Nonconformists &
Missions in
Rotherhithe &
St James, Bermondsey

District 33 Book CXIII

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Nonconformists – District 33 – Book CXIII

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/	Couch	Rev. Enos	Mariners Miss^n	13 S. James Road	~~25~~
/	Richardson	Pastor T.	Rotherhithe Free Ch:	48 Lower Road	~~29~~
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Christchurch parish

Holy Trinity parish.

33/3-9

Jan. 15th. 1900.

Interview with Father ~~Newton~~ and Haynes and Father Newton, St. Joseph's Paradise St. and Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Rotherhithe St..

Father Haynes has the head of this R.C. mission for three years. He is an Englishman: Yorkshire, probably about 35: He is tall, thin, plain looking: meeting him in the street one would at first think take him for an Anglican curate of the weaker type and I should be much surprised to learn that he did not begin his clerical career as in an English ritualistic church: but though not a strong man he is not at all a bad fellow, and was extremely courteous and anxious to be helpful.

Father Newton whom he brought in with him is a younger man, a brother of Father Newton of Southwark: he is I should say a stronger man than Father Haynes

Haynes- Catholic

With the exception of the small district south of the S.E. Ry the parish includes the whole of Rotherhithe. It contains roughly 40000 R.C. souls: almost without exception they are Irish Cockneys often of the second or third generation: but though the names are Irish there is on the female side often to be a great intermixture of English blood.

The bulk of the people are dockers in regular work: but of these there are not many: below them are a number of labourers: which class half are casuals. It is one of the poorest parishes in London and something like 25 p.c. of the children come to the school unfed: this is due however to the fact that the parents have no great self respect and prefer to spend money on food rather than clothing "for you never see an underfed child: they are as dirty as possible".

During the time Father Haynes has been here there has been no change in the parish: except for a few demolitions both the will to do

and the poor areas seem unaltered. For sixteen years the block to the north of Paradise St has been under condemnation as an insanity area but even now there seems no immediate prospect of it's demolition.

The number who observed their duties last Easter was 1400. The average attendance at Mass on Sunday is from 1100 to 1200. Of those who do not observe their duties the bulk may be regarded as practically lapsed though here as elsewhere "they send for us when they are sick."

Until seven years ago there was no church in Paradise St. (there is now only a chapel attached to the school) - only the old church "up town" in Rotherhithe St. The effect of building the school and chapel in Paradise St was to "increase the church attendance by 75 p.c." and this without any ~~pr~~ pressure: the people came naturally though they would not go a mile to the old

Church.

All the R.C. children except possibly 5 - p.c. are in the schools, and here as elsewhere many parents who do not observe their duties send their children to the schools.

Rather more effort seems to have been made here to carry on some social work as an assistance to the religious: there is a League of the Cross (Temperance) with about 70 members "which really has reclaimed some drunkards": there is a small Boys' Club and a Boys' Brigade. & both priests thought some agency for boys almost essential as the R.C.s like other sects suffer from the difficulty of holding them after they leave school.

As to Relief - the two priests each give about £40 a year mostly in money and I fancy without method. There is a local branch of St. Vincent de Paul with its own almoners who however never act except in consultation with the priests. The people here are great beggars, and many of the R.C.'s are assisted by

Haynes - Catholic

Other Religious agencies working with proselytising intentions, but the effect is nil: "they take the money, but don't go to the churches": ~~they~~ the churches do however sometimes "draw away the children".

In cases of serious sickness 9/10ths of the R.C.'s go to the Infirmary: in other cases there is no difficulty in getting a nurse from the Jubilee Nurses.

As to visiting. I don't think it extends much beyond the sick and those who ask for a visit: the area of the parish is large and there are no helpers for the two priests. Father Haynes said that for effective visiting it was necessary to go in the evening and with the Boys Club and Brigade: and the sick to see the priests have no time for this.

Of the marriages in the parish about 30 p.c. are mixed: they are one of the great causes of leaving.

As to local grounds: the slum streets are utterly neglected: the sanitary officer

inactive: they reply to complaints that the districts are condemned and that it is hopeless to do anything upon demolition. Once or twice efforts have been made to clear people out of the most insanitary cellars in the most insanitary streets; they have been evicted and the windows boarded up but they have crept back, and in seven steps Alley for some months the people lived behind the boarded windows & artificial light. It is a matter of fact it is almost impossible to turn the people out: there is nowhere for them to go.

The police are inefficient in number but "first rate" in quality: "I am very much impressed with the police" said Father Haynes.

In drink there is no improvement: it is the great vice of the people

Prostitution unknown.

In spite of the insanitary condition of their homes the health of the people is wonderful: this is due partly to the fact that they live

almost live in the streets, partly to the great healthiness of Rotherhithe, which both the priests look upon as almost a health resort: this is attributed to the river and the large amount of open space: docks, parks and railways. Father Newton especially has never been so well as here, and they quoted a former priest who felt a palpable ~~[illegible]~~ heightening of the spirits directly he sniffed the fine strong air of Jamaica Road.

Father Newton noticed the utter neglect of the Dock Company and the Wharfingers of the material or spiritual interests of their employes: they are regarded merely as machines.

Mr J. T. Knott. L.C.M.
Rouel Road District

GEA
Jan 15/1900

The District

St Luke's parish (chiefly)

33/2-6

Mr J. T Knott. London City Missionary,
Seen at 4 Yalding Road, Bermondsey. S.E.

Mr Knott is a man in the fifties: medium height, prominent features, greyish hair and whiskers. Has been working in this district 24 years.

His district is an irregular block bounded ~~on~~ on the north by Spa Road & the railway; east by Linsey Street (Road on map); south by Southwark Park Road & West by Alscot Road. In this area he reckons 700 houses of which he can visit about 640; whilst of families he reckons 714 as visitable out of 800 – an underestimate.

The district has changed little in its residential character in recent years – the chief streets are still pink & purple in character; two families being the rule in roads like Yalding & Rouel, whilst in Dockley Road, three are found in some houses. The light blue patch at the N.W corner has become distinctly worst. Parker's Bldgs & John's Place (late Marshall's Bldgs) are the

worst

Jam making has become an important industry here. Lipton has turned a tannery & Sidney Bid & Sons an iron yard into Jam factories.

Visitation

Service held

Charitable Relief

worst. Little four roomed houses, generally with two families. Costers, ice cream vendors &c. Many men who do not wish to work. Vauban St is also very poor - waterside labourers.

The people do not move much: those occupying the better roads holding on. The only exceptions are the blue patch, where people have to go for non payment of rent &c and Fort Buildings, a block of models in Southwark Park Road. Always making fresh acquaintances in Parker's Bldgs.

Mrs K. visits the whole district about four times a year. He also visit a number of workshops. In this way came in contact with 885 men last year.

Holds a service on Thursday evenings in St Lukes Mission, Alscot Rd (corner of Alfred St) by permission of the Vicar. Only small attendance (12 to 18) mainly from the district.

Gives very little relief. Has a few tickets (about 12) from the Police Court. As to Parker's Bldgs & John's Place, he dare not give to anyone

Knott - Scm, Rouell Road

there. "If you give to one you must give to all." He took part in the Jubilee dinners at first but soon dropped it and "a very good job I did". Any cases that need assistance he refers to the Vicar of St Lukes or St James according as the people live in one or the other parish. He regards his position in not being able to give relief as fortunate & thinks that the relief they are obliged to give is a weakness of church work. The Jew that come to his service come for their spiritual goods: & he would rather have a few of this kind than a large number who came for what they can get.

Places of worship
& Church Attendance

Only one place of worship on the district: Rouel Road Congregational Church & this is rather in difficulties now. The Bermondsey Parish Church & St Luke's have the best congregations in Bermondsey. Not many of the people go to places of worship A good number go to Bermondsey Town Hall on Sunday afternoon and some to the Wesleyan

Mission

Knott- SCM, Long Lane

Mission, Long Lane. The Wesleyans (he thinks) are the strongest in the district. From the Parkers Bldgs are a few of the people go to Gedling Street Mission & the children to the school there. The remainder would not go anywhere.

Baptist Church in Spa Road (Hyper calvinistic) and another of the same order in Lyndon Road.

Asked as to results, he said that the visitation was a ~~gr~~ leavening power. While they did not often get conversions he read me two cases from his report for 1899, which he was just preparing. One that of a woman & the other a man who had been a backslider & the people gradually became friendly and would listen to them. When first he went there the people opposed the holding of open air meetings. Now they look for them to come; bring out chairs &c.

For open air work he joins with Mr Lelliott another missionary & they hold meetings alternately on each others districts. Have some helpers but these only

only like to attend meetings in the main streets. Shrunk from going into the courts - such as Johns Place &c. It is unpleasant, said he, dirty children with jammy fingers or a potatoe crushed up in their hands, rubbing against you. "But they have precious souls"

Mr Knott is an earnest & hard working man & highly respected in the district. His daughter was married some months ago & the local paper gave over a column description of the wedding and a long list of presents. Nearly everybody knows him & he would remember many of the present generation as children.

Reply & Report from
Rev. Enos Couch of the
Mariners Mission

33/26

Dirk 33

13 St James Rd
Bermondsey S.E.
16 Jany 1900

Dear Sir

I have been laid up with a violent attack of gout or would have sent to you before this is my first day out of bed for a little while so I took the opportunity of writeing the short report I send you

I am Dear Sir
yours Truly
Enos Couch

Dirk 33
Voss

Dist. 33

The Mariners Mission

13 St James Road S E

16th January 1900

Charles Booth Esq

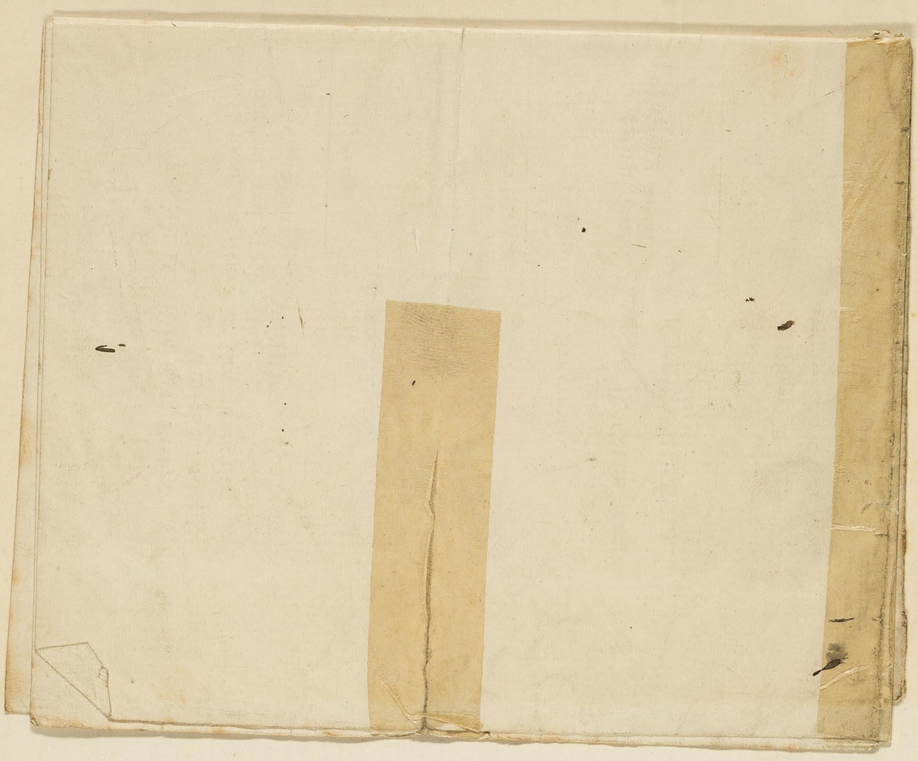
Dear Sir

Our Mission is a very small one we have no paid missionaries nor have we any settled income only a few shillings now and then to pay incidental expences which we obtain from personal friends — I was one of the founders of the "Mariners Friend Society" Old Gravel Lane London Docks and after labouring nearly forty years I retired on a pension and my eldest son Rev T. B. Couch became superintending Chaplain which position he still occupies I came to live over this side of the water and not wishing to be idle took under my charge the Mariners Mission which was originaly founded by Benj C Smith commonly called Boatswain Smith who in 1819 Founded the first society for sailors — The Port of London missionary society. I have spent more than fifty years in missionary labour I began in 1848 I am now in my Seventy third year and cannot do very much We have an unlimited supply of Bibles books and periodicals sent us gratis from friends who have known me for many years so we make up large parcels and give them to the crews to take to sea with them visit the men when in port hold short services and in any way we can seek to do them good we have some willing helpers such is the simple work in which we are engaged

I am Dear Sir

Yours Truly

Enos Couch



She is a *barque* beyond compare;
Of Zion's oaks her *timbers* are,
Her *masts* and yards of Calvary's tree,
Her *cable*, Faith, Hope, Charity.

Her *rigging* of the cords of love,
Which *tempests* cannot break or move;
Her *sails* the doctrines of the Cross,
Her *anchor* Hope—gold free from dross.

Her *painting* beauty white and red,
And righteousness her *figure head*;
Her *helm* the star of prophecy,
Her *Pilot* He who cannot lie.

Apostles, prophets are her crew,
Her *passengers* believers true;
Her *Captain* is the King of kings,
And truth the *Cargo* which she brings.

Her *deck's* a platform broad and grand,
Where Christians of all names may stand;
With *treasures* of infinite worth,
She's *destined* to the ends of earth.

She has a *banner* broad and high,
Floating between the earth and sky;
You may its blest inscription scan,
"Glory to God, goodwill to man."

All nations hail her with delight,
She scatters blessings day and night;
Onward her *course* to save from death,
Wafted by God the Spirit's breath.

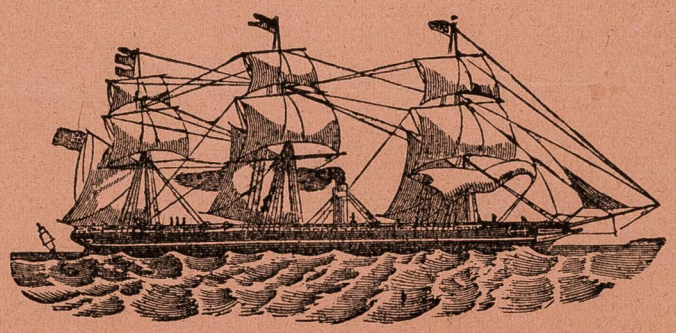
No *boats* has she at all on deck,
Because she can't become a *wreck*;
And though hell's *tempests* rise and swell,
Her bulwarks are impregnable.

So when her prosperous *voyage* is o'er,
And she has been to every shore,
Then *homeward* bound from both the *poles*,
And freighted with immortal souls,

She'll enter *port* where sin's unknown,
And *anchor* near the eternal throne;
She's *sailing* over earth's broad flood,
And her name's "*The Word of God.*"

The Gospel Ship was built above,
And her *builder's* name is Love;
He laid her *keel* and fixed her *stem*
In the *New* Jerusalem.

Her *guns* do thunder forth the law,
To keep God's enemies in awe;
But to all who warfare cease
Her mission is of love and peace.



"THE GOSPEL SHIP"

(THE BIBLE)

BY THE REV. ENOS COUCH, M.A.

SUPERINTENDENT OF THE MARINERS' MISSION, LONDON.

The Gospel Ship was built above,
And her *builder's* name is Love;
He laid her *keel* and fixed her *stem*
In the *New* Jerusalem.

She is a *barque* beyond compare;
Of Zion's oaks her *timbers* are,
Her *masts* and yards of Calvary's tree,
Her *cable*, Faith, Hope, Charity.

Her *rigging* of the cords of love,
Which *tempests* cannot break or move;
Her *sails* the doctrines of the Cross,
Her *anchor* Hope—gold free from dross.

Her *painting* beauty white and red,
And righteousness her *figure head*;
Her *helm* the star of prophecy,
Her *Pilot* He who cannot lie.

Apostles, prophets are her crew,
Her *passengers* believers true;
Her *Captain* is the King of kings,
And truth the *Cargo* which she brings.

Her *deck's* a platform broad and grand,
Where Christians of all names may stand;
With *treasures* of infinite worth,
She's *destined* to the ends of earth.

Her *guns* do thunder forth the law,
To keep God's enemies in awe;
But to all who warfare cease
Her mission is of love and peace.

She has a *banner* broad and high,
Floating between the earth and sky;
You may its blest inscription scan,
"Glory to God, goodwill to man."

All nations hail her with delight,
She scatters blessings day and night;
Onward her *course* to save from death,
Wafted by God the Spirit's breath.

No *boats* has she at all on deck,
Because she can't become a *wreck*;
And though hell's *tempests* rise and swell,
Her bulwarks are impregnable.

So when her prosperous *voyage* is o'er,
And she has been to every shore,
Then *homeward* bound from both the *poles*,
And freighted with immortal souls,

She'll enter *port* where sin's unknown,
And *anchor* near the eternal throne;
She's *sailing* over earth's broad flood,
And her name's "*The Word of God*."

"COPIES" OF TESTIMONIALS.

12, Noel Street,
Islington.
June 2nd, 1884.

My Dear Brother,

I was glad to learn that you had received a call to the Pastorate which will after all be most congenial to your own desires, your long services of over thirty years as Secretary of the Mariner's Friend Society (of which I have the privilege of being Chairman) must have been attended by great toil and anxiety. The quietude of Pastoral life must be most inviting.

Your Services were recognised by the Committee in voting that a pension should be allowed you.

I do trust and pray that the best blessings of our covenant God may attend you.

With Christian Love,
Believe me, yours in Jesus,
(Signed) PHILIP GAST.

Rev. Enos Couch.

Ivy Cottage, The Green,
Stratford, E.
May 28th, 1884.

I have known the Rev. Enos Couch for a period of 34 years, and can highly recommend him as a Godly Evangelic, and thoroughly experienced man.

(Signed) WILLIAM SMELLIE.

Pier Head, London Docks,
Shadwell, May 27th, 1884.

This will certify that I have known the Rev. E. Couch for over twenty years in connection with the Seamen's Mission, and I believe him to be a good and trustworthy man.

(Signed) G. D. TAYLOR, Dockmaster.

May 27, 1884.

This is to certify that I have known Rev. Enos Couch for many years connected with the Seamen's Mission, and I have always found him to be all I could wish.

(Signed) C. B. LONEY, Dockmaster,
St. Katherine's Docks.

6, Wapping Pier Head,
May 28th, 1884.

I beg to state that I have known the Rev. Enos Couch for the last five years, during which time he was connected with the Missionary Society in the Docks, and I have always observed that he was dilligent and attentive to the duties allotted to him.

(Signed) JAMES ROSS, Deputy Pier Master.

London Docks, 9, East Pier,
May 28th, 1884.

I have much pleasure in certifying that I have known the Rev. E. Couch for the past eight years, and he appears to have always been consistant and trustworthy.

(Signed) C. W. HOGG, Dockmaster.

London Dock,
27th May, 1884.

I have known the Rev. E. Couch for the past three years as having been connected with a Mission to Seamen, and working for many years in the Dock as a Missionary.

(Signed) FRANCIS SHELTON.

Broadway, Stratford,
June 9th, 1884.

I have much pleasure in saying that I have known our friend, the Rev. E. Couch for the last eighteen years, as a hardworking friend for a missionary work.

(Signed) FRED RUSSELL.

126, St. George Street,
Old Gravel Lane,
May 28th, 1884.

This is to certify that I have known Mr. Couch for many years and have seen his work in connection with sailors, and feel great pleasure in adding my testimony to his character and ability.

(Signed) J. B. PATTRICK.

May 27th, 1884.

We have known the Rev. Enos Couch, for very many years as the Secretary of the Mariner's Friend Society and Minister of the Seamen's Mission Church, Old Gravel Lane, London Docks, and feel much pleasure in testifying to his character, ability, and usefulness.

(Signed)

R. Moore, Gate Keeper, London Docks.
G. Hordun ,, ,,
W. T. Hibbs ,, ,,
M. Goff. ,, ,,
J. McConnell ,, ,,
H. M. Day ,, ,,
G. Thompson ,, ,,
Jas. Beasant ,, ,,
T. W. Mole ,, ,,
G. Paine ,, ,,
J. Forrests ,, ,,
C. Rains ,, ,,

Thomas Wallace, H. M. Customs, London Docks
C. H. Pearson ,, ,,
Henry Welch ,, ,,
D. Daly ,, ,,
Jno. Pickard ,, ,,
William Marshall, Sergeant to London Dock Police
F. May London Docks.
G. E. Jones ,, ,,
Jonas Fletcher ,, ,,
Henry Johnson ,, ,,

14, Park Road, Worthing,
June 2nd, 1884.

Rev. and Dear Sir,

After having been connected with, and known you from June 1871 up to June, 1884, you have my best wishes for your new sphere of labour, and I pray that your work of faith and labour of love for the Master may be much blessed.

Rev. Enos Couch.

(Signed) NATHANIEL KINGS,
Chaplain (South Coast.

Pastor Thos. Richardson
Rotherhithe Free Church

GLA
Jan 16/1900

Personal Note

"Something New."

How fond we all are of new things! When Jack gets a new coat or Polly has a new hat, how delighted they are. I knew a little boy who was wild with pleasure because he was going to have his first new little sailor suit, and when mother came to try it on he kicked his little petticoats hither and thither and shouted: Get away old things, I shall never want you again, for I am going to have everything new. There is a Bible text which says, "Old things are passed away; behold all things have become new"; but we cannot get rid of our old sins like the little boy did of his clothes; oh, no!

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

There are a great many new things spoken of in the Bible, and I want you to find some of them with me.

I. The New Heart.

This is the first new thing we need. We can never be good, never please God until we get a new heart. And God promises to give it to each one who asks for it, for Jesus Christ's sake.

II. A New Creature.

Christ's blessed Name to bear;
The water pure, the Gospel sure,
The life that all may share.
Though small my store,
He makes it more,
And fills the pitcher while I pour.
2 Tim. i. 15, Heb. vii. 25, John i. 7, 8, 9.
I am a great, great sinner,
But Christ for me has died,
And in his Name I pardon claim,
And Home at his dear side.
He will not leave
One soul to grieve,
Who comes salvation to receive.

C. Maud Battersby.

Cromlyn, Rathowen, Ireland.

All Saints parish

33
F-14

29

Pastor Thos. Richardson: Rotherhithe Free Church. Lower Road: Seen at 48 Lower Road. S.E.

Reaching the Church House, I found a telegram saying Mr R. would be 15 minutes late. I was shown into a back room used as a vestry the walls + mantelpiece of which were covered with portraits of a ministers and photos of people of all ages connected with the church. Presently Mr R. rushed in + greeted me cordially. Explaining that it was the only opportunity he had to smoke he lit up a cigar + sat down by his desk for a talk. He had just come from business (The Eastern Telegraph Co)

A thickset well dressed man of about 40; strong decided features, fair hair + closely cut pointed beard, Mr Richardson has nothing in his appearance or manner to indicate the minister. He looks what he is - a shrewd City business man. Has been here 6 years, succeeding Mr S. Golding, who died suddenly. For about 17 years he had been connected with Charrington + the Great Assembly Hall. He is well known in East London,

where

Pastor Thos. Richardson
Rotherhithe Free Church

GEA
Jan 16/1900

Personal Note

33

The Christian MARCH 10, 1898.

Rotherhithe Free Church.

THE nineteenth annual meeting of this vigorous mission centre was held last week, when the hall was crowded out. Mr. Joseph Kitchin presided. Amongst those who spoke were Hon. Granville Waldegrave, Rev. John Wilson, Mr. John Colville, M P., Messrs. W. G. Bradshaw, G. E. Morgan, F. A. Graham, George Nokes, Joseph Clarke, and Thomas Richardson.

The report presented gives a most cheering account of the whole work. The membership shows an increase of seventy-eight, making 290 during the four years of Mr. Richardson's pastorate. The total membership on the books is 607. The Gospel meetings have been crowded all the year through. The only two complaints are lack of room for the crowds who come and the unhealthy atmosphere created by overcrowding. A place twice the size could be filled with the greatest ease, so ready are the masses of the people to come and listen to the simple Gospel message. God has blessed his own Word to the salvation of many at these gatherings. The prayer-meetings are extremely encouraging. The "People's Own" meetings on Thursday nights is only a few weeks old, but already has a membership of just over 500 men and women. An address is usually given to believers, with a Gospel invitation to the unsaved.

The "Men's Own," which meets every Sunday afternoon in the Rotherhithe Town Hall, has been a remarkable success in every way. Although only started in April last 951 men have joined. If ever anything proved the power of the Gospel of Christ, surely this does, for it is confined to God's Word, and many have been the cases of conversion.

A "People's Service" is also held in the Town Hall on Sunday nights. The object in starting this late meeting has been to try and get hold of those who will not attend a regular place of worship, and to induce the members of the "Men's Own" to bring their wives and friends. It also affords some relief in the overcrowded state of the church. The attendances have been good, and the work accomplished very encouraging. The Sunday schools are in a flourishing condition, and record further increases. Here again the cry is "More room!" Every nook and corner is occupied. Similarly the Bible classes, Christian Band, Band of Hope, Gospel Temperance effort, and the open-air services are reported as full of life and activity.

As to the future, it is stated:—"We have been able to secure the site upon which the present building stands, with three houses in front and six cottages at the side. The freehold has been acquired for £3,000, and is acknowledged by all who know the value of property in the district to be a splendid bargain. The leases of the houses and cottages referred to expire next Christmas, and when we are in a position to erect a new building we will do so. We do not ask for funds to carry on the work, but in the erection of a new building we are bound to appeal for help. We do not want an ecclesiastical edifice. We want a substantial, light, airy structure, to accommodate some 2,500 people, to whom we can tell of the love of Christ. *We make a most earnest appeal for asssistance.* South-East London is more neglected spiritually than any other part of the Metropolis."

The anniversary collections and receipts amounted to £54 2s. 3d. The pastor, Mr. Thomas Richardson, may be addressed, 48, Lower-road, Rotherhithe, S.E.

Rotherhithe. a village.

Occupations of people

where he resides and was at one time a Guardian of Mile End. He spoke quite readily and without any conventionality. Is familiar with Life & Labour & has some of the volumes.

Rotherhithe is like a little village and quite unlike London generally. Everybody knows everybody else; "indeed they know more about you than you do yourself." As you near ~~to~~ Bermondsey this characteristic is lost. Suggesting a comparison with Millwall, he said "Ah, just like that."

A steady efflux of the respectable people is taking place but this does not make the parish poorer. The people get more responsible positions and then they go out. The change is the removal of the upper layer which is replaced by that beneath.

The men are mostly dock labourers (timber & grain) & a large number are Irish. Women work as a rule. Many are sack makers and go to Wapping to work; others are at the jam factories or do charing.

Persons Employed

Buildings used

Richardson - Rotherhithe Free Church

The girls also work, the more respectable avoiding the factories. Have a great many A.B.C. girls.

The girls and young people generally tend to better themselves & take better positions than their parents; especially is this the case when they rub shoulders with those better off than themselves. I instanced a young girl who came to him wanting a situation - wanted a clerkship - knew shorthand & typewriting & has now got a situation at 15/- a week although quite a young girl. Her father is only a door keeper & but said Mr R. "he is a teetotaler".

Two deaconesses are employed (half salary paid) & "I suppose myself" "I draw £150 but most of it goes back in other ways. The number of voluntary workers seemed a poser to Mr R. 70 in connection with Mens Own, 80 in Sunday school, 30 in Womens At home & there he stopped. Probably he has & considerably over 200.

The want of buildings is their main difficulty.

Services - see Report

Notes on Services

Richardson - Rotherhithe Free Church

Have the main hall seated for 1000, enhanced hall which by a revolving shutter may be increased the capacity of the large hall. "This house & then you have said all". The house is used for class rooms Y.W.C.A, &c., except two upper rooms occupied by caretaker. The Townhall is hired on Sunday for the Mens Own. Mr R. tried to get the new Theatre for it, intending to turn the Womens Meeting into the Town hall. Did not succeed. The manager said his experience was that a theatre was like a human being & needed one days rest in seven.

List of Services is given on second page of cover of Report attached to the next page.

Sunday congregations are large. Get 600 on Sunday morning & Sunday night they are "packed - jammed". The caretaker ~~he~~ had previously told me that they had 1100 on the previous Sunday night. Representative congregation. Good proportion of men.

Report containing.
List of Services (covers)
Notes as to numbers
Accounts &c..

Rotherhithe Free Church.

LOWER ROAD, S.E.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF AN

AGGRESSIVE

UNSECTARIAN

CHRISTIAN WORK

IN SOUTH-EAST LONDON.

Report and Balance Sheets

For the Year ending February 12th, 1899.

Frederick Shaw & Co., Printers, Dockhead, London, S.E.

Report containing.
List of Services (
Notes as to
Accounts &c.

OUR WEEKLY ENGAGEMENTS.

Sunday,	10.0 a.m.	-	Prayer Meeting.
,,	10.0 a.m.	-	Sunday School.
,,	10.0 a.m.	-	Bible Class.
,,	11.0 a.m.	-	Service for Christians.
,,	2.45 p.m.	-	Sunday School.
,,	3.15 p.m.	-	Y. W. Bible Class.
,,	3.15 p.m.	-	Men's Own (Town Hall).
,,	6.30 p m.	-	Gospel Meeting.
,,	8.0 p.m.	-	Open Air (Summer).
,,	8.15 p.m.	-	People's Service (Town Hall).
Monday,	2.30 p.m.	-	Women's At-Home.
,,	6.30 p.m.	-	Junior Christian Band.
,,	7.30 p.m.	-	Prayer Meeting.
,,	8.30 p.m.	-	Choral Practice.
Tuesday,	7.0 p.m.	-	Band of Hope.
,,	7.30 p.m.	-	Men's and Women's Slate Clubs.
,,	8.0 p.m.	-	Christian Band.
Wednesday,	6.30 p.m.	-	Little Girls' Drill.
,,	8.15 p.m.	-	Y.W.C.A.
,,	8.30 p.m.	-	Open Air (Summer).
,,	8.30 p.m.	-	Orchestral Band.
Thursday,	8.0 p.m.	-	People's Own.
Friday,	7.0 p.m.	-	Provident Club.
,,	7.30 p.m.	-	Juvenile Choir Practice.
,,	8.30 p.m.	-	Choral Practice.
Saturday,	8.0 p.m.	-	Prayer Meeting.
,,	6 to 9 p.m.	-	Provident Club.

A Communion Service is held on the First Sunday in the Month at 8 p.m., and on the Third Sunday in the Month at 12 noon.

A Gospel Temperance Meeting is held on the First Thursday in the Month at 8 p.m., and a Business Meeting on the Third Thursday in the Month at 9 p.m.

Rotherhithe Free Church,

LOWER ROAD, S.E.

AN UNSECTARIAN CHRISTIAN WORK.

Trustees—

THE RT. HON. LORD KINNAIRD. F. N. CHARRINGTON, ESQ.
W. G. BRADSHAW, ESQ. W. H. SEAGRAM, ESQ.
MR. THOS. RICHARDSON.

Pastor—

MR. THOS. RICHARDSON, 48, Lower Road, S.E.

Hon. Solicitor—

FRANK A. GRAHAM, ESQ.,
5, Hanover Street, W.

Auditor—

W. J. CALDER, ESQ.,
Chartered Accountant,
8, Golden Square, W.

Bankers—

LONDON CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, LIMITED,
(Bermondsey Branch), S.E.

Treasurer—

MR. W. G. CAPPER, 62, Jamaica Road, S.E.

Deacons—

MR. GEORGE BEARE,
MR. A. E. BUSBY,
MR. W. G. CAPPER,
MR. H. W. FEATHERSTONE,
MR. S. FOSTER,
MR. G. W. SMITH,
MR. JAS. WALKER.

Hon. Sec.—

MR. G. C. HYAM, 115, Trundley Road, Deptford Park, S.E.

Hon. Registrar—

MR. H. J. RICHARDSON.

Hon. Secs.—
(Ministerial Fund)

MESSRS. BUSBY & CAPPER.

Report containing.
List of Services (
Notes as to num
Accounts &c

THE YEAR'S STATISTICS.

Aggregate Attendance = = =	250,000
Aggregate Receipts = = = =	£2,216

AN URGENT APPEAL.

WILL THE READER BEFORE PERUSING THIS REPORT PLEASE READ THIS PAGE AND THEN KINDLY FORWARD A DONATION?

We want a New Building.

Our present structure is an iron one, the lease of which expires next year.

We have secured a magnificent site; the ground upon which the Church now stands with considerable adjacent property.

We are a tested work, having been in operation 20 years.

Our attendances at the services are crowded to such excess that very often sitting accommodation cannot be found, and in many cases people are turned away for want of room. The same applies to the Sunday School.

We feel sure a work of this nature, with the results mentioned in the following pages, will appeal to those who can help.

We only want the building, as our work is entirely self-supporting. We do not ask for outside help apart from this.

WILL YOU HELP US TO RAISE A BUILDING TO THE GLORY OF GOD?

Every little helps, but send us as much as you can.

Our Motto for 1899.

"Triumph in Christ"—Always—Everywhere.
II Cor. ii. 14.

REPORT.

ONCE again with devout thankfulness to God it is our privilege to place before our friends and co-workers a brief account of another year's labour for the best of all Masters. The work in connection with our Church has now been graciously sustained for over twenty years, and during the whole of this period we have been led step by step, each year showing some growth and extension. To God be all the praise. Souls have been saved from sin and misery, and God's people have been encouraged and helped.

Among the many friends to whom we owe much for valued help from time to time are:—

The Rt. Hon. Lord Kinnaird; the Hon. Emily Kinnaird; W. H. Seagram, Esq.; F. N. Charrington, Esq.; Canon Barker; Rev. Marcus Rainsford, M.A.; Rev. Archibald G. Brown; Rev. John Wilson, M.L.S.B.; Rev. J. F. Shearer; T. A. Denny, Esq.; John Colville, Esq., M.P.; Robinson Souttar, Esq., M.P.; J. Kitchin, Esq.; R. C. Morgan, Esq.; G. E. Morgan, Esq., M.A.; F. A. Graham, Esq.; J. B. Smithson, Esq.; W. J. Walker, Esq.; Dr. Harry Guinness; Thomas Dence, Esq.; M. H. Hodder, Esq.; Ambrose Pomeroy, Esq., L.C.C.; C. Boardman, Esq., C.C.; Gordon Prynn, Esq.; A. Walters, Esq.; Messrs. J. Clarke, Geo. Nokes, A. E. Jennings, J. E. Jack, Barry Wake, the Brothers Weaver, J. S. Harrison, E. P. Telford, and the local ministers.

Through the co-operation of the Deaconesses' Mission, we have now working with us Sister Mary and Sister Lilian (Miss Ash and Miss Culverwell respectively) who, in looking after the sick and poor, render inestimable help, and their labours have already been much owned of God to the blessing of many.

Report containing.
List of Services
Notes as to ...
Accounts ...

The Services have been as crowded as ever; we should rather say more crowded than ever, for on many occasions numbers have been unable to find room. Our cry is always, "Oh, for more room!" The spirit of hearing continues, the masses crowd in to hear the Gospel, and the Lord is constantly saving. We want a larger Building.

The Prayer Meetings—the most important gatherings in connection with the work—have been well sustained, and much help and blessing received in consequence.

The "People's Own" meeting on Thursday evenings still flourishes and is greatly appreciated by the large number who attend. There is a membership of about 700.

Our Church Membership shows a further substantial increase, reaching a total of 651, being an addition of 337 during Mr. Richardson's Pastorate. Our beloved brothers, Messrs. H. Johnson, A. Veats, R. Drummond and Rd. Hanson, have been summoned to the Church Triumphant.—They have gone on before.

The "Men's Own" still continues its wonderful prosperity, over 1,700 men having joined in nearly two years. This organisation is held in the Town Hall opposite. People talk about reaching the masses; well, they are reached here indeed, and many are the tokens of blessing we have received. Many homes have to thank God for the Rotherhithe "Men's Own." We allow no subjects outside the Gospel. "I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto Me," was Christ's promise. We prove it to-day.

The Provident Club recently started in connection with the "Men's Own" promises to be a phenomenal success, 850 persons having joined, taking up over 1800 6d. shares.

The Cricket Club (Men's Own) with over 30 members, provides excellent outdoor recreation.

The Male Voice Choir renders very valuable aid, and the new **Orchestral Band** promises to be a decided success.

The People's Service in the Town Hall, at 8 p.m. on Sundays, has been continued throughout the winter to the help and salvation of not a few.

Not re commenced this winter.
Mr R. finds it too much for a stage with the 2 ordinary services

The Sunday Schools, like the rest of the work, shows solid growth, and is doing splendid service. The morning School has about 300 on the books, while the afternoon School has reached the enormous total of 1,070 scholars with a staff of 82 teachers and officers. This work is carried on at a great disadvantage owing to lack of accommodation. We want more room.

The Morning Bible Class still maintains its strength, and is a great help to those who attend it. 450 volumes form the **Circulating Library,** which provides healthy reading for the young, and the **Bible Reading Union** is still taken advantage of.

The Christian Band shows a further increase, numbering 130 members, and the result of the work is clearly shown in the ripening of Christian character in the members. A **Junior Band** has been started for the young, and in six months numbered 280 members.

The Band of Hope has now over 300 members, and a very hopeful band it is. One of its members won the first prize (for an essay) given by the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Band of Hope Union.

The Young Women's Bible Class still prospers, but suffers terribly for lack of accommodation. During the summer we erected a **Tent** on a part of the site for our new building, and this was taken advantage of by a crowd of women every Sunday afternoon. The marquee was also very useful for other gatherings during the week.

The Y.W.C.A. has now the valued aid of the Deaconesses, and we are looking forward to considerable development in this important section of the work.

The Gospel Temperance Society continues to prosper and has taken scores of pledges during the year. A most successful eight days' mission has been held with very gratifying results.

The Tract Society still distributes its thousands of leaflets, and leaves from house to house a weekly copy of the late Mr. Spurgeon's sermons.

The Open-air Work was continued during the summer season as usual with good results.

Report containing.
List of Services
Notes as to ma
Accounts &c

The Slate Clubs again made provision for the numerous members for sickness and accident. In neighbourhoods like ours such clubs are of inestimable advantage.

The Christmas Dinner Fund brought roast beef and plum pludding to nearly 2,000 persons. The needy have the materials for the dinner, and so eat it in their own homes where in families it is so much more enjoyable than sitting down to a "charity feed" in a hall.

Our Choir has, as usual, done yeoman service, and has proved again the power of good music. The principal oratorios have been very efficiently rendered, and in the services they have sung with much appreciation. They all work hard, sing well, and are greatly loved for their hearty, conscientious work.

The Annual Excursion—this time to Clacton—was the largest we have yet had, over 1,100 persons accompanying us in two special trains. Even **one day** at the Sea-side is a blessing to many who live in a crowded South-east locality.

FINANCES.

The balance sheets accompanying this Report are full of encouragement, for this year we again show a further increase in our receipts. We are self-supporting—that is, we do not appeal to the outside for help in connection with our ordinary work.

The attached account of current expenses shows a balance in hand of £14 1s. 6d., against £10 10s. 3d. the previous year, although we placed £50 to the credit of the New Building Fund. Comparing the total receipts with those of last year, we show **an increase of £57.** To God be all the praise. We always say, if the hearts of the people are surrendered the pockets will follow suit. The aggregate receipts of all branches reach a total of over **£2215,** being an increase of £415 over last. Truly an astonishing figure when it is remembered how poor the neighbourhood is.

PERSONAL.

I hardly know what to say this year in giving my personal "word" in closing the Report. I can only write—What hath God wrought! for He has indeed been very gracious to me through the whole year. For all His grace and mercy I am profoundly thankful.

To my co-workers, those who have stood by me, and so nobly helped me, I want to tender my warmest thanks. I do not think any man has ever been more happily placed than I am, in having around him warm hearts and eager, loving hands. It has been a year of great joy to me, because it has been, like the years before, so harmonious and brotherly. I have been five years in Rotherhithe now, and I have always received such kind, forbearing, loving treatment that I often feel I do not deserve it, although I must say I do try to merit it.

Another year lies before us; and what does it say—"The fields are white unto harvest." Let us then be up and at it. We are serving a grand Master, so let us work with all our might, and by the Holy Spirit's power we shall be able to produce much fruit as the result of our labour.

Your co-worker in the Harvest Field,

THOS. RICHARDSON.

CURRENT EXPENSES.

Receipts.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance from last year		10 10 3
Collections—		
Sunday Mornings	133 13 9	
„ Afternoons	8 7 10	
„ Evenings	234 7 2	
Communion	21 8 0	
Town Hall	42 9 11	
Lectures, &c.	14 0 5	
		454 7 1
Ministerial Fund...		151 10 2
Rent of Slate Clubs		9 3 9
Proceeds of Book Stall		11 0 0
(Net value of Stock, £10 10s.)		
Receipts from Anniversary Tea ...		7 8 6
Donations—		
Ladies' Trays, Anniversary Tea ...	7 17 6	
John Colville, Esq.	1 0 0	
W. G. Bradshaw, Esq.	8 17 9	
J. Kitchin, Esq.	5 0 0	
James Dix, Esq.	0 10 0	
P. R.	0 2 6	
"People's Own"	4 4 0	
"Men's Own"	2 2 0	
Gospel Temperance Society ...	1 1 0	
Sunday School	1 1 0	
Young Women's Bible Class ...	0 10 6	
Christian Band	0 10 6	
Band of Hope	0 5 0	
Athletic Club	0 5 0	
Morning School	0 10 0	
		33 16 9
		£677 16 6

Expenditure.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Pastor		150 0 0
Rent		53 3 4
Hire of Town Hall		38 4 6
Deaconesses' Mission		19 16 4
Rates and Taxes		23 11 10
Caretaker		55 6 0
Extra Attendance		2 16 0
Gas		50 10 3
Repairs		45 12 3
Furniture		21 0 10
Organist		20 0 0
Insurance		5 13 6
Church Ordinances		6 1 6
Sunday School Collection		9 14 2
Motto Cards	3 7 6	
Hymn Books, &c.	5 4 0	
		8 11 6
Printing		36 12 7
Bill Posting		4 13 6
Stationery		10 5 8
Postage		3 16 9
Fuel		6 5 6
Disinfectants		0 10 0
Auditor's Fees		2 2 0
Musical Fees		1 1 0
Ministerial Supplies		9 9 0
Travelling Expenses		2 3 6
Carriage on Goods		1 7 2
Decorations		1 4 0
Anniversary Tea Expenses	6 16 3	
British Women's Temp. Association...	1 15 0	
Hospital Sunday	3 3 0	
Lecturer	1 1 0	
		12 15 3
Poor Relief		7 13 0
Donations—Building Fund	50 0 0	
Tower Hamlets Band ...	1 13 0	
		51 13 0
Incidentals		2 1 1
Balance in hand		14 1 6
		£677 16 6

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Receipts.	£ s. d.	£ s. d
To Balance from last year		8 14 3
Collections—		
Sunday afternoon	12 11 7½	
Anniversary	11 12 3	
New Building Fund	12 14 6	
		36 18 4½
Anniversary—		
Donation—W. J. Walker, Esq. ...	3 3 0	
Sale of Tea Tickets	2 19 2	
		6 2 2
Sale of Hymn Books		1 18 0
Attendance Cards		0 3 9
Excursions—		
Railway Tickets	93 15 11	
Collecting Cards (as per List) ...	31 3 8½	
Sale of Tea Tickets	3 14 6	
Club Cards...	0 2 1	
		128 16 2½
Cinematograph and Entertainment—		
Sale of Tickets		6 7 9
School Entertainment—		
Half proceeds		1 18 10
New Year's Party—		
Sale of Tickets		4 18 4
		£195 17 8

Expenditure.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Donations—		
New Building Fund	12 14 6	
Current Expenses	1 1 0	
B.A. Sunday School Union ...	0 10 0	
Continental Fund	0 10 0	
Country Homes	1 0 6	
		15 16 0
Prizes for Scholars	0 15 8	
Attendance	0 2 0	
Hymn Books	2 14 6	
Stationery and Printing	2 17 9	
Sundries	0 7 8	
Boxes	1 3 0	
		8 0 7
Anniversary—		
Printing and Bill Posting... ...	3 8 6	
Provisions	3 2 9	
Attendance	0 5 0	
Hymn Sheets	2 12 9½	
Hire of Plants	0 5 0	
		9 14 0½
Excursions—		
Railway Charges	99 19 6	
Printing and Bill Posting... ...	4 3 6	
Tea Account	24 7 0	
Provisions for Infants	3 15 10	
Gratuities	0 16 0	
		133 1 10
Cinematograph Entertainment—		
Expenses for same	3 1 6	
Printing, etc.	0 5 0	
		3 6 6
New Year's Party—		
Provisions	6 1 1½	
Attendance	0 7 6	
Printing, etc.	0 12 0	
Cinematograph, Slides and Phonograph	4 2 0	
		11 2 7½
Balance in hand ...		14 16 1
		£195 17 8

Excursion Collecting Cards and Donations.

