
Report of President

of the 

West = Virginia = Branch

 of the

Woman's Auxiliary,

.... held at

St. Pleasant, June 2nd, 1897.

Diocese of West Virginia.

PARKERSBURG, JUNE 30, 1897.

I desire to call special attention to the annual report of the West Virginia Branch of the Woman's Auxiliary. It is an encouraging record of work done for the Master, and as such ought to inspire many others to go and do likewise. I ask all those into whose hands it may come to read it carefully, and not neglect even the least detail. To see what others are doing is one of the best ways to find out what we can ourselves do.

Faithfully Yours,
GEO. W. PETERKIN.

Report of Mrs. W. H. Small, PRESIDENT OF West Virginia Branch Womans - Auxiliary, Pt. Pleasant, June 2nd, 1897.

The coming together for the Fourth Annual Meeting of our Diocesan Branch is a pleasure gladly renewed. And let us hope that a chief feature of that pleasure is the belief—we may say—the certainty that the working year now closing has been one of measurably satisfactory effort, and of substantial advance. That we can feel we have slowly, but surely, enlarged our work—that we have not retrograded—that if the advance seems slight when we look out upon the field—and when we feel within the stirring of unfulfilled desires, the regret that all the things we have wished for have not been attained, we yet can “thank God” for

the "added little," and so "take courage"—and resolve afresh for worthier effort. This much we can say to hearten us, and to enable us to look at the reverse of the picture. For we must bear to consider our shortcomings, and that, not in the spirit of despondency, but with earnest desire to utilize them for future good—to make of them that part of "our dead selves" which shall be "stepping stones" to greater attainments, and to "higher things" in aim and effort and resolution. There have then been omissions and failures, and of these chiefly to be noted are the falling off in the contributions to the Woman's mite to Missions—in the matter of pledges for the Central Fund—and in the fulfilling the pledges to Africa for aiding Mrs. Walrath in the work at Cape Mount,

In October last some of us had the great pleasure to be present during the sessions of the Missionary Council at Cincinnati, when so many of our Bishops, and of the clergy and laity were assembled to advise and plan concerted action for the great work of missions—the one object for which the Auxiliary—of which we are a branch—exists. These annual meetings are second in interest only to the great Triennial Conventions of the Church. The Woman's Auxiliary is largely represented on these most interesting occasions. It has its own separate meetings, when special reports are read, and when appeals are made in behalf of the wonderfully varied work in the vast mission field—work which it is the aim of the Auxiliary to aid, in fulfilment of her vocation, evidenced as that is, by her chosen name—that of Auxiliary to the Board of Missions." These appeals are enthusiastically responded to by the representatives of Diocesan Branches, pledges pouring in with an almost electric rapidity and fervor, showing how the hearts of members all over the vast stretch of our Diocesan territory are thrilled to earnest desire, for the time when our "Master's Kingdom" shall indeed "come" in that fullest sense of the turning of the nations still in the "shadow of death" to the glorious light of the knowledge of our assended Lord. The appeals referred to are often made more deeply impressive by the presence of missionaries returned from active work for a needed vacation,—their own inspiring accounts of what is being done in those distant fields not only deepening interest in, but vividly and forcibly illustrating the power of missions. On this occasion, in Cincinnati, Mrs. Dr. Walrath, from Cape Mount, Africa, told of the work originally started there by the saintly Mrs. Brierly, and which (having gone out as her as-

sistant) she had fearlessly carried on alone after Mrs. Brierly's lamented death. Dr. Walrath was more than 100 miles distant from any station where a white person lived, and this isolation from her own race, and entire deprivation of educated help in her schools, and in the care of the sick, together with other onerous duties—not legitimately a part of her work—many of them involving severe manual labor, and which from pressure of circumstances she felt compelled to assume—were heroically endured and faithfully performed for more than seven months—as was stated above—unaided and alone. She told her story so simply, and its recital so unconsciously set forth a life of consecrated service and usefulness, it is not to be wondered at that all present were moved to do what they could in furtherance of her efforts. The buildings used in the earlier days of the mission were dilapidated and fast tumbling—the schools of eighty girls and sixty boys had long outgrown their capacity, where so many were to be sheltered and so many applicants reluctantly refused because of their inadequacy. Her desire was to raise money sufficient to build more substantial structures, and better fitted for the growing needs of the mission. The members representing our Diocesan Branch felt that West Virginia could not be silent, so, after consultation, we pledged the sum of \$100—designing the burden, if we can so consider it, to rest chiefly upon the eight working Parochial Branches—for which it would mean but the light assessment of \$12.50 for each.

