE—ALL SAINTS'.

Secretary.....	MISS MARY FISKE
Treasurer.....	MISS HANNAH ROSS
To Gregory Massey Memorial Scholarship.....	\$2 00
Home Missions.....	2 50
Total.....	\$4 50

Treasurer's Report.

Mite boxes (United Offering).....	\$ 35 94
Missionary boxes.....	152 00
District Missions.....	101 50
Domestic Missions.....	13 50
General Missions.....	22 85
Foreign Missions.....	10 00
Scholarship.....	10 00
Total.....	\$350 79
RECEIPTS—Contingent Fund.....	\$5 00
DISBURSEMENTS.....	2 25
Balance.....	2 75

LILY B. McCracken,
Treasurer of the Jurisdiction.

The Babies Branch of Western Texas, though *started* three years ago this coming Whitsuntide, dates its year's work from one August thirtieth to the next, as this date was reached before the work was fairly introduced, and is the anniversary of the entrance to Paradise of the little one in whose memory this Branch of the Babies Branch was started.

It often seems an unfortunate time, as many mothers write me, that the boxes and books were left at home at the time of the summer flitting, and the matter will be attended to on their return—*or* another year. There *are* mothers who feel the little red treasure box of sufficient importance to be taken. The end of the year certainly does not conform to the time of Convocation, from which time reports are supposed to date.

The report of the second year's work could not be made until three months after proper date, and even then many of the boxes were not heard from. Printed copies of this report were sent to all those known to be interested in the work, and the head of the Branch will be glad to give or send copies to any who care for them.

At the time of that report—November, instead of August thirtieth—ninety-one boxes had been heard from and contents distributed.

As then over three hundred boxes had been sent out and two hundred and seventeen names actually enrolled and membership books given in that two years and a half of the work, no one will wonder that it seemed doubtful if the interest taken in it at all justified the time and expense devoted to it. Since then returns have been made from twenty-two more boxes and deposited in bank for distribution at the end of this year.

Eleven new members have also been enrolled.

The contents of those ninety-one boxes amounted to \$66.37 and was distributed as follows:

FOREIGN.

St. Mary's Orphanage, Shanghai, China.....	\$ 4 74
St. John's Orphanage, Osaka, Japan	4 75
Bricely Memorial Building, Cape Palmer, Africa.....	4 51
Mary Josephine Hooker Memorial School and Orphanage, City of Mexico.....	4 51

DOMESTIC.

The Good Physician Hospital, Columbia, South Carolina..	\$ 2 87
Mrs. Buford's Hospital, Lawrenceville, Ia.....	3 10
Miss Sibyl Carter for sick Indian Children in Minnesota...	3 62
Bell at Cannon Ball, North Dakota.....	2 92
Indian School, Shoshone, Wyoming.....	2 92
Junior Auxiliary Publishing Company, Conn.....	3 54

JURISDICTION.

Widows and Orphans of Deceased Clergymen.....	\$ 5 90
District Missions.....	6 60
Gregory Massey Memorial Scholarship, W. Y. M. A.....	6 63
Babies Branch expenses.....	9 49

The Church Almanac reports fifty-five places in Western Texas in which our Church services are held. The Babies Branch is represented in eleven of these and five parishes in San Antonio. Victoria, Rossville and Eagle Pass have appreciated the Babies Branch from its first introduction in their midst, though Eagle Pass was a year later in taking it up.

As the list now stands in my book at this past way stage in this year's work, Victoria has twenty-five members, the number having been decreased last August by

the advancement of six children to the Junior Auxiliary. Of the twenty-five now left eight belong to the Memorial Circle.

Eagle Pass—Twenty-seven.

Rossville—Eleven.

Del Rio—Six, one of whom belongs to the Memorial Circle, and has two boxes kept in his memory.

San Marcos—Six.

Kyle—Four.

Pearsall—Two.

Cuero—One.

Beeville—One.

Brackettville—One.

Boerne—One. This in the Memorial Circle, the box kept by a Presbyterian grand-mother and the parents are Methodists.

The Laredo and Gonzales pages in my book give me a heartache whenever I see them, or think of the twelve members in the former, and ten in the latter place, that were enrolled and *heard from* the first year, and lost afterwards because no one cared enough about the matter to return the boxes and books to their owners.

IN SAN ANTONIO:

St. Mark's—Sixteen, including four who belong to the Memorial Circle. All but two of these sixteen members have been enrolled through influences from Victoria and Rossville.

St. Paul's—Five.

St. Phillip's—Three.

St. John's—One.

Trinity Mission—One.