	£	s.	d.
Allan, Miss ...	0	11	1
Adamson, Mr. ...	0	4	0
Beare, Mr. ...	0	13	0
Busby, Mr. ...	0	15	0
Busby, Miss Dorrie	0	4	0
Brock, Miss E. ...	0	1	6
Baker, Miss E. ...	0	9	0
Brown, Mrs. ...	0	6	0
Bradley, Mrs. ...	0	8	0
Capper, Miss ...	1	15	0
Chant, Mr.	0	10	0
Chant, Miss Daisy...	0	3	6
Claydon, Miss F. ...	0	1	6
Crispin, Miss ...	0	10	0
Dibben, Miss ...	0	10	0
Dobinson, Miss ..	0	3	1
Downer, Mrs, ...	0	2	0
Down, Miss... ...	0	8	0
Drake, Mr.	0	1	6
Fergerson, Mr. ...	0	5	0
Farquhar, Captain...	4	16	6
Fone, Mr.	0	3	0
Finch, Miss N. ...	0	1	11
Gray, Miss	0	2	6
Hall, Miss	0	15	0
Johnson, Miss F. ...	0	15	0
Kimber, Miss L. ...	0	6	6
Ledwitch, Mr. ...	0	18	3
Ledwitch, Master ...	0	2	1
Lowes, Master J. ...	0	1	6
Lowes, Miss E. ...	0	1	0
Moore, Miss M. ...	1	1	0
Moore, Miss A. P....	0	17	0
Medhurst, Mr, ...	0	7	8
McAdam, Miss ...	0	2	6
Mickleberg, Miss ...	0	1	0
Mills, Miss G. ...	0	1	0
Newton,.Mrs. ...	0	5	0
Neville, Mr.	0	2	0
Pitts, Miss M. ...	0	5	0
Philpott, Mrs. ...	0	5	0
Rogers, Miss W. ...	0	2	6
Richardson, Miss L.	0	2	1
Smith, Mr. S. ...	0	2	6
Smith, Miss N. ...	0	2	7
Sharp, Miss M. ...	0	2	0
Sheen, Miss... ...	0	1	4
Sherwin, Mr. ...	1	15	6
Sherwin, Mr., box...	2	2	2½
Saunders, Mr. ...	0	7	6
Stanley, Mrs. ...	0	10	9
Thorndyke, Miss ...	2	3	6
Taylor, Mr. G. ...	0	6	5
Woodley, Mrs, ...	0	15	0
Walling, Miss ...	0	6	0
Walker, Mr. ...	0	7	0
Watts, Mrs. ...	0	8	6
Warner, Mr. ...	0	16	6
Wagdin, Mr. ...	0	1	6
Wheatley. Mrs. ...	0	5	0
Whyatt, Miss ...	0	3	9
Woolgar, Mrs. ...	0	10	0
	£31	3	8½

CHOIR.

Receipts	£	s.	d.
To Balance from last year	2	15	10
Members' Subcsriptions	9	19	0
Receipts—Musical Evening	3	0	2
,, "Messiah"	12	8	0
Sale of Excursion Tickets	0	7	6
	£28	10	6

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
By Music	4	6	4
Musical Evening...	2	2	11
"Messiah"	12	8	0
Excursion	4	19	6
Balance in hand...	4	13	9
	£28	10	6

SUNDAY MORNING SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASS.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d
To Balance from last year				2	5	0
Sale of Tickets				0	5	4
Pastor's Lecture				2	9	6
Donations				0	15	6
Collections—						
Morning School	2	11	10			
Bible Class	4	4	6½			
				6	16	4½
				£12	11	8½

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
By School Tea	2	10	7
Bible Class Social	2	11	11
Printing	1	5	1½
Postage	0	2	3
Stationery	0	3	9
Repairs—Harmonium	0	7	6
Box	0	4	6
Lantern Expenses	0	11	6
Presentation	0	8	3
"In Memoriam"	0	6	0
Balance in hand	4	0	4
	£12	11	8½

BAND OF HOPE.

	£	s.	d.
To Balance from last year	2	5	8½
Members' Subscriptions	15	13	10
Donation—Ambrose Pomeroy, Esq., L.C.C. ...	1	0	0
Anniversary Collection	2	1	8
Sale of Programmes	0	15	5
Sale of Excursion Tickets	1	11	6
	£23	8	1½

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Donations—						
Current Expenses	0	5	0			
Band of Hope Union	0	5	0			
				0	10	0
Teas, &c.				10	0	8½
Railway Charges...				4	6	6
Printing and Bill Posting				1	9	0
Stationery and Postage...				0	8	11
Blackboard				0	9	11
Box for Books				0	9	0
Leaflets, &c.				0	4	4½
Panorama Expenses				0	6	0
Hire of Slides, Gas, &c....				1	17	0
Prizes				0	11	8
Gratuities...				0	1	0
Attendance				0	12	6
Medical Attendance				0	5	0
Balance in hand				1	16	6½
				£23	8	1½

CHRISTIAN BAND.

Receipts.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance from last year		1 16 9
Collections	6 6 3½	
Anniversary	1 1 9	
New Building Fund	5 9 1	
	12 17 1½	
Donations—		
A. E. Jennings, Esq.	1 0 0	
Mrs. Woodley	0 5 0	
	1 5 0	
Tract Fund Subscriptions		2 13 11
Sale of Excursion Tickets		0 15 9
Service of Song—"Torn Bible" ...		2 19 6
		£22 8 0½

Expenditure.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Donations—		
New Building Fund	5 9 1	
Current Expenses	0 10 6	
Gospel Temp. Society ("Torn Bible")	0 13 6	
		6 13 1
Teas, &c.		4 5 9
Printing and Bill Posting		2 0 3
Stationery...		0 3 4
Lantern Expenses		1 5 6
Tracts		0 18 6
Anniversary Expenses		0 5 0
Attendance		0 5 0
Railway Charges		2 12 10
Motto Cards		0 16 6
Wreath		0 3 6
Balance in hand		2 18 9½
		£22 8 0½

12

JUNIOR CHRISTIAN BAND.

	£ s. d.
To Sale of Tickets—Gramophone Entertainment ...	1 14 4
Lantern Entertainments	1 19 11
Motto Cards	0 4 3
Donation—Mr. Lillie	0 2 6
	£4 1 0

	£ s. d.
By Gramophone Expenses	0 7 6
Lantern Expenses	0 19 2
Attendance Register	0 2 3
Printing and Stationery	1 9 7½
Motto Cards	0 17 6
Balance in hand	0 4 11½
	£4 1 0

LITTLE GIRLS' DRILL.

Receipts.	£ s. d.
To Balance from last year	2 7 5
Receipts—Entertainment	13 3 8
Members' Subscriptions	1 8 1
	£16 19 2

Expenditure.	£ s. d.
By Music	0 3 10
Printing	1 12 0
Bill Posting	0 5 0
Prizes	1 18 2
Drapery	2 4 1½
Erection of Platform	0 10 0
Attendance	0 10 0
Refreshments	0 10 1½
Presentation	2 4 6
Donation to Building Fund	5 5 0
Sundries	0 5 2½
Balance in hand	1 11 2½
	£16 19 2

13

GOSPEL TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

Receipts.	£ s. d.
To Balance from last year...	9 10 1
Members' Subscriptions	17 0 11
Collections	14 11 7½
Donation—F. N. Charrington, Esq.	3 3 0
Sale of Tickets	15 12 6
Sale of Goods	1 1 0
	£60 19 1½

Expenditure.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Fees to Speakers, &c.		17 7 2
Teas and Refreshments...		9 2 6
Railway Expenses		7 19 1
Lantern Expenses		0 5 6
Printing and Bill Posting		9 17 5
Attendance		1 0 0
Postage		0 5 3
Donations—		
The Building Fund	1 1 0	
,, Current Expenses	1 1 0	
,, Temperance Council	0 2 6	
		2 4 6
Balance in hand		12 17 8½
		£60 19 1½

MEN'S SLATE CLUB.

Receipts.	£ s. d.	Expenditure.	£ s. d.
To Contributions, Fines, and Entrance Fees	175 1 11	By Sick Pay to Members	54 16 8
Interest on Deposits	0 15 6	Death Levy	5 14 0
		Returned to Member	0 4 0
		Stationery, Postage, &c.	0 8 7½
		Printing and Club Cards	0 18 6
		Doctor's Fees	10 5 0
		Rent of Club Room	5 15 3
		Secretary's Salary	5 15 3
		Returned to Members in lieu of Doctor	12 12 0
		110 Members at 14/5¼ each	79 8 1½
£175 17 5			£175 17 5

Audited and found correct. CHARLES VIEGUT,
GEORGE CHARLES PARTRIDGE.

WOMEN'S SLATE CLUB.

	£ s. d		£ s. d.
To Contributions and Fines	89 7 6	By Sick Pay to Members	19 10 6
Interest on Deposits	0 7 3	Death Levy	3 5 0
		Stationery, Postage, &c.	0 7 3
		Printing and Club Cards	0 15 0
		Rent of Club Room	3 8 6
		Secretary's Salary	3 8 6
		64 Members at 18/5¼ each	59 0 0
£89 14 9			£89 14 9

Audited and found correct. CHARLES VIEGUT,
GEORGE CHARLES PARTRIDGE.

CRICKET CLUB.

Receipts.	£ s. d	£ s. d.	Expenditure.	£ s. d.
To Members' Subscriptions		5 12 0	By Entertainment	4 2 10
Donations—			Apparatus...	5 5 11
Mr. Thos. Richardson	1 0 0		Printing	0 13 4
„ R. L. Stuart	0 5 0		Postage, Stationery, &c.	1 5 9
„ T. L. Davies	0 5 0		Umpire's Expenses	1 12 0
„ J. Tucker...	0 5 0		Scorer's Expenses	1 7 2
„ G. Smith	0 2 6		Field	0 2 6
„ G. Hyam...	0 2 8		Gratuities...	0 9 6
		2 0 2	Fee to Association	0 7 6
Proceeds of Entertainment		7 6 4	Prizes	2 2 0
Balance due to Treasurer		2 10 0		
		£17 8 6		£17 8 6

ATHLETIC CLUB.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Balance from last year	1 15 1	By Furniture	0 14 0
Members' Subscriptions	3 8 0	Music	0 2 10½
		Donations—Current Expenses	0 15 6
		Attendance	0 13 6
		Presentation	2 17 0
		Postage	0 0 2½
£5 3 1			£5 3 1

TENNIS CLUB.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Balance from last year...	0 1 0	By Postage	0 0 7½
Members' Subscriptions	0 10 0	Apparatus	0 1 4½
Donations	0 6 0	Balance of Loan, Y.W.B.C.	0 15 0
£0 17 0			£0 17 0

NEW BUILDING FUND.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from last year	2	17	1
Thanksgiving Day Donations (making £479 in all)	264	0	6
Ground Rent	8	8	0
Rent, etc., from out-going Tenant	47	10	0
Return of Property Tax	1	5	0
	£324	0	7

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
By Legal Expenses in connection with Transfer of Property and Site	59	0	0
Interest on Temporary Loan of £300 at Purchase (now repaid)	2	5	0
Interest on Loan of £250	5	0	0
Surveyor's Fees	10	10	0
Rents	37	10	0
Type-writing Trust Deed	1	19	6
Hire of Tent	15	0	0
Repair of Property	6	8	10
Writing, etc., Board for Site	9	7	6
Balance at Bank	176	19	9
	£324	0	7

POOR RELIEF.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from last year				5	7	7½
Collected at Mr. Richardson's Lecture				18	2	6
Collected by Mr. Richardson and friends				21	0	0
Collected by Mr. George Taylor ...				1	7	0
Donations :—						
'One of the Crowd"	2	10	0			
Mr. J. F. Shorey	1	0	0			
Mr. J. Morgan	0	10	0			
Mr. S. T. T. James	1	1	0			
"Men's Own"	7	12	7			
Readers of "The Christian," (per Messrs. Morgan and Scott) ...	1	0	0			
Sunday School	1	15	0			
Other Donations	4	2	0			
				19	10	7
				£65	7	8½

	£	s.	d.
By Relief	8	6	6
Tools	1	5	0
Seaside for Convalescents	1	19	0
Rents	1	5	0
Christmas Dinners :—			
Meat, etc.	19	0	0
Grocery, etc.	16	5	11½
Bread, etc.	8	16	0
Expenses of Lecture	0	19	6
Sundries	0	5	0
Balance in hand	7	5	9
	£65	7	8½

ROTHERHITHE "MEN'S OWN." Nine months ended 31st January, 1899.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from last year	9	10	1
Book Subscriptions	205	17	1
Collections	126	9	9
Excursion Receipts	30	1	9
	£371	18	8

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
By Purchase of Books	201	14	7½
Hire of Hall and Piano	41	5	0
Cost of Excursion	35	0	3
Printing	21	1	0
Musical	13	19	6
Furniture	9	11	6
Christmas Dinner Fund	7	12	7
Speakers' Expenses	6	5	6
Hospital Sunday Fund	4	4	0
Hymn Books and Bibles	3	0	6
Badges	2	12	6
Caretakers	2	2	0
Tracts	1	17	6
Postage	1	15	0
Stationery	1	9	6
Bill Posting	0	10	0
Sundries	0	6	6
Balance in hand	17	11	2½
	£371	18	8

"PEOPLE'S OWN."

Receipts.	£	s.	d.
To Members' Subscriptions	73	16	7
,, Members' Extra Payments on Books	17	19	7
,, Collections	8	19	8
	£100	15	10

Expenditure.	£	s.	d
By Books	89	3	6
,, Morning School	2	9	6
,, Cost of Protestant Demonstration	4	7	0
,, Postage	0	2	0
,, Balance in hand	4	13	10
	£100	15	10

Report containing.
List of Services
Notes as to m
Accounts &c

YOUNG WOMEN'S BIBLE CLASS.

Receipts.	£ s. d.	Expenditure.	£ s. d.
To Balance from last year	6 16 11	By Fittings for Tent	2 2 4
Collections	14 12 8	Lamp ,, ...	0 10 6
Repaid by Tennis Club	0 15 0	Printing ,, ...	1 16 0
		Insurance ,, ...	1 1 0
		Building Fund	5 5 0
		Hire of Tent	5 0 0
		Postage ,, ...	0 5 0
		Sundries	0 5 6
		Balance in hand	5 19 3
	£22 4 7		£22 4 7

Y. W. C. A.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Balance from last year	£1 6 9½	By Balance in hand	£1 6 9½

TRACT SOCIETY.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Balance from last year	0 13 0	By Tracts	2 7 6
Donations :—		Carriage	0 1 6
Mrs. Jennings ...	1 4 0	Ink	0 1 0
Mr. Thos. Richardson ...	1 0 0	Balance in hand	0 17 0
Mrs. Woodley ...	0 10 0		
	2 14 0		
	£3 7 0		£3 7 0

All the foregoing Accounts (excepting those of the Slate Clubs, which are governed by Special Rules) have been audited and found correct,

W. J. CALDER,
8, *Golden Square, W.*

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Having read this Report of our work, will the reader help us to place it on a more solid and extended basis, by contributing to our New Building Fund? Help is urgently needed.

The Men's Own

ROTHERHITHE FREE CHURCH
AND
"MEN'S OWN"
Provident and Loan Club.

President—THOS. RICHARDSON.
Vice-President—GEO. TAYLOR.
Treasurer—AMBROSE POMEROY, L.C.C.
Trustees—Messrs. H. ALDRIDGE, W. G. CAPPER, C. KIMBER, J. MATTHES, AMBROSE POMEROY, THOS. RICHARDSON, DR. J. SHAW, R. L. STUART, GEO. TAYLOR, H. VEZEY, CAPT. J. WELCH, W. G. WELLS.
Stewards—Messrs. T. L. DAVIES, G. C. HYAM, H. J. RICHARDS, C. RICKSON, W. SHERWIN, D. WARREN, H. WILKINSON, C. W. WILLIS.
Secretary—H. W. FEATHERSTONE, Rotherhithe Free Church, 48, Lower Road, S.E.

THIS Society consists of members, male and female, for the purpose of forming a Fund by weekly subscriptions, and lending it in sums of £1 per share to members only; the whole of the profits and principal to be shared on December 14th, between the hours of 4 and 9 o'clock.

☞ It is particularly requested that every member, on receiving a copy of these Rules will examine them attentively, as he or she will not be allowed to plead ignorance of them should he or she act contrary to the regulations; the whole of which will be strictly enforced.

RULES.

1.—That the Subscriptions and Repayments of Loans be paid every Saturday Evening between 6 and 9 o'clock, and that the business of that meeting shall be conducted by the President, Vice-President, Trustees Secretary and Stewards; their duty will be to be in readiness to assist the other officers if required, for this purpose they shall attend the Club-room one Saturday Evening. Stewards chosen in room from the members shall also be in attendance each Saturday, of which seven days' notice will be given—failing to attend will involve a fine of 3d.

2.—That the management of the Club shall be conducted by a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, twelve Trustees, and not less than eight Stewards. That in the absence of the Treasurer, one of the Trustees be appointed to fill his place.

3.—Any person desirous of joining this Club, to give in their names and deposit 1s., to be placed to their credit if elected, but returned to them if rejected. If accepted, 3d. will be charged for subscription card and copy of rules. That all members be charged 3d. per first share, and 1d. per share after as entrance fee. No member will be allowed to take up more than twelve shares, and each member to pay one halfpenny per quarter towards the rent of office.

4.—Contributions, 6d. per share weekly; omitting payment, one halfpenny per share fine; if four weeks in arrears, the Secretary shall send the member notice, for which the member shall be charged 2d.; if six weeks in arrears, the member's name (should the Trustees think fit) shall be erased from the Society's books.

5.—Loans will be granted in sums of from £1 to £12, provided that the Borrower and Surety each hold stock to the value of one-half the loan required—the said stock to be independent of all profits, and the Borrower and Surety fully paid up. Interest will be charged (in advance) at the rate of 1s. in the pound if repaid 1s. weekly, or 1s. 6d. in the pound if repaid 6d. weekly. Members failing to keep up their repayments will be fined weekly one half-penny in each shilling, or part thereof. The sitting officers having the option of using their own discretion about security.

6.—All fines must be paid when due, or they will be stopped out of moneys paid in.

Meany not clear

Visitation

Richardson - Rotherhithe Free Church

The Men's Own has an attendance of 1100. In two years 2072 members were enrolled. Get all classes of men: the publichouse loafer, the respectable workman, clerks etc. Get "But do they mix?" "Yes. Have no difficulty. As they go out I say "Now everybody shake hands with somebody!" They do it.

In connection with the Men's Own is a Publichouse Brigade - visits the pubs & invites the men to the meeting. Mrs Richardson goes out on Sunday afternoons before the meeting. Likes this as well as any part of the work - to meet the men & speak to them as man to man. His ideas of this work were obtained from Evans Hurndall of Hanley Chapel, whom he describes as "a wonderful man".

The Women's At Home has 500 on the books & an attendance of 300.

Everything is big here. They started a Provident & Loan Club last year and shared out at nearly £3000 last Christmas.

Visitation. The deaconesses visit a good deal. His difficulty is to keep them from doing too much & breaking

The Men's Own

7.—The duties of the Secretary are to attend the office every Saturday night from 7 till 9 o'clock, and keep an account of all transactions of the Society, to enter the names and addresses of all members in the Club-book, and to produce a balance sheet every quarter, showing the state of the Society's affairs. Should the Secretary's engagement cease at any time, he must deliver up all books and papers belonging to the Club.

8.—All money received shall be banked or invested at the discretion of the Trustees in some sound securities. The banking-book or securities shall be deposited with the Treasurer, by whom they shall be kept for examination by any member.

9.—That two Auditors be chosen from the members; shall be appointed by the Trustees previous to Quarterly Night, to audit the accounts of the Society.

10.—Members not clearing the books of all dues on Quarterly Nights will be fined 2d. per share, in addition to the ordinary fines.

11.—Members changing their address and not giving notice to the Secretary within a fortnight of so doing, will be fined 3d.

12.—That the Quarterly Nights be the second Saturday in March, June, September, and first in December; to be marked X on the member's card.

13.—That two members be appointed for paying-out night, and that they be fined 6d. for non-attendance, unless they provide a substitute, who must be a member, and for such attendance they shall receive 2s. 6d. each.

14.—The Secretary shall receive from each shareholder three half-pence per share each Quarter for his services.

15.—That on the last paying-in night all members deliver up their cards and receive in exchange a numbered check; and no money will be paid on sharing-out night unless the check be presented; the Trustees will not be responsible for the loss of either checks or cards, or money paid to any-one other than the owner, who may present the check.

16.—That no member shall be allowed to borrow for the first four weeks unless by special sanction of the Trustees, a week's notice being required before application for loan can be taken into consideration, and that each member requiring a loan must sign personally for same.

17.—Should any member be desirous of withdrawing from the Club, he must send his card and give 7 days' clear notice in writing to the Secretary of his intention to resign all claims upon the Club, and also clear the books of all arrears up to the date of notice, and in default of such notice having been given and such arrears paid, he shall be responsible for all sums due by him at the time of his exclusion for non-payment, and shall be proceeded against to recover the same as the Trustees may direct.

18.—Every member or person having interest in the funds of the Club shall be at liberty to inspect the books thereof; seven clear days' notice of such desire on the part of any member shall be given in writing to the President, who shall appoint day and hour, and the Secretary's duty will be to produce his books for inspection.

19.—No strangers shall be allowed to remain in the Office during the transaction of business, except by consent of the Officers then sitting, and with the understanding that they are not to interfere in the Club's business; and during those hours members pledge themselves to maintain order.

20.—A list of all members holding office in the Club, with their names and addresses, and also of the Quarterly pay-nights, shall be placed in a conspicuous position in the Office; and an attendance book shall be kept in which each such member shall sign his name on every occasion of his attending at the Office on the business for which he is elected.

21.—No member will be allowed to withdraw from the Club, if standing security for another, until such time as the loan he or she is security for is paid.

22.—That a General Meeting be held on the last Wednesday in November at 8 p.m., all members must bring their subscription card, to be produced on entering. All members who, failing to do this by 8.30, will be fined 3d. unless a written apology for absence is sent before 6 p.m. on the same day.

23.—That no money can be taken unless the Club card is brought to have it entered upon.

24.—That all members not borrowing £1 per share during the year shall be fined 6d. per share.

Richardson - Rotherhithe Free Church

The Men's Own has an attendance of 1100. In two years 2072 members were enrolled. Get all classes of men: the publichouse loafer, the respectable workman, clerks etc. Q&A "But do they mix?" "Yes. Have no difficulty. As they go out I say "Now everybody shake hands with somebody"." They do it.

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Richardson - Rotherhithe Free Church

Charitable Relief

Free Church Council

breaking down. Mrs R. visits a little but has not much time for it. They visit more amongst other people than the church members. Tells them if they are sick they shall be visited. but If the members are well they ought to visit us + not us visit them.

Charitable relief: Little or none at all. When our own members are in straitened circumstances we help them. Also give Christmas dinners to the poor, simply enquiring whether they are deserving + not as to religious belief - same to R.C's.

Does not believe in buying people. No. one comes to the place for what they can get. Thinks ~~the~~ poor relief is one of the great dangers of Christian work. It was a curse at the Great Assembly Hall.

This agrees with the accounts - which show only between £20 + £21 spent in Poor relief + £45 in Christmas dinners.

Rotherhithe has a Free Church Council but Mr Richardson's

Other Religious Agencies

Church of England

Richardson's Church does not belong to it. He is a Free Churchman himself but did not like to commit his church. Many of his people formerly belonged to the Church of England & he did not think it right to bring them under the Council.

The church might really be a Baptist Church as he preaches believer's baptism and urges it altho' it is not made a condition of membership. When people want to be baptised he takes them to the Great Assembly Hall as they have no pool at Rotherhithe

Bermondsey Settlement (Scott Lidgett) principally educational. Have some bible classes.

Murray (Presbyterian. Southwark Pk Rd) a dear good fellow. Has a fair congregation.

Burleigh (Drummond Rd Baptist) Fair congregation.

Wesleyans have a P.S.A but it is small.

Salvation Army – very small.

Of the Church of England ministers only one is doing anything. Beck is the rector but –! and he paused expressively. Bardsley of Christ Church

Church works hard and does get hold of the people. He has recently started a P.S.A. and get people from the parish and also outside to his service. Then Mrs R. began to talk generally about the ministers - "Of all the peculiar people on earth I ~~have~~ never met with a lot like the clergy & ministers here". He was friendly with all & tried to co-operate with them. He went to try & get Bardsley to come to the Town hall & address the P.S.A. "just to show the men that they were united when it was a matter of saving souls". Bardsley was reluctant & Richardson urged that it was a purely undenominational meeting. "Why don't you have a committee of clergy & ministers then"? asked Mr Bardsley. "Because I don't want to ruin it" replied Mrs Richardson & then explained to Mr B. that he had no committee at all. " "Fancy a committee of ministers & clergy"! said Mr R. to me. "I have seen too much of Committees."

~~That~~ Although they have no committee, the Men's own & probably the other societies are run on very

democratic

lines. The officers are consulted and matters are put to the members at the meetings to get their opinion. Thus one Sunday they arranged to give the collection to the Widows & Orphans Fund & got £12, whilst they also arranged a street collection, going thro' Rotherhithe Streets with band & banners one week day much as the Trade Societies do on Sunday. This produced £27.

Mrs Richardson claims & no doubt justly that they have reached the non church goers, not only at the Mens & womens meetings but also at the church services. A lot of the men attend the services and some are church members. Many attend who never entered a place of worship before except when they got married. At the watch night service they had 100's of these men. Some also come from other places - many were from the Church of England. One of these members was a churchwarden. Membership is growing about 50 a year after allowing for removals. Whilst he speaks to the people as man to man, he will have nothing but the gospel & does not believe in the Social evangel.

Richardson - Rotherhithe Free Church

Drunk

Drink is growing in power. It is appalling. He was in Rotherhithe after the pubs closed on Xmas night. xxxx. You hardly saw a sober person. Saturday + Sunday nights are the worst - fighting + brawling - 'something awful'

Prostitution

Remarkably free from prostitution but fears that the new theatre may lead to it. Police have already been increased.

Health

Health - good. Place is really healthy owing to the large open spaces - docks, river + park.

Thrift

Thrift amongst the better class of those who join clubs. The money drawn at Christmas is well spent as a rule - clothes, furniture &c.

Housing

Housing is improving. Rents are rising and it is difficult to get a house. People have to wait for months. Rarely see a bill. The only house now to let is the one next door belonging to them + that only stands because they cannot will not let it for a period as they hope to build

Rotherhithe Free Church - Richardson

Respecting Rotherhithe we ought to see Mr Davis, the sanitary inspector - Town Hall Rotherhithe - a very good fellow. Also the Medical Officer Dr Shaw. Both of these belong to his church.

Ambrose Pomeroy L.C.C. should also be seen respecting Bermondsey & Rotherhithe.

Mr Richardson has evidently got the ear of the people & his church is a hive of industry. On the evening I went the infants were having their New Years Entertainment & whilst waiting for Mr R. I could hear childish trebles singing "Ring a ring of roses". Mr R. was going down after the interview & I accompanied him. Some 300 to 400 children mostly from 5 to 8 years old were dancing round the hall eating apples & oranges, ~~whilst~~ ~~they~~ They soon got into their seats for a magic lantern. Mr Richardson went on the platform - What would they like to sing - "There was a farmer had a dog." Mr R. started it, his voice above all the children. They did not emphasis 'Bingo' sufficiently so he showed them how to do it & the next time they nearly raised the roof with the last syllable.

Then

Richardson - Rotherhithe Free Church

Then the children wanted Mr R. to sing "Ten little niggers". "They alway do want that" ~~be~~ explained afterward. He sang a version of his own, the little ones coming in with the chorus, "One little two little &c negro boys". Then the magic lantern followed Mr R. explaining or ~~m~~making some droll allusions to the pictures - keeping the youngsters in a roar of laughter. Amongst other pictures some photos of the Infant classes were thrown on the screen & the children asked ~~who~~ to identify some of their group. Then the supt, deaconesses followed, 3 cheers being given for each, ~~at~~ led by Mr R; presently a photo of Mr R. came on & the cheering was started from the other end of the room. About 15 teachers were present. Altogether the children were thoroughly enjoying themselves.

The hall is a big bare building with a high platform ~~but not~~ without the least attempt at ornament. Long wooden pews; those at the sides made so that they can be turned so as to form classes for the Sunday school.

Christchurch, (Albey St) parish

33/1.2

Jan. 16th, 1900.

Interview with Mr John Davis, L.C.M., Bermondsey Ragged School and Mission, Jedling St. Bermondsey.

I had a long interview with Mr Davis, who is certainly the most striking and with the possible exception of Mr Dyke of Hackney Wick the strongest and best of the City Missionaries I have met: but there is really nothing to add to the very interesting life of Mr D. by Mr Codling: as far as I can judge it is a very true and just appreciation of the man and his work. The life is so bulky that I have gutted it, appending hereto only so much as deals with ~~the~~ Bermondsey and the work there: but the whole book is interesting and should be read: the remainder is with the material. I may notice that the portrait of Mr D. at the beginning of the book is a villainous libel: so far from looking like an abandoned ~~criminal~~ criminal

he is a cheery pleasant smiling old fellow, with the most genial of manners.

Mr. D. gave me the boundaries of his district but I could not follow them on the map. In the L.C.M. Report they are given as Dockhead and Paxton's Row on the north, St James's Rd. on the East Station and Spa Roads on the south, and Rockingham Rd and Gedling St on the west.

The worst part of his district Mr D. said was the bit between London St and Bermondsey Wall: here the people are generally low and rough. On the district as a whole there has been a great improvement in civilisation in 20 years: anyone can now walk with safety and free from notice in any street or court, but when Mr D. first began to work here he was constantly assaulted: partly of course the improvement is due to the fact that "they all now recognise him as a friend".

Mr D's method was almost entirely anecdotal but the stories with the exception of one appear

in this life. He was telling me of the great
tea they gave last night to 500 people mostly
connected with the tenements: one woman to whom
he began to speak said "Don't talk to me Davis.
I'm not fit to speak to: I'm the vilest creature
in the neighbourhood" and turned away: then she
faced round again and said "But old chap,
I must give you a kiss". In cold print it
looks perhaps grotesque, but as Davis told it
there was real pathos in it: and though the
direct spiritual results of his work are as usual
exceedingly small I have no doubt that he has
to an unusual degree kindled a spark of love for
him in the hearts of many of the roughest in
the neighbourhood.

CHAPTER VII.

SAVED TO SAVE.

Witnessing—Old Scores—A Happy Home—Persecuted—The London City Mission—"What do you know?"—Bereavement—Short Commons—Neckinger District—Haunts of Dickens—Wooden Shanties and Foul Ditches—Dragged by the Hair—Dancing the Fandango—Discouragements—Accosted and Cursed—"Such were some of you."

NO sooner was Davis converted than he began to seek opportunities of witnessing for Christ. Forgiven much, he loved much. He had no conception of a religion kept for home consumption and selfish enjoyment. His heart yearned to carry the news of the glorious Gospel to all he could influence. He did not wait to be set to work, or to obtain some special appointment under a church or a committee, but began just where he was among his former companions. The results were encouraging, for before he had been saved four months he was used of God in bringing six of his mates to the Saviour.

Old scores were thought of—not public-house scores; fortunately these had no existence—but in other ways

mischief had been done which he must try to remedy. Good men had been grieved; bad men had been encouraged in sin; and the young Christian could not rest until he had made reparation. The treatment he had meted out to an earnest city missionary filled him with remorse. It had been his great delight to turn the laugh on this good man by his witty remarks; to sneer at his efforts to do him good; and to

STAB HIM WITH SHARP WORDS.

Perhaps the missionary would be talking to Mrs. Davis; he would coarsely interrupt, saying, "Come along, don't stand there gossiping with that fellow,"—and worse. To him, therefore, in humility and contrition, the new convert went, to confess his fault and beg his forgiveness. Afterwards, when as he puts it, he had to "swallow the same pills," he remembered that the Scripture says, "Be sure your sin will find you out," and "Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap" (Gal. vi. 7)—not only the seed sown, but its increase.

Nowhere was the change which had come into this man's life more manifest than in his home. The house, which had been drunken, wretched, full of sin, now became a little Paradise. He would take his mates home with him, invite the neighbours in, talk to them, get them on their knees, and he had the joy of seeing many—as the Salvationists say—"beautifully saved!"

Membership with the Primitive Methodist Church, worshipping in the chapel situate in Manchester Road, Millwall, E., was sought and obtained, but the "free and easy" services of the Christian Mission—now the Salvation Army—had the greater attraction for our

zealous friend. These rented what they styled a little "glory-hole" in Stebendale Street, Isle of Dogs, E. Here he worshipped and worked, seeing scores of people saved.

It was not to be expected that Satan would allow such a doughty champion to escape his clutches without protest, followed by

DESPERATE ATTEMPTS TO RE-ENSLAVE HIM,

and he had to fight many a fierce battle with his own heart and besetting sins; but victory remained with him. His pier-head mates were incited to persecute him, and for a time led him a pretty dance. One would shout, "Yes, we're going to buy Jack a white gown;"—make a parson of him they meant—and a second would press upon him a drink of beer. God gave him grace to bear all that came. He never wavered, and when they found that he stood fire, that his religion was genuine, and that he acted out his profession in his life, they began to respect him; and, what was better, many of them accepted the same Saviour and followed his example.

Soon he began to visit the sick and dying, and to show increased activity in the service of the Christian Mission.

His work at the dock gates kept him engaged a good deal on the Lord's day. This enforced Sunday labour he greatly disliked. When he saw other free and happy Christians on their way to church, chapel, or mission hall, his heart yearned to accompany them. He prayed about this, and began to have thoughts of devoting himself entirely to Christian work. The London City Mission appeared to offer a suitable sphere, and he had

conversation with Mr. Aulds, the missionary on that district, about the matter. Mr. Aulds encouraged Davis to apply to the secretary for papers, and did all he could to make the way plain to the candidate. In this way the godly man paid him back for sneers, jeers, and insults, by "heaping

COALS OF FIRE UPON HIS HEAD."

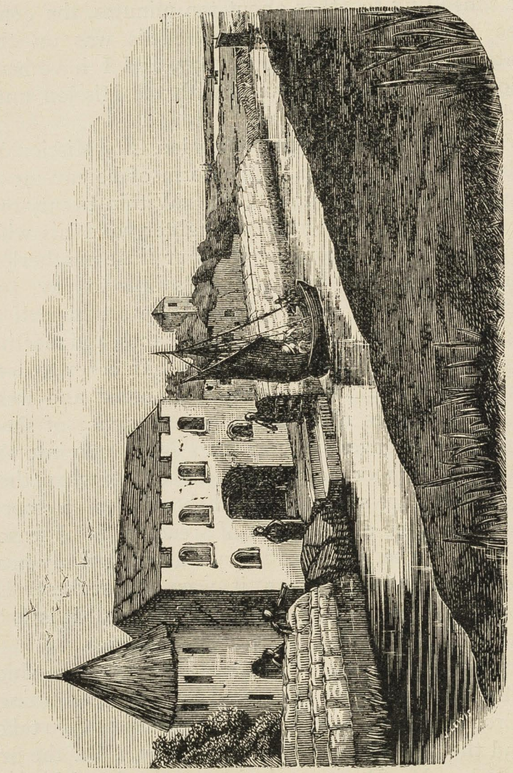
In due course the application was sent, and after interviewing the candidate, the secretary seemed fairly pleased, and handed him the usual forms to fill in. Sub-committee and examiners were passed all right, and then the general committee had to be faced—a more serious business. What his feelings and experiences were on that occasion he shall describe for himself. He writes:—"Had to appear before the general committee. I felt awfully little and unworthy, and my heart went down below zero. They asked me several hard questions, and I felt flabbergasted. I lifted up my heart in prayer and asked for help. The chairman said, 'You don't seem to know much, young man!' I said, 'No, sir, what little I did know has stopped outside that green baize door!' 'Well,' he said; 'what do you know?' I said, 'I know God has saved my poor soul.' Then he asked, 'What do you think a city missionary should possess or have?' I answered, 'I think, sir, he ought to have a good strong body, an extra dose of common sense, and a heart full of love for poor lost souls!' Well, they did not seem to give me much hope, but one of the members of the committee—Mr. T. A. Denny—came out of his chair, put his hand kindly on my shoulder, and said in an encouraging tone, 'Cheer up; the Lord will open your way.' Then

they sent me out of the room to consider my case. After consulting together about ten minutes, the committee resolved to accept me. This was on the seventeenth day of December, 1877, and I have been graciously permitted to remain with the Mission until this day."

Mr. Davis's appointment as London City Missionary was barely made, when a fierce storm of bereavement, sorrow, and trial burst upon him. Within twenty-one days he lost his mother, his daughter, and his wife, being left thus a widower with four little motherless children to care for, heavy doctor's bills to pay, and funeral expenses to meet. Bravely he set himself to the task of caring for his motherless babes, and meeting his overwhelming financial liabilities. In order to keep down expenses he lived for days on bread and weak tea. Now he does not regret this experience of short commons, as it gave him power to enter fully into the feelings of the poor people on his district, when their circumstances are straitened, and they suffer—as scores of them too often do—for lack of bread. Of this season he writes, "The dear Lord graciously lifted my head above the billows. When it was the darkest, He came walking on the waves and said to me, 'It is I, be not afraid.'"

Kent Street District, in the Borough, was the one which the new missionary was appointed to visit. His trainer, Mr. Croiner, who showed him once round, was then taken ill, and the two workers never again met. On the first night, when Mr. Davis reached home, he found his wife seriously ill. In six days she died, leaving behind her a helpless little infant of nine days old.

Repairing to the Mission House to tell his pathetic



THE NECKINGER, A.D. 1400.

story, Mr. Fletcher, the then secretary, received him with great kindness and sympathy, changed the arrange-

ments in order to allow time for making suitable disposition of his family, and later sent him to the Neckinger District, Bermondsey, S.E., where for over twenty years he has continued his zealous labours.

Mr. Davis's district is so called from the Neckinger, a small tributary stream, which for hundreds of years has added to the prosperity of the Bermondsey tanners, by providing them with a copious supply of water, a prime necessity in their useful though malodorous business. In bygone days it was a tidal stream flowing up to the famous Bermondsey Abbey; and though now covered over, and confined to a narrow channel, it still brings up the Thames water to the Neckinger Mills—large tanneries owned by Messrs. S. Bevington and Sons.

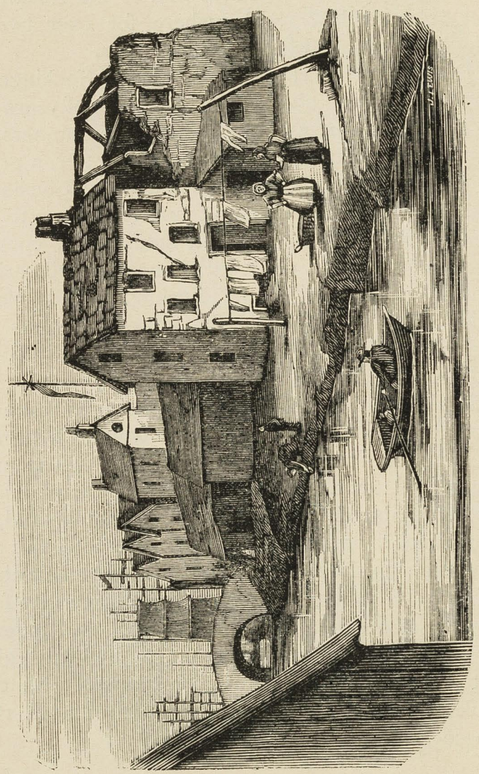
St. Saviour's Dock, and Jacob's Island, so graphically described by Charles Dickens, are in this locality. The Folly Ditch mentioned in "Oliver Twist" was also here, a foul, slimy drain from six to eight feet wide. A stranger standing on one of the old wooden bridges which spanned it at irregular intervals, would see the liquid mud, refuse, and indescribable filth oozing into the ditch, and, at the same time, the residents on either side, with cans and pails, dipping up the water for their common household use. In sight also were numerous wooden shanties fully tenanted, but without doors or windows, the majority having straw or rags stuffed in the holes where glass ought to have been. Tumble-down outhouses built on piles overhung the stream, and it was not until 1850 that these

ROTTEN ABOMINATIONS

were pulled down, and the ditches filled in.

Perhaps in no part of London slumdom has sanitation

conferred greater blessings than on Bermondsey. Places



JACOB'S ISLAND AS DICKENS SAW IT.

which reeked with fever, and were the incubating ground of every kind of infectious disease, have been swept

away, better houses built, drains laid, and streets paved and lighted. Much it is true might yet be done, to open out courts and alleys to the sunshine and fresh air, and the work is daily progressing; but in comparison with the past, the district is now an elysium of health and salubrity.

We thank God for all the sanitary improvements of recent years, for increased educational facilities, and for more numerous, varied, and wide-spread religious agencies; but despite all the advance, the modern representatives of Bill Sykes and Nancy can still be found. The ancient rookeries are pulled down, and the old rooks die, but the young ones still build on the same spot.

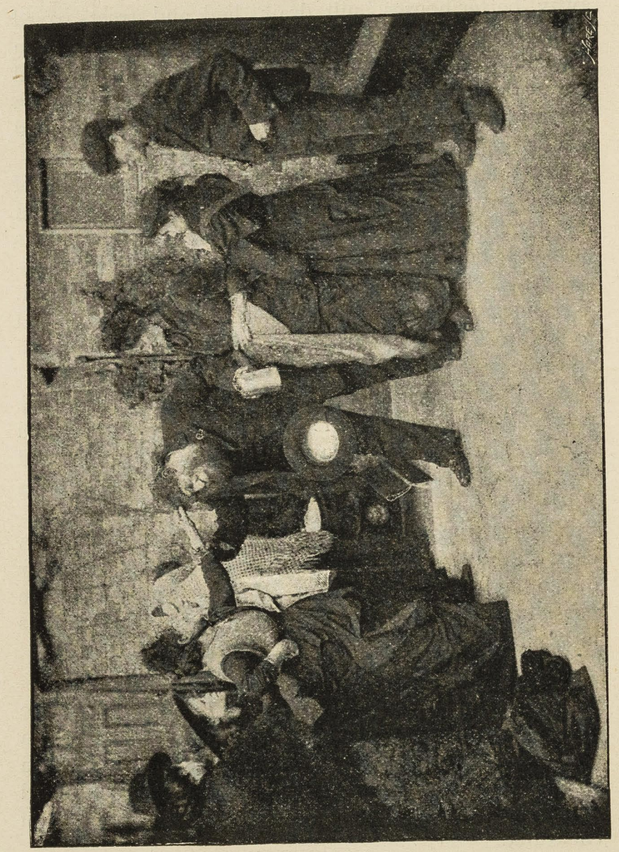
As indicative of the temper of the viler sort of the people, we may inform the reader that Mr. Davis and another city missionary have been pelted with flour and dustbin refuse, and dragged by the hair of their heads through the streets.

A place known locally as "Soapsuds Bay" was a most filthy place, and Gilbert Court was equally disreputable. Seventeen or eighteen years ago, the missionary frequently saw women with their clothes indecently pulled up,

DANCING THE FANDANGO,

or pushing the pots of beer in their hands up to the mouths of the visitors, as though they would force them to drink. Our friend says, "I declare that I have seen as vile specimens of humanity in the neighbourhood of Dockhead, as I have seen among the 'gins'* of Australia."

* Old women.



ROUGH USAGE.

What an improvement has been brought about! Even if not converted, these people are at least delivered from their open shame and lewdness, and much dirt—moral and material—has disappeared. Streets and courts which a few years ago the missionaries dared not enter after dark, they can now pass through as unmolested as if they were strolling through Cheapside.

What characters some of these people were! "Folly Liz," for example, a match for any two men; but the Lord broke her heart and made her a living saint.

Often when going to face these human wild beasts, the missionary would tremble, and for the moment lose heart. Like Jonah he would look in this direction and that, and was hardly restrained from running away, on the off chance of finding a ship for Tarshish, or anywhere else, so long as it was only distant enough from his particular Nineveh. Yet notwithstanding these times of depression, and qualms of fear, he continued to move about his district, through its mean streets and slums, seeing drunken women sitting together on the kerb or doorstep, some with black eyes, all with

UNKEMPT HAIR AND UNWASHED FACES.

His ears were polluted with their filthy expressions, and his very soul sickened with the degradation and apparent hopelessness of their lot. When feeling like giving up, the precious promises of God have come to mind and encouraged him; or perhaps the memory of some precious soul gathered out of this white field, and now safely garnered in glory through the merits of a dying Christ, has cheered him on. Often and often when looking upon the most utterly fallen, the words have been suggested, "Such were some of you," and

remembering his own past he dared not despair of salvation for any. One day especially the words just quoted were applied to his mind with great power. As he walked by, two women, taking him for a sailor, accosted him and wanted him to treat them. He said, "I am a missionary coming to work among you, to try and bring you to Jesus." Disappointed of their expected carouse, they swore at him with horrid oaths and curses. Then the Divine voice whispered, "And such were some of you, but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Cor. vi. 11).

Do any ask about the spirit in which our friend serves, he reveals it in the following touching words. "Sad and weary, I have stood and wept as I have looked at the godless masses, marching on with steady tramp to a burning hell. But blessed be God! having put my hand to the plough I have never looked back. For twenty years I have been running.

WHEN I COULDN'T RUN I HAVE WALKED,

and when I couldn't walk I have cried to Him, who heard this poor man cry many years ago, and delivered him out of his troubles."

The dwellers in these Neckinger homes are mostly waterside labourers and tanners. There are also fur-pullers, costermongers, a few which follow mixed trades, with several nondescripts who defy classification; and it is gratifying to know that from amongst this unpromising material, persons whose whole life is a desperate struggle against poverty and the slough of their surroundings and circumstances, hundreds have been turned from sin unto salvation.

CHAPTER VIII.

WINNING AND WORRYING.

A Faithful Sheep-dog—The Real Need—"Like one of Ourselves"—A Wooden-legged Pensioner—"Is there any Hope for Me?"—"Going to see Jesus"—Night Alarms—The Speechless Singer—Diseased and Destitute—Wrong Medicine—A Starving Family—Horse-bean Diet—No Controversy—Tanyard Manners—Helping the Helpless.

"IF I can't win them I will worry them," writes our missionary in one of his annual reports. Not that he intends to irritate or annoy the people on whom he calls, but like the faithful sheep-dog sent after the flock on the moorland, who, raising his note of warning, invitation, entreaty, rushes here and there after the straying sheep, and cannot be quieted until every fleece is safe in the fold—so he will plead, pray, visit, until the wanderer is brought home.