As soon as possible I wrote to them stating the matter in detail, and asking each to give its quota. A few of them responded instantly and cordially, others have promised—while some have not replied to the appeal in any way. Over one-half the amount is collected and in bank. The entire sum ought to be speedily made up. Surely we should regard it as our privilege to go outside of our Diocese—outside of our common country, remembering our Master's farreaching, all-inclusive command in regard to the whole world, which must be binding in its force upon the conscience of every individual Christian, till the world is conquered for Christ. If it should seem that too much space and too minute detail have been given here to the one item of our African pledge, it is because it was a *needed new departure*—an enlarging of the scope of our work, and that we should be impressed with the fact of our past apparent neglect of work in the foreign field—of its great importance—of the self sacrifice of those engaged in it—and of our deep responsibility in regard to the duty we owe to it,

now, and in the future. It is a matter of deep regret that there has been a falling off in the contributions to the Women's Mite for Missions. This supplementary Diocesan Fund was proposed by Mrs. Peterkin as "subsidiary aid to the wholly inadequate fund placed in the hands of our Bishop" for the importunate needs of our missions within the Diocese. She realized—as we all should realize if we thought of it as solemnly and earnestly as we should do—what anxiety, what sense of well-nigh helpless responsibility weighs upon our beloved chief pastor when he is striving to do the very work for which he was chosen by the Diocese—without the means to employ the men, who are so needed to take possession of the vacant places and enlarge the area of work, without the ability to sustain properly those feeble missions already established and struggling for more vigorous life. This project that the Auxiliary should in its individual membership contribute, and through its active effort obtain from each communicant, the sum of twenty-five cents for the purpose of raising a fund to be called the "Woman's Mite to Missions" was put before this Diocesan Branch when in session at Charles Town in June, 1885, and was unanimously decided upon as a part of our work each year, there and then adopted, as "pledged and permanent."

What is our duty, the duty of the Auxiliary in this matter? Manifestly to *keep our pledge*. Oh, at best we do so little, can we bear to curtail that little? That pledge was deliberately made—there was no qualification—no proviso that if money could be obtained in other directions or assessments made, as the wisdom of our representatives in council should decide to be necessary, we were therefore to fall out of line and cease our efforts. We have nothing whatever to do with the financial arrangements deemed proper by the officers whose duty it is to provide the main funds in the usual manner for carrying on the work of the Diocese. But we *have* distinctly to do with our aid as Auxiliary to these, at the best, meagre resources; and we should rally to the effort with the feeling that our contribution ought not even to be included in the assessment, but should be offered as an entirely separate matter—the Woman's mite to missions given with glad ungrudgingness as our own help to our Diocesan. Let us not then withdraw our hand, but keep fixedly to our purpose, redeeming our pledge with alacrity as the years go by, and instead of lessening, let us increase these contributions till our list of members who give this twenty-five cent donation becomes the

roll call of every communicant in the Diocese. For three years past it has been usual to issue a full report of our work, with statistics from each parochial branch, and reports from the various officers—giving an account of the different lines upon which the work is conducted in each parochial branch, the methods pursued, and a summary of results. The first report was printed at the expense of two members of the Auxiliary. Miss Emery in her letters and in her two visits to the annual meetings, urged the creation of a central fund to meet expenses of printing, postage, etc. There was still a balance due on the printing of the second report. At Moundsville pledges for this fund were made by five branches. The very moderate and, as it proved totally inadequate, sum of two dollars from each being promised. Two of these branches, St. Matthews, Wheeling, and Trinity, Parkersburg, sent the money promised. The remaining three did not redeem the pledge and as it was not possible to meet the expense of printing with so small a sum, it would seem that our branch does not consider a report essential, and therefore it is deemed best to omit the issue for the present. Of course the yearly expense of printing would be greatly increased as new branches are formed in other parishes—as we must hope will be the case—so that to confine that expense to a fixed sum would not be possible. It should be remembered that the mere labor of gathering in the statistics, writing the reports and conducting correspondence is not an inconsiderable item in the estimate of the work.

