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The Woman's Guild of Christ Church.

Reports, Branches of Work, Excellent Status.

There is no more efficient band of servitors for the Master than this society. The greatest possible interest is manifested at the weekly meetings and the amount of good done can scarcely be estimated. Miss Mary Harrison, the President, devotes her life to home mission work. Her keen intellect grasps a situation with unerring accuracy. Her trenchant wit asserts itself without pretension, and infuses spice into the driest details of parliamentary business. Her faith would inspire a skeptic, and her zeal is unquenchable. She is ably supported by some thirty members who represent the salt of the earth among woman-kind. There is no time nor disposition for gossip or idle talk, yet the ease of friendly commingling robs these sittings of stiffness. The cost of membership is 25 cents a year, with a fine of five cents for absence. The meetings are opened with prayer. Reports from secretary, treasurer, coal committee, cutting committee, and visiting committee follow in succession, each topic admitting of more or less discussion. The branches of work are so systematized that it has been easy to secure a compendium which will be read with interest. Mrs. Williamson, the faithful, efficient Secretary, has given an admirable report for The Record, which we regret to be obliged to cut for lack of space. We give the main portion.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Guild is flourishing with a steady glowing zeal. Our average attendance this winter has been about thirty (30) members at each meeting, thirty hearts beating with love and sympathy for the poor, sick and unfortunate, and twice as many hands ready to administer to the helpless. Without a jar or discord, like well harmonized music, this band work together week after week and month after month. We find much to encourage us, although our work seems to multiply before us; and although we do accomplish much, there are many things we would like to do that are yet beyond our reach.

We have a coal bureau which, after careful investigation, gives coal to the poor; and an employment bureau which gives sewing to poor sewing women in the hope of relieving their pecuniary wants without the humiliation of begging. We also have a large trunk where it is the duty of each member to place at least two garments, or as many as may be spared from her household, to be used in our home missionary work in the visiting among the unfortunate; and it goes out of that trunk about as fast as it goes in; sometimes it goes out before it gets in at all, and there are no calls unheeded. So, dear Record, if your friends have dresses, cloaks, underwear, hose, shoes, bonnets, hats, or gloves for women, girls or boys that are filling up presses or chests and not of further use to them, please tell them where they can send them to do good.

With all this home work we did not let pass by unheeded a call from the church at Middleborough, but sent fifty dollars as our mite. We are not weary toilers in the vineyard, but a happy, hopeful band who truly enjoy the weekly meetings and the duties they entail.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Miss Virginia Johns furnishes the following figures from her record as Treasurer of the Guild. Receipts during the month of September \$90.70; disbursements, \$109.51; for October, \$23.60 received; \$13.04 disbursed; for November, \$54.70 received, \$41.80 disbursed; for December, \$50.10 received; \$57 disbursed; for January, \$253.35 received, \$126.89 disbursed. Balance in the treasury, \$133.76. The unusual yield in January was largely from the Orange Tree Bazaar. Fees, fines, sale of garments, and voluntary contributions, supply the funds.

EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

Mrs. Dr. George Ockford is manager of this branch and gives the following items: Sixty-five garments were made in December. Received for garments sold \$19; disbursed for sewing, \$10.35. Two ladies are appointed each week to cut the cloth which is purchased by the Guild. They

go to the Church Home, which is the place of meeting, early Thursday morning and cut till eleven o'clock, the Guild's hour. Poor women come in numbers to get the work, and really if it were generally known what neat seamstresses are among them many families in the city might be glad to employ them. Sometimes the cloth is presented. Mrs. H. C. McDowell contributed a bolt of cotton at the beginning of the season. In this case the sale of garments is clear gain.

COAL REPORT.

Miss Lizzie Bean, the Secretary of the coal fund, reports 399 bushels distributed among sixty-five families from the 17th of October to the 22d of January. The Guild purchases one thousand bushels of coal every winter and Mr. H. K. Wilward has it delivered to the person presenting an official ticket for a given number of bushels. In order to relieve the Guild of the burden of so many families, two delegates from each church in the city have been invited to meet with the Guild and confer as to the applicants for relief. If each church could have the care of its own poor by a system of just allotment, the labor and expense would be lighter for all. The poor who belong to no church by membership or association do not come under this head. As it is, it is hardly creditable that sixty-five poor families are entitled to aid from Christ Church, when other denominations state that they have no poor. The fault lies somewhere, though certainly not with any religious community in our city, for all are equally charitable at heart.

HELPING THE POOR.

Nothing is more difficult than the question of how to help those who will not help themselves. Poor Joseph II. of Austria, died a martyr to the solution. All high-flown ideas of philanthropy must fall before the homely realities of the case as it is. Stolid in their misery, and utterly callous to pride or ambition, how shall you influence those who sit day after day on bare floors, beside paneless windows, content if you will but feed them and put coal into the smoky stove? Several of our number have concluded to try the religion of cleanliness and comfort as a stepping-stone to higher things. Armed with needles and thread they are taking house by house, and while they sit and mend and patch the clothing of the inmates (if they have any) they try to drop hints for profit. A good woman thus visited one of *les miserables* and induced her to paper her walls with pictures from Harper's periodicals. Little by little a scrap of ornament appeared here and there, a cast-off picture, a broken bit of china, "wisely kept for show," till the sensibilities thereby aroused refused to be satisfied

with the dreary details of abject poverty. A store of bright patches on shelf and wall, had for the asking, began to make sunshine here below, and leave crevices in the awakening soul for the light by and by of the Sun of Righteousness in the home beyond. Is it not worth a trial?

The King's Daughters.

The King's Lilies.

On Thursday afternoon of each week the King's Daughters, to the number of nearly fifty, assemble at Mrs. John Pew's parlors on North Broadway. Mrs. Pew is President of the Society. She opens the meeting with prayer, and a chapter from the Bible is read around the circle, one verse each. Passages are discussed and proved, not by the aid of commentaries, but by marginal references, making Scripture prove Scripture. The fees are five cents a week, and ten cents at stated intervals to the Central Ten among the founders of the order. The money is used for any special charity desired by the society. At present they are supporting entirely an old colored woman, who is worthy and helpless. The association is undenominational and unfettered by any law, deed or charter, which might limit or locate its usefulness.

THE KING'S LILIES.

This beautiful branch of the work was established in memory of Mrs. Lily Brand Duncan, and numbers sixteen members. Mrs. Pew is President, and at the weekly meetings on Saturday morning the International Lesson Paper is read. The children contribute two pennies a week. Though organized very late in the year, they had at Christmas time between four and five dollars in the treasury. With this they had promised themselves the pleasure of taking a doll and a basket of good things to the little hydrocephalus patient at St. Joseph's Hospital, who is as affectionate as unfortunate. The visitation of sleet prevented, so now they look forward to an Easter offering to a sick child at the Hospital or Infirmary, as the case may be. The names enrolled to date among The Lillies are: Lily Voorhies, Nannie Voorhies, Alex May, Mary May, Fanny Duncan, Bettie Johnson, Ada Saffarans, Mary Swift, Elizabeth Higgins, Lucia Harbinson, Grace Engman, Tillie Engman, Georgie Whitney, Essie Whitney, Mabel Boswell, Jessie Boswell.

Statue of Washington.

Mrs. Rosa Vertner Jeffrey is collecting money to contribute to the fund required to send a bronze statue of George Washington to France in return for the gift of Bartholdi's statue of "Liberty Enlightening the World." Sums from twenty-five cents up are received at her home on Market and Second streets.