In the last chapter we viewed the outer aspects of the neighbourhood in which Mr. Davis is toiling; it may now interest the reader to visit some interiors, and to hear facts and incidents gathered in the work.

As he passes from house to house, our missionary

bears with him the firm conviction that he is bringing to these homes the exact good they are most in need of. He hails with satisfaction every movement which improves the social condition of the people—better homes, higher wages, shorter hours, but his experience is that these will and do utterly fail to accomplish permanent good, if Jesus Christ is not taken into account. When He is received the betterment is solid and abiding. Mr. Davis steadfastly believes that in the slums as elsewhere, "the soul of all improvement is the improvement of the soul;" and to secure this is his paramount aim.

Some time ago a gentleman said to him—

"HOW DO YOU GET AT THESE PEOPLE?

What means do you use? I give away a lot of coals, lend out blankets, and in many other ways help the poor; but I cannot touch them." Davis answered, "Sir, I go after the people, and I keep on going. I use no means but the blessed Gospel; it is still the power of God unto salvation."

He is still kept outside many houses. One woman told him, "I should like you to come in, Mr. Davis, but my husband does not like it," so he never tries to cross that threshold.

Some make excuses: they are in "such a muddle now, but another time they will be pleased to see him." At a neighbouring door the welcome is, "What a long time since you called." He inquires, "Is it convenient to come in for a few minutes?" "Oh! yes, come along, it is always convenient for you. I've not cleaned up the place yet, but I don't mind you, because you are like one of ourselves. You don't come just to spy out what we are like! I'm not converted as you call it,

but I know you come to do us good, and I shall be all right some day, I hope." Then the missionary, solemnly, "God has not promised any to-morrow; now is the accepted time." That woman is now a member of the mission, and she has been made a saviour to sister souls.

Two brothers living together in a little room refused to let the missionary in, but after repeated knocking one of them opened the door and said, "I know who you are. What do you want to be prying into our poverty for? We don't interfere with any one. We come in and go out, and speak to nobody.

IF WE HAVE ANYTHING TO EAT, WE EAT IT;

if we have nothing, we go without. We trouble no one, and I object to this intrusion." Mr. Davis learnt afterwards that this man was a pensioner from the Guards, who had come out of his country's battles with a wooden leg and a shilling per day, on which amount the brothers managed somehow to exist, though the house was in a very dirty state. Answering the old soldier's long speech the missionary said, "My dear sir, I don't come to look at your place; I come to tell you that Jesus Christ loves you, and so do I." Then he gave him the price of a half-hundredweight of coal, and knelt down to pray. Poor fellow, he was quite melted down. "I didn't mean to insult you," he said, "but I hate those people who go about prying into our places, and put in the papers all about how we live, but never reach us out a helping hand," adding with tears, "We have seen better days." Eventually the old soldier enlisted in the army of Jesus Christ, served for a short time under His colours, and was thence promoted to glory.

One man was a secularist, who had no belief in anything. Little by little he yielded up his infidelity. Prostrated by lingering illness, he had time to think of the end. The missionary, bearing little dainties, visited him, read the Bible, and offered prayer. Hearing it read that "Jesus was moved with compassion," he was quite softened. One day he sent for Mr. Davis, and after reading and talk asked, "Can I be saved? Is there any hope for me?" His visitor answered, "Bless God there is, for I was a poor hell-deserving sinner, but God has blessedly saved me, and washed all my sins away." The sick man looked up and said, "I wish I could say that." The missionary knelt in prayer, and before leaving the house had reason to believe that once again a loving Father had forgiven sins.

Another woman was not brought to Christ until taken with her last illness. On the day she died, turning to her husband and two married daughters, she said, "Don't weep,

I AM GOING TO SEE JESUS."

Then to Mr. Davis, "Sing what you sang yesterday." He complied, and sang—

"Now close my sightless eyes,
And watch my dying face;
And fold my pale and icy hands
Across my lifeless breast.
There'll be no sorrow there," &c.

It was a touching scene. Husband and daughters were choked with emotion; but the dying woman and the missionary sang on to the close.

Death does not ask his victim at what hour he shall strike the fatal blow. Very often to the alarm of the

watchers he shows signs of near approach in the dead of night. Then there is an urgent call for minister or missionary, who, like their friends the doctors, never say "No" to such a summons. Mr. Davis was not at all surprised to hear a loud knock at his door at 1.30 one dark morning. Opening the bedroom window he asked, "Who's there?" It was the young daughter of Mrs. P——, who had been pointed to Christ during her sickness. The girl said, "Come, Mr. Davis, mother wants to see you, she's dying." When he reached the room the woman said, "I am glad you have come; I wanted to thank you for leading me to the Saviour." She continued, "Come near me, I can't see"—the film of death was already gathering over her eyes. The visitor came close to the bed and took hold of the clammy hand. "God bless you!" she cried, "I will tell Jesus it was you that led me to Him."

The founder of Methodism makes the grateful record, "Our people die well," and the same entry might with equal propriety be made by our missionary. One to whom he had been made a blessing was A—— S——. From nine o'clock in the morning of the day on which she died she was unable to speak. Later, when her spiritual father called, he said, "My dear sister, you will soon see Jesus. Look out for me, I'm coming there too." On this she burst out singing—

"In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore,"

and sang two verses straight through. Still she was speechless, though she had sung like an angel. Beckon-

ing her parents to come closer, she placed one hand in that of the missionary, and with the other

POINTING HER PARENTS TO HEAVEN,

sweetly fell asleep in Jesus.

A young man was discovered in a condition of great destitution. He lay on an old pallet of rags; no blankets, sheets, or pillow; his mind dark as that of a pagan, and his parents both unsaved. Dying of tumour in the neck, his face was so distorted that it was difficult to trace the features of a human being. Mr. Davis fetched a few things from home, bought a brown blanket for one shilling and fourpence, and Mrs. Davis contributed a milk pudding. The youth's eyes became opened to his lost spiritual condition, and having obtained salvation, in spite of fearful pain he would frequently try to sing. A few days before he died, he knelt up in bed, and, supported in that position, clasped his thin wasted hands, and prayed for his father and mother. The grateful lad would catch hold of the missionary's hands and kiss them, saying, "Bless you, Mr. Davis, for all your kindness and love to me." Then addressing his parents, "Do, dear mother, become a Christian. Become a Christian, father. Do go to Mr. Davis's meetings on Sunday nights." On the Sunday evening before the end, the mission people sang hymns outside the house, while the missionary sat by his side within. The latter says, "I would not have missed the joy of this poor dying young man's blessing for all the world. Oh! the unspeakable delight of

LEADING THE LOST ONES BACK TO JESUS!"

Many of those on whom our friend calls live in single rooms, some in deep poverty, and others in a deeper

perdition of sin. When possible, extreme want is relieved, and all kinds of vice and sin are constantly rebuked. It is utterly useless, nay, it is wicked to heal up these festering soul-sores falsely, as some in their mistaken charity or ignorance are disposed to do. The following is a case in point.

Mr. Davis was calling upon a wretched drunken woman who was sick in bed. Just as he had taken his seat, in came one of the local ministers. Our missionary drew back his chair, and handed his Bible to the new-comer. The minister turned to John xiv., and began to read, "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions," &c. The missionary put his hand upon the reader's shoulder, saying, "Sir, that is not the right medicine!" He walked up to the sufferer's side and said, "You are a poor sinner, aren't you, Mrs. K——?" "Oh! no," she answered, "I have never done anybody any harm." "But God says you are a sinner;" and in support of his assertion read to her Romans iii. 23, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God;" quoted other like Scriptures, and continued, "My God says we have all sinned." "Well," she replied,

"I SUPPOSE WE ALL HAVE SINNED IF IT COMES TO THAT."

"Then why not own it before God?" and he pressed home upon her God's claims. The two Christians prayed and left. The Holy Spirit convicted the woman of sin. Circumstances compelled removal to another locality, but from her new home she sent for the missionary, who had the privilege of directing her step

by step, until she was blessedly saved, and shortly afterwards taken to join the great multitude which no man can number, who in blood-washed robes stand before the throne of God and the Lamb.

Climbing the rickety stairs of an old wooden shanty, Mr. Davis found a door facing him at the top. He knocked. "Come in," said a faint voice. Lifting the latch he entered. There, lying on an old mattress in the corner, was a woman of about thirty years of age, with a few rags and a sack thrown over her; no blankets; no coverlet. By her side lay a new-born babe, and near the bed two other little ones, almost naked, shivered in the cold, for it was in the depth of winter, and there was no fire. One of the children, a boy of four, was crying bitterly for bread, but there was not a scrap of food in the house.

"Where is your husband?"

"He has gone to the hospital. He met with an accident, and has not been able to work since."

The missionary at this stage had no heart either to read the Bible or pray. He went out, got a bundle of wood, a bit of coal, sugar, tea, and a loaf of bread—the lot costing ninepence-halfpenny. Then he made a fire, brewed some tea, cut the loaf and began to hand it to the starving children. The boy snatched the bread with both hands, and

BEGAN TO EAT IT LIKE A WOLF.

Seeing the woman hesitate he asked, "Won't you have some, missus?" She burst into tears and said, "God bless you." Then he knelt and prayed, repeating his visit afterwards. The husband died, but the woman became a bright Christian.

Living together in one little vile room, our friend found two brothers, aged respectively sixty-two and fifty-eight years, and a sister, fifty-six. The wretched room was alive with vermin, and the inmates in extreme want. These three persons actually subsisted on one loaf of bread and a quart of horse-beans, for a week, and Mr. Davis has known them live like that for three months at a time. To witness this and other terrible scenes of suffering and destitution, and in hope of securing some alleviation of their lot, he took the editor of the local paper, and the vicar of the parish, and to some extent gained his purpose.

Appeals of every kind are made to the missionary. "I am glad to see you, Mr. Davis," is one woman's greeting. "I was just coming to your house for a surgical aid letter; I want a truss, and I can't get on without one any longer." Says another, "Mr. Davis, my poor boy is in a dreadful state with bed-sores. Can you get me an air-pillow?" Away he goes to try and obtain it. On the street he meets somebody who needs a pair of spectacles. Next day a client requires a dental letter, so that she may procure new teeth. In still another home it is a hospital or a convalescent letter which is urgently desired; or, perhaps, a poor lame creature wants a crutch.

During his long term of service, Mr. Davis has read to, prayed with, and tried to help more than

SIX THOUSAND SICK AND DYING PERSONS

to the Lord Jesus Christ. He frequently finds that those who in health have been utterly indifferent to his appeals give him eager attention when overtaken by sickness.

There are over one thousand families on his district.

Armed with Bible and tracts he begins at one end, and continues until he has called at every door, with the definite purpose of winning for Christ the occupants of each house and room. He never needs to puzzle his brain for a message, for he bears the Bible, the "gospel of salvation," and the experience of years has confirmed him in the faith that the Word of God and the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ are the "power of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth."

While well furnished with evidences in support of Christianity, ready-witted, clear in argument, incisive in speech, and fluent of tongue, quite able to rout any average antagonist, he makes it a rule never to argue the point, or hold controversy. This too often raises angry feeling, makes bad blood, and seldom brings any good to the opposer. Much more is accomplished by brotherly kindness, combined with earnest appeal, than by argument. As a result of these ministrations he has had the rare joy of pointing hundreds of persons to the "Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

Within Mr. Davis's sphere of operations are several large factories and tanyards. We need hardly say that while many of the men employed in these places are decent, honest, and industrious, there are also in the ranks some exceedingly rough specimens of the British working man, the speech and habits of whom leave much to be desired. Often the missionary's ears are greeted with lewd remarks,

COARSE JESTS, AND FOUL WITTICISMS,

but he quietly continues his work, addressing himself to those who are willing to hear, and whatever is done or

said never losing his temper. When one vile fellow "hawked" up the phlegm from his throat, and deliberately spat in the missionary's face, he patiently wiped off the disgusting filth, and said, "God bless you, my dear brother! God loves you, and I love you too." Some of the roughest and toughest of these workers in leather have become Mr. Davis's fast friends, and invaluable helpers in the mission.

To comfort the troubled, to advise the perplexed, to feed the starving, to help the helpless, to be father, brother, counsellor, friend to all, to set a Christlike example in goodness and sympathy, and to endeavour unceasingly to guide all alike to the Son of God, is the function of the London City Missionary, and right worthily is this mission being accomplished by Mr. Davis and the goodly band of his brother missionaries.

CHAPTER IX.

THE INWARD MAN.

Hidden Springs—Soul Travail—Irksome Work—Dissatisfaction and Disquiet—Absorbed with Holiness—A Slave of the Pipe—Sin and Humility—Mental Confusion—The Robber Within—An All-night at Whitechapel—God gets His Way—Excitement?—Burning Idols—In the Heavenlies—Conventions.

NO sketch of Mr. Davis's life would be complete which failed to take into account the hidden springs from which the reservoirs of his faith, love, and zeal are fed. Where there is rich fruitage there must be fulness of life. How this life is obtained and kept "abundant" we will now endeavour to show.

Mr. Davis is a man of much private prayer. In his own home he enjoys prolonged seasons of communion with God. Occasionally, with the burden of souls upon him, he will take the key of the Mission Hall, lock the door behind him, and there in the great empty void, without fear of disturbance or interruption, plead with God for blessing on his own soul, for the mission, the district, and for the salvation of sinners.

out after God. I find more and more that it is not having more joy, or more happiness, or more peace, but more of the living indwelling of the Holy Ghost. How I long for more power; to be more

ENTIRELY LAID OUT FOR THE GLORY OF GOD ALONE.

Mercifully help me, blessed Spirit, to 'seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.' As I knelt in prayer with poor dying people to-day, I felt as if I could pull them right into the presence of Jesus. Five anxious for salvation. Hallelujah!"

Towards his brother city missionaries the heart of Mr. Davis goes out in loving sympathy and earnest prayer. None knows better than he the temptations, difficulties, and discouragements of their work; and he is deeply desirous that they also shall obtain the rest and power which have come into his own soul. Occasionally, therefore, he invites a number of them to the Mission Hall, where, through the kindness of some generous Christian, he is able to entertain them to tea. Earnest and often eminent clergymen and ministers, full of the Holy Ghost, are invited to give addresses, and opportunity is afforded for conversation, united prayer, and

DEFINITE CONSECRATION.

At the meeting held in November, 1896, there were present nine clergymen and ministers, forty-six missionaries, thirty-nine other active Christian workers, and a mixed multitude of saved and unsaved hearers. Much blessing has resulted from these reunions, and high officials in the London City Mission regard them with hearty approval.

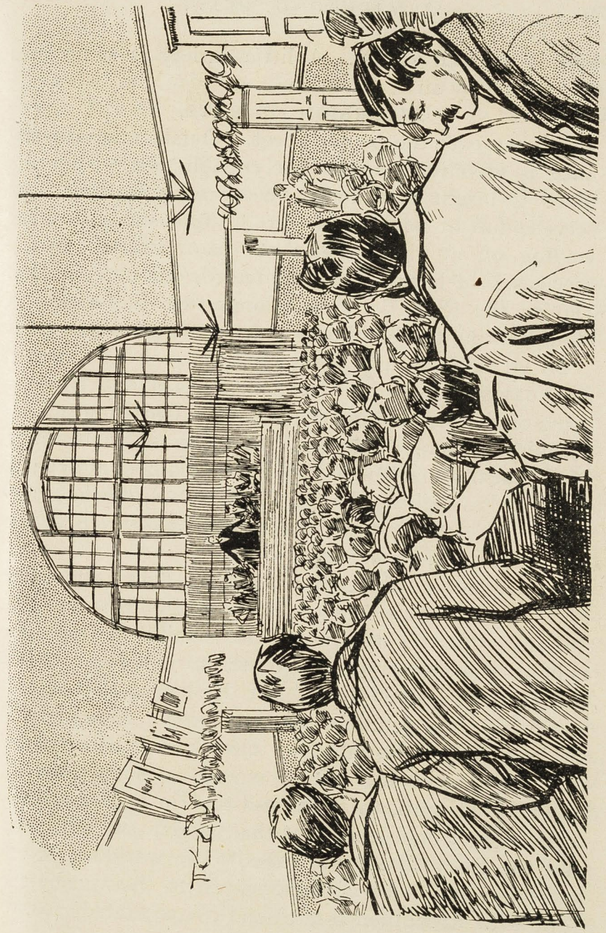
CHAPTER X.

THE TELESCOPE.

Bermondsey Ragged School—Rats—A Genial Atmosphere—Changing Population—Many Inquirers—"Snowy Tuesday"—A Fearful Threat—"Do the Converts Stand?"—Holiness Meetings—Gospel Temperance—All-nights of Prayer—Original Announcements—Shipwreck Service.

FREQUENT reference has been made to the Mission Hall, which is the headquarters of Mr. Davis's work.

The proper name of this building is the "Bermondsey Ragged School." It is situate in Gedling Street, a turning off Abbey Street, Bermondsey, S.E. It is a railway arch lined with corrugated iron, running under the South-Eastern, and London and Brighton railways. The dimensions are one hundred and twenty feet by twenty, the length being so disproportionate to the width that our friend christened it "The Telescope." It is seated for four hundred and fifty worshippers, and on Sunday nights from two hundred to two hundred and fifty are in attendance. On special occasions the



THE TELESCOPE

hall is generally filled. A little variety is sometimes introduced by an

INCURSION OF RATS,

which run over the people's feet. Outside the appearance is gloomy and repellent enough, but within the place is bright with light, cheery with pictures, and services full of power and "go." Two smaller arches leading off at right angles are also utilized. Some services held here are not under the direction of Mr. Davis; the Ragged School Committee, as tenants in chief, renting the building for their own purposes.

So far back as fifty years ago, this arch was opened as a day-school, and since then it has been visited by some of the most eminent and saintly Christian philanthropists, among them the late Earl of Shaftesbury, Miss Nugent, and Judge Payne, while a host of devoted workers have given their time, talents, influence, and money to the effort of blessing and saving their less fortunate brothers and sisters.

A stranger entering the Telescope finds himself at once in an atmosphere of liberty and Christian love. Whatever his mental, moral, or social condition, here is help. The weary are rested; the troubled comforted; the tempest-tossed piloted into harbour; the outcast succoured; the penitent led to the cross. If some who sit in their ornate suburban churches, half-persuaded that the Gospel is a failure, would, on some Sabbath night, take a walk to town, and turn in at these lowly doors, they would learn that the Saviour can still save, and the Holy Ghost still sanctify the world's cast-offs and failures, and they would return to their cushioned pews with strengthened faith and reinvigorated zeal.

The present workers feel that they have in some measure entered into the labour of others, and reap what they sowed. Yet it must be borne in mind that this class of

POPULATION IS VERY MIGRATORY;

that every few weeks new tenants occupy the rooms, and new faces appear in the streets; and that with them the work must begin anew.

It is the rule rather than the exception in the services, that souls should publicly seek salvation, and some of the gatherings are quite remarkable for blessing and power.

One night George Williams, Esq.—now Sir George Williams—was present, and when the invitation was given for those who were anxious to obtain salvation to stand up, forty-five responded. These were quickly got upon their knees, praying to God for mercy, and earnestly seeking the forgiveness of their sins.

Another time, when Lady Rawlinson led the meeting, ten wept their way to the cross.

At every meeting anxious souls are urged to decide at once for Christ, and invited out to the penitent's form. If a female, one of the mission sisters kneels beside her, pressing home the truth of God in relation to sin, and when the time is ripe guides the seeker to the Divine promises. The Bible is used, and the inquirer is asked to read the precious words with her own eyes. In like manner the men are taken in hand by the brothers.

The mission workers are fully satisfied that no intellectual ability or cleverness can convince a sinner of his sins, but the Holy Ghost alone. One night a big

meeting was held on what has since been known as the "snowy Tuesday," when, owing to a heavy fall of snow, every expected speaker failed. The service was taken by the missionary and his local helpers. Soon the Holy Ghost fell on the company; two women began to cry for pardon, followed by a man. A general break-down ensued, and before the finish eight persons had sought the Saviour.

Many among the converts know what it is to be persecuted, buffeted, and maltreated for righteousness' sake. A woman who had found Jesus grew intensely anxious about the salvation of her reprobate husband. He was a drunkard, had

OFTEN OCCUPIED A PRISON CELL,

and now he threatened his godly wife that if she persisted in going to that —— old school he would do for her. But despite threats and violence she continued to attend. One Sunday night matters reached a climax. The wife came crying to the missionary, saying, "He's going on dreadful. He is coming to the meeting to-night to drag me out. Do have special prayer for him!" During the after-meeting, while the wife was praying aloud, the husband entered the hall, quiet and meek. She was not aware of his presence. Mr. Davis moved in the man's direction, and as he walked by saw great drops of sweat standing upon his face, and noticed that he was trembling all over. The missionary put his arms around the poor fellow and said, "Yes! bad as you are, God loves you, and is waiting to save you." The Holy Ghost broke his stubborn heart; he began to pray, and in less than an hour he was changed from a drunkard to a sober man, and from a brutal to a kind

and affectionate husband, while as for the drink, he has never touched it since. This man subsequently rose in a meeting, and said, "My home was a hell below. My poor little children would creep under the bed out of my way until I had fallen asleep. Now they run towards me and climb on my knee like so many kittens. My home is changed from a hell to a heaven."

Seated on the platform that Bank Holiday was a gentleman who did not quite approve of the methods Mr. Davis had been led to adopt. So no sooner had this man finished speaking than the missionary said, "But, my dear brother, how do we know all you say is true? We don't live with you: is your wife here?" The wife sprang to her feet, her face beaming with joy, and said, "Yes, sir, it is true. This man to-day is an

ANGEL OF MERCY,

and my home is a little heaven below." Turning to his friend, the missionary asked, "Sir! is it a good work?" He answered with emotion, "Yes, God bless you, go on!"

This converted man works at the waterside, and his influence there is most wholesome. When he comes upon the scene the labourers say, "Here comes M——, don't swear."

In the diary we often get a glimpse of the work at the Telescope.

Wednesday, April 19th, 1882.—"I held my meeting in the Ragged School to-night. I have been in the school to-day, wrestling with God that He would come to-night and do something in the hearts of the people; and bless His holy name! He came into our midst and blessed every waiting soul. Two dear ones were

seeking Jesus, . . . and I believe they were saved. Glory to His name!"

Sunday, August 9th, 1885.—"What a blessed time to-night; the place was filled with power. The right sort of people came in with us; we had the Holy Ghost with us, and at the end of our meeting, when I invited all those that wanted to consecrate themselves to God, or to be saved, to come out to the penitent form, Hallelujah! twenty-one dear ones came out, and there was great rejoicing, both in our meeting and with the angels in heaven!"

In one year between fifty and sixty persons confessed Christ. "Do they all stand firm?" "No, but the majority do, and live consistent Christian lives." Is it any wonder that many of them fall again and again? Husbands with ungodly, drunken, slatternly wives; and wives with cruel, besotted husbands. But if they stumble the missionary or his helpers are soon after them.

To one of the services a worker employed in a factory brought an ungodly mate. The man was inclined to argue, but Mr. Davis said,

"WE CAN'T ARGUE HERE.

If you want to be saved fall down at this penitent form, and we will pray for you." He did so, and God saved him. A wild, worldly young woman was also led to the hall and converted there. The man just spoken of fell in love with her, and on the following Christmas Day they were happily married. Both are now out-and-out Christians.

GOSPEL TEMPERANCE

is well to the front at the Telescope. For fourteen years without a break meetings have been held every

Monday night. In one year two hundred and forty persons signed the pledge, some of these not only giving up drink, but yielding their hearts to Christ. The workers aim at this, for they well know that Christ alone can effectually save the drunkard.

We have already referred to the monthly

HOLINESS MEETINGS

held in the hall. Mr. Davis believes that the life and spirit which permeates all the other work, emanates from the meetings held for the promotion of holiness. Sixteen years ago, when a minister warned him off the doctrine as being dangerous, Mr. Davis stood alone; now help is forthcoming from all quarters. The platform has been occupied by the Rev. W. Darlow Sarjeant, Rev. Robert Dawson, Reader Harris, Esq., Q.C., and many local ministers, clergymen, and missionaries.

ALL-NIGHTS OF PRAYER

have been held with most beneficial results. Saturday night at 10.30 is the time generally chosen, and the meeting continues until five o'clock on Sunday morning. Quietness and freedom from interruption is secured as far as is possible. Those assembling are urgently besought to be of one heart and one mind; all who are not in accord with the purpose of the service are plainly informed that their presence would be unwelcome.

"NO SPIES WANTED!"

was the terse intimation on one placard. About one hundred persons usually gather, and the blessing has been in proportion to the faith of the supplicants.

About two o'clock in the morning, at one of these

conferences, men and women alike were flooded with glory. Great waves of power came rolling over the company until the place was plunged into a holy confusion, some praying, some singing, some shouting "Glory! Glory!" But despite the tumult, the presence of God was so manifest that it was as heaven to the soul of every worshipper.

Mr. Davis has his own method of advertising. Every poster and handbill he issues is stamped with his own personality. They are original, striking, unconventional, but never vulgar. His first aim is to arrest attention, and to secure this his posters are embellished with striking pictures. Here is a quotation from a bill:

"*Sunday evening*, 7.30.—A meeting for saints and sinners. Come and get saved, and help us lead others to Jesus.

"*Tuesday*.—The first Tuesday in each month at 6.45. Tickets, tea, 4d. each. This meeting is for adults only, for believers, and any poor convicted sinner seeking Christ. Come and be weighed in the balances, and see if you are found wanting (Dan. v. 27). Come and be measured by the Gospel (Matt. xvi. 24). The proper height is Rom. viii. 9, 10. Do you really believe Eph. iii. 20? If you do, 1 Thess. v. 23 shall take place in you, and the result shall be perfect peace (Isa. xxvi. 3)."

No sermons are preached in the Telescope, but simple, earnest, practical expositions of Scripture are given, a running comment, with continuous and

VERY PERSONAL APPLICATION.

Much use is made of testimony, opportunity being constantly given for men and women who have been themselves blessed by the Gospel to tell in their own tongue the "wonderful works of God."

Once a year, near the anniversary of his deliverance, a great "Shipwreck Service" is held, when the missionary retells his story of rescue on the Potomac River, from the *débris* of the shattered steamer, and the icy waters of death. The service is always largely attended, the Star Music Hall, or the Drill Hall just by being engaged for the occasion. In connection with this service alone scores have been awakened and saved.

CHAPTER XI.

ON THE STREETS.

Possible Saints—The Fish Seller—Devil's Scars—Street Scenes—Bank Holidays—Conquered by a Kiss—Magistrate's Mercy—A Donation—"Man the Lifeboat"—Park Services—A Razor under her Pillow—The Cripple's Collection—Landlord's Conversion—Locked in—Cutting the Rope.

THE street ministry of Mr. Davis may be classed under two heads, conversational and organized. Every sinner he sees on the highways and byways of his district, he regards as a possible saint; and whenever practicable, that person is appealed to, either by the missionary alone, or through his mission workers.

On his rounds one day the missionary offered a tract to a man selling fish in the street, and asked him if he was loving and serving the Lord. "No," he said, "but I do feel a most wretched and unhappy man. Something seems to tell me that I ought to pray to God, and I don't know what to do." Mr. Davis replied, "My Jesus is now knocking at your heart, and He is waiting to come in and give you joy and peace." A

short time afterwards the man was soundly converted to God in the Mission Hall.

Strong opinions are held by Mr. Davis as to the appalling peril of the unsaved. He believes that the godless masses are "tramping down to a burning hell." The personality of Satan is not to him a doubtful theory, or a curious myth. A gentleman said to him, "I heard you saying that the devil would have us if we didn't get saved, as you call it. Have you ever seen him, sir?" "No, sir! I have not; but I was his slave for thirty-five long years, and I am full of old

SCARS FROM HIS LASH.

Don't you think the poor slaves away down South knew they had a slave master. My dear sir, I knew. It is not merely what I have read, but what I have tasted and felt. From the time I was stopped by the Holy Ghost twenty-three years ago, I have believed in a real, personal devil; a real, awful hell; a sweet, blessed Saviour, and a glorious home called heaven, somewhere in my Father's universe, with the blessed privilege of a little heaven inside all along the way there."

The moral condition of these streets is enough to make an angel weep; and yet, such is the hardening force of custom and familiarity, that scores of Christians pass along them daily without a sigh, a tear, or even a passing thrill of pained feeling. Public-house doors swing incessantly to and fro, giving glimpses of crowded interiors; persons of both sexes and of all ages in various stages of intoxication are drinking death and degradation at the bars. Sickening odours blow across the pavement into the faces of passers-by; and scraps of lewd, filthy talk mingled with oaths assail their ears.

Gangs of lads and lasses troop up and down singing vulgar songs, bandying coarse jests, stopping at intervals to dance a breakdown on the pavement.

On Bank Holidays—especially if these are cold and wet, so that the poorer people, unable to get out of town, are driven to spend the day in the saloons—drink, rowdyism, recklessness, and obscenity run riot. These are always great days with the Mission, and many of the most glorious victories are then won. The rescuers sally forth to play, speak, sing, and invite; and they have returned to their headquarters with a dozen drunken men and women hanging on their arms. Inside the Hall these poor creatures often lie on the floor and vomit; but their hosts

THROW SAWDUST OVER THEM

and the floor, give them soda-water to drink, patiently nurse them back to a sobered state, cleanse, and then woo and win them for Christ. Some of the grandest trophies of redeeming grace have been gained among these, and to-day they sit at the feet of Jesus, clothed, washed, and in their right minds.

While a street service was being held one day, a man who had just left the music hall near by asked, "Well, have you got all the people converted in your district yet?" Mr. Davis answered, "I have not, but praise God I have got some, and we are on your track, and it will not be long before we have you."

A number of men used to sally out of the "Windsor Castle," West Street, on Sunday evenings, and upset the meetings. The ringleader was a big, burly fellow, six feet high. One Sunday they seemed worse than ever. Mr. Davis thought, "We shall have to get rid

of that big fellow somehow or other. At length he made up to the man and said, "Guv'nor, do you know what I shall do to you?" He squared up in fighting attitude. "Oh no! I can't fight to-day, but I can pray for you." "What will you do?" said the man. "Bless the Lord!" replied the missionary, "I will kiss you," and, suiting the action to the word, threw both arms around the big fellow's neck and kissed him! The man dropped down in the street, and it seemed as though the devil had been entirely taken out of him. The party all walked away, but later the ringleader signed the pledge, and joined the Temperance Society at the Hall. Having kept the pledge for a time, he broke out again, went on the drink, and got into trouble for

DISCHARGING A REVOLVER IN THE STREET,

and for being drunk and disorderly. They locked him up, and Mr. Davis went to hear the case tried. Just as the magistrate was about to pass sentence the missionary stood up and said, "Your worship, I know the prisoner. He has been a bad fellow. We got hold of him and he gave up the drink and was kind to his poor invalid mother. Deal mercifully with him and we shall get him again, sir." The magistrate consulted with his clerk, and then addressing the prisoner, said, "I shall let you off this time." Mr. Davis took hold of the man's hand to lead him away, and there, in the police court, he broke down and sobbed like a child.

The kiss in the street had still another sequel. On that Sunday night a lady, who was an entire stranger to all, came to the meeting at the Telescope, and

handed up to the leader an envelope containing ten shillings and the following letter :—

"Dear Sir,

"I saw you kiss a poor drunken man this afternoon in the street. I send you ten shillings for your good work."

The letter was unsigned, bore no address, and contained no clue to the writer's identity.

For a long time open-air work was carried on in the usual fashion. A stand was made, hymns sung, testimonies and addresses given—as many as two hundred such meetings being held in a single year. But about ten years ago, as our friend stood one night in one of the main thoroughfares, watching men and women, boys and girls stream along in crowds, a fire-engine came tearing by. The people at once joined in pursuit, hoping to see the spectacle of the fire. Mr. Davis burst into tears, and, standing there in the street, lifted his heart to God with the earnest prayer that he might be shown some means of reaching these masses. He said to himself, "Nobody finds fault with the wildest enthusiasm at a fire, or at the rescue of a shipwrecked crew." He saw in his imagination the rush for the lifeboat, the crew cleaving their way through the crowd, eager to risk life and limb in their dangerous work,

WHILE WIVES AND CHILDREN WEPT AND PRAYED.

He thought how often in less than an hour from the launch, wives had been made widows and children fatherless. Or, their noble mission crowned with success,

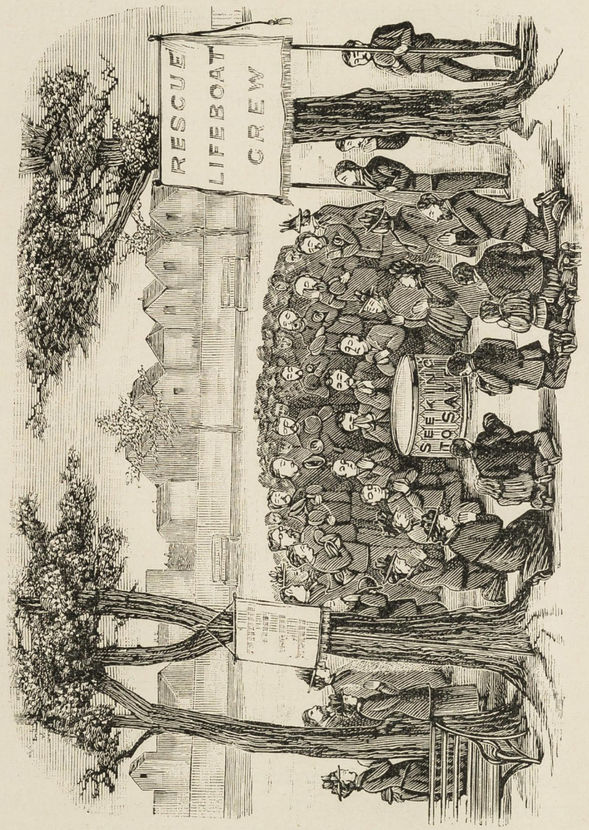
the returning boat hove in sight, bringing the battered, frozen, half-dead, but rescued crew; and he heard in fancy the wild cheers of the exultant spectators. Then he prayed, "Oh! my God, help me to man the spiritual lifeboat, and seek to rescue the moral wrecks all round me."

The idea thus originated took shape, and resulted in the formation of the

BERMONDSEY RAGGED SCHOOL RESCUE LIFEBOAT CREW.

Really there are four crews, with thirty members in each—one hundred and twenty in all—those above this number being auxiliaries. Each crew has its own coxswain and secretary, and Mr. Davis is captain of the whole. Each member must be converted, a total abstainer, and a non-smoker. They must be prepared to speak for Christ, or pray, anywhere, indoors or out, and responsive to order and discipline. Wonderful blessing has followed this work, the Lord setting upon it the clear seal of His approval.

By permission of the London County Council great meetings were organized in Southwark Park. The band played, hundreds assembled, and Christ was preached. Strong men, women, and even children, stepped out of the crowd and knelt at the drum-head in token of submission to Christ and desire for His salvation. Often on Sundays the four crews hold as many open-air meetings at the same time, then mass together at an appointed place, and march to the Hall. Many of the right sort of hearers drift in with the crews. One man who came in like this was a fighting man, and quite well known as a regular old jail-bird; he



OPEN-AIR SERVICE IN SOUTHWARK PARK.

got blessedly saved, and on dying left behind a most encouraging testimony. Probably there is no department of his varied operations in which Mr. Davis takes such great delight as in the rescue work of the lifeboat crews. The rescue efforts have not been confined to Bermondsey. Invitations have been accepted to hold services in schools, chapels, and mission halls in various parts of London and suburbs. The streets are paraded with band and banners, out-door services held, invitations given, and then a lively air is played to the building, where solos are sung, experiences related, prayers offered, Scriptures commented upon, and so a bright and impressive service conducted, which generally results in conversions.

Mr. Davis says, "Open-air preaching has a kind of charm or fascination for me." His biggest battles have been fought, and grandest victories won in the "great open-air cathedral," as he calls it, and he has found this work of inestimable value, in kindling his own and his fellow-workers' courage and zeal.

One night, a Mrs. P——, now a bright worker in the Mission, was laid hold of in the street, drunk. A worker linked her arm in hers, put another helper on the other side, and marched her away to the Telescope, where she sobered down, was convicted of sin, and the unclean devils expelled. Prior to this, three times over she had sold up her husband's home; she had been in prison, and on the very day she was saved she had placed a razor under her pillow, intending to cut her husband's throat in the night. This is now in the missionary's museum, in company with bottles of rum, pipes, tobacco pouches, cigar-

holders, knives, razors—all articles with a history, humorous, pathetic, or tragic.

Each open-air stand has its own peculiarity. Southwark Park Road on Friday and Saturday nights is lined with costers' barrows, and multitudes of people move up and down for marketing and pleasure. Here the speakers have often seen the agitated faces, and the flowing tears, which told of hearts moved by the Word; and in quiet talks after, or during the services, many have been led to seek peace in accepting Jesus.

It was here that one night a man without legs, who got his bread by playing an organ, came up in his donkey barrow, and complained that the mission people were

STOPPING A POOR CRIPPLE FROM EARNING HIS LIVING.

Some in the company sympathised with him, a noisy, half-intoxicated fellow urging them on. Seeing how the tide was running, Mr. Davis jumped down from his stand, saying, "We will make a collection for the donkey-man." Then speaking to the noisy partisan, he said, "I love him threepence; how much do you love him?" But the noisy man would give nothing. Turning to the crowd Davis shouted, "You see he is all gas and no love!" He handed the cripple three shillings, the result of the collection, and said to him, "You will sit there and only play while we sing." So the tables were turned.

Another favourite station was outside the "Fleece" public-house. One night Mr. Davis heard that the landlord was ill. Next day he called, but was not admitted. Calling a second time, he was invited upstairs. He read three verses of Psalm li., knelt and

OPEN-AIR PREACHING IN BERMONDSEY.

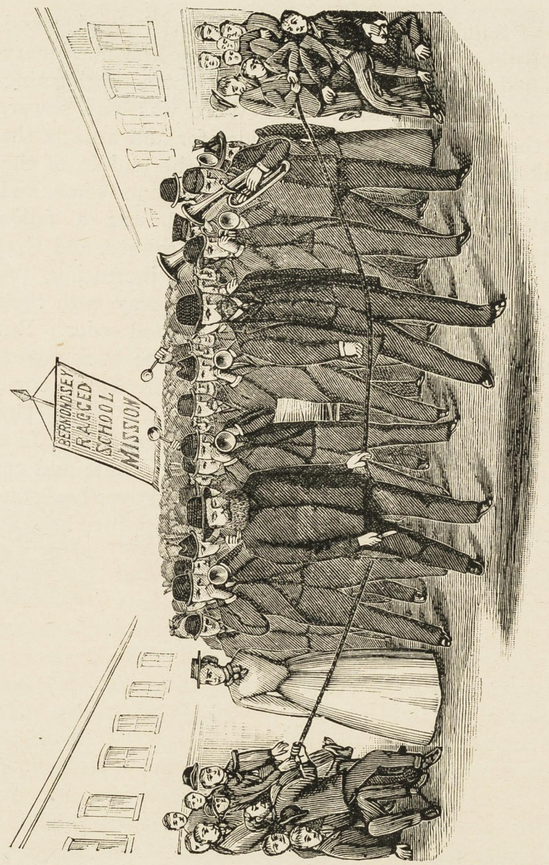
prayed, then wished the sick man "Good-day." "Come and see me again," he said. Three days after the missionary made another visit. After prayer the publican wept, and said, "Oh, Mr. Davis, what a difference in your life and mine! Your work is blessing people, mine is cursing them. What shall I do?" The missionary answered, "I will not tell you; the Holy Spirit has already told you what to do." The sick man continued, "I have got out of my bed since I have been ill, and looked through the blinds, and wished I was as happy as your good people."

After five weeks he was convalescent, and coming to the missionary, said, "You will be glad to hear it is settled. I am saved, and am going out of the business next week. May God bless you!"

In Bermondsey Street one night, a big brewer's drayman tried to upset the meeting, and

SANG A FOUL SONG

right into the missionary's face. He stopped speaking and they sang a hymn. While the singing proceeded, Mr. Davis looked kindly at the big fellow and said, "Yes, God bless you; you too may be washed in the blood of the Lamb." On this the drayman seized hold of the missionary, dragged him into his house just opposite, shut and locked the door. Then he called to his wife, "Sarah, come here and kneel down." They knelt. "Now, Mr. Davis, pray for my poor black soul." Prayer was offered. Soon the drayman began to cry to God for mercy, and in less than an hour he was changed from a foul-mouthed, devil-driven sinner into a child of God. Since then he has adorned the doctrine of the Saviour.



CUTTING THE ROPE.

One Sunday evening some hundreds of people stood and listened near Tower Bridge while the missionary and his comrades poured out upon them the burning message of God's love. The Word was with power, and the crowd began to take sides for and against the speakers. Placing the big drum in the middle of the ring, they invited seekers of salvation to come and kneel there. The first to respond was a fallen woman. She was followed by an ex-soldier, and God saved them both. The devil's rage increasing, the missioners thought it well to march away with their trophies, a feat they accomplished in good order. But as the company emerged from one of the back streets the "skeletons" rushed across it with a big rope, intending to tie up the whole band in a bundle. But the old blue-jacket had his weather eye open. In a moment he had whipped out his sharp knife and cut the rope, sending those who held it head over heels one upon the other, wondering what had happened!

CHAPTER XII.

MANIFOLD MINISTRY.

A Spiritual Quarryman—Cottage Services—Theology—A Newspaper Appreciation—Exeter Hall—Drawing-room Advocacy—Epsom Races—"Put out your Tongue"—"Boss, you're a Fool"—A "Good" Job—"Shilling an Hour"—The Prison Crop—Cain's Wife—A Filthy Book?—Sandwich and Bellman—Marks of Time and Toil—Anticipation and Farewell.

SOME work down in the quarry among the mire and slush, drilling and blasting the rock. Others cut the rough blocks, square and shape them. The mason places the prepared stones in their courses, and the walls rise into a noble building crowned with roof and spire. The completed structure owes as much to the rough quarryman as to the skilled mason, or the highly-trained architect. His work is done in summer heat and winter cold, and he is worthy of honour with those who accomplish their task in greater comfort.

Highly-gifted servants of God minister before intelligent and appreciative congregations, in churches, the appointments of which gratify every æsthetic and

refined taste, and in this delightful atmosphere lead heavenward their privileged hearers. Others minister in the slums, their pulpit a kerbstone, a broken chair, or a rough portable platform. Their church is a transmogrified stable, a disused factory, or a railway arch, over which the wheels of passing trains run clink-a-clink, rattle and roll incessantly, disturbing devotion, and almost drowning the speaker's voice. But here great battles are fought and notable victories won. Fiends of lust, dishonesty, drink, profanity and crime are exorcised. Present-day Magdalens, modern representatives of the penitent thief, moral lepers, have interviews with Christ, are regenerated by His Divine power, and started on their

RACE FOR THE CROWN BY WAY OF THE CROSS.

Honour to the men who exalt Jesus in the high places; high honour to those who take Him down into the awful slime where the human swine of our great cities wallow.

John Davis is one of these. Saved himself from the brink of perdition, and dowered with an infinite hope, he counts no man lost while he lives, and no woman past redemption until the seal of death is irrevocably stamped on the sin-disfigured face. Oh! for more men in our churches and missions with his burning zeal and holy love. "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few."

We are not aware that our missionary has ever formally chosen for himself the motto of the apostle, but he certainly acts upon it. He is "made all things to all men" that he "might by all means save some" (1 Cor. ix. 22), and, as we have seen, brings into play

a large amount of sanctified ingenuity, in order to accomplish the one supreme purpose. The strong brass band, with their neat uniforms and shoulder lamps, flags, mottoes, banners, transparencies; the illuminated model lifeboat, used for announcing the yearly "shipwreck" service, are not for mere display, but means to high ends.

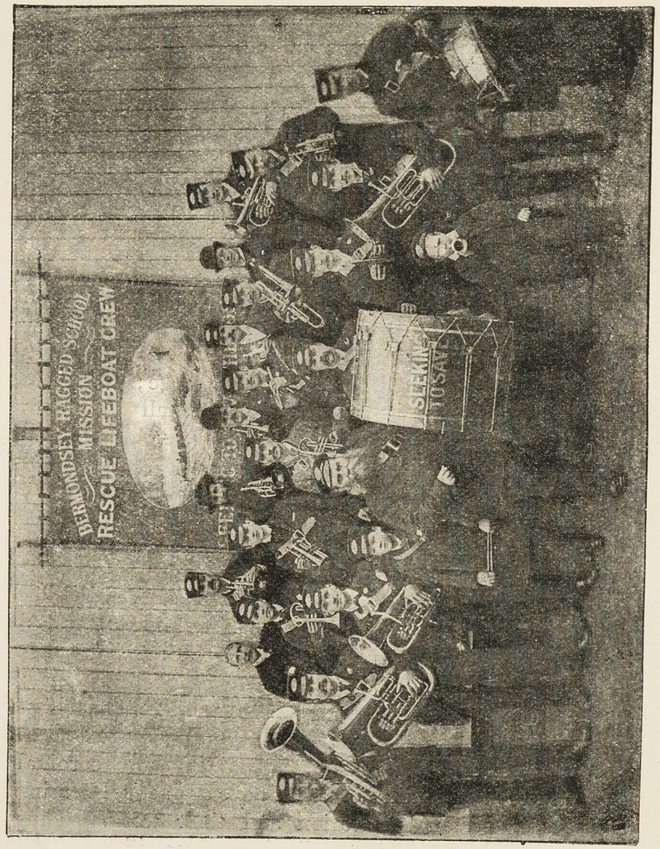
COTTAGE PRAYER MEETINGS AND BIBLE CLASSES

are held, which, while not exactly original, have the merit of being effective agencies for good. During the winter six months, on Sunday afternoons the mission members are divided up into four "crews," each crew having its appointed rendezvous. Thirteen cottages are placed at their disposal without charge; and there is a holy rivalry as to which crew shall draw into its meetings the greatest number of neighbours and strangers, and

GET THEM SAVED.