I would call attention to the money now due toward the life insurance of Rev. Mr Meem, one of our faithful missionaries to Brazil. His most grateful letter of thanks acknowledging the action of our branch in his behalf was published in a recent issue of The Church News. He says: "It is not only the pecuniary assistance for which I am grateful—though the amount is most substantial aid—but for the personal remembrance of me and mine. It seems to me" he adds, "a most delicate, and at the same time practical way of helping a missionary—that of aiding him in laying by something for those who are dependent on him against the day when he may be taken from them. Such aid for him is the most valuable." I have already received a first contribution for the insurance for this year from St. Matthews Branch, Wheeling. I trust other parochial branches will send in their quota as soon as possible. The three Virginias are pledged each for maintaining the insurance for one missionary. Let us

hope that West Virginia will not be backward in her offering for Mr. Meem.

A very beautiful prayer, prepared by Rev. Dr. Lacy, of Lynchburg, for use at Auxiliary meetings in the sister Dioceses of Virginia, was accepted and forwarded to the different branches. It seemed so comprehensive, breathing a spirit so tender and so devout as to make it specially fitting for our monthly meetings, and we are under obligations to Dr. Lacy for his thoughtful kindness and generosity in presenting to us the beautifully printed copies of the prayer which were sent to the parochial branches during the winter.

There remains but to touch upon the United Offering. I cannot say more than was said in last year's report upon this point, a topic that should appeal powerfully to women, the object being, to quote from the report, "to accumulate a sum for the training and support of women missionaries. Whatever may be thought or urged as to the capability of woman in other spheres, there can be but unity of opinion on this point, her fitness for, and her efficiency, her self-sacrifice and her power in mission work." "The need is great, the call urgent," let us fill the mite boxes to repeated overflowing for the ingathering at the great meeting of 1898 in Washington. We regret to be compelled to chronicle the loss to us of one of the most efficient members of our Diocesan branch. The removal of Rev Dr. Swope to North Carolina deprives us of the ever ready and most valuable aid of Mrs. Swope. We can ill spare one who was so cheerfully helpful and hopeful even amid discouragements. It was a pleasure to turn to her.

"With good will doing service," is the motto we have chosen. Last year it was reinforced by some words of Canon Farrar introducing some lines from Robert Browning which were to the effect of the necessity of taking one step onward and securing it. We have tried to take that step---to advance a little, even if in some respects, as the ocean tide recedes yet still moves forward---so we apparently lose, while gaining. And let us reverently remember for Whom our work is done---with Whom we take it up.

"To work with God ! Ah noble toil
Grown lighter in the faithful deed,
What matters now the stubborn soil
If He will watch the buried seed."

Report of the Work of the West Virginia Diocesan Branch,
Woman's Auxiliary, June 1896 to June 1897.

ZION CHURCH, CHARLESTON.

Rev. E. J. Williams { One box to missionary in Arkansas.....	\$75 00
One package to missionary in Arkansas.....	16 00
Cash to missionary in Arkansas.....	5 00
Life insurance for Rev. Mr. Meem, Brazil.....	2 00
Junior Auxiliary, special for Brazil.....	50 00
“ “ St. Andrew's Chapel.....	75 00
Total.....	\$223 00

TRINITY CHURCH, MARTINSBURG.

General Missions.....	\$47 45
Woman's Mite (Diocesan missions).....	1 00
To rebuild Mrs. Bryerly's house, Cape Mount, Africa.....	2 25
Nurse for sick woman.....	15 00
Junior Auxiliary, maintains a Sunday school in North Martinsburg, assists poorer children with food, medicine and clothing.....	70
Total.....	\$135 70

TRINITY CHURCH, SHEPHERDSTOWN.

Rev. G. S. Tuck { One box to missionary in Utah.....	\$36 00
One box to St. Elizabeth's School in South Dakota...	3 54
Mrs. Walrath, Cape Mount, Africa.....	12 50
Total.....	\$52 04

TRINITY CHURCH, PARKERSBURG.