There are four members of the Western Texas Babies Branch on a plantation in Louisiana; six in Mobile, Alabama; thirteen in Monterey, Mexico, and one in Rochester, New York.

Either the work is not really understood, or its beautiful teaching not appreciated. Surely if parents could be brought to realize the influence of training their little ones to know the *privilege* of sharing in God's work with their gifts, consecrated by prayer, they would not be willing to deprive their children of the blessing.

"Pennies a week, and a prayer,
'Twas the prayer perhaps after all
That the work has done and blessing brought,
The gift was so very small.

"Pennies a week and a prayer,
Truly and heartily given,
The treasure of earth will all melt away
This is treasure laid up in Heaven."

May I make one more effort to have you understand and appreciate the work of the Babies Branch—now carried on in most of the Dioceses and in these Jurisdictions—before I bid a long, probably a final farewell to Texas? On joining the Babies Branch of the Junior Auxiliary to the Board of Missions, each child sends to the Head of the Branch five cents as its share in the triennial United Offering of the Woman's Auxiliary. It then receives its mite box and membership book.

Five ideas are to be taught by this Society:

First. Every baby by baptism becomes a member of the Missionary Society, which is the Church.

Second. The first day of the week the penny must go in the box to form the habit of laying apart for the Lord.

Third. It is not to strengthen any one parish, but the whole Church.

Fourth. Our interests are not to be limited to any one field, but to be given to Foreign and Domestic as well as Diocesan or District.

Fifth. Like the true Missionary Spirit there is to be no limit to its work. The little ones, if transplanted to Paradise, are not to have their work given up, but their gifts are to go on from year to year, given by some one, or more, in the home-circle from whom the little one has been taken.

These important items are to be remembered, the box, book and date of sending them to the Head of the Branch.

First. The box is to be considered as a treasure house where a sacred gift is kept, and therefore cared for with reverence. On Sunday after the prayer and text have been said by the child, or for it, if it is too young to say them, and gift placed in the box, it must be put back carefully in its resting place for the week.

Second. The book is to be sent each year with the amount in box, so that the money and the way it has been distributed may be recorded.

Third. The date for sending, for the Western Texas Branch is August thirtieth. The date is recorded in each book, and it would be a very great help if each one would be prompt.

In conclusion let me give you "a vision of the 'Children's Chain' seen by one of our dearly loved officers of

the Woman's Auxiliary. She seemed to see a troop of children, gay and joyous and light-hearted; and they passed on and on and on, hand in hand, dancing and singing as they went, until at last they made a chain that circled all the globe. They were led by a little band, in white robes, with palms in their hands, and on the leaves of the palm branches were stories written, all in letters of shining gold. There was the little captive maid; there, the son of the widow of Sarepta; there, the lad with the five barley loaves and two small fishes. And there, too, were tiny babies, dazzling bright, in garments washed in the blood of martyrdom, shed unconsciously for One who was to die for them; and other children, who sang Hosanna as their King went on His way to His Throne and Kingdom.

"Leading them all there passed a Heavenly Boy from Whose unearthly face and figure floated back all the rays of glory that lighted up each and every legend. He carried no palm-branch, but on His head He wore a crown, and all about it flashed jewels, more brilliant than diamonds, and they made a sentence which every child could read: 'Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?'"

"Those who followed on, after this fair company of little ones, were more like earth's ordinary children, but of every land and time; and above them floated a shining host, strong and glorious, their Angels, who in Heaven do always behold the Face of the Father.

"It was very strange, and yet it truly seemed as though there was no longer any work to be done more difficult than might be wrought by this chain of children

and their Angel guard. Why should anything be too hard to do, when He, who was the World's Example, came to the task He had undertaken as a little child?"

MARY GREGORY MASSEY,
Head of the Babies Branch of Western Texas.



President's Address.

With the memory still in our hearts of Mrs. Twing's visit among us in '95, and of Mrs. Tuttle's helpful address at the Convocation last May, we felt a great longing to have with us to-day some one who could speak to us, as they did, from long years of experience in the work of the Woman's Auxiliary, and of missionary study. Unfortunately our treasury was not sufficiently well filled to permit of the necessary expenditure of money; so we can only talk together to-day of the Auxiliary work as it is in this jurisdiction, and as we would like to have it.

Our West Texas Branch of the Woman's Auxiliary is one of the youngest of the eighty Sister Branches, being one of five organized within the last two years, the Branch in Alaska being the youngest. Therefore we have much to learn.

As officers of this jurisdiction we have tried hard to see a branch of the Woman's Auxiliary, no matter how small, organized in each parish, and these parish branches united in a common interest; and we are much encouraged to hear sixteen branches reported to-day where eight answered to the roll-call last year; and we hope to see the sixteen doubled by our next annual meeting.