The coxswain and secretary have the oversight, but each member is expected to lead the meeting in turn. Brother city missionaries render valuable help. Mr. Davis superintends all, and his heart has been greatly cheered in passing from one house to another, to see his lifeboat men and women kneeling with anxious souls at the pierced feet of the dying Lord.

One crew gathers at the Mission Hall in the classroom, which becomes for the time being a theological college, where instruction is given in those cardinal doctrines of Christianity, which have a practical bearing on their personal salvation and their work. Thus universal depravity is taught from Rom. iii. 23, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" the



RESCUE LIFEBOAT BAND.

Incarnation of Christ from 1 John i. 14, "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us"; necessity for regeneration, John iii. 3; cleansing, 1 John i. 7; holiness essential, Heb. xii. 14; Christ the only Saviour, Acts iv. 12. Other themes treated are—"The immortality of the soul," "The general resurrection," "The Judgment," "Eternal heaven for the righteous," "Eternal hell for the wicked." Believing in the Bible, Mr. Davis seeks to make every member familiar with it, so that they may use it as a means of salvation to inquirers, as well as for their own strength and comfort.

Though essentially modest, a man of deep humility, never pushing to the front, or seeking honour, the genius, originality, and success of Mr. Davis have not been entirely overlooked, though we do not think they have met with the recognition they deserve.

In a copy of the *Southwark Recorder* issued in January, 1884, an influential writer, after describing his own efforts at the Telescope, says, "Now a labourer, more earnest, more devoted, and more unique in his methods has succeeded. . . . There can be no doubt in the mind of those who are acquainted with Mr. Davis, that he is in earnest, and his quaintness

SMACKS SOMEWHAT OF ROWLAND HILL,

or some of those peculiar Wesleyan preachers, who have written their names in the history of evangelistic efforts. His style is such that it is difficult to resist his simple yet earnest pleadings, unless the heart is resolved upon resistance. His address is always directed to the heart, and simple faith is inculcated as of primary importance, whilst intelligent confidence is not discarded.

One feature of Mr. Davis's services is the after prayer meeting. Simply, trustfully he pleads with the Unseen to lead the sinner to the Crucified One; earnestly, constantly he pleads with individuals, saying, 'Brother, sister, hold up your hands if you desire an interest in our prayers!' Entire consecration, holiness of life, singleness of service he ever seeks to impress upon Christians; the need of a complete change of sympathies and of conduct he ever enforces upon those who are not Christians. No middle position will he allow. 'You must be God's servants or the devil's,' is his undeviating judgment."

In May, 1894, the executive of the London City Mission invited Mr. Davis to take part in their great annual meeting in Exeter Hall, where he delivered a characteristic address full of good points, personal experiences, and reflections. He told how in shell service during the Civil War he received the instruction, "When you find your shell *telling*, keep hammering away at the same place," and that was the way in which he and his brother missionaries went to work. "Some years ago," he informed his amused audience, "I made an awful mistake,

I TRIED TO BE A PARSON."

Finding out his blunder, he said, "I have had enough of that; I will be just a natural man in a natural way; I will go and speak to the people in the most simple way I can, and talk to them in their own language." He was convinced that it was not only preaching and praying that tell upon people's hearts. They "read us, and they can tell just how far we love them, and how far our sympathies and pity go out to them. It is a

good thing to have a good head, but it is a better thing to have a good heart."

Drawing-room meetings are frequently held under the auspices of the London City Mission, in order to enlist sympathy, disseminate information, and collect funds. At these select gatherings Mr. Davis is a favourite speaker, and his advocacy has resulted in a considerable gain to the exchequer, the income in some places being nearly doubled. His quaintness, humour, raciness, originality, an inexhaustible fund of mission incident, interspersed with illustrations drawn from his own eventful life, all told in a free homely fashion, secure him interested attention, and open the purse-strings of his auditors. It is not every man who can secure the ear of a motley street crowd, rivet the attention of an Exeter Hall audience, profit a mission hall congregation for twenty years, and please a company of refined ladies and gentlemen gathered on a hot afternoon in a suburban drawing-room; but our friend is equally at home in all. Everywhere he is just himself, and the sincerity of the man, the evident transparency and reality of his life and character, cause the doors of hearts and homes to swing open readily for his reception.

What a marvel of mercy!

WHAT A MIRACLE OF GRACE!

What a triumph of Divine power and love! that this erstwhile drunken, gambling, vicious sailor should now be counted worthy by his Lord and his brethren to influence the Christian generosity, and stimulate the piety, of some of the noblest men and the fairest and

purest women in the circles of our English Christian life.

For many years Mr. Davis has been one of the company selected for the arduous post of preaching on Epsom Downs during the annual carnival of the Derby. Again and again he has stood on the racecourse, facing the grand stand, delivering his testimony in the ears of that indescribable mixture of nobility and rascality which congregates there and in the vicinity. The crowds have swarmed around them in "surging masses like the great tidal waves of the ocean, threatening to carry everything before it." But right in the midst, "like a granite rock," stands the London City Mission choir, and the Open-air Mission, "lifting up their voices above the awful Babel din, in holy song, prayer, and testimony."

With his brethren he has frequently stood opposite the "Spread Eagle," when tens of thousands have gone sweeping by. One "Derby" night when speaking there, he said, "Yes, the Lord Jesus Christ has washed my heart and my tongue." A man in the crowd shouted, "Put out your tongue." The speaker complied. "It's not clean," cried the man, and, with the crowd, began to sway to and fro to break up the service. The police came to the rescue, the inspector laying his hand on the leader to induce him to desist. "Hands off!" he cried angrily, "Do you know who I am? I am a Queen's Counsellor." A number of bookies tried to foment the disturbance, but the police being reinforced the meeting proceeded. Many brands have been "plucked from the fire" on these occasions.

Some of the remarks made to the missionary, and questions asked him are peculiar, and need both wit and

tact to parry them. One night, in the open air, a man bawled out,

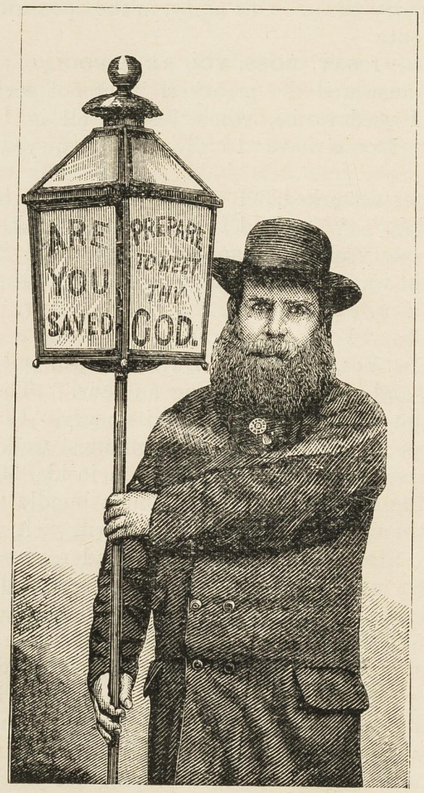
"I SAY, BOSS, YOU'RE A FOOL."

"Yes," answered the preacher, "but not such a big one as I used to be, when I spent all in 'Paddy's Goose.' Don't have to live on two-eyed steaks now!"

Another remarked, "I say, governor, you have got a good job." "Yes, and I'm trying to keep it. I had a good one years ago—got twelve hundred dollars a year—but was such a fool that I didn't keep that."

Four rowdies stand at the street corner. One of them asks, "I say, boss, can you give me a job like yours?" "Yes," answered Davis, "I will put you on at once, and give you a shilling an hour." The others egged him on. Continued the missionary, "Come with me to my Mission Room—five minutes' walk." The man consented. Having taken him inside, Mr. Davis locked the door. Then he got out a bundle of tracts and instructed his new ally—"You will visit one side of West Street, and I the other, and read and pray with every person you can." "All right," said he, and was starting off. But the missionary stopped him—"No! We always kneel and pray before we go out and visit." Both knelt down. Mr. Davis said, "Will you pray?" Silence for a few seconds; then he burst into tears, and said, "God have mercy on me. Oh! sir, pray for me. I was once a Christian young man, and I have a godly mother praying for me." That young man was entirely reclaimed. So wondrously does the Father work in bringing home His prodigals.

It was stated at the beginning of this story that



THE SALVATION LAMP.

Mr. Davis wears his hair very close-cut. One hearer observed this, and thought to turn the laugh against the preacher by calling attention to it, so he remarked, "I say, governor, you have just come out of prison," then to his pals,

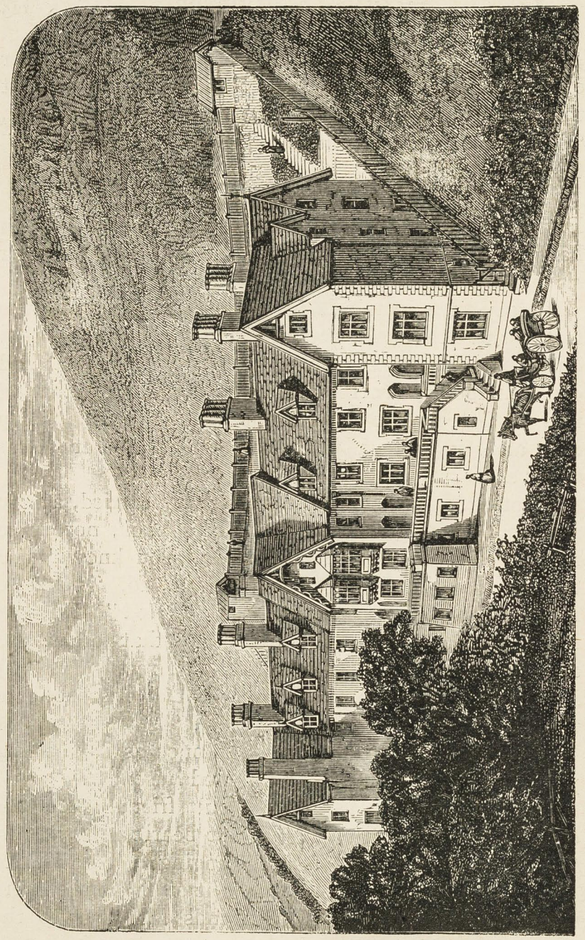
"LOOK AT HIS CLOSE CROP!"

But the missionary quietly responded, "No, boss, you have made a mistake. I have been out of prison ever since the Lord saved me twenty-one years ago."

"I say, can you tell us where Cain got his wife from?" was the stale question propounded by another onlooker. The missionary knew his man—a bad drunken fellow, cruel to his wife, and nearly starving her—so he came down upon him with the retort, "You look after your own poor wife, and let other men's wives alone."

Pointing to the Bible the missionary carried, a man said to him, "That book is a filthy book, not fit to read." "What part of it?" "Oh! you know," said the man. Mr. Davis read John iii. 16, "'God so loved the world,' &c. Is that it?" "No!" He read Matt. xi. 28, "'Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.' Is that it?" "No; there's plenty like that." Appealing to the audience the missionary asked, "Is it not a good book that has made me, who was once as bad as that poor fellow, a kind father and a good husband?"

No service comes amiss to our friend. He has carried a lamp around his district bearing the words, "Prepare to meet thy God," ringing a big bell to attract attention. Over the fanlight of his home, where they can be read by the thousands who pass to the



LONDON CITY MISSION: SEASIDE HOME, VENTNOR, I.W.

local station, he exhibits framed texts of striking Scriptures, changing them from time to time.

During all his years of work Mr. Davis has kept on excellent terms with the police; constables, serjeants, and inspectors being interested in his many and varied ministries, and prepared to stand by him on the rare occasions when he has required their help.

And now our task is done. Usually a life-story ends with closing scenes, and

PARTING MESSAGES FROM THE DEATH-CHAMBER,

but, happily, John Davis is still with us, in labours abundant, in zeal undiminished, in love unfailing, and in spiritual fervour as intense as ever. We observe, however, with regret, that persistent overwork is telling its tale. The black hair gets grayer, and certain physical symptoms are uttering warning voices. Twenty years of labour in close rooms, on streets swept by the reek and stench inseparable from the dense population of the poor quarters of a great city, would tell upon any man, though he had lungs of brass and nerves of steel; and they have left their mark upon Mr. Davis. We trust that years of loving service lie before him yet, but, in the natural order of things, the time must eventually come when his presence must be withdrawn. We pray that if it be God's will it may be long in coming, for whenever the day arrives he will be a sorely missed man. He will be followed into a well-earned earthly rest by the prayers and blessings of thousands, whose lives have been made purer, sweeter, and happier by his ministry. And when he passes over into the land of the blessed, he will not only receive the "Well done" of his Master, but glad greetings from

hundreds who, but for him, would never have known salvation, never have received the Lord, and never have joined that great multitude who have "washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

BRADBURY, AGNEW, & CO. LD., PRINTERS, LONDON AND TONBRIDGE.

BERMONDSEY

RAGGED SCHOOL

AND MISSION.

52nd Annual Report,

1898.

READ AT A PUBLIC MEETING HELD IN THE SCHOOLROOM,

GEDLING STREET,

ABBEY STREET, BERMONDSEY,

On MONDAY, MAR. 20th, 1899.

LIST OF OFFICERS.

President.
Col. S. B. BEVINGTON, J.P.

Trustees.
Mr. G. MILNE. | Mr. G. F. MERRALLS.
Mr. A. BAYLES.

Honorary Members of Committee.
Messrs. MERRALLS, NEWSTEAD, LAWRENCE, J. NEWMAN, H. NEWMAN, F. GOOD, AND W. G. DANNELL.

Committee.

Mr. APPS.
,, BARNES.
,, DAVIS.
,, HARRIES.
,, LANDER.
,, OSBORNE.
Mr. OXFORD.
,, WHEELER.
,, ROBERTS.
Mrs. A. POMEROY.
,, DISTON.

Treasurer.
Col. S. B. BEVINGTON, J.P.

Hon. Gen. Secretary.
H. OXFORD, 77, Brailsford Road, Tulse Hill.

Superintendent—Sunday School.
Mr. A. C. ROBERTS, 374, Hanover Buildings, Tooley Street.

Hon. Secretary Sunday School.
Mr. J. HARRIES, 58, Abbey Street.

Superintendent—Mothers' Meeting.
Mrs. AMBROSE POMERY.

Hon. Secretary.
Miss J. PAVEY.

Missionary.
Mr. J. DAVIS, 14, Blue Anchor Lane.

Representatives to Bermondsey Auxiliary S. S. Union.
Mr. SAVILL & Mr. J. HARRIES.

Representatives to Southwark Band of Hope Union.
Mr. BARNES &. Mr. APPS.

Band of Hope.
Conductor : Mr. BARNES. *Secretary :* Mr. APPS.

Librarian.
Miss DAVEY.

Girls' Sewing Class.
Miss PULLING & Miss BAKER.

Collector.
Mrs. NORMAN SMITH, 136, Southwark Park Road.

Auditors.
Mr. C. ELLIOTT, Sen. & Miss PAVEY.

BERMONDSEY RAGGED SCHOOL AND MISSION.

CONSTITUTION AND RULES.

(Affiliated with Ragged School Union.)

I. That it be named the BERMONDSEY RAGGED SCHOOL AND MISSION.

2. That the General Committee be the Governing Body, comprised of three Trustees, one Treasurer, one General Secretary, four Members from the School, four Members from the Mission, and two from Mothers' Meeting. The ruling of the Committee always being paramount.

3. Committee Meetings be held alternate months, beginning with January, on third Wednesday in the month, at eight o'clock. Four Members form a quorum. Any two Members of Committee be empowered to ask the General Secretary to call a Special Meeting for business.

4. That all Members of Committee be nominated at Committee Meeting in January of each year, previous to the Annual Public Meeting to be held in March, at which meeting the names are to be read out for confirmation or otherwise.

5. Each department of work to nominate its own Leader and afterwards submit to General Committee for confirmation.

6. The accounts to be duly audited by two Auditors elected by the General Committee annually.

7. That all communications to the Ragged School Union be made through the General Secretary only.

8. That the property belonging to the Institution (see schedule in minute-book) is not to be disposed of without the consent of the Committee.

9. In case of fire, that the monies received under the Insurance Policies to be devoted to reinstating the fittings, furniture, &c.

10. The Constitution or Rules cannot be amended unless notice of motion be received by Secretary at the meeting previous to Annual Business Meeting held in January.

COL. S. B. BEVINGTON, J.P.

President and Treasurer.

THE FIFTY-SECOND

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Bermondsey Ragged School & Mission.

WE have to thank Almighty God for the great blessings He has bestowed upon our School during another year, and we also tender our hearty thanks to the kind friends who have so generously contributed towards the same, and helped us to go forward in the good work.

We have 300 names on our register and 20 Teachers, with an average attendance of 240 children and 16 Teachers. Our esteemed Superintendent, Mr. Dannell, through weak state of health brought on by overwork, has felt compelled to resign, and the Teachers and friends marked their sense of appreciation of his earnest services in the School by presenting him with a very beautiful telescope lamp.

We are happy to report that a previous and tried worker in the cause, Mr. A. C. Roberts, has kindly undertaken the Office in his stead, and the School work is full of life and blessing.

The various funds of the Sunday School have been amalgamated into one fund, called the "Sunday School Fund," which is responsible for all the work in connection with the Sunday School proper.

Summer Treat. Ashtead Woods was the place selected this year for our day's outing, and 235 children and 19 Teachers availed themselves of this opportunity. The weather was fine, the catering good, and the children had a perfectly happy day. After tea, races for prizes and various sports brought the day all too soon to a close. Before starting for home, each child received a bun, and on arrival at London Bridge the Band of the Mission met us and cheered us on our homeward march, after three cheers we all with hearts full of gratitude to the Giver of every good gift united in the grand old Doxology.

The little ones who were too young to go were provided with a treat in the schoolroom, on October 22nd, consisting of tea; after which, various games, concluding with a magic lantern.

Country Homes. Under the auspices of the Bermondsey Auxiliary Sunday School Union, ten of our scholars have enjoyed a fortnight at various Country Homes, the expenses being almost all paid by the Union.

Temperance Sunday was duly observed in November, when a Special Address was given, the lecturer striving to impress upon the minds of the children the importance of avoiding strong drink, for it brought ruin to the body and soul.

Flower Service. On Sunday, July 10th, a Flower Service was held for the first time, in which the Sunday School and Mission united; the railway arch looked bright and gay with the beautiful flowers for which we thank A. F. Hills, Esq.; Col. S. B. Bevington, J. P., and other friends for their excellent gifts, which after the services which were very much appreciated were given to the sick of the neighbourhood.

A Harvest Festival was held the last Sunday in September, and again we must thank our numerous friends for their kind gifts which took various shapes, from the small ragged boy who brought in one onion, to those who sent vegetables, fruits, bread and flour. The platform groaned with the weight of good things, and the Arch at the Evening Service was crowded, the various things were given to the sick and poor of the district.

Band of Hope is well maintained under the management of Messrs. Barnes and Apps.

Work among the Cripples. Our Hon. Local Superintendent, Mr. Harris, who has charge of this branch of the work under the Ragged School Union, has a list af 80 cripples in this district. Through the kindness of Mrs. Privot, 30 cripples were taken in brakes to Wimbledon Common on July 15th. On arrival, they were supplied with refreshments at Mrs. Privot's house, and those who could walk enjoyed themselves on the Common, they then sat down to a good and substantial tea in the garden which was tastefully decorated, they thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the kindness of their hostess.

The cripples of Bermondsey were invited to Bermondsey Ragged School, Gedling Street, to enjoy a tea and entertainment provided for them by the kindness of friends. There were about 60 present, who thoroughly enjoyed the good fare provided, and were subsequently entertained by a lantern exhibition. The slides were generously lent by Mr. Lee. The deformed little ones presented a spectacle which could not but provoke the tenderest sympathy with them in their sufferings as they limped or were carried or driven to the hall. Miss Coles, of the Ragged School Union,

gave a very pleasing address, whilst books and small articles of clothing were distributed amongst them, and sweets and oranges were also given them. Friends willing to assist in this work may communicate with Mr. Harries, 53, Abbey Street, the Hon. Superintendent of cripple work in the district, who will be glad to receive help in money or kind, as also Mr. A. C. Roberts, 374, Hanover Buildings, Tooley Street.

Ten of these poor children have been sent to the sea-side for a fortnight by the Ragged School Union, some needy cases being supplied with clothes to go in.

Through the friends of the "Quiver" 50 boxes containing a toy, card, and cake were sent to a like number of children.

Our cripples, likewise participated in Alderman Treloar's new year's gift, thus helping to brighten the lives of these too often neglected ones.

Free Breakfasts. Every Sunday morning during the winter months free breakfasts are provided for poor children, the average attendance being 150, who are eagerly waiting for the door to open, and much enjoy their breakfast of cocoa, bread and jam. We wish to thank the following generous donors who have enabled us to feed the hungry. Messrs. Southwell & Co., Barnes & Co., and Lipton, Ltd., for their gifts of Jam, etc. Also S. Barrow, Senr. Esq., for eight dozen mugs. On January, 4th, a dinner, consisting of roast beef, baked potatoes and plum pudding was given by the Editor and staff of "All Sorts" paper. 300 children sat down to dinner. The Editor and friends being here to wait on them, J. Kirk, Esq., Sec. R.S.U., and Mr. Dyer were also present; after dinner a capital entertainment was provided, Mr. Reeves the conjuror charmed the children, punch and judy's show amused them, and last but not least, moving photographs

completed the list, on leaving, each child received an orange, bag of sweets, and a book. We all thank the Editor and staff very much. February 5th, the Sunday School children had a tea for which we thank the staff of S. Barrow & Bro., and Messrs. Peek, Frean & Co., for their gifts of cake, 380 children sat down to tea, after which they were entertained by a conjuror and ventriloquist, and all spent a very happy evening.

Our Sunday Evening Services for the Children are very popular, we have an average attendance of 250, and frequently have to close the doors and shut some out. We thank the friends who so kindly give their services in singing and addresses, which help to make our meetings so bright.

Social Evenings. The Officers, Teachers and friends, have held a series of Social Meetings the last Friday in each month during the winter which have been much enjoyed, 40 to 50 being present at each meeting, we have had addresses from the following: Messrs. W. Olney, J. Kirk, J. Kitchin, J. Everitt, and J. Wood; after the address light refreshments were served, and a very enjoyable time spent, the meetings have been most helpful to the Teachers and will greatly advance the spiritual tone of the School.

35 of our children took part in the Crystal Palace Choir, which was a great success.

At our last Annual Meeting the friends and supporters of this School and Mission most generously presented the Hon. General Secretary, Mr. H. Oxford, with a testimonial, consisting of a very handsome Writing Cabinet as a token of their high christian esteem for the long service and steady perseverance as Honorary Secretary of Bermondsey Ragged School and Mission.

The "Arch" Band of Hope. In addition to the Quarterly Meetings we have had teas and lantern entertainments to assist in sustaining the interest of the Members.

50 took part in the Sunday School Choir Festival at the Crystal Palace. We have had free grants of cake from Messrs. Peek, Frean & Co. The average attendance is 60.

BALANCE SHEET.

Receipts.			
Mr. F. W. Lucas	0	5	0
Mr H. Bannehr	0	2	6
Mr. W. G. Dannell	0	2	6
Mr. J. Q. Barnes	0	2	6
Mr. C. Elliott	0	2	6
Mr. Wheeler ...	0	2	6
Mr. H. Oxford ...	0	2	6
	£1	0	0
Balance due to Treasurer ...	0	14	0
	£1	14	0

Expenditure.			
Due to Treasurer	£1	0	6
Annual Subscription to Southwark Band of Hope Union	0	5	0
Printing 500 Attendance Cards ...	0	5	6
Hire of Lantern Slides	0	1	6
Gong	0	1	6
	£1	14	0

Audited and found correct,

H. OXFORD.

RESCUE LIFEBOAT CREW MEETINGS.

Our esteemed fellow-worker, Mr. J. Davis writes:—21 years ago last December, I was given a Bible, a big bundle of tracts, and shown around my field of labour, the Neckinger district, in which district I have through His mercy continued until

this day, as an agent of that invaluable Society, viz., the London City Mission. The late Lord Shaftesbury who was our beloved President, made the statement just before his death, "If the London City Mission has not converted London into a city of *angels* it has prevented it from becoming a city of *devils*." We can truly say that there were some courts and alleys so devilish 20 years ago that we have stood and trembled and felt like Jonah, only there was no ship at hand that was bound to Tarsish. We have had the delightful pleasure since then of seeing scores of the most vile and filthy washed and cleansed in the precious Blood of Jesus. Many of them have crossed the flood and are now walking the streets of the New Jerusalem, but blessed be God, scores are still marching with us in the ranks of King Jesus, fighting against drunkenness, lust, gambling, and sin of every form. We have a noble band of men and women who are not great, but who are good, who are "saved to serve," who live to bless, whose joy and delight is in making others happy, and winning them for Jesus.

GOSPEL MEETINGS, Indoors.

Meetings are held Sundays, 7 till 8 a.m., 7.30 till 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 8 till 9.30.; Saturdays, 8 till 9, and truly some of the most beautiful sights I have ever beheld have been witnessed in our dear old Railway Arch, as we have seen men and women weeping their way to Calvary's Lamb; sometimes we have seen as many as six at the penitent rail at one time. It is not by power or by greatness, but He only, the Holy Ghost alone can convince or convert a soul to God, to Him alone be praise.

HOLINESS MEETINGS.

For this purpose the Son of God came, viz., to destroy the works of the devil and to make our hearts clean. We have seen month by month numbers of cold half-hearted christians surrendering themselves body, soul, and spirit to Him, whose right it is to reign *over us*.

OPEN AIR MEETINGS.

Our Open Air work has been vigorously carried on all through the year, our dear people take to Open Air work most willingly. We have held some 144 Meetings, including some very large Camp Meetings in the Park. We were able to hold our August Bank holiday Meetings and Picnic Tea in Southwark Park, some 230 taking Tea with us. Precious souls were saved at both Meetings.

BIBLE CLASSES and COTTAGE PRAYER MEETINGS.

Our dear Mission People have again given us the use of their best rooms without fee or reward Sunday after Sunday during the six winter months; here in these Cottage Prayer Meetings they have had the joy of leading souls to the Saviour.

GOSPEL TEMPERANCE.

We are still fighting the deadly foe of Intemperance by holding Temperance Meetings every Monday night, and in other ways. Every Member of our four crews are total abstainers from every form of strong drink, tobacco and snuff. Neither will we buy or sell, nor travel on the Lord's day; we neither ask nor give quarter to our enemy, but fight him to the death.

SELF-DENIAL.

Is as clearly taught in the Word of God as the new birth; it is not a new-fangled thing as some suppose; the great hindrance to the Church of Jesus Christ is SELFISHNESS. Selfishness multiplied in any form will always produce a devil. Love is of God; my dear fellow-workers and friends are proving the truth, viz.:—'tis more blessed to give than receive. We have been privileged to dry tears and cheer sad hearts, feed the hungry and hold out our hand to the helpless, with scraps of coal, bread, grocery, boots, odd garments, blankets, dispensary letters, convalescent homes, and salvation and light carried to the homes of the poor: we were able to assist 1,425 cases with your S.D. offerings.

May the blessing of widow and orphan rest upon you, is the prayer of

JOHN DAVIS, seeking the lost for Jesus.

Rescue Lifeboat Crew's Mission Account.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward	4	12	5
Members' Thank Offerings ...	26	8	9
Members for Teas	6	3	0
Payment for Badges, &c.	0	5	6
	£37	9	8

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
To National Life Boat Inst. ...	0	4	0
,, R. L. B. G. Brass Band	1	10	0
,, B.R.S. Children's Excursion ...	0	14	0
,, Gospel Temperance	0	10	0
,, Bank Holiday and Park Teas ...	9	17	6
,, Members' Annual Supper	3	3	9
,, Members' Annual Tea	2	19	5
,, B. R. S. General Fund	5	12	0
,, 2 New Hymn Books	0	5	1
,, Poor Box Fund	0	12	6
,, Lamp Oil, &c. ...	0	5	11
,, Postage, &c. ...	0	4	0
,, Printing Crew List, Bills, &c. ...	6	11	2
Balance in hand	5	0	4
	£37	9	8

Missionary's 21st Anniversary Tea Account.

(NECKINGER DISTRICT.)

	£	s.	d.
G. S. Knight, Esq.	£1	0	0
A. F. Hills, Esq. ...	1	0	0
W. R. Glaiser, Esq.	0	5	0
Col. S. B. Bevington	0	10	0
Mr. Jones (grocer)	0	10	0
S. Barrow, Jun., Esq. (Tickets purchased for men in yards)	2	0	0
Miss G. M. Keating	0	10	0
Sale of cheap Tickets	1	7	4
Collection at Meeting	1	2	7
	£8	4	11

	£	s.	d.
Cost of Tea ...	£4	14	7
Printing	1	4	6
Scrubbing School and Forms ...	0	6	6
New Crockery ...	0	8	11
New Table Cloths...	0	2	9
Man's help all day	0	4	0
Hire of Materials,	0	4	2
Bread, and other provisions given to 60 poor people on leaving	0	11	0
Washing 16 Cloths and Washing up	0	6	0
500 Hymn Sheets...	0	2	6
	£8	4	11

The above Accounts Audited and found correct.

(Signed) J. PAVEY,
C. ELLIOTT.

Mr. JOHN DAVIS, Missionary, sincerely thanks all the kind friends who have helped him to help the helpless :—C. ELLIOTT and H. NEWMAN, Esqs., for 50lbs. of Meat; C. SOUTHWELL, Esq., 59 Jars of Jam; E. PINK, Esq., 2 Jars of Jam; A. GUILLE, Esq., Rice, Tapioca, and Milk, for the sick, &c.; W. C. C., Esq., for 2 parcels of Clothing; MRS. FRANKS, for left-off Clothing for the poor.

MOTHERS' MEETING.

A. F. HILLS, ESQ., *President.*

Superintendent—MRS. AMBROSE POMEROY.
Secretary—MISS J. PAVEY.
Assistant Secretary—MISS E. GROOMBRIDGE.
Superintendent of Maternal—MRS. DISTON.
Sick Visitors—

MRS. DISTON. MISS GROOMBRIDGE.
MISS WHEELER. MRS. NEWMAN.
MRS. CHIVERTON. MRS. KEEBLE.
MRS. SHARP.

We have to deplore the very great loss this work has sustained by the almost sudden death of our beloved Superintendent, Mrs. Chester, on Monday, 30 January, last. On Thursday evening previous, she held her most successful Annual Public Meeting, from which she went home very unwell, and slowly relapsing into a state of coma never recovered, but passed peacefully away to her rest and reward.

We are thankful to be able to report that Mrs. Ambrose Pomeroy has kindly undertaken the superintendence.

Our numbers still keep up well, we have 390 on the books.

During the year goods have been supplied to the Mothers in return for weekly payments in calicoes, useful clothing, etc., to the amount of £101 3*s.* 3½*d.*

One hundred and twenty nine tons of coal have been supplied at a reduced rate.

Amount paid in our Boot Club is £28 9*s.* 6*d.* Our Provident Club amounted to £50 7*s.* 0*d.* The Blanket and Clothing Club has indeed proved a blessing in many homes. In June, we again visited Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Hills, our president and valued friends.

W. Olney, Esq., gave 12 of our poor families a Christmas Dinner.

Subscriptions.				Expenditure.			
A. F. Hills, Esq.	£10	0	0	Spent in Blankets	£11	4	2
R. W. Edwards, Esq.	5	0	0	Given in Clothing &c.	5	2	0
A. Pomeroy, L.C.C.	2	0	0	Aid to Maternity ...	4	0	8
H. Stone, Esq. ...	1	1	0	Expenses to Monkhams	1	10	0
J. Kitchin, Esq. ...	1	0	0	Stationery & Stamps	1	3	0
A. Lafone, Esq., M.P.	1	0	0	Printing	1	5	0
Col. Bevington, J.P.	1	0	0	Given in Grocery and Food	3	3	2
Mrs. Bunning ...	1	0	0	Help in Sickness ...	3	10	0
R. Gunston, Esq. ...	0	10	0	Caretaker	1	10	0
W. Olney, Esq. ...	0	10	0				
Messrs. Courage & Co.	0	10	0				
Mr. Newman ...	0	5	0				
Sale of Clothing and Blankets ...	8	12	0				
	£32	8	0		£32	8	0

Audited and found correct.

(Signed) J. PAVEY.
C. ELLIOTT.

GENERAL ACCOUNT.

THE BERMONDSEY RAGGED SCHOOL BALANCE SHEET for 1898.

RECEIPTS	£	s.	d.	DISBURSEMENTS.	£	s.	d.
To Amount collected at Annual Meeting, Mar. 28, 1898	20	0	0	By Balance due to Treasurer, March 5th, 1898 ...	19	5	1
,, Annual Subscriptions	5	10	0	,, Rent £3 5*s.*; less P. Tax, 2*s.* 2*d.*	3	2	10
,, Donations—				,, Gas	13	4	5
Grant from Ragged School Union	10	0	0	,, Insurance	0	18	3
Sunday offerings from adults, per, Mr. Wheeler	3	7	0	,, Doorkeeper	2	12	0
Rescue Lifeboat Crew, Self Denial Fund, per, Mr. Wheeler	3	10	0	,, Caretaker and Cleaning School	10	8	0
,, City Missionary, for use of Gas	2	12	0	,, Annual Reports and Printing	4	4	6
His Grace the Duke of Westminster	2	0	0	,, Subscription to Bermondsey Auxiliary Sunday School Union	0	7	6
R. W. Edwards, Esq.	2	2	0	,, Stamps and Wrappers	0	6	6
J. Newman, Esq.	0	10	0	,, Water Rate and Property Tax	0	5	2
W. Cockle, Esq.	0	14	0	,, Annual Teas	4	10	0
A City Friend	0	5	0	,, Materials for Girls' Sewing Class	1	0	0
Rev. G. Sadler, Rouel Road Chapel ...	0	5	6	,, Repairs and Gas Fittings	2	2	3
Grant from Sunday School Fund, per Mr. Harries	2	0	0	,, Library Books and Catalogues	2	6	6
Sale of Tickets for Annual Tea	3	3	4	,, Receipt Books and Note Paper	0	11	6
Contents of Collecting Box, London Bridge	0	4	7	,, Hymn Books	1	1	2
	£56	3	5	,, Extra Cleaning	0	16	5
	11	5	8	,, Sundry Expenses, Sawdust, &c.	0	7	0
* Balance due to Treasurer					£67	9	1
	£67	9	1				

* This deficit was fully met by the following kind Donations at the Annual Meeting, 20th March, 1899.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Mr. Darling	0	5	0	J. Kirk, Esq.	1	0	0
C. A. Gibson, Esq. ...	1	1	0	Sunday Night Offerings	2	0	0
A. C. Newstead, Esq.	2	2	0	C. Elliott, Esq. ...	1	0	0
Put into Plate... ...	1	5	8	J. Scott Walker, Esq.	1	1	0
Col. S. B. Bevington, J.P.	2	2	0		£12	6	8
A Pomeroy, Esq., L.C.C.	0	10	0				

Audited and found correct, March 18th, 1899.

(*Signed*) J. PAVEY.
C. ELLIOTT.
H. OXFORD, *Hon. Gen. Sec.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL ACCOUNT FOR 1898.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward from Children's Free Breakfasts Account	3	0	0
Do. do. Miss Sweeting's Box	0	4	2
Do. do. Summer Treat Account	3	11	4
Part Proceedings, Entertainment Rotherhithe Town Hall, per Mr. Pridmore ...	1	9	6
Donation, Mrs. Toller, Sidmouth	0	5	0
Readers of "The Christian," Morgan & Scott	0	17	6
Part Collection at Flower Services, per Mr. Wheeler	0	17	0
Sunday Afternoon Collections	1	11	8
Collected by Mrs. N. Smith and Miss Wells	6	14	6
Do. Teachers	26	18	8
Children's Pence	3	16	2
Cheque from Proprietor and Staff of "Allsorts Paper," per Mr. J. Kirk, for Dinner to 300 Children, 5th Jan., 1899	9	15	5
	£59	0	11

DISBURSEMENTS.

	£	s.	d.
By Children's Free Breakfasts	7	6	5
Do. New Year's Tea	3	12	7
Crippled Children's Tea	1	4	8
Summer Excursion and Treat to Young Children in Schoolroom	25	6	9
School Working Expenses, Motto Cards, Books, Registers, Cards, &c., Country Homes Fund	7	7	5
Christmas Dinner to 300 Children by Proprietor and Staff of "Allsorts Paper," per Mr. J. Kirk, Ragged School Union ...	9	15	5
	54	13	3
By Credit Balance	4	7	8
	£59	0	11

Audited and found correct.

(Signed) J. PAVEY.
C. ELLIOTT.

18*th March*, 1899.

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS, GENERAL ACCOUNT, FOR 1898.

	£	s.	d.
Messrs. Bevingtons & Sons	1	1	0
,, S. Barrow & Bro.	1	1	0
,, Peek, Frean & Co., Ltd.	1	1	0
,, Whitbard, Crisp & Co.	1	1	0
,, B. Young & Co.	0	2	6
,, E. K. & E.	0	2	6
C. W. Parker, Esq.	1	1	0
	£5	10	0

Collected at ANNUAL MEETING, 28th March, 1898.

	£	s.	d.
	£20	0	0

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR SCHOOL TREATS.

Collected by Mrs. NORMAN SMITH—

	£	s.	d.
Messrs—			
Peek, Frean & Co., Ltd.	£1	1	0
Bevingtons & Sons	0	10	0
Oastler Palmer & Co., Ltd. ...	0	2	6
S. B. & B. Ltd. ...	0	5	0
E. Austin & Co. ...	0	5	0
Whittard, Crisp & Co.	0	5	0
Fisher, King & Co.	0	5	0
Butcher, M., & Co.	0	5	0
Fildners, Ltd. ...	0	5	0
T. Addis & Son ...	0	5	0
Strong & Co. ...	0	2	6
Gardner & Beebe	0	2	6
Sowton Bros. ...	0	2	6
Bovill & Son ...	0	2	6
F. M. Hudson & Son	0	2	6
Messrs—			
F. S. & Co. ...	£0	2	6
Roberts, Adlard & Co.	0	2	6
Case, Thomas & Co.	0	2	6
B. Noakes & Co.	0	2	6
B. Young & Co.	0	3	0
Tann & Co. ...	0	2	6
G. Hammer & Co. ...	0	2	6
J. Kitchin, Esq. ...	0	5	0
A. Pomeroy, Esq., L.C.C. ...	0	2	6
A Friend	0	1	0
Butler's Wharf, Ltd.	1	0	0
Dunn Bros. ...	0	2	0
A. Burton	0	2	6
J. Lord	0	2	6
	£6	14	6

Collected by Teachers.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Collected by Mr. A. C. Roberts—						
Staff of Messrs. Barrow Bros.	3	0	0			
Mr. S. Taylor	0	5	0			
,, Garrett	0	3	0			
,, Kitchin	0	5	0			
,, Rushebrooke...	0	5	0			
Messrs. Noakes	0	5	0			
,, Courage	0	10	0			
,, W. Jeffrey & Co.	0	2	0			
W. C. W.	0	2	0			
Messrs. M. A. R. & Son	0	2	0			
C. N. C. and others	0	1	9			
A. C. T.	0	2	6			
T. H. R.	0	2	6			
T. T. T.	0	2	6			
H. R. B.	0	2	6			
G. C.	0	2	6			
T. D. G.	0	2	6			
H. B.	0	2	6			
H. Y.	0	2	6			
G. and T.	0	2	6			
Mr. W. Doggett	0	5	0			
Small amounts	0	4	0			
				6	12	3
Collected by Mr. Dannell—						
Mr. Dannell	1	5	0			
R. W. Edwards, Esq.	1	0	0			
S. Taylor	0	2	6			
A. E. Cambell	0	3	0			
Messrs. Jones & Higgins	0	5	0			
Miss E. Piggott	0	2	6			
A. Wilmot	0	2	0			
W. D. G.	0	2	6			
A. W. Shirley	0	5	0			
Small amounts	0	4	0			
Mr. Suttley	0	5	0			
E. H. O.	0	2	6			
H. C. O. Bonsor, Esq.	0	10	6			
R——ld	1	0	0			
				5	9	6
Collected by Mr. Creswell				0	3	1
,, Mr. Apps				0	8	3
Carried forward,				12	13	1

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward,				12	13	1
Collected by Mr. A. G. Roberts				0	6	6
,, Mr. J. Harries—						
Miss E. A. M.	0	2	0			
,, M. J. M.	0	2	0			
Mrs. Newton	0	2	0			
Mr. J. Harries	0	4	0			
				0	10	0
Collected by Mr. Wheatley				0	7	6
,, Mr. Lander—						
Messrs. West & Co.	0	10	0			
A Friend	0	5	0			
Mr. Pudney	0	5	0			
A. D.	0	2	6			
				1	2	6
Collected by Mrs. Apps				0	7	6
,, ,, Cheverton				0	8	0
,, Miss L. Sharp				0	3	6
,, ,, Sharp				0	4	1
,, ,, Baker—						
Miss Baker	0	2	6			
,, Miss C. Baker	0	2	6			
Small amounts	0	3	6			
				0	8	6
Collected by Miss Skeffington—						
Messrs. Nickerson Bros.	0	2	6			
,, Brooks & Co.	0	2	6			
Small amounts	0	4	0			
				0	9	0
Collected by Miss Harries				0	11	9
,, ,, Philips—						
Messrs Brooks	0	2	6			
R. O. F.	0	2	0			
Small amounts	0	9	6			
				0	14	0
Collected by Miss Lawrence				0	2	9
,, ,, R. West—						
Genuine	0	4	6			
R. W.	0	0	6			
				0	5	0
Carried forward,				18	13	8

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Brought forward,				18	13	8
Collected by Misses Davey and Savill ...				0	4	0
Miss Selkeld				0	1	6
,, Edwards				0	3	0
Mr. Apps				0	4	0
G. Greenwood, Esq.				0	5	0
J. Feaver, Esq.				0	2	6
G. G.				0	10	0
Messrs. Carbutt & Co.				1	1	0
Leopold de Rothschild, Esq.				1	0	0
Miss Leggett				0	2	0
Collected by Mr. Harries—						
R. W. Edwards, Esq.	2	2	0			
R. V. Barrow, Esq.	0	10	0			
W. Olney, Esq.	0	10	0			
A. Lafone, Esq., M.P.	0	10	0			
S. B. Bevington, Esq., J.P.	0	10	0			
				4	2	0
A Friend (Miss Webb)				0	10	0
				£26	18	8

MEETINGS, &c.

Sunday Afternoon School	3 p.m.
,, Evening ,, ...	6.30 p.m.
Band of Hope, Wednesday Evening ...	7.30 p.m.

SUNDAY:

Prayer Meeting	7 to 8 a.m.
Open-Air Meeting ...	3 to 4.15 p.m., & 7 to 7.30 p.m.
Indoor Service	7.30 to 9 p.m.

MONDAY:

Mothers' Meeting	2.30 to 4 p.m.
(Mrs. A. Pomeroy, *Superintendent.*)	
Open-Air Meeting	7.30 p.m.
Blue Ribbon Temperance Meeting	8 to 9.45 p.m.

FIRST TUESDAY in each Month:

Holiness Meeting	7.30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Band of Hope	7.30 p.m.

THURSDAY:

Prayer Meeting	8 to 9.30 p.m.

FRIDAY:

Girls' Sewing Class	8 p.m.

SATURDAY:

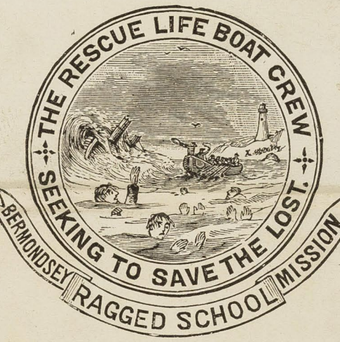
Open-Air Meeting	7.30 p.m.

Sunday School Superintendent:
Mr. A. C. ROBERTS, 374, Hanover Buildings, Tooley Street, S.E.

Missionary: Mr. J. DAVIS, 14, Blue Anchor Lane.

Member's Name .....

Date of Entry .....

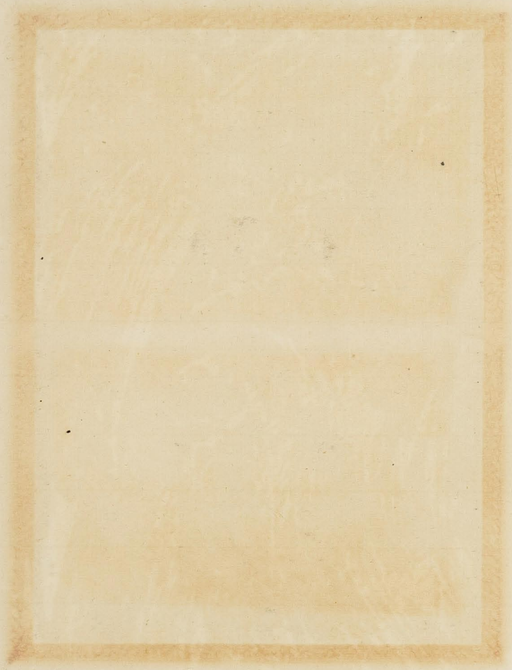


A Saved Band of Men and Women, formed into Four Lifeboat's Crews, abstaining from Strong Drink and Tobacco, Seeking to Rescue others.

"I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me."—*Isaiah vi., 8.*

Captain of the Crew,

JOHN DAVIS, Missioner.



B. R. S. M.
RESCUING LIFEBOAT CREW.
MEMBER.

Mrs I. McFarlane. L.C.M.
Cornbury Road Mission.

GA
Jan 17/1900

The District

St Katharine's parish.

