

vision of the Bishop. The Sisterhood of the Holy Communion, established some twenty years or more ago, and at first connected with the parish of the Holy Communion under the pastoral care of the Rev. Dr. Muhlenberg, have charge, at present, of St. Luke's Hospital, in the wards of which noble institution they are continually ministering to the sick, the suffering, and the dying, for the love of Christ, and without compensation, save from Him to whose service they are devoted. The Sisterhood of St. Mary, founded some six years ago, is a general society for benevolent works, having the Bishop for its visitor. These Sisters have charge of the House of Mercy, an institution for the reformation of fallen women; they also have a hospital for sick children, and a large and flourishing boarding and day school for young ladies. The Sisterhood of the Good Shepherd, also founded by the Bishop and supervised by him, have their headquarters at St. Barnabas' House, in Mulberry street, where they receive the poor and distressed, distribute food to the hungry, and take care of orphan or helpless children, and from whence they go forth, as visitors, to the dwellings of the poor, or to the public institutions, the alms-houses and hospitals of the metropolis. Each of these sisterhoods has its own type of religious life, thought, and aspiration; but, notwithstanding diversities such as exist among individuals in parishes, and even in dioceses, the one fundamental idea in each is the same,—that of organized labor in the Church for the love of Christ alone, and in legal obedience to the authorities appointed over us in the Lord.

Much earnest work is also done by devout ladies not connected with any of these organizations. There is an association of such persons, including representatives of some of our first families, who act as visitors at the City Prison, at Bellevue Hospital, and at the vast establishments on the islands in the East River, for the reception of the paupers, vagrants, lunatics, and criminals of the metropolis. The work of these ladies is quiet and unostentatious, but effective. It constitutes a branch of that of the New York City Missionary Society. To that society we are indebted for the systematic care and visitation of the public institutions just referred to, for the maintenance of St. Barnabas' House, and for the support of a small but earnest and devoted band of missionaries who assiduously prosecute the labors of their sacred calling in the least propitious quarters, and amid the greatest discouragements.

Among the institutions for which, as a diocese, we have reason to be thankful, and which have been founded, and are sustained by the contributions of the faithful, the following, also, in particular, may be named:

The Church Orphan Home for Children, in the city of New York, with large buildings and accommodation for some 150 little ones. St. Luke's Home for Aged Christian Females; about to remove from the old quarters in Hudson street to a new situation on Eighty-ninth street, near the Central Park, where very fine buildings are now nearly completed and ready for occupation, and in connection with which will be a noble church, the gift of one Christian woman, Miss Caroline Talman, who has erected it as a memorial to her deceased parents. The Sheltering Arms, at One Hundred and Twenty-ninth street, Manhattanville, removed since our last report, and greatly enlarged, and now admirably conducted under the superintending care of Miss Sarah Richmond. At this institution are received such destitute children as are not provided for by the rules of any other charitable house. The Shepherd's Fold, and the Children's Fold, are kindred institutions for the reception and protection of vagrant children. All these, together with St. Luke's Hospital, St. Barnabas' House, St. Mary's Hospital, and the House of Mercy, already mentioned, are within the city of New York. To these we must not forget to add that very successful charity known as the "Midnight Mission," which has for its object the rescuing the fallen women of the metropolis, by seeking them out on the very path of their descent into hell, and bringing them, if possible, to a better mind, and to a haven of safety.