The main trouble seems to be in the fact that each parish feels its inability to give or labor for anything outside of itself, and does not really understand what is expected of members of the Woman's Auxiliary.

Possibly it might be well for us to give it its full name every time we speak of it; the Woman's Auxiliary to the Board of Missions. Large societies of all kinds frequently have auxiliaries, and these are often bodies of women, who, while they cannot organize and carry on the work undertaken by the large society are still glad to help. And so when the Board of Missions years ago found that the women of the Church were willing and eager to contribute their time and money toward the spread of the Gospel, they gladly welcomed them as their auxiliaries, and asked that they unite the world over, to study about, and work for the cause of Missions. And each Church woman should take some part in this work. There is work to be done for the parish we know, and there is work to be done by the Woman's Auxiliary. Both have claims upon us, but that of the Auxiliary is the stronger.

We love to labor each for her own particular church, for we desire to see the house of God, in which we worship, as beautiful as we can make it. We want a well furnished chancel, a fine organ, a good choir, comfortably cushioned pews, a sweet-toned bell to call us to service, and well kept grounds around the church. Indeed there is no limit to the amount of money we would like to spend upon this particular house of God where we worship, and women work hard, and make many sacrifices to obtain the means to carry out their desires for the "Church Beautiful." This is all right, and every woman in every parish should have her share in it. But, have we a right to devote all our time, and strength, and money to this claim, which, after all, is greatly for

our own comfort and satisfaction, and not for the up-building of His Kingdom.

Think now of the claim of the Auxiliary.

The commands of our Lord are very dear to all Church women, and if you will remember, He gave us just one command after his resurrection. You all know it, for it is repeated by each of the evangelists with only a slight change of wording.

"Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Again:

"Go ye teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Again:

"That repentance and remission of sin might be preached to all nations."

We all accept this as a command direct from the Master. We all pray daily that it may be carried out. "Thy Kingdom Come." Now what are we doing to further the work?

The command has been given, and we must either go or send. Few of us can go; but we can all join hands in the membership of the Woman's Auxiliary and thus aid in sending "The Gospel to every creature." We can send love and sympathy, clothes, books, and money to those who are laboring in far away lands. And, while each one's mite seems almost too insignificant to send, not even a drop in the bucket, unite them, and see what all the mites gathered into one sum make. Last year it was \$365,000. And is it not a privilege to be allowed to share in such a gift?

Do not abandon Parish work, but add to it Auxiliary work. No Parish can afford to do nothing for Missions; for where Mission work prospers, home work prospers.

No one wishes to give to an object or person about which she knows nothing. So here is the first line of Auxiliary work; to study about Missions.

At the meetings of the Parish Branches let the President, or presiding officer, see that a half hour's interesting reading about some one of the mission fields is ready, and that some one was appointed at the previous meeting to read it. Have ready also some kind of sewing which, when completed, will be acceptable to the family of some missionary. And as you set the stitches, and hear about those who give not a half hour every other week, but their whole lives to the Master, I know your interest will grow, and you will want to read more and more. Have always one copy of the "Spirit of Missions" on file, for this will keep you informed as to the whole Mission field of the Church. And if you become interested in any particular woman in the Mission field write to her, and you will make her glad, and be so pleased with the prompt interesting answer you will be sure to receive. And do not forget the contribution to the little mite boxes at each meeting. They ask for a penny a day from each member if possible. If not, just what she can give, for the amounts collected from these boxes once in three years is presented as a grand united offering of praise and thanksgiving from all the women in the Church, and is used to support one more woman in the Mission field of some far away country.

Our jurisdiction is not composed of wealthy parishes, but of those where giving at all means a sacrifice. But

once allow your interest to grow, and you will make the sacrifice gladly, and learn to love the work of the Woman's Auxiliary.

I must say one word to the Juniors, who have given us such good reports to-day, and who always work so faithfully.

The hope of the Woman's Auxiliary rests in you. So learn all you can for you will soon be the "Woman's Auxiliary," and the members of the "Babies Branch" will be waiting to take your places.

A very great help to the Branches in the different parishes is found in the interest shown in the work by the rector. If he can be present to open the meeting, and give it his influence in every way, he may perhaps find a new and unexpected interest in Missions himself.

The reports read to-day show that as a jurisdiction we have taken a step forward this year, and we have reason to feel greatly encouraged. Now let us see if a still greater advance can be made in the year before us now, that at our next annual meeting we may have a report of which our Bishop will be proud, and which may perhaps merit the "Well done" of the Master.