33
6.19

69

Mrs I. McFarlane, L. City Mission Hall.
2 Cornbury Road, Rotherhithe. S.E. (St Helena's Gardens District)

When I called on Mrs McFarlane I found two others with him. On introduction they proved to be Mrs Wm Joyner of the ~~Arch~~ Ark Church, 88 Paradise St & Mrs Patterson, L.C.M. of Deptford Lower Road. As each represented a different ~~district~~ area, it was difficult to interview them effectively. Successively addressing each on the questions & noting the speakers I was able to get particulars which for convenience I arrange as separate interviews.

Mrs McFarlane is a sturdy, genial Kelt of 50 or thereabouts with close cut light hair and beard; keen eyes sparkling with humour and a twang that unmistakeably proclaims his nationality. He has only been here 6 months; coming from St Olaves where he spent 17 years.

The district is a triangular block of houses, wedged between the East London Railway and the S. E. Railway & Silwood St. and cut off to the north by Rotherhithe New Road.

The Mission Room

Workers

Services

In this area are about 830 houses and Mr M. has access to all. The people are entirely working class, two families to a house (6 or 7 rooms) being the rule except in Oldfield Road where the houses are larger. The poorest part now is Reculver Road. Formerly Silwood Street (Goodson Road) was worse but the S.E. Rly has taken the great part of the west side, which was the worst part.

The ground floor of the house has been converted into a hall holding 80 or 90 and another room is used for an infant class room.

Has 8 teachers but finds workers are difficult to get.

Sunday school (afternoon) with over 130 on the books. Gospel Service in the evening - get about 50. Also holds a Band of Hope (Wed); and a Bible class (Monday); & Mothers' meeting with over 50 women on the books.

The people come from the immediate neighbourhood; one notable exception being a family from Honor Oak but formerly resident here.

Visitation

Other Religious Agencies

St Katherine's

Rotherhithe Free Church

Christ Church

Visits the district regularly and is well received by the people. The proportion attending service on Sundays is small.

Here the conversation turned upon the various churches. St Katherine's is not so well attended as formerly. Mostly young people. [In walking over the district however I was surprised to see how many of the houses had bills of St K. exhibited in their parlour windows] People now go to Rotherhithe Free Church (Richardsons) All agreed that this was the place that drew the people They get the Hall full. Mrs Patterson has attended the Men's Own and knows that they get more than 1000. Several men from the Royal Victualling Yard attend. The Salvation Army is doing very little.

Of the Anglican Churches, Christ Church (Bardsley) is the most active. All agreed that he did get the people. Draws from outside his parish, Patterson saying that some from his district (Deptford) come. Has a mission in Paradise Street, where children's meetings are held. His people are always in the alert.

Charitable Relief

Drink

Thrift

Not much co-operation

Little relief is given in the district except by St Katherines. If he gives anything, it comes out of his own pocket.

Plenty of drink. A large pub. faces the Mission. He thinks the publican is strict but he cannot prevent all rows. Midnight quarrels are frequent and they are often disturbed at night. Many women are addicted to drink & he thinks the habit is increasing. He mentioned two cases recently in which doctor said deaths were due to drink.

No bad houses in the district. A few women are said to resort near the new Theatre.

Has a Penny Bank, which is well sustained. Does not think much is saved apart from the Benefit clubs & these are only used by the best people.

Not much co-operation. Free Church Council recently held a United Mission. Minister at Albion St is Sec. Church of England is deeply hostile to the Free Churches, whilst these are jealous of Richardson.

Rev Wm Joyner
The Ark, Paradise St

GLA
Jan 17/1900

33
3.10
88 Paradise Street.

77

Rev Wm Joyner. The Ark. Paradise Street.
Rotherhithe ~~Street~~ S.E.

Rev Joyner is a tall, thin, sharp featured elderly man. Almost bald; thin greyish hair & beard. Wears a ministerial collar & speaks in a slow deliberate manner with a pause before each sentence, as if thinking what he ought to say. Seems to have little energy or decision of character. Has known Rotherhithe for 36 years. Was connected with the Ark in its earliest days and returned to it 7 yrs ago.

Much drink and poverty in the neighbourhood of Paradise Street. The worst parts are Fulford, Rowley & the other streets to the north of Paradise Street. The block is condemned: has been condemned for years but now he believes it is really coming down & models are to be built. Three or four families live in a house: in one case he found 6 in a room. In Paradise St there is a very rough common lodging house.

Most of the men are labourers at the water side or in the docks. The women make sacks or work at the jam factories.

Services held

Charitable Relief

'The Ark' holds 200. Have no other room but want to build one on a piece of land they have adjoining the church.

Sunday services at 11 & 6.30. Small in the morning; about 100 at night.
Sunday School. with about 200 children & 20 teachers.
Parents meeting (Wed afternoon); Services (Thursday) and prayer meeting on Saturday.

Mrs J. does some visiting but I gathered that it was not much.
Church membership is 46.

Mrs J. gives a "good bit" of charitable relief but I could not get a definite statement as to amount - it is doubtless small and is given to ~~sick~~ and out of work cases.

Christchurch (Bandsley) gives relief but the R.C's do not. "They never do - ~~so~~ they get the money from the people

Mrs Joyner lives ~~at~~ in Paradise Street - is frequently disturbed by people fighting etc.

Especially

especially on Saturday and Sunday nights.

Thinks the prospects of work are good but spoke in a tone that showed he was very ~~Ds~~ dubious on the point.

Mr Patterson. L.C.M.
Deptford Lower Road

GHS
Jan 17/1900

Mr Patterson. L.C.M. 22 High Street Deptford.

Mr Patterson is a dark, sturdy, bullet headed man of about 30. Clear strong voice and very decided opinions of his own. He has had a district between Cross Street & Junction Road (just over the Deptford border) for 3 years. Here he has about 400 visitable houses & 1000 families and he covers the ground in about 9 weeks.

The people work in the Docks & Victualling Yard & the factories of Bermondsey & Rotherhithe. Most of the men earn 18/- to 29/- a week, and yet some own their house.

Visits factories on Thursdays but not the tinworks, nearly all the employees being young women. Brady's will not permit visitors in their works.

Practically not christian work in the district. Wesleyans have a church & an evangelist (Mr Redman). He has been there 12 months. People do not attend. Methodist New Connexion Chapel in Jane Street is a failure "About 7 people there and they are cutting each others throats. All try to be bosses".

Midway Place. The Brethren have a mission here. Sometimes give away quartern of bread when the place is full. Old women go from his district to get it and then sell the loaf for 4d. Very few at other times.

Mr Patterson should be seen when we get to Deptford

33

Report of interview with the Rev. T.N.Ritson, of the Bermondsey Settlement (Wesleyan) Circuit, at his residence 90 Lower Road, Rotherhithe. (E.A.) Jan.17.1900. 33 4.12

Mr. R. is a man of about 40, and xxxxxxxxxxxxx has only been here for something over a year. His superior in the Circuit is Mr. Scott Lidgett, of the Bermondsey Settlement. Mr. R. is a quiet, forcible kind of person, rather reserved in manner, but creating the impression that he possesses a solid reserve of character. In build he corresponds, and a bull neck xxxxx is only one feature in a physique that is throughout stalwart. He has a deep voice; wears a moustache; has hair that is getting gray and is closely cropped; and in manner is somewhat impatient.

The character of the people at xxxxxx and around the two chapels (see Plan) do not differ to any great extent, those round Silver St. being perhaps of a poorer class. The general character of the population may be described as artisan, tradespeople, clerks, dockers and other labourers. Of these they touch tradespeople, clerks, artisans, not many of the lower class of labourers.

Their STAFF consists of 2 ministers; 6 local preachers; 12 class-leaders; 24 Sunday School teachers; 2 nurses* and 4 ladies.

* Employed by the Settlement.

The two blocks of buildings include the customary chapel, school-rooms and vestries.

All Saints parish

Holy Trinity parish.

Southwark Park Chapel (holds 1000): Sunday morning average, 120; Sunday evening, 400. Afternoon P.S.A., 100; Members, 185, slightly increasing; Sunday School: Register 300; average, 200.

Silver St: (holds 240): Sunday morning:24; Sunday evening, 40; Members, 45; Sunday School, Register, 150; Average, 100.

Vavious Social Agencies: Slate Clubs; Mothers' Meetings; Boys' and Girls' Social Clubs; Wesley Guild; Band of Hope; Concerts etc. Various opportunities are put in reach of the people by the Bermondsey Settlement.

Regular pastoral visiting is done by Mr. Ritson. A few of the Chapel Members and Settlement workers do voluntary visiting.

The two Jubilee Nurses (engaged by the Settlement) do spendid work, on undenominational lines.

The Church Poor Fund amounts to from £15 to £20 a year; the Stfangers' Fund Society to something less. Most of the money appears to go to their own indigent folk, and to cases of sickness.

Almost every branch of the Christian Church is represented in the district: two or three Free Churches; and the Salvation Army, besides the Established Church. The Circuit itself holds cottage services and open-air meetings.

Ritson - Wesleyan (3)

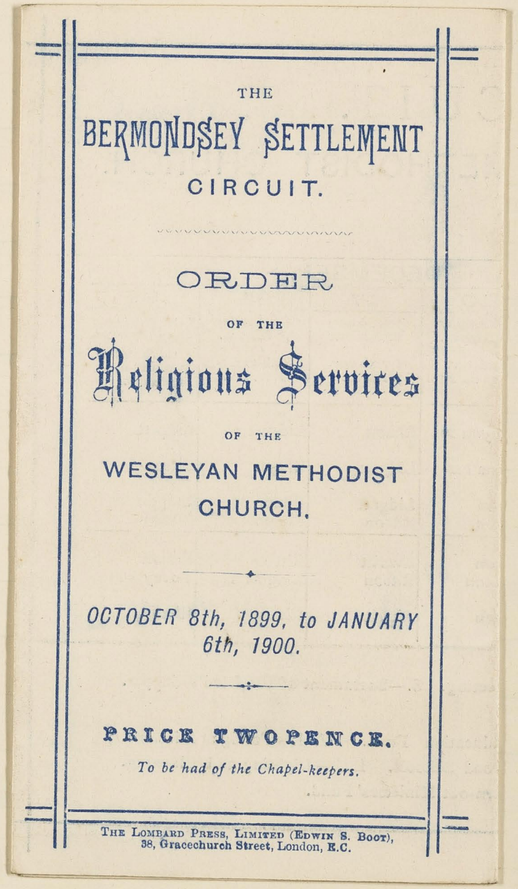
As regards co-operation, there is the local Free Church Council, of which Mr. Lidgett is the President. There is no "instituted cooperation with the Established Church and the relation may perhaps be described as ~~xxxxx~~ neutral."

He considers the district to be fairly free both from prostitution and crime. It is remarkably healthy, and in general the fact may be emphasised that the real character of Rotherhithe is far better than its reputation. On the other hand it is a difficult district to work in for them, the tendency of their people to move further out of London handicapping much of their effort. One explanation of this movement is the insufficient housing accommodation t that the n'hood offers, and the high rents that prevail.

The Bermondsey Settlement makes a splendid provision for the educational needs of the district, and also attempts much philanthropic work. But there is no very intimate connexion between the Chapels and the Settlement, in spite of the dual position held by Mr. Lidgett. Asked as whether the Settlement helped them much as a circuit, Mr. R. said that "speaking as a pastor" not as much as he should like. For the most part Religion is kept outside of the Settlement work, and if it were obtruded he t thought that a large proportion of the people who use the

Ritson - Wesleyan (4)

Settlement would leave it. There ap ears to be a certain incompatibility between denominational and settlent work. The Circuit therefore remains an ordinary one, carrying on ordinary congregational and circuit work.



THE

BERMONDSEY SETTLEMENT

CIRCUIT.

ORDER

OF THE

Religious Services

OF THE

WESLEYAN METHODIST

CHURCH.

OCTOBER 8th, 1899, to JANUARY 6th, 1900.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

To be had of the Chapel-keepers.

THE LOMBARD PRESS, LIMITED (EDWIN S. BOOT),
38, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.

Ritson - Wesleyan (4)

settlement would leave it. There appears to be a certain incompatibility between denominational and settlent work. The Circuit therefore remains an ordinary one, carrying on ordinary congregational and circuit work.

CIRCUIT OFFICERS.

Mr. W. GORRIE, Nelson Dock House, Rotherhithe, S.E.
Mr. J. W. THOMPSON, 15, Rebecca Terrace, S.E. } *Circuit Stewards*

Mr. J. W. THOMPSON, *Treasurer of W. O. Min. and M. W. Fund.*

Mr. WILLIAM TAYLOR, *Secretary of Quarterly Meeting.*

Mr. J. W. THOMPSON, *Chapel Secretary.*

Rev. T. N. RITSON, *Education Secretary.*

Mr. H. J. VEZEY, *Temperance Secretary.*

Mr. R. W. WALKER, *Treasurer for Foreign Missions*

Rev. T. N RITSON, *Secretary for Foreign Missions.*

Southwark Park.

Mr. C. W. JOHNSON,
Mr. L. YOUNG, } *Society Stewards.*

Mr. R. L. STUART,
Mr. MICHAEL DAVIES, } *Poor Stewards.*

Silber Street.

Mr. J. B. DANIEL.
Mr. J. DENCHFIELD, } *Society Stewards.*

Mr. W. GORRIE,
Mr. MARTIN, } *Poor Stewards.*

Circuit Representative to London Methodist Council:
Mr. R. W. WALKER.

THE

BERMONDSEY SETTLEMENT CIRCUIT.

ORDER

OF THE

Religious Services

OF THE

WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH.

OCTOBER 8th, 1899, to JANUARY 6th, 1900.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

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Settlement would leave it. There appears to be a certain incompatibility between denominational and settlement work. The Circuit therefore remains an ordinary one, carrying on ordinary congregational and circuit work.

SOCIETY CLASSES—RENEWAL OF TICKETS.

SOUTHWARK PARK.

LEADERS.	DAY.	DATE.	HOUR.	MINISTER.
Ritson, Miss	Monday ...	Dec.... 11th	3.0	R
Walker, Miss.....	„ ...	„ ... 11th	7.30	R
Minister.....	Tuesday ...	„ ... 12th	8.0	R
Huggins, Miss	„	„ ... 19th	8.0	L
Brown, Miss.....	Wednesday	„ ... 13th	3.30	R
Davies, Mr. M.....	Friday ...	„ ... 15th	8.0	R
Beach, Mr.....	Sunday ...	„ ... 17th	10.0	L
Lidgett, Rev. J. S.				L
Barrow, Mr. (Junior)				R
Houghton, Miss (Junior)				R

SILVER STREET.

Goodhew, Mrs.....	Thursday...	Dec.... 7th		R
Gorrie, Mr.	„	„ ... 14th		R
Crutcher, Mr.	„	„ ... 14th		R
Brown, Miss.....	„	„ ... 14th		R
Martin, Mr.	„	„ ... 14th		R
Brown, Miss (Junior).....	„	„ ... —		

Ritson - Wesleyan (4)

91

Settlement would leave it. There ap ears to be a certain incompatibility between denominational and settlent work. The Circuit therefore remains an ordinary one, carrying on ordinary congregational and circuit work.

BERMONDSEY SETTLEMENT CIRCUIT.

ORDER OF THE PUBLIC RELIGIOUS SERVICES OF THE WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH.

1899.

PLACES AND HOURS.	OCTOBER. 8	OCTOBER. 15	OCTOBER. 22	OCTOBER. 29	NOVEMBER. 5	NOVEMBER. 12	NOVEMBER. 19	NOVEMBER. 26	DECEMBER. 3	DECEMBER. 10	DECEMBER. 17	DECEMBER. 24	DECEMBER. 31
Collect	19th Sunday after Trinity.	20th Sunday after Trinity.	21st Sunday after Trinity.	22nd Sunday after Trinity.	23rd Sunday after Trinity.	24th Sunday after Trinity.	25th Sunday after Trinity.	26th Sunday after Trinity.	1st Sunday in Advent.	2nd Sunday in Advent.	3rd Sunday in Advent.	4th Sunday in Advent.	1st Sunday after Christmas.
Morning Lessons	Ezek. xiv. Phil. ii.	Ezek. xxxiv. Col. iii. 18 and iv.	Daniel iii. 2 Thess. ii.	Daniel vi. 1 Tim. vi.	Hosea xiv. Titus ii.	Amos iii. Heb. vi.	Micah. iv. & v. Heb. xi. 17.	Eccles. xi. & xii. James v.	Isaiah i. 1 Peter v.	Isaiah v. 1 John iii. 1-16.	Isaiah xxv. Rev. i.	Isaiah xxx. 1-27 Rev. xiv.	Isaiah xxxv. Rev. xxi. 15 to xx. 6.
SOUTHWARK PARK LOWER RD., ROTHERHITHE 11.0	Lidgett B	Lidgett S	Wenyon I	Lidgett	Lidgett B	Lidgett S	Ritson	Ritson K	Lidgett B	Wenyon FM	Ritson	Lidgett S	Lidgett
6.30	Ritson	Ritson	Ritson I	Ritson	Ritson S	Ritson L	Crutcher	Lidgett K	Ritson S	Ritson FM	Lidgett	Ritson	Ritson
Wednesday 7.30	Lidgett	Ritson	Lidgett	Ritson	Lidgett	Ritson	Lidgett	Burgess FM	Lidgett	Ritson	Lidgett	Ritson	Lidgett
Saturday, P.M. 8.0	Ritson	Ritson	Ritson	Ritson	Ritson	Ritson	Ritson	Ritson	Ritson	Ritson	Ritson	Ritson	Ritson
SILVER STREET ROTHERHITHE 10.45	Ritson HT	Ritson	Lidgett I	Ritson	Ritson	Ritson	Weston	Cook K	Ritson	Ritson	Everitt	Ritson	Ritson
6.30	Widdop RT	Crutcher	Hudson I	Weston	Williams	Jenkins	Ritson S	Ritson K	Crutcher	Weston	Ritson	Lidgett S	Tovey
Thursday 7.30	Ritson	Ritson	Ritson	Ritson	Ritson	Ritson	Ritson	Ritson	Ritson	Ritson	Ritson	Ritson	Ritson

REFERENCES.—B.—Sacrament of Baptism. C.S.—Covenant Service and Sacrament. L.—Lovefeast. L.M.—Leaders' Meeting. P.M.—Prayer Meeting. S.—Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. C.S.—Children's Sunday. T.—Temperance.

COLLECTIONS.—C.—Support of the Ministry. B.H.—Band of Hope. C.A.—Chapel Anniversary. C.F.—General Chapel Fund. E.—Education Fund. F.M.—Foreign Missions. H.—Hospital Fund. H.M.—Home Missions. H.T.—Harvest Thanksgiving. I.—Theological Institution. K.—Kingswood Schools. L.C.—Lighting and Cleaning. S.S.A.—Sunday School Anniverary. S.F.—Stranger's Friend Society. M.C.—Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund. W.—Worn-out Ministers' Fund.

Names and Residences of Ministers and Local Preachers.

J. SCOTT LIDGETT, M.A., Bermondsey Settlement, Farncombe Street, S.E.

T. NICHOLSON RITSON, 90, Lower Road, Rotherhithe, S.E.

WALFORD GREEN, Greenwich.

MARK GUY PEARSE, 11, Bedford Place, W.C.

CHARLES WENYON, M.D., 80, Erlanger Road, New Cross, S.E.

STUDENT, Richmond College.

T. CRUTCHER, 48, Derrick St., Rotherhithe, S.E.

J. WHITBURN, 142, Drummond Road, S.E.

J. H. JENKINS, B.A., Bermondsey Settlement.

P. M. WESTON, Bermondsey Settlement.

FROM OTHER CIRCUITS.

J. LELLIOTT, 14, Thorburn Square.

E. TOVEY, 132, Spa Road, S.E.

R. WIDDOP, 6, Delverton Road, Surrey Gardens, Walworth, S.E.

J. GRANT, 40, Ulverscroft Road, East Dulwich.

W. J. COOK, 30, Bermondsey New Road, S.E.

J. EVERITT, 25, Lynton Road, S.E.

H. TAYLOR, 28, Ommaney Road, New Cross, S.E.

G. STONE, 168, Hackney Road, N.

J. WILLIAMS, 121, Grove Street, Deptford, S.E.

St James' parish.

33 93

Report of an interview with Mr. W.Bustin, of the Percy Mission Hall. At 126 Jamaica Road. (E.A.) Jan.17.0 33 1-2

The London Street Mission, as the Reports are still headed, was started some 35 years ago by a Mr. Ryall, who with small means and in spite of a hard-working life, appears to have worked at ~~ikx~~ it till his strength gave way. Less than a year befoer his death, when he was getting really hard up, Mr. Bustin, at that time helping at the Mission, made it his business to go round to the subscribers and raise a fund for Mr. Ryall. He was successful, and for the remaining 40 weeks of the old man's life, he received a pound a week. When he died Mr. Bustin appears to have been the only man at the Mission of whom the subscribers had heard, besides Mr. Bustin, and he became the Secretary and Manager, at first, I believe, without any salary.

His own introduction to the Mission appears to, have been due to his future wife, Miss Ryall, whom he met at some concert at which she was singing and at which Mr. B. was playing the accompaniments. Conversion was a later stage in his career, (some 11 or 12 years ago) this not coming until some time after he attached himself to the Mission. He married, I believe, either a little before or soon after Mr. Ryall's death.

During all this time he had been working as a newspaper printer, on the Morning Post, and after taking over

the Mission found the night work at compositing rather trying when combined with his other duties. A few years ago, however, owing to a dispute with the foreman, he had to leave, and feeling that it was the hand of the Lord, he acquiesced in what he felt to be an unjust dismissal. Things speedily adjusted themselves, as the Committee of the Mission offered him £50 a year, and he obtained part time employment that just suited him in the office of a local newspaper. So far all was well, but about ~~xx~~ a year ago, the Mission had to leave a piece of ground on which a temporary building had been put up, in Dockhead, (See Case Report) and for which no rent was paid, as the propoerty changed hands and was sold for building purposes. The change to their present quarters, in Abbey St., meant a rent change, and at about the same time the local newspaper started a linotype, and no longer wanted his services. So he was beset with the double difficulty that the Mission could no longer pay him the £50, and he had no work.

What should they do? His wife sings, and used to do so professionally at secular concerts, but some two years ago had consecrated her ~~xxx~~ voice to religion, and since doing so has been in great demand, sometimes having daily engagements, for weeks together. So successful was she that they had seriously thought of starting as evangelists,

and have already conducted two or three missions, somewhat on the lines of Moody and Sankey, I suppose, the lady doing the singing. I think, however, that Mr. B. would make a very second-rate Moody. Whether this scheme of life would have answered or not, he could not say, but it certainly would not have fitted in with the it is in any case for the time being impracticable, as "My wife has told me that in a month or two she will have to give it up; I had hoped it would not have happened so but --" In other words, they are expecting their seventh child.

It is at this moment that our interview has come, and not only are there six young children to be thought of and another expected, but two of the family are at the moment down with measles. On p.5 of the Report a portrait is given of Mr. Bustin, a fairly good one, although just now he looks a little hipped, and the time is doubtless a crisis in his life.

The home appeared to be a fairly comfortable one, and there is no sign that finances are straitened at this time, but the future has to be thought of, and what is he to do for the best -- for himself, for his family, and for the Mission. He thinks that he could probably get taken on again at the Morning Post, but he is unwilling to go back, and at the moment is most seriously considering a proposal that the district should be taken over by

Bustin- Percy Hall (4)

the L.C.M., and that he should be put on its staff. Certain financial arrangements that they impose may make a difficulty, but he is not really clear in his own mind w whether he is cut out for their work, and he mentioned "red tape". It is quite clear from what he hinted that his wife is much more effective in the mission field than he is himself, and if there were no likelihood of her co-operation again in the future I think that he would certainly go back to the composing-room. Under the circumstances it is impossible to forecast his decision. Naturally, he does not feel very happy at the moment, but I think that he wants to do the right thing, although he did appear to be a somewhat weak vessel.

His own position and history are much more interesting than anything that there is to say about the Mission itself, which is at the moment riding on a slack tide. Uncertainty is in the air; things are rather in abeyance. The Report will sufficiently indicate the nature of the work that is attempted. Mr. Bustin gave the following figures, in addition.

Sunday School: morning, 70; afternoon, 110 to 120 on the average. Evening Gospel service, average 70. Band of Hope, 40. Mothers' Meeting, 70. Men's Fraternal Meeting, 20.

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London-Street Mission.

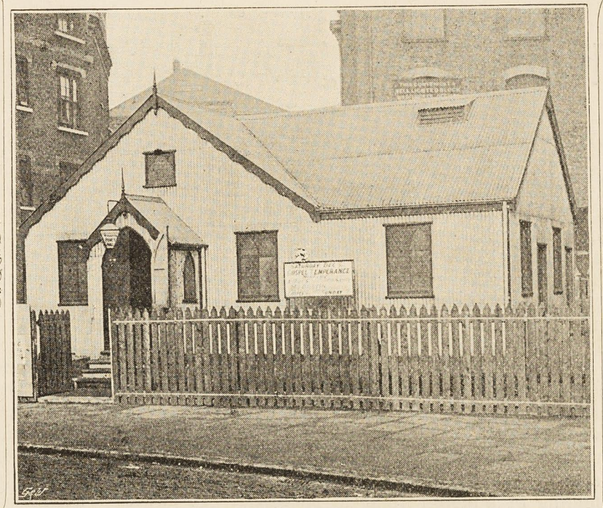
PERCY MISSION HALL,

DOCKHEAD, S.E.

THIRTY-FIFTH

Annual Report & Accounts,

1898.



COMMITTEE :—

Treasurer :—Mr. PERCY BROWN, Davis' Wharf, Horselydown, S.E.

Mrs. BUSTIN (Mdm. Annie Ryall), Mr. JOHN KIRK (Sec. R.S.U), Mr. J. KITCHIN, Mr. W. OLNEY.

Secretary and Manager :—Mr. W. BUSTIN, ~~13, Prior Road~~ 126 Jamaica Road, Bermondsey, S.E.

Motto for 1899.

"Fear not; I will help thee."—*Isaiah* xli. 13.

THE HON. TREASURER.

Thirty-Fifth Annual Report.

IN submitting to the subscribers our 35th Annual Report, it is with joy we recognise how the generosity of our friends, and the earnest efforts of our co-workers have been honoured by the Lord, who has thereby "added to His Church," strengthened and comforted believers, and in many ways demonstrated His favour towards us.

Those who have read the reports of the past few years will be acquainted with the circumstances which necessitated and resulted in the erection of Percy Hall. The terms of our tenure, a "tenancy at will" at a merely nominal rental, left us, upon the sudden decease of one of our landlords, Sir Henry Peek, in August last, in a doubtful position, the executors at once announcing the whole of the property for sale. Had there been an opportunity to purchase a small lot, we might have appealed to our subscribers and friends, but to purchase the whole was out of the question. The property is now said to be let on a long building lease. If this be the case it seems inevitable that Percy Hall must be removed, or substituted by some building of a more permanent character. In any case we cannot but feel that the work should go on, and many and earnest have been the prayers that the issue may be the extension rather than the contraction of the usefulness of the Mission. Many have realised in this emergency, as never before, how dear the Mission is to them.

In the circumstances it is more than ever essential that those who have helped so generously in the past should stand by us, and we ask for a continuance of the support, and for the prayers of all who realise the importance of maintaining every aggressive Christian effort in one of the poorest of the poor districts in London.

Notwithstanding the measure of uncertainty under which we have laboured, precluding the introduction latterly of any new features, the existing agencies have been carried on as vigorously as ever, including the

"Fraternal,"

a meeting for men only, which was mentioned in last year's report as about to be started. The result has been very encouraging, though it has been found hard work to gather and keep a number of men together for a week-evening meeting, notwithstanding the advantages offered, *i.e.*, books valued from 2s. to 6s., according to attendances in every six months in return for 1d. a week subscription. Mr. W. Jones, the energetic hon. secretary, reports that 70 men have joined us in ten months, but work, and in some cases want of it, removals, etc., so continuously deplete our numbers that at the present time the number in attendance is only about half those who have joined. Nevertheless the society has resulted in attaching a goodly number of men to the Mission, and the weekly meeting has invariably been a thoroughly enjoyable and profitable time. There have been two definite decisions for Christ, and a marked religious awakening is noticeable in several others. At the same time many of those already Christians have testified to the benefits derived.

The attendance at the

Gospel Services

on Sunday evenings was seriously affected during the excessively warm weather, but with cooler weather they rapidly recovered, and the attendance on the whole has been most encouraging, while as to visible results ten persons, having been personally pointed to the Saviour, have professed to yield themselves to Him.

Open-air Meetings

were carried on throughout the summer on Sunday and Friday evenings. The Sunday evening crowd has been the usual large and attentive gathering as for the past 35 years, the meetings, as a rule, being mos impressive. On this occasion we had the advantage of Mrs. Bustin's (Madam Annie Ryall) services on Fridays as well as Sundays, her singing naturally having the effect of drawing large audiences, and it was particularly noticeable how large a proportion, especially of men, remained throughout the meeting, and followed the address with evident interest. Here again, we had the joy of seeing visible fruit in the conversion of two men, one of whom, in difficulties at the time, is now doing fairly well, and attending a neighbouring mission nearer home.

Among Women,

the work has flourished. The *Mothers' Meeting* carried on with the same definite purpose as of old, has, on the testimony of many, continued to be a great spiritual help to numbers of Christian women struggling against the discouragements of large families with slender incomes, or old age, loneliness and poverty, while here again there have been conversions. The *Womens' Parlour* with its associated branch of the Women's Total Abstinence Union, has been continued with much success, and is looked forward to eagerly as a welcome hour of brightness in the midst of the week's weary round of toil and care. The *Temperance Society*, the monthly meetings of which have been addressed by several deputations from the W.T.A.U., have secured many pledges. In this work among the women invaluable help has been rendered by Mrs. Caney, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Ryall, Mrs. Beagley, Miss Hopkins, Miss Sparrow, and others.

The Sunday School

has been as crowded as ever, and the teachers have struggled against the disadvantages of cramped and unwieldy classes with commendable perse-

verance, and deserve praise for improved regularity and punctuality, both on their own part and on the part of the scholars, encouraged in the latter case by the prizes subscribed for by the teachers. In the Infants' school, Mrs. Terry, Miss Andrews, and Miss Shutt, have continued a useful work. Parents, teachers, and scholars alike owe a debt of gratitude to the painstaking secretary, Mr. Caney.

The Band of Hope

has recorded a somewhat improved attendance, and the intelligent appreciation of the principles of total abstinence inculcated by Mr. G. Terry, the leader, has been demonstrated at a couple of Saturday evening meetings, when the Band has occupied the platform.

The numerous young men and women attending the Mission have contributed to their mutual improvement, and rendered material assistance in other branches of the work through

The Christian Endeavour Society and Choir,

both of which have continued with unabated success. The branch of the Gleaners' Union (C.M.S.), associated with the Endeavour Society has contributed the sum of 30s. for foreign missions. The Tract Committee, on which Mr. J. Jones and Mr. W. Chapman have been conspicuously active, have distributed many thousands of printed sermons, booklets, leaflets, etc., mostly from door to door.

The Girls' Dressmaking Circle

continues its eminently useful work, Mrs. and Miss Marshall, assisted by Miss Melanphy, doing their best to train the members to a degree of skilfulness in all descriptions of needlework.

The Saturday evening

Lantern Readings, Lectures, etc.,

by no means mere entertainments, have continued to attract large audiences The meetings were continued throughout the whole year, and though the attendance was slack in the summer, at no time was it discouraging. The Gospel is advanced at all these meetings, often together with total abstinence (very many pledges having been secured), and some of these meetings have been in every respect among the best of the whole year.

In August a week of special

Prayer Meetings

was held, which unquestionably resulted in a quickening of the spiritual life of many of our members. The regular weekly prayer meeting has continued to furnish a spiritual feast to the faithful few who attend, and would not miss the treat upon any consideration.

Among the numerous

Special Meetings

held which have been particularly noteworthy, have been lectures by Mr. Budgett Meakin, Mr. C. Cook, and Mr. Lord; Flower and Harvest Festivals, and the anniversaries of the Mission, the Sunday School, the Women's Parlour, and the Y.P.S.C.E. On each of these occasions the hall has been quite full and splendid meetings have resulted.

Altogether some 700 meetings have been held, and we do not remember one dull or empty meeting in the whole number.

Through the Ragged School Union, upon payment of 6s. for each we have sent

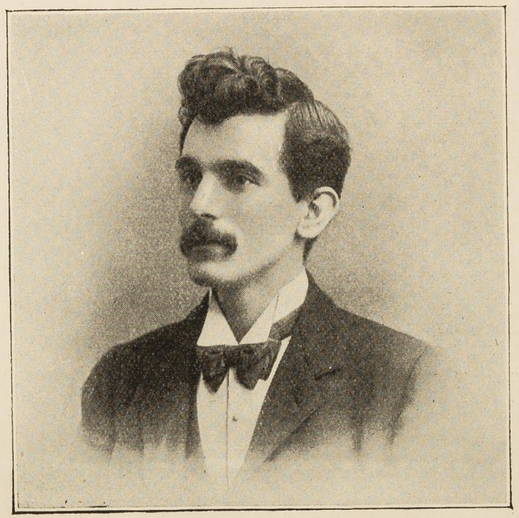
79 Children to the Country or Sea-side for a fortnight,

also three elder scholars. The mothers' annual excursion in July, was a most striking affair; 120 journeyed to Tonbridge by train, and were conveyed thence in huge gaily decorated trucks drawn by a traction engine, six miles into the heart of the country, to a village called Poundsbridge, where some enthusiastic, hospitable village Wesleyans received us with royal honours. The Band of Hope had the usual excursion, which was very happily carried out.

In the matter of relief, we have done what we could to help some to turn a difficult corner; in some cases by means of a small loan. At Christmas, or rather, on this occasion, on New Year's Eve, 52 families received gifts of beef, potatoes, rice, and plums. We have found great joy in helping several of our sick members and others with dispensary and surgical appliance "letters," etc. And we are greatly indebted to the Ragged School Union, and other friends, for gifts of clothing, which have found great acceptance among the poor mothers. The experiment of the Goose Club was repeated this year, 51 members joining, who each received a turkey or goose, plum pudding, and half-pound of tea, for 6s. 6d., paid weekly, Messrs. W. Jones and J. Gladman acting as secretaries.

To individually mention those friends who have helped us with addresses, lectures, services of song, etc., considerably over 100 in all, would be a pleasure to us, but perhaps it will suffice to tender to each our warm thanks and hearty appreciation of their kindness.

We would also thank the Ragged School Union, Mrs. Percy Brown, and others, for gifts of clothing, a friend for a number of prize books for the children, per Mr. Vernon, Messrs. Carbutt & Co. for rice, and the Proprietors of Hay's Wharf for potatoes and plums.



THE MANAGER AND SECRETARY.

General Account.

Receipts.

	£	s.	d.
In hand January 1st, 1898 ...	5	13	2
Mr. Percy Brown	24	5	0
Do. (Gratuity to Mrs. Ryall)	26	10	0
	7	0	0
Mr. J. Kitchin	5	0	0
Mrs. E. D. Wylie	5	0	0
Ragged School Union...	5	0	0
Mr. W. V. Brown	5	0	0
Mr. E. M. Denny	5	0	0
Messrs. Peek, Frean and Co.	3	10	0
Mr. W. Olney	2	10	0
Miss Bell	2	2	0
Messrs. Whittard, Crisp and Co. ...	2	2	0
Messrs. G. M. Hammer and Co. ...	2	0	0
Miss Clementina Brown	2	0	0
Mr. J. T. Daintree	2	0	0
Messrs. Courage and Co.	1	1	0
Col. S. B. Bevington	1	1	0
Mrs. S. B. Bevington	1	1	0
Messrs. Bevingtons and Sons	1	1	0
Messrs. T. J. and T. Powell	1	1	0
Messrs. S. Barrow Bros.	1	1	0
Messrs. G. R. Herron and Son	1	1	0
Proprietors of Hay's Wharf	1	0	0
Miss R. A. Brown (per Mrs. Wylie) ...	1	0	0
Lord Kinnaird		15	0
Mrs. Ross		14	0
Mrs. Talbot		10	6
Messrs. Puttock and Peacock		10	6
Messrs. Perkins and Cæsar		10	0
Mrs. Routh		10	0
Miss Butler		10	0
Mr. Clements...		3	0
E. M. and H. (per Mr. C. A. Brown) ...		2	0
A Friend		4	0
Girls' Club Collected	33	17	10½
Collections			
Members' Subscriptions :—No. 12, 3s. ; 15, £1 12s. 0d. ; 41, 1d. ; 42, 1s. 8d. ; 43, 3d. ; 50, 6s. 6d. ; 52, 2d. ; 53, 3s. ; 54, 6d. ; 62, 8s. 3d. ; 69, 1s. 6d. ; No No., 9d. ; Loose, 7½d.	2	18	3½
Anniversary—			
Collection	6	8	6½
Mr. Trype		10	6
Browning Quartette		10	6
Mr. A. Pomeroy, L.C.C.		10	0
Mr. and Mrs. Caney		10	0
Collected at Davis' Wharf	4	12	5
Sale of Flowers and Fruit	1	10	3½
Teachers for Sunday School Children's Prizes	1	0	7½
Members' Cards		7	6
Balance from Children's Holiday Fund ...		10	0
Various smaller items...		4	1
	£171	18	9

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Management	60	0	0
Gratuity to Mrs. Ryall	26	10	0
Lantern Slides,Speakers' expenses,&c....	15	8	0
Cleaning and Assistance	5	10	2
Printing	13	10	3
Advertising, Bill Posting, &c. ...	16	6	6
Gas	10	2	6
Messrs. Perkins and Cæsar (surveying)	3	3	0
District Surveyor and renewal of License	1	5	0
Fire Insurance	1	2	6
Renewals, &c.	4	10	5
Hymn Books	1	11	6
Curtains	1	0	0
Water Rate	1	1	0
Sunday School Prizes	1	0	6
Women's and Sunday School Children's Free Teas	3	5	10½
Deficit on Anniversary, Harvest, and other teas	1	7	11
Women's Parlour Refreshments ...		12	5½
Subscriptions to Unions, &c.		18	1½
Organ Blowing		16	0
Postages	2	8	0½
	171	9	3½
In hand, January 1st, 1899 ...		9	5½
	£171	18	9

Relief Account, 1898.

Receipts.

	£	s.	d.
In hand, January 1st, 1898 ...	5	7	6½
Messrs. Peek, Frean and Co.		10	6
Col. S. B Bevington		10	0
A.P.		2	0
Messrs. Courage and Co.	3	3	0
Messrs. Ledger, Hall and Co.	2	2	0
Messrs. Carbutt and Co.		10	0
Mr. Percy Brown (for Christmas gifts)...	3	0	0
Collections	1	0	8
Sale of Garments		15	9½
Loans repaid		13	0
	£17	14	6

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Ticket Relief		4	6 9
Money Relief		2	11 0
Loans			17 0
Beef and Plums for Christmas gifts ...		5	13 10
		13	8 7
In hand, January 1st, 1899 ...		4	5 11
	£17	14	6

1897 Anniversary—Emergency Fund.

Dr.

	£	s.	d.
In hand, January 1st, 1898	13	6	11

Cr.

	£	s.	d.
In hand, January 1st, 1899	13	6	11

Children's Holiday Fund.

Receipts.

	£	s.	d.
Messrs. Southwell and Co.		10	0
Messrs. Roberts and Adlard		5	0
Messrs. Peek, Frean and Co.		10	0
Messrs. B. Noakes and Co.		5	0
Mr. J. Morriss		10	0
Messrs. Ty. Addis and Son		2	6
Mr. J. T. Daintree		5	0
Messrs. B. Young and Co.		2	6
Mr. W. Peacock		5	0
Messrs. S. Barrow Bros.		5	0
Messrs. Bevingtons and Sons		10	0
Messrs. G. R. Herron and Son		10	0
Messrs. Boutcher, Mortimer and Co. ...		5	0
Messrs. T. and H. Wilks		2	6
Mr. Henry Harbord		5	0
Mr. R. Carpenter		10	0
Messrs. Whittard, Crisp and Co. ...		10	0
Messrs. Wallace, Bailey and Wilkins ...		2	6
Mr. W. Olney		10	0
Messrs. Hicks, Nash and Co.		2	6
Messrs. H. T. Reed and Son		2	6
Messrs. Bovill and Son		2	6
Messrs. T. and G. F. Bacon and Co. ...		2	6
Messrs. Noakes and Co.		5	0
Mr. J. Kitchin (don.)		10	0
Messrs. H. G. and T. Brown		2	0
Mrs. D. Bradford		3	6
Messrs. Recknell and Son		5	0
Mrs. Dodman		2	6
Messrs. Pope and Co.		2	6
Messrs. Puttock and Peacock		5	0
Messrs. Carbutt and Co.	2	2	0
Messrs. Wilcox and Co.		10	0
Mrs. Bevington	1	0	0
Mr. T. J. Turner		5	0
Miss Eleanor Brown		12	0
Mr. E. M. Denny	1	0	0
Messrs. Courage and Co.	1	0	0
Mr. Percy Brown	1	1	0
Messrs. Brown and Elmslie	1	1	0
Children's payments	8	5	0
	£25	6	6

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Ragged School Union	23	1	0
Band of Hope		10	0
Infants' Treat		15	0
Children's Fares to Station		2	0
Printing		8	6
Transferred to General Fund		10	0
	£25	6	6

Mothers' Meeting Excursion.

Receipts.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. J. Kitchin		10	0
Messrs. Peek, Frean and Co.		10	0
Mrs. Bevington		10	0
Mr. Percy Brown		10	0
Mr. Henry N. Philcox...		5	0
Mr. and Mrs. Percy Brown (for "Endeavourers" taking part)	1	5	0
Mr. C. Agnew Brown	1	0	0
Mrs. Cook		5	0
Mrs. E. D. Wylie		10	0
Mrs. Pomeroy		10	6
Mr. Thorndyke		3	0
Mrs. Talbot		11	0
A Friend		10	0
Friends at Poundsbridge	2	10	0
Sale of Tickets	12	0	0
	£21	9	6

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Railway Fares	12	1	0
Traction Engine, &c.		5	0 0
Tea		3	5 6
Porters and Enginemen		12	0
Postage and Sundries		11	0
	£21	9	6

"Fraternal" Account.

Receipts.

	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions...	5	15	0
Extra Payments		3	9
Members' Cards		5	0
	£6	3	9

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Prize Books		3	6 1
Secretary's Books			1 9
Paid out			6 2
Postage			1 0
		3	15 0
In hand, January 1st, 1899 ...		2	8 9
	£6	3	9

In hand
Mr. Percy Br
Do.
Mr. J. Kitchi
Mrs. E. D. W
Ragged Scho
Mr. W. V. Br
Mr. E. M. De
Messrs. Peek,
Mr. W. Olney
Miss Bell
Messrs. Whit
Messrs. G. M.
Miss Clement
Mr. J. T. Dai
Messrs. Cour
Col. S. B. Bev
Mrs. S. B. Be
Messrs. Bevir
Messrs. T. J.
Messrs. S. Ba
Messrs. G. R.
Proprietors o
Miss R. A. Br
Lord Kinnair
Mrs. Ross
Mrs. Talbot
Messrs. Putto
Messrs. Perki
Mrs. Routh
Miss Butler
Mr. Clements
E. M. and H.
A Friend
Girls' Club C
Collections
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15, £1 12
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54, 6d.;
No., 9d.;
Anniversary-
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Mr. Tryp
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Mr. A. P
Mr. and
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Sale of Flowe
Teachers for
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In hand,
Messrs. Peek,
Col. S. B Be
A.P. ...
Messrs. Coura
Messrs. Ledg
Messrs. Carbu
Mr. Percy Br
Collections
Sale of Garm
Loans repaid

Dr.

In hand, Ja

Leaders of Meetings & Officers.

Officers :—

Mr. W. BUSTIN, *Secretary and Manager*, 13, Priter Road, Bermondsey, S
Mr. G. TERRY, Mr. J. JONES, Mr. M. CANEY.

Minute Secretary :—Mr. ERNEST ROSS.

"Dockhead Fraternal"

Mr. W. JONES, *Hon. Sec.*, 14, Barnham Street, S.E.

Ladies' Committee :—

Mrs. ROSS (*President*), Mrs. CANEY (*Hon. Sec.*), Mrs. BUSTIN, M
BEAGLEY, Mrs. DEWEY, Mrs. UPTON and Mrs. RYALL.

Hon. Sec. W.T.A.U. Branch :—Miss M. HOPKINS, 77, Drummond Road, S

Mothers' Meeting :—Mrs. BUSTIN.

Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour.

President, Mr. J. JONES ; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. M. CANEY, 19, Storks Rd., S

Girls' Dressmaking Circle.

Mrs. MARSHALL, Miss MARSHALL and Miss MELANPHY.

Choirmaster and Band of Hope Leader :—Mr. G. TERRY

Sunday School.

Hon. Sec. :—Mr. M. CANEY, 19, Stork's Road, S.E.

Teachers :—Messrs. J. JONES, G. TERRY, G. BUTLER, B. RUSSELL, M
LESTER, Misses MELANPHY, L. RUFUS, A RUFUS and L. UPTON,

Infant School :—Mrs. TERRY and Miss SHUTT.

LIST OF MEETINGS.

Morning School	Sunday, 11 a
Afternoon „	„ 3 p
Open-Air Meeting (April to September) ...	„ 6.30
Gospel Service	„ 7
Prayer Meeting or Open-Air Service ...	„ 8.30
Band of Hope	Monday, 7.15
Choir Practice	„ 8.30
Mothers' Meeting	...Tuesday, 2.30
Fraternal	„ 8
Christian Endeavour Society	Wednesday 8.30
Women's Parlour	Thursday 8
Girls' Dressmaking Circle	
Open-Air Service (April to Sept.)	Friday 8
Prayer Meeting („ „ at 9 p.m.)	„ 8.30
Lectures, Temperance Meetings, &c. ...	Saturday 8

Candidates for Membership should apply to one of the Officers or the Secretary.