Rev. C. E. Woodson { One box to missionaries.....	\$125 00
Rev. E. J. Mintons { One box to missionary in West Missouri.....	45 00
Mrs. Walrath, Cape Mount Africa.....	12 50
Life insurance, Rev. Mr. Meem, Brazil.....	10 00
Womans' Mite to Missions, Diocesan.....	57 00
Central fund.....	2 00
Total.....	\$251 50

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, WHEELING.

Rev. G. A. Gifford { Two boxes to missionaries in West Virginia.....	\$181 78
Rev. H. H. G. { Diocesan missions.....	100 00
Mrs. Walrath, Cape Mount, Africa.....	12 50
Life insurance, Rev. Mr. Meem, Brazil.....	5 00

JUNIOR AUXILIARY.

Rev. G. A. Gifford { One box, Mrs. Buford, Christmas '96.....	12 67
One box, Indian mission.....	8 45
One box, Sailor mission.....	3 40
Central Fund.....	2 00
Total.....	\$325 80

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, WHEELING.

One box to missionary in West Virginia.....	\$135 00
Henry Hobart, Morrell scholarship, China.....	40 00
Mrs. Walrath, Cape Mount, Africa.....	12 50
Life insurance, Rev. Mr. Meem, Brazil.....	5 00
Total.....	\$192 50

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, CHARLESTON.

One box, missionary, South Dakota.....	\$80 00
Domestic missions.....	12 00
Foreign missions.....	22 00
Mrs. Walrath, Cape Mount, Africa.....	12 50
Life insurance, Rev. Mr. Meem, Brazil.....	10 00
The Junior Auxiliary contributed \$10 for the box mentioned above. Substantial aid was also given to divinity student doing missionary work in the Parish.	
Total.....	\$136 50

TRINITY CHURCH, HUNTINGTON.

Mrs. Walrath, Cape Mount, Africa.....	\$5 00
Ladies' Aid Society, for life insurance, Rev. Mr. Meem, Brazil.....	3 50
Little Juniors, for life insurance, Rev. Mr. Meem, Brazil.....	1 50
This branch expects hereafter to contribute one missionary box each year.	
Total	\$10 00

ASCENSION CHURCH, HINTON.

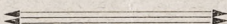
One box children's clothing, mission in North Carolina	\$30 00
Mrs. Walrath, Cape Mount, Africa.....	4 00
Sheltering Arms Hospital.....	10 00
Woman's Mite, Diocesan mission.....	4 25
Junior Branch.....	9 00
Babies' branch, united offering.....	30
Rectory improvement.....	26 50
Total	\$84 05
Contributions of nine branches reporting.....	\$1411 19
Woman's mite not included above.....	111 57
Total contributions.....	\$1522 76



Woman's Mite to Diocesan Missions.
June 1896 to June 1897.

—O—

Hedgesville	\$6 00	Buckhannon	\$2 00	Landgraf	\$5 00
Charleston	3 50	Long Reach	50	Bramwell	7 50
Charles Town	1 00	White Sulphur	1 00	Fort Spring	1 00
Fetterman	1 00	Hinton	4 25	Okonoko	3 00
Berkeley Spring	3 00	Union	8 00	Keyser	2 50
Weston	7 00	Elm Grove	2 50	Powellton	6 50
Moorefield	2 75	Sistersville	4 50	Romney	3 50
N. Martinsville	5 50	Crescent	3 25	Ripley	3 75
Moundsville	7 25	Liverpool	2 00	Kenova	2 00
Lee Town	2 50	Parkersburg	57 00	Huntington	6 00
Williamstown	5 75	Martinsburg	1 00	Princeton	75
Ravenswood	1 25				
Total.....				\$174 00	



OFFICERS OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY WEST VIR-
GINIA DIOCESAN BRANCH.

—O—

President,	-	-	Mrs. W. H. Small	Parkersburg.
Vice President,	-	-	Mrs. Geo. W. Peterkin,	"
For Valley Convocation V. P.,			Miss M. G. McSherry,	Martinsburg.
" Central	"	"	Mrs. C. Sprigg Sands,	Clarksburg.
" Northwestern	"	"	Miss Gertrude Lamb,	Wheeling.
" Kanawha	"	"	Mrs. Ely Ensign,	Huntington.
" New River	"	"	Mrs. I. A. Meade,	Hinton.