St James' parish

103

33
2-7

Spa Road Particular Baptist Church.
Marlborough Hall, 77 Spa Road,

The Pastor, Mr A. Steele, sent the following reply to our letter:

108 Chetwynd Road
N.W.
Jany. 23rd 1900.

Dr Sir,

Spa Rd Bapt Chapel.

Though doubting if there are any special features of above Ch. likely to serve your purposes, I will gladly answer any questions either by letter or personally.

If the latter preferred I am generally at home on the last 3 evenings of the week

Yours truly
A. Steele.

A form was sent, which he returned with notes as on other side. The Church formerly met in a Hall in New Church Street, which is now used as a Church Mission (Llewellyn Hall). Mr Steele has been pastor

since

since 1898. Knollboro' Hall, the present meeting place is built behind one of the Spa Road houses. It seats 300 people. The Church is small: membership 38. Sunday school with 8 teachers and 143 scholars.

STIONS to be asked as to the work of the Church:—

What is the general character of the population?	Mainly working class + factory hands.
What portion do the ministrations of the Church touch?	perhaps the former rather than the latter
What persons are employed? (stating duties and whether paid or not)	none but Caretaker

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What portion do the ministrations of the Church touch?

Perhaps the former rather than the latter

What persons are employed? (stating duties and whether paid or not)

none but Caretaker

What buildings are used? (including mission rooms, schools, and clubs)

only the one building (formerly a dancing hall) now used for Services, Sunday Schools + all other purposes

What Services or other religious meetings are held and by whom and by how many attended?

The usual Sunday + week Night Services. under 100.

What Social Agencies are connected with the Church—institutes, societies clubs, entertainments, meetings, &c.

Tract distribution

What Educational work is done?

To what extent are the people visited? (by Ministers or District Visitors)

Meetings for women (well attended)
" " men (not so well attended)
Conducted by 2 ladies.

What arrangements are there for nursing the sick?

To what extent is charitable relief given or administered by the Church?

l Questions—

Under what other religious influences do the people come?

What other charitable or philanthropic work is done. What co-operation is there between (*a*) The Free Churches (*b*) The Free Churches and the Established Church?

This "Spa Rd" Course is only a small one — + its possibilities of influence are necessarily restricted.

ks with reference to the district are ted on –

Local Government (including Poor Law administration)

Police

Drink

Prostitution

Crime

Marriage

Thrift

Health

Housing and Social Condition generally.

Pastor W. F. G. Clatworthy
Midway Place Baptist Church

GA
29/1/1901

St Barnabas' parish.

33
b. 18

107

Mr W. F. G. Clatworthy. Pastor of Midway Place Baptist Church, Bush Road, Rotherhithe.

Seen at 147 Alderton Road, South Bermondsey &c.

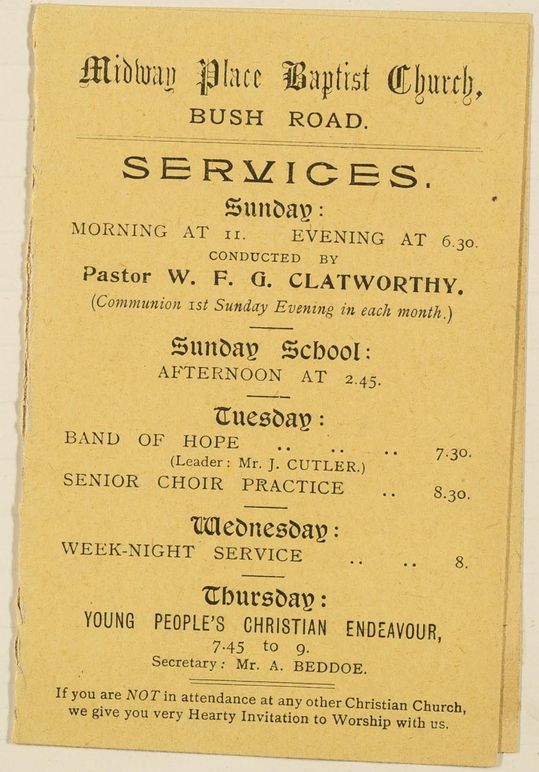
Mr Clatworthy is a quiet unassuming man of about 40: dark, thin and of average stature. Talks deliberately and thoughtfully, without any trace of emotion. Rather deprecated our visiting him as the church was so small. Dressed in black frock coat, turn down collar and black bow. Has been at Bush Road as pastor about a year but has known the district for many years.

The people they touch at Bush Road are artizans and ~~&~~ men engaged at the docks. None are well off but by careful management they keep decent homes & dress respectably. If anything went wrong they would be on their beam ends. The membership of the church is 50 after a revision of the roll. Was 70 before revision. Amongst them there is not one who could command a £5. note if it were needed urgently.

Formerly they had a chapel in Midway Place but

thro

this has been made over to the Brethren, the Baptists taking their services to the School in Bush Road which is nearer the main road.
Chapel seats 200 including a gallery which is only used for Sunday School as it is inconvenient, so that the real accommodation is but 120.



Midway Place Baptist Church,
BUSH ROAD.

SERVICES.

Sunday:
MORNING AT 11. EVENING AT 6.30.
CONDUCTED BY
Pastor W. F. G. CLATWORTHY.
(*Communion 1st Sunday Evening in each month.*)

Sunday School:
AFTERNOON AT 2.45.

Tuesday:
BAND OF HOPE .. .. .. 7.30.
(Leader: Mr. J. CUTLER.)
SENIOR CHOIR PRACTICE .. 8.30.

Wednesday:
WEEK-NIGHT SERVICE .. .. 8.

Thursday:
YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR,
7.45 to 9.
Secretary: Mr. A. BEDDOE.

If you are *NOT* in attendance at any other Christian Church, we give you very Hearty Invitation to Worship with us.

Sunday morning about 28 omitting children & 60 at night. All from immediate neighbourhood.
Sunday School as 197 on books & average attendance of 166
Christian Endeavour. About 33 with average of 24 at the meetings. Of these 14 have made open profession of faith recently.

Very few workers & consequently very little visitation.

Mrs

Clatworthy Bapt Midway Place

This has been made over to the Brethren, the Baptists taking their services to the School in Bush Road which is nearer the main road.
Chapel seats 200 including a gallery which is only used for Sunday School as it is inconvenient, so that the real accommodation is but 120.

"The promise is unto you and to your children."
Acts 2. 39.

What promise? The promise of the 'Remission of Sins,' and 'the gift of God's Holy Spirit': the former to justify you unto God, in Christ, (through Faith, and Obedience to His Word), and fit you for the kingdom of God; and the latter to help you to live as a true subject of that kingdom, and to realise that you are a child of God, and an heir of the blessings which God has covenanted to bestow upon them who accept Christ as Saviour and Lord.

The promise is unto you. Are you enjoying the comforts of it? The comforts of a Saviour's love and sustaining grace in all life's trials; of a heavenly Father's faithfulness to help you in all life's needs; and of a Holy Spirit's ever constant aid to guide and to cheer you in all life's hazardous way. To you and your children. Happy promise! embracing all, and excluding none. You and your family in one sweet union. Have you this joy?

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Christian Endeavour. About 33 with average of 24 at the meetings. Of these 14 have made open profession of faith recently.

Very few workers & consequently very little visitation.

DNS

Baptist Times. Feb. 9. 1900.

LONDON, MIDWAY-PLACE, ROTHERHITHE. — The eighty-third anniversary services of the Sunday-school were held on January 21st. Pastor Clatworthy preached morning and evening. In the afternoon the superintendent, Mr. John Cutler, conducted the special service. On Monday evening the annual tea was held, and attracted about seventy friends. It was followed by a public meeting, at which Pastor E. Phillips, president of the Bermondsey Auxiliary Sunday-school Union, took the chair. The school numbers 21 officers and teachers, and 197 scholars, with an average attendance of 19 and 166 respectively. There is a branch of the I.B.R.A., with 120 members, and a Band of Hope with 90 members. The school accounts showed the substantial balance of £6 10s. 5d. An encouraging feature of the report was the record of the Christian Endeavour Society. Since its re-inauguration by the pastor in August last, 14 elder scholars made an open profession of faith in Christ, and had been enrolled as members; the total membership was now 33. During the evening the annual distribution of awards for early attendance and good conduct took place, 56 prizes being awarded.

Mr C. limits his visitation to sick cases. Are using the card on other side for visitation of parents of Sunday scholars.

Not much charitable relief or need for it at present. The Dorcas Society, worked by the ladies, distributes garments and attends to a number of maternity cases.

Does not come in contact with other churches. The Congregational is Maynard Road is small; smaller than his own & what applies to the one applies to the other.

Here as elsewhere the young people go away when they marry but he does not think that lack of house room is the determining reason. In one case he knows it was a desire to get away from the young folk at home - whilst in all cases there is a strong desire to get nearer the country.

The Church is poor financially. The building is leasehold. Talking of leasehold places of worship, Mr C. mentioned that an old member (now dead) had paid the ground rent to the end of the lease, fortunately "or I don't know what we should do".

Mr T. Reynolds
Cornbury Road Mission

GBA
Jan 27/1900

St Katharine's parish.

33/6/18

113

Mr. T. Reynolds, Mission Hall, 68 Cornbury Rd.
Rotherhithe. S.E.

Replying to the letter asking for an interview the following letter was ~~rec~~ received:-

P.C. 24.1.1900 Saturday 6.45. S.E.

Mission Hall
68 Cornbury Rd.
Rotherhithe

Mr. Charles Booth,

Dear Sir,

In reply to your enquiry as to our work the above mission was founded 15 years ago by the L. C. M. Society. Three years ago owing to lack of funds they had to abandon it when Mr. T. Reynolds came forward and offered to take over & support it. This he has been enabled to do by labouring with

Mr T. Reynolds
Cornbury Road Mission

GBA
Jan 27/1900

St Katharine's parish.

33/6.18

113

Mr. T. Reynolds, Mission Hall, 68 Cornbury Rd.
Rotherhithe. S.E.

Replying to the letter asking for an interview the following

one penny for their services.
Mr Reynolds would be
pleased to see you or your
secretary any Monday,
Friday or Saturday evening
after 6.30 should you
require further particulars

I am dear Sir
Yours faithfully
W.
pro.
T. Reynolds

Mr. Charles Booth
9 Adelphi Terrace
Strand.

his hands assisted by a
few generous friends. The
work is purely undenomi-
national & is not connected
in any way to any church.
We have a flourishing
sunday school & temperance
societies provident club etc.
The sick poor are visited
& nursed; a little help is
given to the deserving
needy and the gospel is
preached to all week-days
& Sunday. Open air work
is carried on in the summer.
Our work is amongst the
poorest classes and not
one of our workers receives

Reynolds - Cornbury Road Mission

Calling on Mr Reynolds, I found him to be a slightly built man in the forties; neatly dressed & well spoken; a good representative of the better class artizan but not so muscular as his occupation (a blacksmith) led me to expect. With him was a young man of 23 or so, one of the workers.

The passage and parlours on the ground floor have been converted into a hall seating about 70 persons. The windows have crimson chintz curtains: texts are on the walls & the floor is partially covered with cocoanut matting; the whole place having a cozy cheerful appearance. Mrs R. lives on the upper floor & in the kitchen, the latter being invaded on Sunday by a bible class.

A Committee of 12 has been formed, most of whom are the Sunday school teachers & other workers.

The Services include:

Sunday School: over 100 on book & attendance of 80. (2.45 pm)
Young Mens Bible class (in Kitchen) About 16.
Gospel Service in evening. Often get place full but average about 50. Mostly women & young people. Very hard to get the men in.

Visitation

Charitable Relief

Deptford Charities

Week evening meeting are Gospel services (Tu), prayer meeting (Wed), Band of Hope (Thurs. 100 on Books & attendance of 50); Provident Club & Savings Bank on Saturday. The latter has only been started recently. Shares are 6 a week & 122 have been taken up.

Mrs Reynolds has done some house to house visitation but not much only having his evenings, the others workers being in the same position

Relief in mainly in the way of personal service. Mrs Reynolds visits the people when sick – "She is very good". Mrs R. also has had some tickets sent to her, (without application) by ~~the~~ St Pauls, (Deptford), Churchwardens. He had received about 50 of these tickets; they were for ½ cwt of coal value 9d or a quartern of bread (5½d) and could be presented to any dealer (or baker) in the parish. These tickets belong to long series being numbered consecutively; & each set of numbers was over 1100. They bear the name of D. Hines, Chairman of the Charity Distribution Committee and are payable at the Vestry Offices, Tanners Hill. Mrs R. has given some to an old couple, a man who has lost his foot & a widow or two.

Most of the people come from the immediate neighbourhood: the exception being girls who have gone to service & still come to them. Most of the girls go to service; they think the factory below them - a few go to the City - straw hat makers &c. Boys go to shops or to learn some trade.

Both agreed with previous witnesses that Reedholm Road was now the poorest part - two families & in some cases three in the houses. Judged by their Church attendance the people are irreligious. A very small proportion go to any place of worship. The majority attending a service go to the Church - but mainly because they can get help - the Church (St Katherine) is very good to the poor. Attendants are mostly women. The people get up late on Sunday; the men build pigeon houses or do other things in their yard - some ~~going~~ flying pedigree pigeons being popular here. —

This Mission is interesting as a purely working man's effort. The W.R. is a Baptist but the mission is gradually becoming a Brethren's Hall. A communion service is held on the first Sunday in the month. Converts are baptised, Mrs R. taking them to the Brethren's Hall in King George St, Greenwich for that purpose.

Pastor J. Y. Figg
+ Church Officers
Abbey St. Baptist Church

GA
Jan

St James' parish.

33/1-4

121

Pastor J. Thorold Figg. Seen at Abbey Street Baptist Church, Bermondsey S.E.

Mr Figg had invited some of his church officers to meet me: two were present at the beginning of the interview (Messrs Collins & Alderson) + those others came in later. Two were unmistably working men, one whose name I did not catch bearing also a vestry man, another was a tradesmen and one of the others (Collins) ~~is~~ holds a responsible post at one of the wharves. All seemed to have a good knowledge of the district, Collins being exceptionally intimate. Mr Figg has only been at Abbey Street about a year. He is a smart middle aged man, with a pleasant manner. Has lived in Bermondsey the greater part of his life until 8 years ago he took a church at Mitcham.

They were agreed that the streets by Paradise Street + near London Street were the worst parts of the district. The dark blue patch by Cherry Gardens Street is not so poor as either of the foregoing now and the D.T.3. patch by Albion Street has improved.

Wolsey Bldgs: last resort of the evicted.

The Church regards the district between New Church Street and Dockhead & Shad Thames as its special area "and it is quite enough for us" added Mr Collins.

Wolsey Bldgs is exceptionally poor and low. Always evictions going on there - you constantly see the piles of furniture with children crying by them or minding them. Many Irish here - is sometimes called Father Brown's buildings after the R.C. priest. These Bldgs (and Barnham's Bldgs) are the last resort of the people who are being evicted by the many improvements in the parish

The crowding in this neighbourhood is increasing owing to the demolitions. Rents are rising and the people are compelled to let an extra room to pay. The Vestry recently turned a family of 8 out of two rooms in Rickman's Folly for overcrowding. They find it difficult to enforce the law, realizing that the people cannot obtain accommodation when evicted. Nor do the dwellings afford relief as rents are high and the restrictions make them too expensive for men with large families. In Hanover Dwellings, 3 rooms cost 8/6 a week & the cheapest - two rooms

The People & their occupations

Buildings used

on the top floor cost 5/9. The S.E. Rly. Co's blocks in Trundley Road are too far away & they average 3/6 a room. The Company is now going to build a block in Abbey Street but these will cost 3/- a room.

The bulk of the men in their district are waterside labourers. They can be seen standing near Nutkins Corner (Corner of George Row & Bermondsey Wall) at any time in the day, this being the chief place for taking men on. The Women are sack making or at the jam factories. Southwells being the nearest jam factory takes most of the women of the district. The work is casual - per day. You may see 200 women waiting outside the factory in the morning to be taken on. Often quite 70 are not taken - these will come again at dinner time. These are mostly married women and widows. The girls go to Peek Freans Biscuit works. Boys go to the wharves, trucking &c & complaints are made because they displace the men.

The Chapell seats 400 people and the school adjoining 250. Have only a vestry beside.

Persons Employed

Services held

Visitation

Charitable Relief

The Minister and a deaconess are the only paid workers. Have about 30 voluntary workers - deacons, 14 visitors & 20 Sunday School teachers; some of course serving in more than one capacity.

Sunday morning services include an early prayer meeting. Service at 11 & 6.30. Only about 50 in the morning - 200 to 300 in the evening. A good many come 15 minutes walk - chiefly people who lived in the immediate neighbourhood and have moved a little out.

Meetings during week are small. Mothers' Meeting (Monday) 40 to 50, Prayer meetings (2); Christian Endeavour, Band of Hope (150) took Banner of U. K. Temperance Council for best attendance.

The deaconess visits systematically in the district and also the tract distributors. Pastor visits sick cases reported by other visitors.

Very little relief is given. Four widows have 3/- a month from poor funds. They have also a Fatherless Children's Society which cares for the class of children in the locality. Gives about 100 of them a good feed once a year & also gives them

garments

Church Membership

Other religious agencies

Poor Relief

The Housing Question

garments made by the members.

Church Membership is about 1440. Fluctuated slightly during the past 6 or 7 years.

Do not come in contact with other religious agencies except the R.C's, who are strong in the poor patch – Wolsey Bldgs &c

Salvation Army Slum post in Rickman's Folly. Just a handful of people. Principal man is a waterside labourer.

On Local Govt the vestryman became spokesman. Out relief is given in preference to indoor – excessively, some say. Mostly to widows. The Irish get a large share & he thought that the R.O. for the London Dist district being an Irishman affected it.

Police are to be found sometime.

Drink flows freely. 25 pubs in their district. Very free from prostitution except at Bermondsey Wall at night.

With regard to housing the vestry is strongly agitated but appears to be helpless. They made an

enquiry

Canvass
~~enquiry~~ about the raising of rents & found that within the last 12 months rents had been raised in 47 cases; mostly 1/- a week - informant did not know how many houses were visited. Average rent is 12/- for 5 rooms (small) & kitchen but the same class of houses lets at from 12/- to 15/- a week.

The Vestry has made inquiries about building but finds that under the present conditions as to repayment of loans they could not let cottage property at less than 3/- a room whilst if they built on the block system, the building regulations so enhance the cost as the height is increased that they would gain no advantage in that direction.

33/3.11

Feb. 9th. 1900.

Interview with Rev H. W. Spencer, Seamen and Boatmen's Mission Society, Cathay St. Rotherhithe.

When I reached the small Mission Hall in Cathay St. I found the door surrounded by a crowd of children, many of them of the poorest and roughest class, waiting admission to a Magic Lantern entertainment. Making my way through I was admitted by Rev Spencer, the Superintendent of the Mission. While I was explaining my errand to him there entered two gentlemen in top hats, members of the Committee, with the Lantern apparatus. To one of them a very pleasant-looking Gentleman Rev S. introduced me. I found that under the circumstances anything like an interview was out of the question, and as I had another interview in Wapping the same night I could not stop till the end of the entertainment. However I was given a Report and Card - (which seems to contain all that is necessary) - and had a few minutes talk. The Mission is evidently quite a much

thing, and Mr Spencer who is mainly responsible for it's management is a very poor creature as far as I could judge. It was admitted that except through free teas adults were scarcely touched, though at the Sunday evening service "we get our share from all I can 'ear" said Mr Spencer.

SEAMEN & BOATMEN'S

MISSION SOCIETY

(ESTABLISHED 1872)

For the promotion of the Social, Moral and Religious welfare of Seamen and Canal Boatmen, their Wives and Families.

Committee of Management:

Mr. J. TREGENNA (*Chairman*)
Mr. H. AKHURST
Mr. G. HORWOOD
Mr. W. SHERWIN
Mr. T. SARGENT
Mr. G. T. LEE

Superintendent:

Mr. H. W. SPENCER (late W. COWDRY), 6, Cathay Street, Rotherhithe.

Mission Hall:

6, CATHAY STREET, ROTHERHITHE, S.E.

1897.

Entered at Stationers' Hall.]
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Seamen and Boatmen's Mission Society.

ON April 6th, the annual meeting of this society took place in the Seamen and Boatmen's Mission Hall, at Cathay Street, Rotherhithe A goodly number sat down to tea at six o'clock, which had been provided for by Mr. Akhurst, assisted by several Admiralty gentlemen. The meeting, which commenced at 7 30, was well attended, and was presided over by Mr. Perry, of Bermondsey

The Chairman expressed his pleasure in being again in their midst to watch the growth of the spiritual work in this locality. Although they were unable, like some other societies, to speak of some thousands of pounds spent in the course of the year, with sometimes a large balance on the wrong side, they were able to speak of good work done on a small expenditure, showing only a very small balance on the wrong side. This he considered as eminently satisfactory, as the deficit could be wiped off with but small effort.

The work, as detailed in the report for the year, read by Mr. Akhurst, showed steady and satisfactory progress The attendance, both at the services and in the Sunday school, was well maintained, and the number of entertainments given, and of ladies and gent'emen who took part in them and in the services, showed that a real and lasting interest was evidenced therein and in all the society's work.

Mr. Tregenna, of South Norwood, spoke of the great usefulness of mission work, and trusted that the Christian efforts in Rotherhithe would be re-doubled, so that more and yet more good work might be accomplished.

Mr. Featherstone, of Rotherhithe, spoke earnestly on the subject of Sunday school work. He considered that such work was of most vital importance, seeing that it constituted the training ground for the spiritual welfare of future generations.

Messrs. Morris and Chapman, also spoke, and dwelt upon the grand work which can be and is being accomplished at such missions as this.

The Superintendent Mr. Spencer, told of his connection with the Seamen and Boatmen's Mission Society for some twelve years. During the late Superintendent's (Mr. Cowdry) and his own time the work has progressed in spite of many drawbacks, which through prayer and earnest work, have been completely overcome.

The proceedings closed in the usual manner.

Report of the Seamen & Boatmen's Mission Society, 1897.

DEAR FRIENDS,—God has spared us yet another year to labour for Him in his vineyard, and has given us the privilege of appearing before you to present our Annual Report. We thank God for his many mercies to us during the past year. We have had very great pleasure in seeing on several occasions young people coming out for Christ, and we have by the power of God great hopes of winning more souls for His Kingdom This year we trust that our mission's work will receive greater help spiritually and financially from all who are striving in any way to lend a helping hand to rescue the perishing, for like so many other neighbourhoods of London, there is room for much greater Christian activity in this poor and dark neighbourhood of Rotherhithe.

SERVICES, &c.—A total of 208 Services, 52 week-night Prayer Meetings and 52 Services for the young have been held in the Hall, in addition to special Meetings of various kinds. During the summer months, Meetings in the open air have been held both before and after the usual Services, and we trust that much good has been done in awakening some careless ones out of those who ordinarily never enter God's House.

A large number of homes have also been visited by the Superintendent and workers of the Mission.

BOOKS, TRACTS, &c.—A large quantity of books, magazines, tracts, &c., have been given away in the Hall, and also at the open air Services. We would tender our most grateful thanks to the following for the parcels of books, tracts, magazines, &c., which they have kindly supplied for distribution, viz:—The Managers of the *Christian Herald*, *Christian Globe*, *Christian Age*, *Religious Tract Society*, also Messrs. Morgan & Scott, Mr. Waymouth, Miss Haig and others.

ENTERTAINMENTS, &c.—On January 7th, a Christmas Treat was given to about 120 of the Sunday School Scholars. Toys, fruit, &c., were given to each child from a well stocked Christmas Tree, and a very happy social evening was spent refreshments, being handed round at intervals. On January 14th, a Free Tea was given to about 40 poor people by the workers of the Mission, and a Service of Song entitled "The Lamb of the Flock" was excellently rendered by the workers and other friends during the evening. On February 4th, a Free Tea was given by Mr. Akhurst, assisted by several Admiralty gentlemen, to some 128 children of the Sunday School, and a Magic Lantern Entertainment consisting of various useful and suitable tales, was afterwards given by Messrs. Leefe & Akhurst.

On June 14th, a Service of Song was rendered by the various mission workers assisted by friends. On August 3rd, the Sunday School Scholars, teachers and friends went to Theydon Bois, where a very pleasant time was spent. On August 26th, a Treat was given to the junior scholars. They had games in the park and then returned to the Hall, where Tea was served followed by games and refreshments during the evening, and in addition to the tea and refreshments which were free, a toy was presented to each child before leaving the Hall.

SPECIAL SERVICES, &c.—On April 4th, the Sunday School Anniversary Service was held followed on Monday by a Free Tea given to all the Sunday School children. On Sunday September 26th, the Harvest Festival Service was held. In the afternoon a service for the scholars was held, and in the evening Mr. Wilkins, of the Surrey Square Mission conducted the service. The Hall was very prettily decorated with flowers, fruit, vegetables, bread, &c., which were all given to the poor people after the service.

On October 14th, a Free Tea was given to about 50 poor people by Mr Geo Horwood, through the kindness of several city gentlemen. A public meeting was held afterwards at which Mr. Akhurst presided. Interesting and instructing addresses were delivered by Messrs. Perry, Featherstone, Horwood and Hunter. Several friends from the Free Church sang during the evening. On October 21st, a Free Tea was given to upwards of 100 Sunday School scholars, also through the good offices of Mr. Horwood and several city gentlemen. An Entertainment consisting of singing, recitations, &c, was afterwards held and a most enjoyable evening was spent. On November 4th, a Magic Lantern Entertainment was given to over 100 children by Messrs. Akhurst and Leefe, and a similar entertainment was given by Mr. Hall.

The Sunday School we are pleased to say is in a very flourishing condition. The numbers have somewhat increased during the year, and we feel sure that this a most important as well as a most encouraging part of the mission's work. We have also a children's Band of Hope which is well attended

In conclusion we would render our very sincere thanks to Mr. Huntingdon Stone for his great liberality towards our Mission during the past year We also thank the following for their kindness in helping us with their services viz:—The King's Own Mission Band, Messrs Willett, Wilkins, Aldridge and Kitch, (of Surrey Square Mission), The Onward Mission Band, (of Haddon Hall), Mr. Featherstone and friends of the Free Church, Messrs. Perry, Geo. Shaw, (of Spurgeon's College), Hall, Horwood and Hunter. We also thank Miss Vicary for so kindly presiding at the organ, and all those who have assisted in any way to carry on the work of this Mission. We furthermore desire to tender our thanks to Messrs. Huntley and Palmer for biscuits, Mr. Butcher for butter, Messrs. Vinson for fruit and vegetables in connection with the Harvest Festival), Mr Rogers for bread, and Mrs. Dodman for jam.

We would again render our praise and thanks to God that our Mission work has been carried on so successfully for yet another year, and that he has raised up friends to help us financially and in other ways to carr on the blessed work of winning souls to Christ in this small portion of our great city of London.

H. W. SPENCER, *Superintendent.*

BALANCE SHEET, 1896-7.

Income.

	£	s.	d.
To Income from Subscriptions, Donations, &c, 1896	32	8	0
,, Rents from Societies, &c., using Hall ...	7	12	6
,, Balance due to Superintendent	5	5	0
	£45	5	6
To Income from Subsciptions, Donations, &c., 1897	27	2	6
,, Special Donations	13	4	6
From other sources	1	17	3
To Rents from Societies, &c, using Hall ...	10	15	0
,, Balance due to Superintendent	2	15	7
	£55	14	10

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
By Balance due to Superintendent	4	9	5
,, Rent and Expenses	30	8	1
,, Superintendent	10	8	0
	£45	5	6
By Balance due to Superintendent	5	5	0
,, Rent and Expenses	40	1	10
,, Superintendent	10	8	0
	£55	14	10

Audited and found correct, H. AKHURST.

Letter and Report from
H. J. Gough Esq of the
Stephen the Yeoman
Ragged Schools
and Mission

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St Crispin's parish.

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STEPHEN-THE-YEOMAN

RAGGED SCHOOL AND MISSION,

MARIGOLD PLACE,

JAMAICA ROAD, BERMONDSEY, S.E.

Commenced as Marigold Street Ragged School,

16th OCTOBER, 1859.

Report and Balance Sheets

FOR THE YEAR 1898,

Presented at the Thirty-ninth Annual Meeting

ON THE 27TH APRIL, 1899,

Sir CHARLES E. BERNARD, K.C.S.I.,

IN THE CHAIR;

TOGETHER WITH

LISTS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

London:

JOHN MENZIES, PRINTER, 6, COPTHALL AVENUE, E.C.

Letter and Report from
H. J. Gough Esq of the
Stephen the Yeoman
Ragged Schools
and Mission

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2-6

—1—

address on any Friday
evening after 6 p. m.

I am
Your faithfully
H. Gough.
Hony. Secy.

C. Booth, Esq. (Life & Labour of the People in London)

STEPHEN THE YEOMAN
RAGGED SCHOOL & MISSION,
MARIGOLD PLACE,
JAMAICA ROAD,
BERMONDSEY.

ack. 7.2.00 GA.

23 Clovelly Road,
Ealing. W.
5th Feby. 1900.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 31st ult. addressed to Mr. J. Hodge, has been forwarded to me. I enclose a copy of the Annual Report for 1898 (the last issued), and think that will be sufficient for your purposes. If not, I should be available to see you or any of your representatives at my private

EN-THE-YEOMAN

CHOOL AND MISSION,
ARIGOLD PLACE,
ROAD, BERMONDSEY, S.E.
Marigold Street Ragged School,
16th OCTOBER, 1859.

nd Balance Sheets
THE YEAR 1898,
e Thirty-ninth Annual Meeting
THE 27TH APRIL, 1899,
ES E. BERNARD, K.C.S.I.,
IN THE CHAIR;
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London:
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Letter and Report from
H. J. Gough Esq of the
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23/1

St Crispin's parish.

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STEPHEN-THE-YEOMAN

RAGGED SCHOOL AND MISSION,

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St Crispin's parish.

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THE THIRTY-NINTH

ANNUAL MEETING

WAS HELD ON

THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 27th, 1899.

The Chair was taken by SIR CHARLES E. BERNARD, K.C.S.I.

A Hymn was sung.

Prayer was offered by Mr. JOHN KIRK, Secretary of the Ragged School Union.

An abstract of the Report and the names of the Committee and Officers were read by the Hon. Secretary.

The General Balance Sheet and Penny Bank Balance Sheet were read by the late Hon. Financial Secretary.

The *First Resolution* was moved by Mr. JOHN KIRK, seconded by Mr. JOHN MENZIES, and carried unanimously.

"That the Report and Balance Sheets be received and adopted and printed for circulation, and that the Gentlemen whose names have been read be the Committee and Officers for the ensuing year."

The *Second Resolution* was moved by the Rev. H. A. BURLEIGH, seconded by Mr. JAMES STRATFORD, supported by the Rev. G. E. CRAVEN, and carried unanimously—

"That this Meeting has heard with deep interest of the abundant opportunities for useful Christian work which are to be found in connection with this institution, but regrets, however, to hear of the lack of workers, and promises to do its utmost to either render personal service or to lead others to do so."

A Hymn was sung and the Collection was made.

The *Third Resolution* was moved by Mr. SETH TAYLOR, seconded by the Rev. JOSEPH WALLACE, supported by Mr. THOMAS FARMER, and carried unanimously—

"That the best thanks of this Meeting be presented to Sir CHARLES E. BERNARD for his kindness in presiding on this occasion."

The Chairman acknowledged the vote.

The Doxology was followed by the Benediction.

Letter and Report from
H. J. Gough Esq. of the

St Crispin's parish.

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Stephen-the-Yeoman Ragged School & Mission.

President.

DONALD MATHESON, Esq., 50, Queen's Gate Gardens, S.W.

Vice-Presidents.

Rev. S. MARTYN BARDSLEY, M.A.
EDRIC BAYLEY, Esq.
Sir C. E. BERNARD, K.C.S.I.
Col. BEVINGTON, J.P.
F. C. CARR-GOMM, Esq.
Rev. E. N. COULTHARD, M.A.
THOMAS FARMER, Esq.
Rev. JOHN FARREN.
G. H. FREAN, Esq.
Sir W. BRAMPTON GURDON, K.C.M.G., C.B., M.P.
Rev. D. MATHESON, M.A.
JOHN MENZIES, Esq.
CHARLES MORLEY, Esq., M.P.
Rev. HEBER ROSIER.
SETH TAYLOR, Esq.
J. J. VEZEY, Esq.
Rev. JOSEPH WALLACE, M.A.

Treasurer.

ARTHUR CARR, Esq. (Messrs. Peek, Frean & Co.), Drummond Road London, S.E.

Bankers.

THE LONDON & WESTMINSTER BANK, Southwark Branch, 6, Borough High Street, S.E.

Committee.

Chairman—Mr. THOMAS FARMER, Temuco, Marlborough Road, South Croydon.

Mr. BEARE.
,, BOYCE.
,, CHALLIS.
,, CHESWICK.
Mr. GOLDSMITH.
,, HILL.
,, T. MENZIES.
,, POWELL.
Mr. PUMFREY.
,, SHAW.
,, STRATFORD.
,, WHITE.

Joint Hon. Secretaries.

(*General and School Correspondent*) Mr. H. J. GOUGH, 23, Clovelly Road, Ealing, W.
(*Financial*) Mr. J. T. ROWLAND, 48, Kimberley Road, Clapham Road, S.W.

Lady Superintendent.

Mrs. MATHESON.

Sunday School.

Superintendent (*Evening School*) Mr. JAMES STRATFORD, 46, Rosenthorpe Road, Waverley Park, Nunhead, S.E.
Assistant Superintendent (*Afternoon School*), Mr. C. H. BOYCE, 96, Storks Road, Bermondsey, S.E.

School Mistress.

Miss CHALLIS.

Assistants.

Miss LENG. Miss EVANS.

MOTHERS' MEETING.

Superintendent—Mrs. MENZIES.
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—Miss STONE.

MATERNITY SOCIETY.

Committee.

Mrs. BEARE.
,, BOVENKERK.
,, CHALLIS.
Miss CHALLIS.
Miss COVINGTON.
Mrs. FARMER.
,, GOUGH.
,, J. MENZIES.
Miss WRENCH.
Mrs. MACNAMARA.
,, PILE.
,, WHALEY.
,, WINTER.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—Miss STONE.

Bible Nurse—Mrs. GILLHAM, 24, St. James's Road, Bermondsey.

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

Superintendent—Miss FARRAR-SMITH.
Hon. Secretary—Miss KEYTE.

PENNY BANK.

Treasurer—Mr. J. J. VEZEY.

Trustees.

Mr. J. MENZIES. | Mr. J. J. VEZEY.

Managers.

Mr. DAVIS.
,, M. H. HACK.
,, H. HIGGS.
,, LAMBOURN.
Mr. T. MENZIES.
,, D. MILLER.
,, PHILLIPS.
,, F. J. ROONEY.
Mr. C. R. ROONEY.
,, J. S. SAUNDERS.
,, H. J. VEZEY.

Secretary—Mr. ERNEST WOODLEY.

Trustees of the School.

Mr. CHALLIS.
,, J. G. LEWIS.
Mr. MOWL.
,, J. J. VEZEY.
Mr. R. W. WALKER.

Letter and Report from
H. J. Canal Esq. of the 23/

St Crispin's parish.

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STEPHEN-THE-YEOMAN

Ragged School and Mission.

REPORT FOR 1898.

IT is with sincere gratitude to Almighty God for His support and help in the past that the Committee now present their Annual Report. They acknowledge with thankful hearts the cheering sympathy of word and deed on the part of old and new friends, and the devotion and earnestness of all associated with the work. Anxieties and difficulties which have occurred have been surmounted, but there remains the deep regret for the loss during the past year by death or removal from the neighbourhood, or from other causes, of several earnest workers and friends.

One, who had been for nearly thirty years a teacher in the Sunday Evening School and for upwards of twenty years a member of the Committee, who years back had taken an active part in connection with the Working Men's Club, who was a Trustee and Manager of the Penny Bank, who had helped in many ways, and whose name and features were familiar to all connected with the School—Mr. John Sindall—passed away in August last after a wearying and painful illness, much mourned by his colleagues and by all who knew him. His father was one of the founders of the School, and by the loss

of the name of Sindall from the list of the Committee another link with the early associations of the School is severed. A portrait of the deceased has been placed in the Upper Schoolroom.

Mr. Veats, a young and earnest teacher in both the Sunday Afternoon and Evening School, also died during the year. He was much esteemed and greatly regretted. A very old subscriber and friend—a friend of the late Miss Charlesworth—has also passed away at a very advanced age—Mrs. Close, widow of the late Dean of Carlisle.

Mr. George Hodges, who for no less than twenty-six years has been an active worker in connection with Stephen-the-Yeoman, first as Teacher, subsequently holding the office of Secretary in addition for some eight and a half years, and on relinquishing that post becoming the efficient Superintendent of the Sunday Evening School for a similar period, resigned that office in January last to the great regret of the Committee and Teachers. Mr. James B. Miller, who also had for many years been a zealous helper in the Sunday School, and formerly, in connection with the Flower Show, the Lads' Gymnasium, and the Weekly Entertainments, had indeed done "yeoman" service, resigned the post of Teachers' Secretary, which had been still retained by him, last year. Both he and Mr. Hodges had removed some years back to a distance from the School, but had nevertheless regularly continued their attendance every Sunday evening. The Committee are glad to place on record their appreciation of such long and earnest services.

Mr. James Stratford, who has been for some years a teacher in the Sunday School, has succeeded Mr. Hodges as Superintendent, while Mr. Walter Powell has succeeded Mr. Miller in his office. The Committee's best wishes go towards them for success in their work

Letter and Report from
St. J. [illegible] 23

St Crispin's parish.

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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Mr. James Stratford, the Sunday School Superintendent, reports as follows of the SUNDAY EVENING SCHOOL:—

"The Evening Sunday School has suffered a great loss by the retirement of Mr. G. Hodges in January last, and in attempting to carry on the work I humbly put confidence in the same God and His promises of sufficient Grace in time of need.

"The average attendance during the past year was Infants, 90; Older Children, 180; Elder Scholars, 20; total, 290. We have great cause to rejoice that eighteen or twenty young women who have grown up in our Sunday School show evident signs of the work of Grace by their life and conduct; two are accepted teachers, and several are so used when required. We have opened a Bible Class for Young Men and Lads in a separate classroom, conducted by Miss Hart, and are getting back some who had left us; we have an attendance of twelve to fifteen of these, and others have promised to come.

"We mourn the loss of two Teachers by death—Mr. Veats, an earnest and valued worker, and our dear friend, Mr. John Sindall, whose loss will be long felt by all who knew him, and we much need, and pray for, more such workers. We are thankful that we have secured the help of two lady teachers, Miss Hart and Miss Moore.

"There is no lack of scholars in the Evening School, and the slight numerical decrease is caused by the necessity for excluding all late scholars for lack of teachers. The classes are frequently mixed and unduly large, so that the children cannot hear the teachers, and become restless, and so both are discouraged; and I therefore most earnestly plead for more helpers for the sake of Christ's cause."

Mr. C. H. Boyce, Assistant Superintendent, reports as follows of the SUNDAY AFTERNOON SCHOOL:—

"I am sorry to have to report that there has been a decline in our scholars' attendance again this year, the average, including Infants, being 117, as against 129 in the previous year. Whilst, however, the Scholars' average has declined, the Teachers' attendance has, I am glad to say, improved, the average for the year being 7, that of last year being 5½.

"This improvement, I earnestly hope, will be maintained, for it is only by keeping up the teaching staff that we can hope to improve the scholars' attendance. Children are most sensitive, and unless the teacher is regular the class soon dwindles away, and the children not only lose the influence of religious teaching, but are exposed to much that is harmful by spending the school hour in the streets.

"We have lost during the last six months or so no less than five teachers, one of that number (Mr. Veats) by death. His removal has been a great loss to us; for he was a most thoughtful, earnest, and zealous Christian worker, and stuck to his class until growing infirmity compelled him to relinquish it.

"May I appeal again for more helpers in this part of the vineyard? Our need of teachers of both sexes is very pressing—lady teachers especially. No form of work can be more acceptable to God than that of trying to lead the poor to Him. Will any Christian friend, not otherwise engaged on Sunday afternoons, come and help us? You will be heartily welcomed, and in striving to bless others you yourself will not go empty away."

The SUMMER TREAT took place on the 18th of June, when 280 children went to Epsom Downs and enjoyed a fine day. Mrs. Matheson again repeated her annual kindness in sending 500 sausage rolls and 500 jam tarts

Letter and Report from
St. J. [illegible] 23/

St Crispin's parish.

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for the children. The Committee tender to her their grateful thanks. The younger children and infants were entertained at the School on the 25th of June, and the Committee have again to thank Messrs. Southwell & Co. for their kind present of jam for the occasion.

The usual CHRISTMAS DINNER, provided, as were the summer treats, out of funds collected by the Teachers, was given on the 20th December, when 220 children immensely enjoyed the excellent hot roast beef, baked potatoes, and plum pudding with which they were regaled—and a magic lantern and oranges afterwards.

The annual ROBIN DINNER, again kindly provided, as in so many former years, through Miss Couty, of Lee, took place on the 12th January, when similar fare was equally appreciated by 335 children; a magic lantern was subsequently shown, and oranges, woollen cuffs and garments were presented to the children on leaving.

The TEA AND ENTERTAINMENT, which through Miss Friedrichs' kind gifts from the *Westminster Budget* Fund for two years in succession had delighted so many children, was repeated on the 19th of January, when Miss Friedrichs herself was present and saw the intense pleasure enjoyed by 620 children (300 in St. Crispin's Hall and 320 in the School) in partaking of a capital tea, in being absorbed in a fascinating entertainment, and in receiving oranges, gifts of toys, and other presents at the close.

The Committee's best thanks have already been tendered to these friends for their kindnesses.

The OLD SCHOLARS' MEETING was held on the 31st March, when 110 were present—whose quiet behaviour and attention indicated their appreciation of and interest in the proceedings. A very substantial tea having been disposed of, Mr. Farmer, who took the chair in the absence of the President, who was unable to be present, gave an address, and was followed by Mr. Pumfrey and

Mr. Challis. Hymns were sung during the evening. This is an interesting *réunion* for old scholars, some of whom came from a considerable distance.

Seven boys and girls were awarded certificates and prizes last year by the Ragged School Union for having kept their situations, with good characters, for various periods exceeding twelve months.

An EXAMINATION IN SCRIPTURE was held by the Sunday School Union in March, and was attended by some of the scholars from Stephen-the-Yeoman School.

GOSPEL SERVICES.

Mr. Stratford reports: — "The service, which follows after the Sunday Evening School, has not quite kept up its number of attendants, but the goodly number of young women and young men who regularly attend (the girls forming a useful choir), also a few neighbours and workers, make up a service that is acceptable to our Master, whose presence is truly felt.

"We are about to commence outdoor services. This work has been dropped for several years, but by earnest and faithful work we feel confident they will be a blessing to our neighbours who do not attend God's House. We are encouraged by past acceptance to continue our labours for those for whom Christ died, and rely on your prayers, faith, and sympathy."

THE DAY SCHOOL.

The work associated with the DAY SCHOOL has prospered during the past year.

The number of children on the register at the end of the school year, the 31st January, 1899, was 153, the average attendance for the year having been 113, an increase of five over the average of the previous year.

Letter and Report from
St. S. [illegible] 23/

St Crispin's parish.

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The Government Inspection was held on the 27th February last by H.M. Inspector, A. P. Graves, Esq., and his assistants, Messrs. Venables and Cunningham, the Report being as follows:—"Mixed School—The improvement noticed in recent years in the appearance, order, and attainments of the children is well maintained. Infants' Class—The Infants' Class is pleasantly and carefully taught."

The amount of Grant awarded, on an increased average attendance and for two class subjects, instead of one, as usual, was £99 11s. 6d., which includes a Drawing Grant of 27s. 6d. The amount of Grant in the previous year was £89 15s.

The Committee have had especial pleasure, in view of the encouraging character of the Report and the increase in the amount of the Grant, in offering their best thanks to Miss Challis and her Assistant Teachers for their painstaking and successful efforts during the past year, as also for their voluntary and cheerful help in the various work undertaken out of school hours for the good of the children and their parents.

The Balance Sheet shews the total amount of Grants received during the year ended the 31st December last, including the Fee and Drawing Grants and the new Aid Grant (£31), to have been £175 5s., as against £147 13s. in the previous year and £135 7s. in the year preceding.

The amount of the Aid Grant under the Voluntary Schools Act received in January last was £33. As was explained in last year's Report, the Committee joined the London and District Association of British and other Voluntary Schools for the purposes of the Act, and appointed the Joint Secretaries as representatives of the School.

Mr. Witterick, who has succeeded Mr. Weller as City Missionary, has, like his predecessor, continued to

give the children Bible Lessons weekly. On Wednesday mornings the whole school is assembled in the upper room and a short, simple and plain address is given, to which the children listen with marked attention. The Committee are much indebted to Mr. Witterick for his kindness.

The Prayer Meeting for the children continues to be held on Tuesdays at 12 o'clock.

FREE DINNERS FOR THE CHILDREN, to the number of 2,500, were again given twice a week during the winter season, the management being, as usual, undertaken by Miss Challis and the other teachers. The benefit of these dinners to the children can scarcely be over-estimated. Any surplus food and soup is afterwards given away to the poorest mothers. An interesting account of a soup dinner by a lady who was present at one of them is given in a subsequent part of the Report.

The Committee's best thanks are tendered to the friends whose names appear in the Cash Statement at the end of the Report for gifts of money for the dinners; to Mrs. Matheson for various hampers of food and two sacks of potatoes; to Messrs. Lawrence & Co. for a sack of rice, a bag of haricot beans, and one of peas; and to the following kind neighbours who gave bread and materials for soup, viz., Mr. Dhonau, Mr. Hurry, Mr. Lester, Mrs. Porter, Mr. Reeson, and Mr. Wright.

The Committee have great pleasure in recording a most generous and thoughtful gift of *new* boots and stockings to all the children. Miss Friedrichs, whose gift from the *Westminster Budget* Fund for now three years in succession has provided upwards of 600 children with a capital tea and entertainment at Christmas time, paid a visit to the school towards the end of October last, and subsequently wrote a sympathetic article on this "school for ragamuffins," which appeared in the *Westminster Gazette* and *Budget*. The graphic account

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of the children's condition appealed to the heart of a gentleman, who shewed his sympathy by a generous offer to supply new boots and stockings for all the children—he stipulating only that the children should be measured and that he should remain anonymous. The distribution was made on the 15th December, when Miss Friedrichs was present. An account appeared in the *Westminster Gazette* on the 19th December, and as it possesses great interest as being from Miss Friedrichs' own "Story of the Boots," it is given as an Appendix at the end of the Report (see page 23).

As in former years, eighteen of the children were sent away in the summer to Keston Common, for a fortnight's stay each, through the kindness of Lady Newnes, who defrayed all expenses.

On the 22nd December the usual CHRISTMAS TREE AND TEA for the Day School Children and Sunday School Infants was once more given by Lady Newnes, whose thoughtful kindness provided for the repetition of this annual festival although her ladyship was out of England at the time. In her absence her sister, Mrs. Ovenden Harris, accompanied by Mr. Ovenden Harris, took an active part in serving the tea and distributing some 150 dolls and a still larger number of excellent toys to Lady Newnes' 304 little guests—whose delight was supreme and whose cheers of thanks for Mr. and Mrs. Ovenden Harris and Lady Newnes were the loudest their little throats could give, in the hope, perhaps, that some sympathetic echo might, by an improvement even on wireless telegraphy, reach the ears of the donor of the feast in the far-off land of Egypt.

For these and many other kindnesses the Committee tender to Lady Newnes their warmest thanks.

EVENINGS FOR THE CHILDREN, in connection with the Guild of Play, have been kindly continued at the School by Sister Grace, Miss Brailsford, and other

friends from the Bermondsey Settlement, to whom the Committee are much indebted and offer their best thanks. Some of the children took part in the Xmas festivities in Bermondsey Town Hall.

The following friends are heartily thanked for parcels of clothing and other gifts for the children and mothers, viz., the late Miss Allcard, Mrs. Anderson, Anonymous (two parcels), Mrs. Robert Baker, Mrs. Beare, Miss Brandreth, Miss Daymond, Miss Edmonstone, Miss Everett, Miss Friedrichs, Mrs. Hurford (flowers), Mrs. Humphreys, Mrs. Harry Jones, Mrs. H. Knight (clothes and toys), Miss King (toys), Mrs. A Lewis, Mrs. J. J. Lewis, Mrs. Donald Matheson, Mrs. Meredith, Charles Morley, Esq., Mrs. Mitchell, Miss Niven, Mrs. Ravaison, Miss Rabbeth (clothes and toys), Ragged School Union, Mrs. Rushbrook, per Mr. Stratford, Mrs. Thomas, Mrs. Tod, *Westminster Budget*, per Miss Friedrichs (clothes and toys), Mrs. Winter, Mrs. Woodley, Miss Wrench, the Anonymous Donor of Boots (twenty-five rabbits), Mrs. Matheson (a large number of rabbits, bread puddings and dripping), J. J. Vezey, Esq., (two Surgical Aid letters), Mr. Bride (one Surgical Aid letter), Mrs. Beare (one box of sweets), Lady Newnes (for coals and food for sick poor, £2 9s.), Mrs. Hannah Knight (for sick and needy cases, £5), Mrs. Anderson (for sick people and children, £1 7s. 6d.).

BAND OF HOPE.

The Band of Hope, which has been for a very considerable time without a regular Superintendent and has been bravely carried on by Miss Cooper, as Secretary, assisted by other friends, has at last a conductor, Mr. W. Barnes having undertaken the post. Meetings are held on Friday evenings from 7 to 8 o'clock, and one evening a month has been set apart as a play-night. Speakers from the Band of Hope Union have occasionally attended, and on one evening a panorama was shown. Miss Cooper reports that the class is progressing

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favourably, with an average attendance of 50. The Summer Excursion was to Riddlesdown, on the 10th August, with the United Band of Hope.

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

Last session closed with a charming outing to Roehampton on the 2nd July, where the girls were invited to tea by Mrs. Donald Matheson. About twenty girls went and spent a very enjoyable afternoon and evening. They were met at the Station by brakes sent by Lady Newnes and were taken for a drive round Richmond Park. After tea they strolled on the Common, and were regaled with fruit before returning home.

The Committee regret that Miss Farrar-Smith, of the Bermondsey Settlement, who took charge of this club last year, has been obliged to leave England on account of her health. Miss Emus has, however, kindly taken her place. Some needlework is still done, with which Miss Davis assists—twenty-two garments have been made this session. The girls also play games, and Miss Frank gives instruction in musical drill. Further help is also given by Misses Challis, Parfitt, and Whittaker. The girls had their Annual Tea on the 27th March. The number on the books is thirty-three, with an average attendance of twenty-five. Miss Farrar-Smith took a good deal of trouble with two homeless girls who belonged to the Club, and finally succeeded in placing the elder girl in a good situation, where she still remains, and getting the younger one into a Servants' Home. Miss Keyte kindly continues to act as Secretary. To all these ladies the Committee offer their best thanks.

GIRLS' SINGING CLASS.

This class for elder girls has continued to meet on Friday evenings, from 8 to 9.15, throughout the year. Miss Cooper, who kindly conducts it, states that it is very much appreciated by the girls, whose average

attendance is twelve. One of the Wednesday evening entertainments was successfully given by the members of the class.

MOTHERS' MEETING.

Miss Stone, who kindly continues to give her valued services as Secretary and Treasurer to this Meeting and to the MATERNITY SOCIETY, reports as follows :—

"The meetings have continued to be held on Tuesday evenings, with an average attendance of fifty-six. We believe many of the mothers are striving to practise the spiritual teaching which they receive weekly. During the year some have passed away, we trust with a firm assurance in their God and Saviour.

"Payments received from the mothers towards the CLOTHING CLUB amounted to £14 1s. 10d. The ANNUAL TEA took place on 11th January, when eighty-four mothers highly appreciated the good things provided for them, and thoroughly enjoyed the music, singing, and quiet games which followed, some of the mothers taking part in the latter with great zest. Before dismissal, Mr. Farmer gave a few words of goodly counsel and offered prayer. At the close each mother received a periodical, through the kindness of Mr. Kirk.

"The SUMMER EXCURSION was held on the 12th July, when a party of over 100 mothers and friends went to Southend and enjoyed a very pleasant day. The fares were paid for three poor old women who said they could not afford to go, and they were most grateful for the kindness.

"The ANNUAL SALE OF CLOTHING, at nearly nominal prices, took place on 13th December, when the amount realised was £5 14s. 6d. The proceeds are given to the Maternity Society. The poorer mothers are very thankful for the Loan bags and also the Loan blankets supplied during the winter by that Society.

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"Parcels of cast-off clothing are gratefully received at all times, but particularly in November. This year we offer thanks to many ladies for sending new garments for distribution among the mothers. Sincere thanks are also offered to all friends who gave addresses at the weekly meetings and to the following friends for parcels of clothing, etc.—Mrs. Barnhill, Mrs. Challis, Miss Challis, Miss Covington, Mrs. Davis, Mr. Daintree, Mrs. Farmer, Mrs. Hodges, Mrs. Hurst, Mrs. Menzies, Mrs. Miller, Miss Niven, The Ragged School Union, Mrs. Rushbrook, Mrs. Stewart (tea), Miss Stone, Mr. Stratford, Miss Thomas, Mrs. Winter, and Miss Wrench."

The Committee desire to record their thanks also to these friends and to the ladies who kindly help in connection with these benevolent agencies.

BIBLE NURSE.—There has been a change in Nurse Gillham's position during the past year, but happily she still continues (after upwards of thirty-one years' service) her devoted and deeply appreciated work amongst the sick poor. Her duties, which extended over a large area, and which Mrs. Wallace, then her local superintendent, on behalf of the Committee, described some two years back as "to say the least, most arduous," had eventually become far too onerous, and had affected her health. Ultimately she sent in her resignation to the London Bible and Domestic Female Mission, by whom she had been employed for the long period named above. But as the Committee of Stephen-the-Yeoman found that Nurse was as anxious as ever to help the sick poor among whom she had laboured so long, they suggested that she might work in the immediate vicinity of the School only and amongst those connected with Stephen-the-Yeoman, which would considerably lighten the demands upon her and for which they would be pleased to offer her the £20 per annum hitherto paid by them to the London Bible and Domestic Female Mission. Nurse

gladly accepted this offer, and with a restricted area in her charge and less strain upon her strength she has quite recovered her health and is happy in her continued usefulness. She reports monthly to the Committee, and of course continues to work in connection with the Committee of the Maternity Society and the Mothers' Meeting. May she long be spared in health and strength to carry her ministering help and comforting words to the bedsides of the sick and dying. Nurse Gillham's address is 24, St. James's Road, Bermondsey, where gifts of flowers, etc., and of any suitable magazines or books for the sick poor *should* be sent.

EVENINGS FOR THE PEOPLE.

Mr. Gough, who again kindly took charge of these and to whom much of their success is due, reports as follows:—

"Week by week during the winter months for the past thirteen years a night has been set apart for the people's entertainments, with the happiest results. Crowded audiences have been the rule, the attention generally good, and marked appreciation shewn for the efforts of the artistes. The season just ended has been attended with the usual success: the songs and recitations when well rendered securing applause—patriotic songs and stirring recitations especially so—and pathetic or thrilling stories invariably being received with profound attention. Of course care is taken, as far as possible, that the tone of the entertainments is healthy and above reproach, the object in view being not simply amusement, but elevation of mind and morals. Concerts formed the staple entertainment last season, being varied by two lantern lectures, a minstrel troupe performance, one or two dramatic scenes, and a service of song. The names of the ladies and gentlemen who were good enough to

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provide these entertainments, are here detailed. The Committee's best thanks are due to them all.

Mrs. Farmer—Mr. Holliday's Party.
Madame Thomas — Party from Christ Church, Bermondsey.
Mr. J. W. Thompson—Orchestra from Southwark Park Wesleyan Church.
Miss Lewis—Friends from Peckham.
Mr. Jones—Elocution Class of the Bermondsey Settlement.
Mr. Nightingale—Party from Barry Rd. (Wesleyan) Church, Dulwich.
Mrs. Beare, Mr. Bettley, Mr. Whaley, Mr. H. E. Morgan, Mr. Herbert Sindall—Personal friends in each case.
Mr. Beavis—Party from Southwark Presbyterian Church.
Mr. Shoebridge — Phrenological Exposition and Recitals.
Mrs. Ellson—Friends from Stoke Newington.
Mr. T. Menzies, Mr. J. T. Rowland—Lantern Lectures.
Miss Cooper—The Girls' Singing Class.
Mrs. Macnamara—Minstrel Troupe.

PENNY BANK.

This very useful branch of the work continues to flourish under the attentive care of its excellent Secretary, Mr. Ernest Woodley, who writes:—

"The year's working does not show any marked features—the amount deposited being within £1 2s. 3d. of last year, viz., £272 19s. 8d. against £274 1s. 11d. The withdrawals were £261 16s. 1d. against £255 17s. 2d., or £5 18s. 11d. more than in 1897. The number of Deposits has increased by 141, viz., 4,204 against 4,063, showing that the facilities offered by the Bank are more appreciated than ever. Deposits again exceed

withdrawals, and it is pleasing to note that the balance in hand has increased, by over £16, to £164 9s. 3d."

The Committee are glad to take this occasion for thanking those gentlemen who kindly continue to give their services as Managers.

In conclusion, the Committee refer, as usual, in the first instance to Finance. It will be seen, on reference to the Balance Sheet, that the balance at the end of the year was £35 7s. 10d. This is very encouraging, but it is partly due to exceptional receipts, *e.g.*, £7 *re* Sale of Work, and money received as compensation for articles destroyed at the Fire, some of which have not yet been replaced. There is, therefore, still cause for inviting further subscriptions, the more so as old friends die from time to time who have been constant subscribers.

The appeals for Teachers have been read. The Committee support these appeals most earnestly, and would hope that further offers of personal service for week-day work also may be received—especially from gentlemen. The Children's Flower Show has been discontinued for two years solely on account of want of helpers. The Lads' Gymnasium and Institute cannot be reopened unless more help be received. The privilege and the honour of engaging in this good work are not sufficiently appreciated—nor the happiness considered. May more come forward to enjoy the great happiness of making others happy, and the luxury of doing good.

The Committee heartily thank the Officers and Teachers and all the other workers who have faithfully laboured throughout the year; as also the many, many friends who, in various ways, have rendered help. The Committee pray for the blessing of God on all friends and workers and on those for whom they labour, and for his guidance in carrying on the work; and looking back into the vista of past years and recognising the

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providential help which has so graciously been extended to Stephen-the-Yeoman Ragged School and Mission, they pray that all, united by the bands of love and earnestness, may in patient perseverance be strong and of a good courage, and that the coming years may be more fruitful than ever in usefulness.

RETIREMENT OF MR. CHALLIS.

It is with the deepest regret that we announce the retirement of our highly-valued and esteemed Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. W. Challis, who, shortly after the Annual Meeting, was compelled by a severe ophthalmic attack to relinquish the post he had so admirably filled for upwards of eight years.

His conscientious discharge of duty, and his indefatigable labours and never-failing courtesy won the admiration and affectionate regard of all his colleagues, whose good wishes and prayers will follow him into his retirement.

Mr. H. J. Gough has most kindly consented to act as General Secretary and School Correspondent, whilst Mr. J. T. Rowland has been good enough to undertake the office of Financial Secretary.

APPENDIX.

Extract from THE WESTMINSTER GAZETTE *of 19th December*, 1898.

"Such a sensation as we created the other day at a Bermondsey school for ragamuffins we had never yet experienced. A fortnight ago, on a never-to-be-forgotten day, a mystery man and his assistant appeared at the school, demanding the sight of all those feet that stood under the forms, within such boots and stockings as never surely are seen except among these rags and tatters of infant humanity.

"How ridiculous it was, how strange, to have a last applied to your feet, and to have somebody jotting down hieroglyphics concerning these troublesome feet of yours that were so blue with cold, so stiff with chilblains and other painful sores! But lasts meant new boots, and new stockings as well, and be quite sure, anonymous giver of these boots, that no present of princely value has ever created more rapt and continuous delight than the prospect of these boots and stockings. The bairns stood up there and then and sang 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,' and the lady teachers, those splendid women who spend their lives and more than their strength in standing, as much as they may, between these babies and a hard, hard world—the lady teachers wiped the tears away, and joined the shrill voices, and thanked God who had sent this great boon, at the time of year when boots were more urgently needed than at any other.

"On Thursday the great booting day was there. A school full of children, mostly in rags, and not one of 157 in much else, large-eyed with expectation, strangely

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still from very excitement, sat in rows and rows, upstairs and downstairs, trying to work at the three R's, giddy all the while with delight.

"Before the boots and stockings were put on a great washing of small feet was undertaken, for how, indeed, could these soft, beautiful black stockings (which Messrs. Hope Brothers, the well-known hosiers of Ludgate Hill, had supplied to us on special generous terms) be put on before the mire through which the babies had come to school was washed off—before also, alas! a gentle hand had washed and vaselined and bandaged the poor sore little heels and toes and ankles?

"The condition on which the boots and stockings were given to the children was that, in return, they should leave at the schools such boots and stockings as they had worn. The bare-footed ones, who had nothing to give us in return for 'value received,' had the best of that bargain. The reason for this arrangement was that it was thought more probable that the children's new boots would not vanish if they had not the old pair as a reserve. Other provisions against the disappearance of the gift boots and stockings have also been made, as we explained the other day.

"And those superior persons who do not 'believe in the poor' should have seen the heap of old boots and stockings piled up in the back room of the school for ragamuffins! As for ourselves, we hope that such a cruel sight will never meet our eyes again, except when, as in the present case, we have the means of banishing it by a contrasting picture.

"The wonder of the new stockings, soft and long and with never a single hole nor blemish, was only eclipsed by the splendour of the boots. In having the boots made, we may here say, we were as lucky as in our choice of hosiers, for Mr. D. S. McMinn, the wholesale

boot manufacturer of Lower Clapton, not only supplied good, strong, well-made boots at the lowest possible prices, but also took no end of personal interest and pleasure in this task, and we consider that not a little of the success of the Great Presentation was due to Mr. McMinn's co-operation.

"There was an interval of a free soup dinner to mark the happy day still further. The children bring their own 'basin,' which takes the shape of soap-dishes, cake-tins, teapots, and very largely of beer-tins. Milk-jugs of enormous size, and tiny saucers to mark the other end of the scale, were filled with a meat and vegetable soup, fit to be put before a king. And the children *did* eat, as only little starvelings can eat, and the slices of bread disappeared as fast as the soup, and more was asked for and given, till all were satisfied, and most of the diners saved a little, 'a taste for my mother,' or for 'my 'Liza,' or for 'my baby.'

"Then came the culminating glory of the day—the boots. It took hours—hours of perfect bliss—and then class after class of beaming ragamuffins marched round the school with burning cheeks and brilliant eyes. The clatter was deafening, but it was sweet as angels' harps to those who stood by and knew what it signified. The children themselves drank it in, and could not get enough of it and of the wondrous sight of their neatly-shod feet. And so the day ended, and the giver of these great good gifts, who remains stolidly anonymous, was spontaneously cheered by 157 pairs of bony little hands who clapped till they could clap no more, and the best that we can wish him is that hours of bliss as perfect as those he has sent into the school for ragamuffins may be in store for him. Here endeth the story of the boots."

STEPHEN-the-YEOMAN RAGGED SCHOOL & MISSION.—GENERAL FUND.

Dr. *Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December, 1898.* Cr.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance from 1897	19	11	5	By Salaries of Day School Teachers ...	172	0	0
,, Subscriptions	80	14	0	,, Salary of Penny Bank Secretary ...	10	0	0
,, Donations	4	7	0	,, Payment to London Bible and Domestic Female Mission (on a/c of Nurse's Salary) to 30 June, 1898 ...	10	0	0
,, Subscriptions to Nurse Fund (1897)	11	13	6	,, Salary of Nurse (from 30th June) and Medical Necessaries	10	3	6
,, Subscriptions to Nurse Fund (1898)	11	2	0	,, Grant to Entertainm't Fund (1897 a/c)	4	13	7
,, Grants from Education Department viz.:				,, School Materials	26	4	5
Examination Grant £89 15 0				,, School Cleaning	18	12	0
Fee Grant ... 53 5 0				,, School and Sundry Expenses	10	5	11
Aid Grant ... 31 0 0				,, Gas for Stoves, Lighting and Water...	19	6	9
Drawing Grant ... 1 5 0				,, Coals and Coke	7	1	0
	175	5	0	,, Repairs and Renovations	65	2	1
,, Grant from Ragged School Union	20	0	0	,, Piano	10	0	0
,, Amount received from the Equitable Fire Office as Compensation for Damage by Fire	104	11	6	,, Printing and Advertisements ...	7	18	6
,, Collection at Annual Meeting ...	4	3	3	,, Doorkeeper	14	3	6
,, Sale of Tickets at Annual Meeting (less Expenses of Tea)	1	5	0	,, Ground Rent and Rent of Playground	5	16	6
,, Further proceeds of Sale of Work ...	7	0	0	,, Fire Insurance	1	4	0
				,, Old Scholars' Meeting Expenses ...	2	1	1
				,, Subscriptions to Band of Hope and Sunday School Unions	0	10	0
				,, Prizes for Day School	1	10	8
				,, Music and Hymn Books	1	15	3
				,, Postages, Stationery & Petty Expenses	5	16	1
				,, Balance at Bank	35	7	10
	£439	12	8		£439	12	8

Bank balance correct,
(Signed) ARTHUR CARR,
Hon. Treasurer.

Audited and found correct,
(Signed) PETER HOLMAN, F.S.A.A.,
J. T. ROWLAND, } *Auditors.*
16th February, 1899.

STEPHEN-the-YEOMAN PENNY BANK.

Dr. *BALANCE SHEET for the year ended December 31st*, 1898. Cr.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance due to Depositors, 31st Dec. '97	116	12	5	By Withdrawals during the year ...	261	16	1
,, Balance of Interest, etc....	31	16	1	,, Interest paid to Depositors	0	6	4
,, 4,204 Deposits during the year... ...	272	19	8	,, Balance due to Depositors, 31st Dec.'98	127	16	0
,, Deposit Books sold	1	4	5	,, Balance of Interest, &c.	36	13	3
,, Interest from Post Office Savings Bank	3	19	1				
	£426	11	8		£426	11	8

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance due to Depositors	127	16	0	By Cash in Post Office Savings Bank ...	148	3	9
,, Balance of Interest, etc....	36	13	3	,, Cash in Treasurer's hands	16	5	6
	£164	9	3		£164	9	3

Audited and found correct, Feb. 10th, 1899,
(Signed) J. T. ROWLAND, } *Auditors.*
O. E. BOVENKERK }

Total amount deposited since commencement in 1864—£8,555 19s. 2d.
Total number of accounts opened—13,447.

(Signed) ERNEST WOODLEY,
Secretary.

ENTERTAINMENTS ACCOUNT.
1897-8.

Dr. Cr.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Collections	0 17 2	By Hire of Piano	4 0 0
,, Grant from General Fund	5 1 2	,, ,, Lantern	0 10 6
		,, Refreshments	0 19 0
		,, Printing...	0 4 6
		,, Postage, Stationery and Telegrams...	0 4 4
	£5 18 4		£5 18 4

Audited and found correct,
(Signed) THOS. FARMER.

MATERNITY SOCIETY.

Dr. *BALANCE SHEET to December 31st, 1898.* Cr.

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Balance, 1897...	13 12 9	By Mothers' Annual Tea	2 12 4
,, Amount collected at Ladies' Teas...	1 1 6	,, Expenses Ladies' Teas	0 14 10
,, Proceeds of Sale	5 14 6	,, Materials for Loan Bags	1 2 4
,, Donations—		,, Relief to Mothers	3 1 6
Mrs. Barnhill	1 0 0	,, Refreshments, Sale Night... ...	0 15 8
Mrs. Winter...	0 10 0	,, Postage	0 7 7
Mrs. Menzies (Refreshments, Sale Night)	0 5 0	,, Donation to Excursion Fund ...	1 10 5
		,, Donations to Nurse ,, ...	1 1 0
		,, Balance in hand	10 18 1
	£22 3 9		£22 3 9

(Signed) A. H. BOVENKERK,
Auditor.

(Signed) EMILY STONE,
Treasurer.

MOTHERS' EXCURSION FUND.

Dr. Cr.

	£	s.	d.
To Donations—			
Mrs. Menzies	1	10	0
,, Sale of Clothing	2	5	5
,, 74 Tickets at 2s.	7	8	0
,, 35 ,, 3s. 3d.	5	13	9
,, 1 ,, 1s. 6d.	0	1	6
,, 4 Teas at 6d.	0	2	0
,, Deficit paid by Maternity Society ...	1	10	5
	£18	11	1

	£	s.	d.
By Train to Southend	12	1	7
,, Teas	5	17	0
,, Attendants	0	6	0
,, Three Fares paid	0	6	6
	£18	11	1

(Signed) A. H. BOVENKERK,
Auditor.

(Signed) EMILY STONE,
Treasurer.

CHILDRENS' TREAT FUND.

Dr. Cr.

1898.		£	s.	d.
Mar. 31.	To Balance in hand	7	1	6
1898-9.	,, Amounts collected by Teachers	29	13	11
		£36	15	5

1898.		£	s.	d.
	By Expenses, Summer Excursion	17	8	2
	,, ,, Infants' Treat ...	2	7	0
	,, ,, Christmas Dinner	6	17	1
1899.				
	,, ,, Examination Tea for Day School	1	8	5
	,, Class Registers and Library Cards	0	11	6
	,, Scripture Examination Fees	0	2	3
	,, Postages and Stationery ...	0	12	0
Mar. 31	,, Balance in hand	7	9	0
		£36	15	5

Examined and found correct.
JOHN MENZIES,
Auditor.

GEO. HODGES,
Treasurer.

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DAY SCHOOL CHILDREN'S DINNER FUND.

To Donations—	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Anderson ...	0	10	0
Miss Friedrichs (Bal. from Tea) ...	3	7	5
Mrs. Harry Jones ...	1	0	0
W. Lugg, Esq. (per Mr. Woodley) ...	0	10	0
Mrs. Matheson ...	2	0	0
Lady Newnes' Coachman's Wife	0	2	0
Miss Pope	4	0	0
Miss Hammond ...	0	2	6
Miss Wrench (farthings)	0	9	7
	£12	1	6

By Balance due to Treasurer ...	£	s.	d.
	1	4	8
,, Amount expended for Dinners ...	9	10	7
,, Balance in hand	1	6	3
	£12	1	6

(Signed) M. A. CHALLIS,
Treasurer.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO NURSE FUND.

	£	s.	d.
Carr-Gomm, Mrs.	2	2	0
Challis, Miss	0	10	0
Johnston, Dr.	0	5	0
Matheson, Mrs.	1	0	0
Mathieson, Mrs.	2	0	0
Maternity Society, Committee of	1	1	0
Menzies, Mrs.	0	10	6
Newnes, Lady	2	2	0
Salmon, Mrs.	1	1	0
Vezey, J. J., Esq.	0	10	6
	£11	2	0

DONATIONS TO GENERAL FUND.

	£	s.	d.
Allcard, Miss, the late	0	10	0
Bevington, Colonel	1	1	0
Crossley, F. W., Esq.	1	0	0
Dempsey, W. J., Esq.	1	1	0
Harton, Miss...	0	5	0
Lester, Mrs.	0	5	0
Pethybridge, W. J., Esq.	0	5	0
	£4	7	0

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO GENERAL FUND.

	£	s.	d.
Anderson, Mrs.	1	0	0
Addis & Son, Messrs. T.	0	10	0
Atkins, T. F. Burnaby, Esq.	1	1	0
Baker, Robert, Esq.	2	2	0
Barker, Mrs. B. B.	1	1	0
Barrow, S. & Brother, Limited	1	0	0
Bernard, Sir C. E., K.C.S.I.	3	0	0
Bevington, Colonel, J.P.	1	0	0
Brandreth, Miss	0	5	0
Brown & Emslie, Messrs.	1	1	0
Carbutt & Co., Messrs.	2	2	0
Carman, R. J., Esq.	0	10	0
Carr, Arthur, Esq.	5	5	0
Carr-Gomm, Mrs.	2	2	0
Challis, J. W., Esq.	2	2	0
Cheswick, Mr.	0	10	0
Close, Mrs. M. Antrim	3	0	0
Courage & Co., Messrs.	2	2	0
Daintree, J. T., Esq.	1	0	0
Darnell, W. & J. R., Messrs.	0	10	0
Dhonau, Mr. & Mrs.	0	10	0
Ellson, J. E., Esq.	1	0	0
Farmer, Thomas, Esq.	1	1	0
Frean, G. H., Esq.	1	1	0
Goldsmith, Mr.	0	5	0
Groves & Sons, Messrs. T.	0	10	0
Haighton, Miss	0	10	0
Herron & Sons, Messrs.	0	5	0
Heywood, A. H., Esq.	1	1	0
Jones, Mrs. Harry	1	1	0
Knight, Mrs. H.	5	0	0
Carried forward	£43	7	0

Letter and Report from
H. J. Gough Esq of the

23/

St Crispin's parish.

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Brought forward	£43	7	0
Lawrence, Miss E. K.	1	0	0
Lewis, J. G., Esq.	0	5	0
Matheson, Donald, Esq.	2	0	0
Matheson, Rev. Donald, M.A.	1	1	0
Menzies, John, Esq.	1	1	0
Mills & Knight, Messrs.	0	10	0
Mitchell, Mrs.	1	1	0
Morley, Charles, Esq., M.P.	2	2	0
Morley, Howard, Esq.	5	5	0
Newnes, Lady	2	2	0
Nobes & Hunt, Messrs.	1	1	0
Peek, Frean & Co., Messrs.	3	3	0
Pelly, Mrs.	5	0	0
Porter, J., Esq.	0	5	0
Rabbeth, Miss	1	0	0
Rowe, H. W., Esq....	1	0	0
Salmon, Mrs. (in Memoriam W. H. Salmon)	1	1	0
Schuster, Miss	2	0	0
Shaw & Co., Messrs.	0	5	0
Southwell & Co., Messrs. C.	2	2	0
Taylor, Seth, Esq.	2	2	0
Vezey, J. J., Esq.	1	1	0
Williams, Miss L.	0	10	0
Winter, Mr. G. T.	0	10	0
	£80	14	0

Received too late for inclusion in 1898 account :—

Edmondstone, Miss	£1	1	0

Mr Leech (Brethren)
Old Midway Chapel

S. Barnabas Parish

GA
Feb 14/00

St Barnabas' parish. 141

Mr Thomas Leech + others. Old Midway Place Chapel, off 56 Bush Road, Rotherhithe. S.E.
(65 Carolina Road.)

Midway Place Chapel is over 100 years old and with the low row of 2 st. cottages of which it forms part, stood in the open fields. It has a gallery, supported by wooden beams, on the 3 sides; a raised fireplace in the wall now occupied by a gas fire, while the old pews have been superseded by iron backed seats.

Mr Leech is a stout, fair man of about 50. His dress was neat and his manner and choice of language good, although marred by an impediment which was distressing at times. "You will hear I am no orator" said he whilst alluding to the assistance they receive in preaching from other brethren. He has been employed at Peak Freans for many (29) years + has lived in the neighbourhood all his life. With him was a rough weather beaten man: rather his senior, whose dress + appearance showed he was a lighterman. These were joined by two others later.

At this Hall, a body of Brethren, numbering 70 on the roll, meet and also endeavour to attract non.

Meetings Held

Bread Distribution

non church goers from the neighbourhood but the response is slight except when some material advantage is offered.

They meet for the breaking of bread e.g. communion service on Sunday morning. Sunday School in afternoon has about 90 to 100 children - some from the neighbourhood others children of members. Gospel service in the evening is attended by 100 to 150, of whom over 100 would be adults. This however was only when they gave four pound loaves to the ~~people~~; both frankly admitting that without this bait they could not get the people - only their own. They give about 40 4lb loaves on 9 or 10 Sunday evenings a quarter, the frequency and amount depending upon what they can afford. "You should see us tomorrow (Sunday) night" said the lightsman as he brought one of the loaves to show that it was full weight; "we shall be full".

During the week they have a Mothers' Meeting, prayer meeting and service, as well as a branch of the Scripture Union. Sometimes have a few outsiders during the week - ~~you~~ had about 30 last Thursday at the meeting.

Charitable Relief

The People of the District

They visit their own people and also the lodging houses and workhouses.

They look after their own poor and would give cash to members if needed but to others Mrs Leech thinks such relief would be risky so bread is given. They distribute the tickets themselves amongst the poor so that only poor people may get them. & apparently think that unless people were really poor they would not come for bread on Sunday evening. "We are all working men and have no time to be bothered with cadgers".

They only co-operate with another body of brethren which helps them with speakers. Friendly with the Baptists to the extent of bowing. Not recognised by the Church of England but added Mrs L. "with a smile" it is reciprocal."

They describe the neighbourhood as becoming poorer by the departure to Hither Green or Tooting of those who can afford to go. People entirely working class. Few go to any place of worship. "They only go to be sprinkled married or buried". The Brethren object is to get them to go somewhere.

Housing

"We do not want them to come here. If they would only go some where we should be quite happy".

On housing they spoke freely, Mr Seech remarking that the appearances of the houses was deceptive. You find houses with very nice curtains and only a shake-down behind. The raising of rents has increased the crowding. One of the men had occupied his house for 15 years & not had the rent raised but his neighbours rents had been raised when tenants changed. Another who had been 6 years in his house had received notice of an increase of 1/- a week to commence next Monday! The landlords say the increases are on account of rates. Six rooms houses range from 13/- to 16/- a week.

This is just an ordinary Brethren's gathering. A small body of working people leading quiet lives, providing for all their own needs both spiritual & material & having something beyond which they use for the benefit of those outside. New adherents are mainly drawn from other Christian bodies, the influence of the brethren being strongest in their lives than in their public ministrations.

St Barnabas' parish.

Southwark Park Chapel
(Congregational) – Lower Road, Rotherhithe

Dist. 33

St Donatts Road
5-2-00

Dear Sir

Re Southwark park Chapel

The church is small at the present time – the numbers almost reduced to a vanishing point. by the constant removals of the friends to better neighborhoods – (40 families in 12 months)

The church is saddled with the interest of a debt of 900 £ – and cannot do much beyond carrying on the usual services – with a good Sunday School Band of Hope &c. and casual help in various forms to poor members – even these could not be sustained but for the fact that my services are entirely gratuitous – and my pocket is frequently call on:

(not for publication) Yours faithfully F. A. Billing

33 / 6.17 149

This church is small – only about 30 members and the Sunday School has 140 scholars & 14 teachers

The building situate at the corner of Hawkstone Road by Deptford Road station seats 600 people

Dr Billing has been here nearly 30 years and has seen the decline of the church from a fairly well attended middle class church to its present position. EA.

Revd H. Rosier
Jamaica Road Congregational Church

GH
16/2/1900

Crowding & Railway Extension
in Bermondsey

The People reached

St James' parish.

33/2-5

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Rev H. Rosier. Pastor of Jamaica Rd Congregational Church, Bermondsey S.E.
Residence: 25 Raymouth Road, South Bermondsey S.E.

Mr Rosier called at the office. He is a dark middle aged man, with a strong earnest face. Neatly dressed but without any trace of the ministerial habit. Wears a soft fell Alpine hat. Looks more like a good class comfortable mechanic than a minister. Has been here 7 years, this being his first Congl pastorate.

The whole of Bermondsey is growing poorer and more crowded, chiefly owing to the railway company's extensions. "Pulling down streets: Bermondsey will soon become a net work of railway arches". The people cannot get lodging and they crowd into the already crowded houses. The better class are leaving and the people employed in the docks cannot find sufficent accommod.

Thinks the colouring of the map for the Salisbury Street area is correct: he has not seen any improvement there.

They get some from that district to the Mothers' meeting

An old + conservative Church

Buildings used

(about 80) and to the L. C. Missionary meeting. Both of these are held at the schoolroom in Salisbury Street. They will not come out to the chapel in the main road.

The congregation is drawn from the south, Deptford Lower Road, Rotherhithe New Road + Southwark Park Road being about the limit of their district. The bulk of the people are respectable working class, with some tradespeople and retired folk who have property in Bermondsey.

The Church is old: has just held its 237th anniversary and has been called the cathedral of nonconformity. Some of the people have been there 50 or 60 years ~~and~~; do not sympathise with modern ideas and will boycott them." As it was in the beginning, is now + ever shall be" Mr R. quoted as their attitude. Since he came 150 new members have been added + this has changed the voting power so that some innovations on the old order have been made. Mr R's sympathies are favour a forward movement but he has adopted "festina lente" as his motto.

The Church seats 900 to 1000 + the schoolroom 600; the latter is surrounded by number of class rooms. The finest set of buildings in Bermondsey, said Mr R. The

Workers employed

Services held

Social Agencies

Rosier - Jamaica Road Cong^l.

No paid workers except chapel keeper, organist & minister. Have 40 to 50 workers - Sunday school, open air, tracts &c.

Sunday Services 11. & 6.30. Morning service is small; if they manage to get 150 it is good. The evening cong^n I gathered was about 400 but Mr R. was evidently reluctant to state a definite figure. They always see some fresh faces, partly owing to the migratory condition of the people & partly to casual visitors.

The Sunday School numbers about 300. The children are decently dressed. The poor children go to St Stephen the Yeoman Ragged School & St Crispin's Mission, these being in the middle of the poor area. Have a prayer meeting (Monday) & week night service (Thursday); also a good Christian Endeavour Society, Junior & Senior.

Social agencies include a Mothers' Meeting, Band of Hope, and a Pleasant Saturday evening; the latter a comparatively new effort. Get 400 people; but attendance varies with the programme. This has been a partial success. Many of the people are their own, but they also get some new faces. Mr R.

chooses

Visitation

Co-operation

Church Membership

chooses attractive titles for his sermons + announces them at the Saturday meeting + they get a proportion to come. Last Sunday he noticed 3 couples in the church, who had not been before but they were at the Saturday meeting.

Mrs R. visits the members + the women of the mothers' meeting are visited. Beside this some 8 or 10 tract distributors visit on Sundays.

Very little charitable relief is given. Only the communion fund - £8 or £9 a year - + this is only suffices for the members.

Co-operation is very slight. They belong to the Free Church Council but it does not work systemically. It is so hard to get a meeting of the ministers. They cannot even get a good ministers fraternal-meeting. A special united mission has been arranged + Mrs R. hopes something from that. The Church of England does not acknowledge them: regards them as interlopers. During the hard winter five years ago there was co-operation in caring for the poor.

The Church has about 200 members now. During the time he has been there, they have paid off a debt of £150 but he does not regard the prospect as bright

bright- so many of the better people are leaving, They go to Dulwich & other places; form new church associations and cannot support the church of their earlier days. The work is becoming harder every year. He reckons seven years in Bermondsey equal to fourteen in the country and he does not want another seven years in Bermondsey.

The bulk of the people go to no place of worship. Their attitude is one of "stolid indifference" You cannot raise them to any enthusiasm either on religious, social or political matters; sometimes a faint interest in the last but it speedily disappears. Amongst the christian people, the spiritual life is not so strong as it used to be. The desire for pleasure and money has had a bad effect. He thinks the cycle is responsible for much of the decline & has done much harm in taking the people away on the Sundays- and as a measure of the extent of this he said that he made enquiries at Brighton & was told that 3000 cyclists went from London to Brighton for this Sunday- "and this is only one road". Great numbers of young people also go

Rosier - bong[d] Jamaica Road

ents the Park. In the summer when the Band plays from 3 to 8 pm. the park is thronged by 1000's.

The general questions were only touched lightly. Drink has slain more than South Africa". The only point that was new ~~was~~ to me was the statement that the Hanover Dwellings, Tooley Street were the homes of a number of prostitutes, who went to the West end. They come home in the early hours of the morning and disgraceful scenes often took place on the staircases. When a respectable family gets in they soon try to get out again. On this question Mr R. seems to have derived most of his information from the missionaries visiting the neighbourhood. He is the supt of one L.C.M. I would meet others.

Mr Rosiers seems to be a steady, common sense man, working in adverse conditions

St Anne's parish.

33/7-23

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Feb. 20th. 1900.

Interview with Mr B. T. Dale, Baptist Church, Lynton Road, Bermondsey.

Mr Dale is one of the few strict Baptists who have consented to see us. I have called him Mr. rather than Rev. because, - in common I think with most of the strict Baptist ministers - his ministry is not the main source of his income. In some capacity (a small clerk I imagine) he is employed all day in the City, and on my arrival at 7.30 had only just reached home.

As he had expressed a hope (on a postcard) that my visit might "be for our mutual good and the glory of God" I was inclined to picture him as rather a stern religionist who might probably wish to preface an interview with prayer. However there was nothing in his demeanour to indicate that he wore his religion more on the surface than other men. He proved a bright, pleasant, simple little man who said what little he had to say

very quietly and without the least suspicion of "cant".

Mr D. said he had been very doubtful as to having us as his people were "very particular" in all matters connected with their Church. Our work is purely spiritual and they just go along quietly "avoiding" anything that is sensational "all glaring advertisements or out-door work of any kind" such additions as these are to the Church are the results of the Sunday School work. When Mr D. took the pastorate seven years ago the Chapel which holds 400 to 500, was almost empty. Now there was an assembly of members "we have had as many as 600" said Mr D. "but we don't get that now: numbers are falling off again. This is due to the outward drift of the respectable artisans who form the congregation. The nominal membership is 60 but "it's best to talk the truth" a good many of them can scarcely be reckoned. They live perhaps at-

Putney or Wimbledon; the effective membership is not more than 40."

Beyond the Prayer Meeting on Monday the service on Thursday and the two services on Sunday the only organisation in connection with the Chapel is the Sunday School with about 180 children and 16 teachers. The children all come from the immediate neighbourhood but in no case do the parents come to the Chapel though any effort has been made to get them

In the matter of charity - certain of the old members are pensioned to the extent of from 8/ to 20/ a month and any poor person who applies to the pastor or deacons is helped on the spot with 5/ or so, collections for a poor fund being made in the chapel. After the gift enquiry is made and though there are cases of deception they are not common; it should be noted though that by deception Mr D. meant the giving of a wrong address; of any real inquiry into the

circumstances of the applicant then is none. But I imagine the total sum spent in this way is not large: there is no visitation of any kind and the pastor and deacons are not brought closely into contact with the poor: what is done is just the simple outcome of elementary Christian principles without any ulterior object.

Mr D. knew little of local conditions or other work in the district. He thought however that few churches or chapels were prosperous. In his own denomination - (i.e. Strict Baptists not Baptists of all kinds) - five out of seven chapels between ~~Roth~~ Deptford and London Bridge have been closed within 20 years.

Revd H. A. Burleigh
Drummond Road Baptist Church

GBA
Feb 22/1900

St Augustine's parish.

33
7.20

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Revd H. A. Burleigh. Pastor of Drummond Road Baptist Church. Bermondsey. Seen at his residence: 147 Lower Road, Rotherhithe S.E.

Mr Burleigh is a middle-aged Scotchman; prominent forehead, bald in front; dark mustache. Was rather suspicious at first and asked some questions respecting the purpose of the Inquiry. When satisfied, however, he spoke freely enough.

The neighbourhood is very depressing and is becoming poorer. Shopkeepers and working people who can afford it go to the suburbs. Young people also go, e.g. those who are in lodgings. Bermondsey has a bad name & they do not like to say that they live there. Those who cycle, also object to the bad roads & prefer to live in Dulwich, Brockley or other places more convenient for a starting point.

His people are working class: a percentage extremely poor - 10 or 15% almost living on relief from the parish or each other - widows &c. Some shopkeepers from neighbourhood & also from Peckham.

Buildings used

Persons Employed

The Relations of Church and Missions

Not many of Peek, Freans men or those employed in the leather works. Most of these live a little further out. About half their people go to the City from Spa Road Station.

Chapel seats 670. School and lecture hall with accommodation for 400 to 500 – nearly 1000 together.

No paid workers except the Minister. About 80 workers in all including 40 S.S. teachers.

In this connection Mr B. mentioned that the Church supplied two missions with workers and he reckoned that between 70 & 100 were away every Sunday. The two Missions & were London Street Mission (See p. 93) and the Grange Mission (Book CXII. p. 27) Beside these other missions were helped "It is said that we bred a lot of preachers at this place." Mr B's attitude toward the Missions is not friendly: he apparently tolerates them and does not regard them as a help to the Church. They take their helpers away and their financial support at the same time as the people cannot support the missions & the church. The connection is nominal; the

workers

workers coming to Drummond Road once a month for the communion service and attending the morning service. He would much prefer the Scottish plan of Service morning and afternoon, and leaving the evening free for evangelistic work. The London plan leaves them to go off and "start these little rival missions". Reckons the mission people as the least valuable of their members. If they have any trouble about absentees it is usually the mission people. They have no responsibility and no ~~rent~~ seat rents and the poorer people find that they can get as much religion as they want and as much preaching. Thus they ~~do~~ satisfy their conscience by attending the Mission. Some also belonging to the chapels become poorer, cannot meet their obligations and then drift to the Missions. Nor do the Missions bring them many members. The affections of those who are converted at the Missions, centres at the Mission.

Services Held

Sunday Services at 11 + 6.30. 200/300 in the morn.g and about 500 in the evening. Practically two distinct

Con-

congregations - husbands + workers in the morning, the wives at night.

3.30 P. S. A. (men + women) Average would be about 300 now. Has been larger. Have membership + give books like Christ Church &c. Sometimes strangers are drawn to this meeting but it has its dis-advantages + Mr B. does not think it does the Church much good. Some people make it a substitute for the morning service. Get late + think they will go to P.S.A. instead. Several now attending P.S.A. who were regular morning worshippers. Other services include prayer meeting (Monday); service in Church (Thursday) - get about 150; fairly strong C.E. Society - about 50. Missionary meetings on Fridays for various societies.

Social agencies include Band of Hope (good); Gospel Temperance Society - not very strong - temperance feeling is about 25 years behind, judged by his Scottish standpoint. Mother's Meeting (Monday afternoon), very successful. About 60 women, mostly from the Dockhead district. The P.S.A. has a Young Men's Class (Fri) for recreation + mutual improvement - Cricket Club &c.

They have a Tract Society with about 30 visitors, making

Social Agencies

Visitation

making 1500 to 2000 calls a month. Visit the area between St James's Road & Southwark Park.

For charitable purposes they have the Communion Fund – about £40 to £50 a year. Mostly given to the poor of the Church – some have 5/- a month. Not a great deal of chronic poverty in the district. Getting out of work or a long illness the cause of want. Death of a husband – in this case they would subscribe for the widow.

Free Church Council not v. strong. Have had a united communion service. With the Church of England they have co-operated on temperance questions and also on the peace question.

Has seen more drunken people on one Saturday night in Glasgow than in 8½ years in Bermondsey and their immediate neighbourhood. All the people drink but they don't get drunk. Only time when you see them drunk is on Bank Holidays, then you see the young fellows and girls.

Houses are very difficult to get in Bermondsey. Once a house is lost, it is impossible to get another. Has people living at New Cross, who having been waiting over 2 years to get back into the neighbourhood.

Charitable Relief

Co-operation

Drink

Housing

Of the prospects, Mr B. is not very hopeful. He prides himself that he has been able to maintain seat rents and says that his is the only chapel in Bermondsey that has been able to keep them up. At Long Lane (Wesleyan) they fell from £200 to £12 in a few years & then were dropped altogether. His own feeling however is that the neighbourhood will have to be worked more and more on mission lines. A much freer service than the regular church service will have to be adopted much as at Gallowall Road. Now he is able to get the people in – they come for the preaching but Mr B. evidently foresees a time when the changes now in progress will remove at all events a part of his congregation, although he says that today the church is doing as well as ever. I notice however that the membership in 1899 was returned as 378; today Mr B. says it is 360.

Mr Burleigh was trained at the Pastor's College and has been at Bermondsey since 1892, this being his first pastorate.

Christchurch parish.

Feb. 27th. 1900.

33/3.10

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Interview with Miss Barclay, the Mission Hall, Paradise St. Rotherhithe.

Miss Barclay is a middle aged lady, - one I believe of the brewing family - who for 26 years has lived in Bermondsey, and carried on Mission work in the very poor streets of Bermondsey and Rotherhithe between Jamaica Road and the river. Though her motives and intentions are no doubt of the best she is not a person of any strength of character or personal attractiveness. She is indeed a weak type of the 'lady bountiful' ~~who~~ her deliberate policy being to buy the people. She says indeed that they understand no other method of procedure, and should be made to understand

2

"that if they attend no place of worship they will be overlooked" i.e. will have no share in the loans and fishes which may be going. She therefore makes it thoroughly understood that she will help no one who does not attend her Mission Hall, and though she did not say so I have little doubt that all who do attend ~~receive~~ receive relief in some form. As to the extent of Miss B's benevolence I cannot speak as she gave no figures: she complained of insufficient funds to do what she would wish, and I do not think she is rich, but probably all she has after keeping up her small home in Trenton Road, is spent on the Mission. Apart from the upkeep of the

Both the pays a ~~Visit~~ Bible Woman and
is the superintendent of and pays the salary
of a City Missionary.

The principle meetings are the Sunday
Evening Service conducted by Miss Dendy
herself and attended by from 40 to 50:
the Mother's Meeting with about 130
and a Semi religious Concert with a
"Gospel address" at which the Hall
which holds about 300, is often full.

Both from the religious and the
social point of view Miss D. finds a
great improvement in the district
since she first knew it: not only are
her meetings and the churches better
attended but the people are more civilised:
there is less rowdiness, less gossipping at

4

the doors, a higher standard in dress. The improvement she attributes to the fact that the work of the various religious agencies, which have waked up much of recent years, "is beginning to tell." She mentioned Mrs Coulthard and Mrs Bardsley as both active. With Mr Bardsley however she is not on good terms: her Hall is in his parish, and on his advent she approached him with a view to cooperation: he however insisted that the Mission must be swallowed by the Church and Miss B. work under him and be restricted to two streets: "as she "had been working than while he was in petticoats" and as her work extended beyond his parish Miss B. could not

consent to this. She has since made efforts to get him to meet the Dissenting Ministers of the district in her Drawing Room to discuss cooperation and a change of lists but this too has been refused. Altogether Miss B. thinks that even the Evangelical clergy have "far too high a sense of their own ~~im~~ importance" and that the lack of cooperation for non-religious matters is due to them. It should be noted that Miss B. is a churchwoman, and I believe attends Mr Wallace's church.

There are a very large number of R.C.'s in Miss B's district: of them she has a low opinion; they are the most drunken and degraded element in the population, nor are they for the most part mind-ful

of their religious duties. Their priests leave them very much alone as long as they remain in their degraded condition but if they become teetotallers and begin to lead decent lives the priests at once try to lead them astray again.

I have noticed that Miss D. probably gives a good deal in the district but in her 26 years experience she has learnt something of the dangers of imposition and for some years she has endeavoured to ~~apply some test of~~ obtain some guarantee of the genuineness of applicants by applying a work test: the chief form that the work has taken has been the making of mats at a low rate of pay. The result of this

test has been that applicants for relief have largely fallen off in ~~[illegible]~~ number.

Miss B.'s views on general questions were not of much value but she mentioned ~~Drink~~ Drink as the chief cause of the poverty of the district: it leads to many crimes of violence, and she deplored the leniency with which they are treated.

Miss B. noticed the wonderful healthiness of the district. When she came here the doctor gave her only a few months of life, but the invigorating air of Rotherhithe gradually restored her to health. The chief drawback to health at one time was the frequent floods which were caused mainly by the building

of the Thames Embankment: the poor South London parishes were therefore obliged to build walls, and Miss B. says it still rankles in the minds of the poor that while the whole of London was taxed for the Embankment the poor parishes in each case had to pay for the walls to keep out the floods caused by the Embankment

All Saints parish.

199

33
515

Report of interview with Mr. H.F.Morriss, founder and President of S. Winifred's, at his residence, also called S. Winifred's, 112 Lower Road. (E.A.) Feb.3.00.

Mr. Morriss is a clerk at Messrs. Stedman and Crowther's in the City (metal merchants). His position is probably a good one, and the firm is a good friend to him in his Rotherhithe work. But he has to be at the office by nine, and generally gets home at about 8. His leisure is therefore limited. He is a man of 40; single; has lived in Rotherhithe for about 25 years, for some time with his sister, and still in the same house, although she has married and brought a husband into the household. He lost both parents while he was quite young, and a sister has since died. It is probable that Mr. M. is himself not a strong man, and he looks as though he might have consumptive tendencies. Particulars of his own life and of the inception and growth of S. Winifred's are given in the pamphlet:"The Story of a Mission; by its Founder".

Mr. M. is a somewhat remarkable mixture of devotedness and of self-satisfaction. There is no"soul-shyness" about him. He tells you of his labours; his successes; expenses on behalf of the Mission; of his lectures; he turns up extracts of praise or comment about himself and his work, and gives you printed papers by the score that make it clear that he thinks quite well of himself. While with him

Morriss- S. Winifred's Hall(2)

it is quite impossible to get xxyaway from "Henry Fuller Morriss, Founder and President of the S. Winifred's Youth's Institute and Mission". But self-satisfaction never blots out the Mission. S. Winifred's is always to the front as much as the man. This redeems him. He is constantly in danger of appearing as a monstrous prig, but he always saves himself, and comes out as a genuine Christian man, working hard at a cause for which it is not an exaggeration to say that he has devoted his life. He is safe, but the danger is perhaps that he may be making prigs. They would however be good prigs, and stand a good chance of keeping straight in life. It is noteworthy that he has placed xx more than a hundred young fellows in the City, most of them as junior clerks and office boys, and that practically all are doing well. At "Manor" Chapel, all the teachers in the Boys' Sunday School are old S. Winifred's boys, and altogether in the neighbourhood he has some 60 of his old boys teaching in various schools.

Mr. M. is proud of S. Winifred's, and justly so. The basis of the work is religious, and a "scriptural and Protestxant" standpoint was avowed. But he believes in the virtue of having a hobby, and the botany class out of which we are told that the Mission grew has had many developments. Mr. M. appears to be a born collector, but he

collects primarily for S. Winifed's. He began to get things together for a lecture that he called "Scraps on Chips", and he has gone on, frankly admitting that he neither specializes nor tries to, but with a success that ~~er~~ enables him now to give a course, if need be, of some dozen lectures that are attractive enough to be turned to good financial account, be it in the n'hood, or further afield, on behalf of S. Winifred's.

But he is more than a preacher, collector and lecturer. He writes hymns and memorial verses; edits a humorous catalogue, if anything of that kind be wanted; and has published a small autobiography. He is ever on the lookout for new ideas that he can turn to account for his work - a quick-witted, ingenious man, with a mind full of pigeonholes, and all labelled, and a life made coherent by a very practical Christianity. Early in our conversation, he had claimed that S. Winifred's was 'unique', and, when I asked in what way, I found that he was thinking of the voluntary basis on which everything is done. "There is no paid worker" as the cover of the Report says. Thus, while the place is, it is true, scrubbed ~~by~~ for money this is a all, and in such tasks as sweeping the building out, doorkeeping etc. they take turns among themselves, and do this for love. The very greatest importance is attached to the

Morriss - St Winifreds Hall (4)

this principle of voluntaryism, and an inspection of the buildings gave the impression that it worked very well, f for everything looked spick and span. The "Institute" consists of some stabling at the end of the private garden of Mr. M's house, to which there is an entrance from the back. It is in an out-of-the-way corner, but the rooms are comfortable, though small. The big building is the Hall in Lower Road, holding perhaps 350 people. This has been more recently acquired, and involves an annual charge of £25 for ground rent, and £25 for a mortgage. A good deal has been paid off since Mr. M. got possession of it, and he appears to have the knack, not only of raising money but of managing well from a business point of view. In raising money he is doubtlessly greatly helped by his willingness to put his hand into his own pocket. During the last 15 years he reckons that he has spent about £500 and that it costs him now about £1 a week. Rooms are provided for them free of rent, but apart from this all the various societies etc. are run on a self-supporting basis, and all are separately managed.

There are a good many helpers, including some 20 S.S. teachers. Nearly all have been bred in the Mission. The following is the general programme of the Mission:

An Ordinary Week at St. Winifred's Mission.

MEETINGS IN THE LARGE HALL,

LOWER ROAD, ROTHERHITHE.

SUNDAY. Average 250

11 a.m.—Children's Special Service. (Adults meet in Institute.)

2.45.—Sunday School. R.350. Av.300.

6.30.—Gospel Service and Prayer Meeting. 200-300

MONDAY.

The Girls' Improvement Class, or Public Meetings if so advertised.

TUESDAY.

Junior Choir 7 to 8 p.m.

Rehearsals 8 to 10.

WEDNESDAY.

Band of Hope 7 to 8.15.

Choir Practice 8.30 to 9.30.

THURSDAY.

Public Meetings.

FRIDAY.

Gymnasium 7 to 8. Boys, 8 to 10. Young Men. (not started yet for 1899.)

SATURDAY.

[Popular High Class Entertainments for the People at 8.]

MEETINGS IN THE INSTITUTE,

ORANGE PLACE, LOWER ROAD, S.E.

SUNDAY. 40-50

40-50 11 a.m.—Morning Service (Adult's only.)

Full 60 3 p.m.—Bible Class (Young Men and Women.) Room full. 60. Always taken by M.

6.30 p.m.—Children's Service.

MONDAY.

Elocutionists Rehearse.

TUESDAY.

Boys' Societies Meet 7.30 to 9.30.

WEDNESDAY, (alternate.)

Rechabites Tent 8.30 to 10., and Teacher's Meetings.

THURSDAY.

Sisters of Phœnix, Junior Lodge 7 to 8. Adult 8 to 9.30.

FRIDAY.

Young Men's Society 8 to 10.

SATURDAY.

Slate Club for Men 7 to 8. (100).

ALL LABOUR VOLUNTARY. —

— NOT ONE PAID AGENT.

The Saturday Entertainments, which had been a great success, have been partly stopped this winter through the opening of a new local theatre. They are only given now when some special programme can be arranged, or when some special object is in view, and have ceased as weekly fixtures.

Morriss - S. Winifred's Hall (6)

Mr. M. gave me the following information about Rotherhithe, with the conditions of which he is very familiar. He corroborated the tendency for the better off to migrate, and said that Lower Road was now the best street in the district. The migration is partly from preference, and partly from necessity, the extension of the Docks and of the Railway having diminished accommodation. This is leading to closer packing, and to higher rents. Houses are hardly ever to let, and it is not a rare thing to see them advertised for, and a premium offered. Mr. Carr Gomm is the chief landowner. Rates are very high, a fact partly explained by the small rateable area, e.g. from the large and extending docks. For employment he mentioned the docks, Peak Frean's, and the River, but said that most young men were employed in the City.

Although Mr. M. is running an independent Mission and appears to be chiefly mixed up with the Free Churches of the district, he stated that his sympathies were very much with the evangelical Church of England. With the late Vicar of his parish, he was very friendly, but did not appear to approve of his successor, Mr. Blakeston, who was High Church, and under whom "things have run down very much."

MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR THEE.

The Loyalist's Guild
OF
St. Winifreds,
Lower Road, Rotherhithe, S.E.

Member's Pledge.

I promise (God helping me) to do all in my power, to assist the work carried on at St. WINIFRED'S MISSION throughout the year 1900.

Name .....

Address .....

GUILD MEETINGS are held in the Vestry every Thursday, at 8 p.m.

WITHOUT ME YE CAN DO NOTHING.

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33

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THE STORY OF A MISSION BY ITS FOUNDER.

IDEAL

FOUNDED 1888.

ST. WINIFRED'S MISSION,

Lower Road, Rotherhithe, London, S.E.

(Opposite FREE LIBRARY).

MOTTO.—"All for One, One for all."

An Unsectarian Christian Association

CONDUCTED ON

Evangelical Mission Lines.

All Voluntary Workers—not one paid Agent.

President and Founder -	Mr. HENRY F. MORRISS.
Vice President -	Mr. WILLIAM JAMES.
Hon. Secretary - -	Mr. WILLIAM BOND, *112, Lower Road, Rotherhithe, London, S.E.*
Choirmaster - -	Mr. JOHN MORGAN
Organist - -	Mr. E. DAVIES.

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THE

STORY OF A MISSION

BY

ITS FOUNDER.

AS A SMALL BOY, from seven to ten years of age, the desire was strong upon me to be a Minister in the Church of England. My father died, however, when I was four months old, and my mother when I reached the age of ten years. There was no way for me to get to college, as the matter of ways and means (or shall I say pounds, shillings and pence?) prevented. Still, I longed to be a minister like the one I listened to every Sunday. I was rather encouraged in the idea, as a child: for the friends at home used to prepare me a white surplice, and on Sunday evenings I used to put it on, and preach to whoever was in the house the sermon I had heard at St. George's Church, Camberwell, in the morning, and go through that portion of the Church Service which I knew by heart.

On the death of my mother I was sent away to School, near Wolverhampton, and there the next five years of my life were spent. I

was dressed just as the boys at Christ's Hospital are—in the quaint Edward VI. style, except the colour of the stockings, which were brown instead of yellow. Here I missed a chance of going to college. I stood sixth boy in the school, and was well up in the Cambridge Local, but would not stay at school to complete, preferring to leave and launch out to earn my living, rather than remaining at school to pass still harder examinations. I wanted to be in London where my two sisters lived. I had my desire gratified, and went home for good.

I had paid five visits only to home during those intervening years, and many changes had taken place. One brother had died, and on my first holiday I attended his funeral. My eldest brother had gone abroad to actively engage in Christian work in the United States of America, where his labours have been wonderfully owned of God.

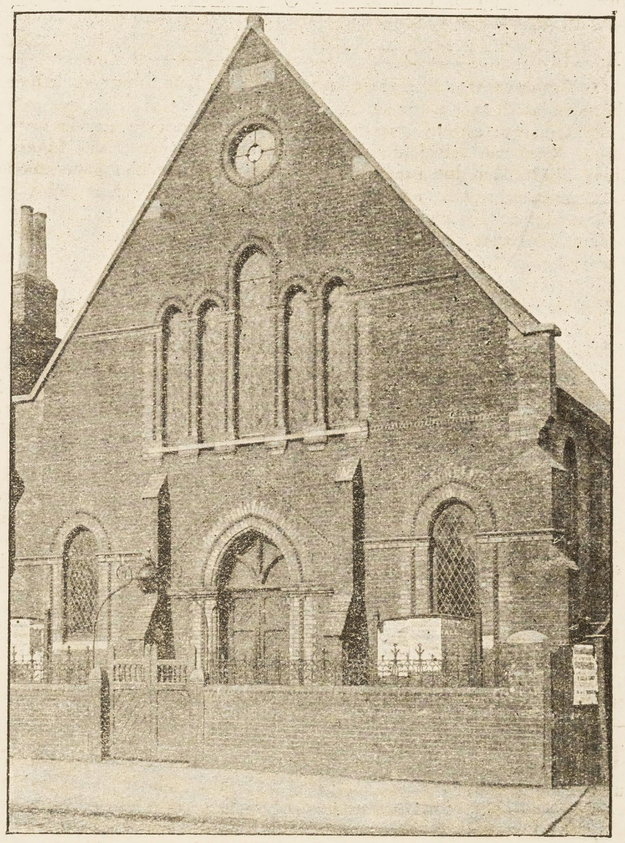
My eldest sister was in a poor state of health, and, after being spared for a few years, she, too, was called home to be "for ever with the Lord."

My younger sister and I were left alone, and together we have lived all these years—helpers one of the other, and both doing, as far as we have had it in our power to do, self-denying work for the blessing of others and the extension of the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Before my sister's marriage a few years ago, the greater portion of her life was spent in helping me found the Institute of which I write. Now other duties crowd in upon her, but she still plays a true sister's part, and helps in hundreds of ways, whilst her husband is as devoted to the work as she is herself.

After my elder sister's death, my sister and I removed from Camberwell to live in a small house with an aunt at Rotherhithe, and it was here that I held, for some two or three years, a little class, containing six members, for the study of botany together, and it was out of that class, in the year 1888, that St. Winifred's Institute and Mission grew.

The world-famed Royal Society grew out of a boys' mutual improvement class. The Young Men's Christian Association, from a small meeting held in a room in St. Paul's Churchyard, and many other societies—mighty in their power for good (notably Christianity itself) had beginnings so small as to almost preclude hope of coming greatness. Yet, just as great men grow from small boys, and avalanches from snowflakes, so many a good work is built up gradually and quietly until its proportions create surprise, and, in many cases, great rejoicing.

The mission of which I write was not by any means a mammoth at its birth, nor was it ever expected to grow to large proportions. The prophets were busy in fixing the number of months it would live, and what sort of death it would die. As a city man, with long office hours, I should like to say at once that if I had known when starting that the work would grow at the rate it has done I never would have dared to start it at all. The initial object was to help a few boys in the neighbourhood by keeping them off the street, and helping them to learn various subjects, and spend happy evenings with mutual friends—but above all to help them to live as true disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ.



ST. WINIFRED'S HALL, ROTHERHITHE.

I moved into a larger house and spent a month in getting it furnished and ready for any who might accept my invitation. The following declaration was drawn up for each member to sign, and was placed in the large Social Room:—

MEMBERS WISHING TO JOIN ST. WINIFRED'S INSTITUTE.

"You are earnestly asked to render willing help in our work here. To behave in a Christian, respectful and gentlemanly manner towards your fellow members: also to keep whatever rules it may be found necessary to make. What work are you able to assist in? Do you belong to any place of worship? Will you promise not to wait about outside the house?"

Operations started on the 1st October, 1888. We had thirty join on the first night. Membership grew rapidly, until about one hundred young men and boys were admitted into membership. This necessitated meetings of a portion of the members each night, and even then, after dividing up, as far as possible, the various groups, it was soon found that meetings could not be held in the house indefinitely. It was not convenient. Picture to yourself, if you can, your own home, all newly furnished (as my house was) with thirty or forty young people in it nearly every night. How would you like it? They were very happy meetings I assure you, and many are the friendships that still exist which were formed in those far off days. Many of the old members are now married, and they (with others) have moved to more pleasant surroundings than those of Rotherhithe. In fact, the district where this mission work is carried on is very poor and rentals very high. It seems the great aim of those among whom we work to get out of the district at the first opportunity that presents itself TO GO AND LIVE IN THE SUBURBS. We, who live on in the neighbourhood, have to face this constant migration, and our friends often express wonder and surprise that we, too, do not remove to some more congenial district. Still, Rotherhithe is the place God has given us to work in. The temptation when work is hard and results are disappointing (as they so often are) is to remove to surroundings where I could live in greater comfort, and have the personal advantage of meeting my relatives and others, who are not often seen in such a poor part of London as that of which I write; but I feel it is my duty to LIVE AMONGST THOSE FOR WHOM I WORK, and to whom my home has always been —ever since I first had it—"an open house!"

Many of the old boys still come to see us. Some are in the army, others in the navy. Many are in good berths in the city, and a large number are actively engaged in Christian work. The letters I get greatly encourage me, and speak to me those ever cheering words—"Forasmuch as ye *know* your labour is not in vain in the Lord." So I go on, with smiles and tears; joys and sorrows; hopes and disappointments; bidding welcome to some new comer, and saying "good-bye" to some faithful fellow labourer. Twenty-two years have passed since I left school and started work in the Sunday school at "Manor" chapel, where I laboured with all my heart for twelve years, and where classes I then and there started are still going on prosperously, and where I go from time to time to their annual meetings,

and such like, to wish them continued "God speed." My own places—both Institute and Mission Hall—are situated on the other side of Southwark Park, so I am not far away from the scene of my earliest and heartiest labours.

The house in which I started was alright for two years, but by that time the work needed a larger place for its meetings. A small hall was to let in Cathay-street (then called Lucas-street), and after inspecting it with my right-hand man, I took the place. It was very dirty: in fact, it had been used as a store place for all sorts of things. The owner, however, soon put it right. He repaired the floor and ceiling, and papered the walls. I spent what little money I had in furnishing it, and very soon the place had quite a smart and comfortable appearance. Its transformation cost about £80 or £100 in all. Then I issued the following notice to members and friends:—

Dear Friends,

Special Conferences of Members of "St. Winifred's" will be held at above address on Wednesday, the 5th February, at 8 p.m. sharp, for Nos. 1 to 50; Friday, the 7th, for Nos. 51 to 100 (Associates whichever night is most convenient), and we hope all will make a special effort to be present. You will be glad to hear that we have decided to extend our work by the addition of a GYMNASIUM for Members only, and SPECIAL MISSION WORK AMONG THE POOR. For this purpose a small Hall has already been taken, and it is with regard to this important extension that we wish for your presence at the Conference, and your prayers for the success of the good work. If you know any young fellow wishing to join as a Member with us, we shall be pleased if you will introduce him on the evening named, as we are very anxious to fill up a few vacancies that we have before we open our new place, which will probably be the first week in March. Volunteer helpers wanted,

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

H. F. MORRISS.

This was in 1890.

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The Small Hall was a great success, and after two years' earnest work there, it became too small for us. It was crowded on Sundays, and the week-night meetings were most successful.

Gymnastics became impossible, and I set to work with others to find a place for a Gymnasium, &c., for the young men especially.

A railway arch in Bermondsey was found and thought to be suitable, but it proved quite the reverse. We set to work to close in both ends of the arch, and boarded over the ground space of 70 feet by 24 feet. Gas fittings were put around the walls, and racks made for the apparatus. This was done in the month of August. The whole was ready for members by 1st November, 1891. Bad weather set in, and to our surprise, the Arch, let to us by the Railway Co., "*for Gymnastic purposes, and no other*," was found to be totally unsuited for such a purpose, as they must have known. The place became one vast swamp It was used for two months. Some of the members and leaders were laid up, and others were lost to our Society altogether. The ends of the arch, gasfittings, galvanized iron and woodwork had to be left behind as fixtures. Mattresses were rotted, and other apparatus greatly damaged.

Not only did the Railway Co. have all the fixtures, but insisted on full rental for twelve months, although we were utterly unable to use the arch for the purpose for which they let it. I defended the case in the County Court, but while the judge expressed his sympathy, the case went against me. The loss was roughly £60, and the moral I had to learn was "Don't judge a railway arch in fine weather."

The next venture was to take our present large Hall.

The building had been up twelve years, but success had not been with the workers, and they were running deeper and deeper into debt. Hearing that I needed a larger place, the Trustees asked me to buy it. They did not explain that they had no power to sell outright, but asked me if I *would* buy it. I consulted some friends, and one gentleman offered to lend me £600 to buy the building out and out, if I would pay the rest. I thought it just the opportunity. It was in the right place and a good, suitable building for my purpose, so I consented to buy. Lawyers were engaged on both sides, and counsel's advice taken on my behalf. After spending a great many pounds, it was found that the trustees had not the power to sell out and out, at all. In the meantime, I had sold the only house I possessed, had drawn my building society money that I had saved, but all to no purpose. The law said "You must put it into trust," and my friend said "I will not put £600 into it on those terms." In the meantime, so sure was I that the building would be procurable for the price asked, that I had gone into it and had taken on the small school on Sundays, and asked the teachers to remain with us. I set to work to get the gas pipes cleaned out, and everything fit for public services.

All this time, and long after we opened the Large Hall, the negociations dragged on, and the work grew beyond our expectations. When the word came to me, "You cannot buy, because the trustees have no power to sell!" I was sadly grieved. Much of my money had gone in law expenses,

and in various ways too numerous to mention here—nearly all my money was lost.

Then I had to consider what was the best to be done, and all that could be arranged was to take a lease for 21 years of the Hall, at a rental of £75 a year. Now, legally, the Trustees had no right to grant such a lease, but they did do so, and it has practically meant that our poor mission has been a means of paying back money that was lost by those who previously worked the building at a loss. This presses hardly upon a work like ours, so I have quite recently tried to induce the Trustees to reduce the rental, or else to let us take over the building by appointing new Trustees. I have now a letter from the Trustees' Treasurer, showing the exact statement of account as follows :—

The Trust Account stands as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Received from Mr. H. F. Morriss, February 4th, 1892, to February 3rd, 1898	425	8	8
Expended on account of Interest, Ground Rent and Income Tax	302	12	7
Balance of Income over Expenditure ...	£122	16	1

Liabilities against the Trustees when Mr. MORRISS took the place over, as follows:—

	£	s.	d
Due to the Christian Association for Monies advanced on Loan to the Mission	124	16	5
Due to Dr. Moore for Repairs, Alterations, &c. ...	100	0	0
	224	16	5
Balance of Income over Expenditure	122	16	1
	£102	0	4

"Of this the Trustees agree to accept and you have ageeed to pay £100. When this is done, it is my opinion your lease can be destroyed, and you would have full possession of the place, so long as you met the Ground-rent, Interest, and the current expenses, and used the place for Evangelical Services."

It will thus be seen that my Mission Work will have been used by the Trustees to pay off a debt of £224 16s. 5d, incurred long before I ever saw the place.

I am now making an effort to clear off this remaining £100, and also to pay off the mortgage debt that exists of £500. The building also needs re-

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seating, and the outside of the place wants thoroughly doing up. In all, £800 are needed, of which I have already raised about £70.

Now as to the work done! The gospel has been faithfully preached, congregations have been good, and a steady growth has continued since the Mission started. Scores have been converted, and at least sixty have become Sunday School teachers.

In many ways the work has been distinguished. For instance, in prize competitions, the following are some of the results which have accrued to ST. WINIFRED'S INSTITUTE MISSION AND GYMNASIUM:—

All Southwark Competition.

First Prize for Essay on Temperance.

Southwark Band of Hope Union Special Prizes.

Two Prizes Won by our Band of Hope Boys.

Recitation Contest for Southwark.

Silver Medal Won.

Band of Hope Recruiting Prizes offered to Southwark by
SAMUEL PLIMSOLL, ESQ., M.P.

Ten Won at St. Winifred's.

Other awards have been as follows:—

Sunday School Union Exhibition of Scholar's own Work in Bermondsey Town Hall, opened by the Duchess of Teck.—One First Prize for Music; One First Prize for Inlaid Wood Work; Six Second Prizes for Fretwork Models, &c; Two Third Prizes; Two Honorable Mention, and One Special Committee Prize for Excellent Work.

Two of our Gymnasts also took Silver Medals at Exeter Hall.—First Prize, Strength Contest; First Prize, High Jumping.

Eight Silver Medals have been won for Perfect Sunday School Attendance.

Two Silver Watches for Prize Scripture Essays.

In recent Sunday School Union Scripture Examination five boys who were sent up won two First and three Second Class Certificates.

This short list, for a ten-year-old work, shows clearly that ours is not an inactive mission, but can give no idea of the hive of activity the place really is.

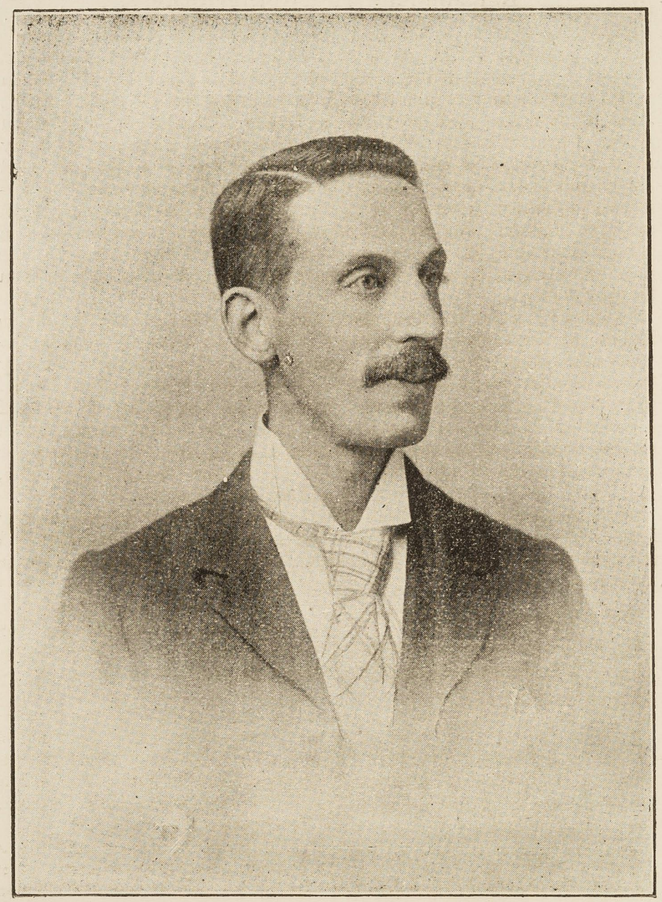
A list of Meetings held will be found on the back of the cover of this little paper, and will be sufficient to show that a good work is going on.

It will be evident to all that although there is a good deal of "I" about this paper, it would not be possible for one man to do all the work. When, too, it is remembered that I am in business in the City of London each day, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., it will be realised at once that all I do at St. Winifred's has to be done before and after office hours, and also on Sundays. I can truly say, and all who know me will admit, that *all* my time out of business is absolutely spent in the work of the Mission. God has given me wonderfully good health and powers of endurance that surprise most people, but no one more than myself. He has been good to all of us at the Mission. He has given me a band of earnest workers—not a large band, it is true, but just enough to keep us all very busy in His service. As needs arise, He raises up more helpers, and our trust is in Him all the way along.

To assist in raising the £800 needed to permanently secure the Large Hall, I am willing to take appointments in return for a small donation to the fund now being raised. I have already helped gratuitiously not only St. Winifred's, but many churches and societies whose members invited me. To show that I am not quite a novice, I now print here a list of places I have spoken at during the last four or five years, and if any reader would like me to visit their place and I am able to do so, all that is necessary is for them to write to me at St. Winifred's, 112, Lower Road, Rotherhithe, London, S E., and if at all possible, I will readily consent.

Shall be pleased to forward a list of lecture subjects, if desired, to any society. By engaging me, you will be helping St. Winifred's Mission Funds, and you can name your own terms. Whatever you give will go to St. Winifred's Fund.

Welsh Tabernacle, King's Cross.
Royal Naval School, Greenwich (to 1,000 boys).
The "Exmouth" Training Ship, Grays, Essex.
Grays Board School.
Gray's Congregational Church.
Stepney Temple (Wesleyan).
Gospel Hall, Strood, Kent.
"Mens' Own," Southend-on-Sea.
Primitive Methodist Church, Ryde, Isle of Wight.
Y. M. C. Association, Ryde, Isle of Wight.
Stockton-on-Tees Baptist Church.
Forrest Row (Sussex) Church Schools.
King Edward's Mission, Spitalfields.
Priory, Y.M.C.A., Islington.
River Street Baptist Church, Islington.
Salter's Hall Congregational Church, Islington.



Yours in Christian sympathy,

H. F. MORRISS.

Bermondsey and Rotherhithe.

Temperance Hall, Spa Road.
Grange Chapel (U.M.F C).
Manor Chapel (U.M.F.C.).
Rouel Road Chapel (Congregational).
Jamaica Row Chapel (Congregational).
Albion Street Chapel (U.M.F.C.).
Blue Anchor Lane Mission.
Derrick Street Seamen's Chapel.
Gedling Street Mission.
Cathay Street Sailors' Mission.
Oldfield Road Mission
Union Chapel, Horsleydown (Congregational).
Primitive Methodist, Union Road.
Maynard Road Chapel (Congregational).
Midway Place Chapel (Baptist).
Southwark Park Wesleyan Church.
Alma Board Sedools.
All Saints Church Schools.
St. Anne's Church Schools.
Christ Church Bible Classes and Sunday Schools.

It may be well here to print an article from the "Southwark Recorder," of July 4th, 1896. I believe it was written by the Sub-Editor of the paper, who has known my work intimately for twenty years, and whose sons were formerly boys in one of my classes. In regard to the authorship, however, I may be mistaken; but it will serve the purpose of carrying out the wise injunction which says—"Let another man praise thee, and not thine own lips."—

The name of St. Winifred's Institute is "as familiar as household words" in Rotherhithe and the adjacent parishes, and as its founder has celebrated the twentieth anniversary of his services rendered to Christianity, a sketch of his career and of his work may be acceptable to the many readers of this journal who are numbered with his large circle of his acquaintances.

Mr. Henry Fuller Morriss was educated in the north of England, and came to London direct from boarding school. At the invitation of his cousin, Mr. Fuller, he commenced attendance at Manor Chapel, Galleywall Road, Bermondsey, and attached himself to the Sunday School, becoming a member of Mr. Thomas's class. Subsequently he joined the Bible class conducted by his cousin. The next important step in his Christian career was that of becoming the teacher of a boys' class in the school, and afterwards taking the leadership of the Bible class on the death of Mr. Fuller. During

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this time it became apparent to others that he possessed a powerful influence among boys, and that his chief work laid with them. In 1886, when a new school building was being erected, it was decided to start an institute in connection therewith, so that Mr. Morriss could have a larger scope for his labours. This worker among boys took every advantage of the opportunity afforded, and the institute was soon established and flourished to a degree quite unexpected and still flourishes. Then came the step which led to the foundation of St. Winifred's Institute, in Rotherhithe

In an upper room in a small house opposite Southwark Park, seated at a round table, six youths were studying botany. They met every Tuesday at the house of Mr. Morriss, who provided flowers for studying purposes, and fruit and other good things to enjoy, while cheery chats on all sorts of pleasant subjects were carried on, with a sound and serious argument thrown in occasionally On one particular night, in the course of a very earnest conversation, the leader and six boys pledged themselves to form the nucleus of an institute. It did not take them long to find a name, because it was well known to all that the leader's wish was, that if he ever founded an institute it should be called St. Winifred's. But why? Well, years before, as far back as 1880, some of them had read together in a boys' mutual improvement class, at Manor Chapel, conducted by Mr. Morriss, a book written by the Dean of Canterbury, then Archdeacon Farrar. So many pleasant hours were spent in that way that a promise was made by Mr. Morriss one night in these words,—"If ever I am able to found an institute I shall call it St. Winifred's." Now he has redeemed his promise.

Mr. Morriss removed to a larger house in Lower-road, which is still his private residence, and is known as "St. Winifred's" Here, in June, 1888, the institute, which has flourished to such a great extent, was established. In replying to a communication intimating the choice of the title, Archdeacon Farrar wrote:—

"I was much gratified by your letter. It is always a pleasure to an author who is sincere in his desire to help his fellow man, to hear that his books have done good and produced wide and blessed results. I am particularly glad that the form of encouragement to the work of Christ, which you are good enough to tell me that you have derived from 'St. Winifred's,' was labour among youths and boys. No work is more needed. No work can be more fruitful or important. I heartily wish you the blessing of God in your endeavour to influence them for good. Tell them from me that though the times are hard, and though the struggle to make way in the world is often severe, yet if they are faithful to God and to their neighbour they may feel sure that their Father in heaven will be with them and will give them as much success and happiness as this life admits."

This letter was a source of great stimulus and encouragement to the work, and when Archdeacon Farrar invited the members of the institute to an inspection of Westminster Abbey the offer was cordially accepted. The first evening Mr. Morriss opened the house in Lower Road to receive new members, he had the pleasure of enrolling thirty-six youths. At the same meeting the "Botany Boys" presented him with copies of the works of

Shakespeare and Moore, handsomely bound. The choice of a motto was the work of two or three weeks The first suggestion was,—"Trust in God and do the right." Then another was "Where I cannot find a way—I make one," which was to be symbolised by the sign of a pickaxe. Ultimately it was agreed to adopt the Swiss national motto—"All for one: one for all." Both in its natural and spiritual meaning this was believed to be admirably suited to the work of their institute and members. The work steadily increased. St. Winifred's was an exceedingly comfortable home for the boys, and in Mr. Morriss they had a kind sympathetic friend. His drawing-room was open to their use, his garden was free to them, books were provided and a gymnasium formed. The house was full of life and activity. It was the centre from which radiated noble feelings and desires. The boys clung to the homely surroundings of good old St. Win.'s and their enthusiasm for their leader was unbounded.

Mr. Morriss has a hobby, and almost every room in St. Winifred's House bears testimony to the fact. He possesses a museum of about two thousand curiosities, etc., the collection of which commenced in his school days, and he has now acquired a splendid assortment of articles, at once varied, valuable, and interesting. The owner can tell very amusing anecdotes about some of his cherished possessions.

From a book of Mr. Morriss' I cull the following description:—"I often smile when I look at a piece of rock that I picked up in the Pass of Glenfalloch," he said. "We were walking, my cousin and I, through the grand old pass, and greatly admiring all the grandeur of our surroundings, when, at a bend in the road, we found, just ahead of us, many head of cattle, real live Scotch bulls, standing still and steady, looking as determined as 'bold Horatius who kept the bridge in the brave days of old.' Now came the question of precedence. If we had possessed the presence of a bishop or a prince (or a canon preferred) we should have allowed any or all of these worthies to go on first, but unfortunately we were all alone. On our left, towering above us, was the unclimable steep mountain side; on our right, a ravine so deep that it would have been certain death to have attempted to descend. To go back would have been cowardly. Right ahead of us was a fine road that led to our destination, but the bullocks blocked the way and dared to glare at us. We were on the horns of a dilemma, and quite expected soon to be on the horns of the bulls. A happy thought came to us. We opened our umbrellas and charged, flicking them open and shut. The bullocks wheeled round, some to the left about and some to the right about turn, leaving us something left to write about, and certainly effecting one of the best turns they ever did for any fellow creatures. 'All's well that ends well.' We were delighted to see their ends (tails) well, I assure you."

The work in St. Winifred's House speedily increased to such an extent that it became necessary to acquire other premises. In March, 1892, the fine hall opposite Rotherhithe Public Library was acquired, and the undenominational Christian work made another big leap forward. A Sunday morning service is preceded by a senior boys' Bible class. On Sunday after-

noon a Sunday school is held, and in the evening a Gospel service. In addition, there are children's special services, Bible classes for young men and women, little girls' physical drill, young women's mutual improvement class, and gymastic society; parliamentary and literary society, minstrel society, boys' mutual improvement class, band of hope, young men's gymnastic society, pleasant Saturday evening entertainments for the people, and a slate club for men. Needless to say Mr. Morriss has a host of earnest, enthusiastic workers around him whose services are voluntarily and earnestly rendered. In all departments the work is undoubtedly successful beyond all expectation, The influence of Mr. Morriss is not limited to St. Winifred's. He is constantly speaking at neighbouring places of worship and mission halls, and frequently illustrates his subjects by some of his curiosities and models. By the way, it is not generally known that Mr. Morriss is open to lend parts of his museum to places of worship, for exhibition at bazaars, &c.

After completing 20 years of Christian work it was his earnest desire to meet as many as possible of his past and present fellow-workers, and those with whom he had been acquainted in his various classes and branches of work. He therefore sent out cordial invitations to a social gathering which took place last Saturday. In the afternoon and early part of the evening, friends were welcomed in Mr. Morriss' house—St. Winifred's—and many pleasant chats about old times were indulged in. Light refreshments were served in the garden, and the time passed all too rapidly. Subsequently a meeting was held in the hall, at which Mr. Morriss presided. Short addresses were given by the Rev. F. Tunbridge, Messrs Whitburn, W. Morelaud, W. Davy, W. James (vice-president of St. Winifred's Hall), Davies, Goldsmith, Wm. Bond, J. C Mortimer, A. Brown, R. Exall, and Barnes. Each speaker referred to some episode in their acquaintance with Mr. Morriss. In the course of the proceedings, Mr. W. James presented Mr. Morriss with £9, subscribed by 60 workers, on behalf of the organ fund. Altogether a very pleasant time was spent, and one could not help wishing that many more workers were as earnest, as liberal, as constant, and as consistent as the founder of St. Winifred's

Those who know Mr. Morriss intimately recognise in him an unassuming gentleman, who is willing to hear the opinions of others, nay, is anxious to hear such opinions, and will pay all deference to them. He is ever on the alert for fresh fields of labour, and ready to conduct "his boys" in new paths of study. As a lecturer, he is pleasing to a degree, whilst his writings are entertaining. He has also essayed poetry, and his emanations in that direction are meritorious. His individuality is marked, and it has made its mark upon those who surround him. He believes in rational recreation and physical improvement being linked with spiritual Christianity. Such men are urgently needed. May their numbers increase and their influence permeate society."

About eighteen months ago, a splendid organ was presented to me as testimonial, in recognition of my twenty-one years' work. This organ is a great boon to the Hall services, and I value its presence very much.

Our patrons and patronesses have been extremely kind, and without their valued help and practical sympathy, it would not have been possible to have continued the work.

Another matter which I have omitted to mention is the turning of the stabling at the end of my garden into a capital class room. Here the Adult Bible Class meets, and all sorts of meetings are held during the week. As I make no charge for the place and my sister pays for the gas, all the money raised there goes to help the Mission Hall funds. My house being nearly opposite the Large Hall, the converted stabling is in close proximity, and most convenient.

In conclusion, let me say that if, after reading this, you feel it is a cause that you would like to assist, it will be a pleasure to me to hear from you. Especially I would ask your help towards the £800 already referred to. In any case, let me ask every reader to remember this work for God in their prayers that it may prosper more and more. My closing word must be—

"BRETHREN, PRAY FOR US."

Printed by J. W. Harberd, 47 Theobald's Road, W.C.

IDE

Our Present Desire is

To Purchase and Re-Furnish St. Winifred's Large Hall

AT A COST OF

EIGHT HUNDRED POUNDS.

BANKERS:—"THE LONDON AND MIDLAND BANK," BERMONDSEY BRANCH, LONDON.

What the £800 is for :

£600 actual Purchase Money for Hall, to pay off Mortgage of £500 and Trust Debt of £100.

£50 to make Four Small Class Rooms, required for Sunday School Extension.

£50 for External Repairs and Re-decoration.

£100 for Re-seating the Interior for 500 people, and doing up in other ways where necessary. Present Seats are in a very bad condition.

The Drainage has just been relaid, and the Hall is in a thoroughly Sanitary Condition.

The Hall will be worth fully **£1,400,** and it will be placed in the hands of 10 Trustees, if we can but raise the above-mentioned £800.

Will You Help Us?

St Augustine's parish.

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Report of interview with the Rev. T.G.Murray, Minister of the Southwark Park Road Presbyterian Church, at his residence, 134 Avondale Square. (E.A.) Feb.5.00.

Mr. M. has been here for seven years, and, in spite of invitations elsewhere, is inclined to stay on, for he likes his people and is liked by them. He has one of the poorer London Presbyterian Churches to look after, and ha to be supported from outside, but his cause is a strong one and is growing. His people have grit and are loyal, and he is clearly happy with them and they with him. He is a man of about 40; thoughtful; human. Was taking his Monday morning laze when I saw him, in slippered and warm content by the fire, in a kind of basement parlour. We talked and he did not know too much, or seem too anxious to make out a case. When he could not answer a question he called for his wife, and she came in and stayed with us for most of the time, a quiet, intelligent, sympathetic little colleague, whom he called "Mamma" and introduced as my curate. It was all very simple and pleasant and honest.

He has an artizan and labouring class in his n'hood, and those who come to his church are fairly representative of the district. He reckons that he has only two small employers among his members, but on the other hand some are clerks, foremen, etc. etc.

He is the only paid worker. In addition, there are

Murray - Presbyterian Southwark Park Road (2)

24 office-bearers; 45 Sunday School teachers, and a few other helpers, including some who visit to whip up for th Gospel Meeting. Perhaps a third of his people are Scotch. This Gospel Meeting just mentioned is an exception to the general run of their work, which is primarily of a congregational as distinguished from a missionary character.

At present they are not well off for buildings, their chapel having been intended for a school room. It holds about 320, and there is a second room taking about 120. But they are intending to build, and contemplate spending some £3000. Out of this, such is the feeling of his people, he expects that £1000 will be raised by them. They are very keen about things.

At the Sunday morning services they have from 100 to 120 on an average; in the evening, about 300, and the place is full. There are 200 members. Sunday School: Register, 450; Average, 332. It is noteworthy that more than half of the teachers are men, and that a fair proportion of these are by no means young men, in some cases both parent and son being on the staff.

Other meetings mentioned were: Gospel Meeting (Average 60); Mothers' Meeting (Register, 80; average 60); Christian Endeavour; Band of Hope. Prayer Meeting; Slate Club, "as a set-off against the public house clubs"; etc.

Murray- Presbyterian Southwark Park Road (3)

In addition, there are tennis and other clubs formed with the usual object of keeping the young people together.

There is very little relief. Perhaps he has £5 a year sent him, but nothing is organized, and there is no fund. Outside cases come to them occasionally, and not infrequently he helps. To their own people in case of need, his own people are generous, and he gave me an instance of the long and substantial help that had been recently given to one of the S.S. teachers, who had fallen on evil days through sickness. "To none do we give doles"; "We hate that sort of thing". Neither is there indirect bribery of any kind; "Our people cannot afford it even if they wanted it. They are not like some churches, where they have large funds and run missions and other things somewhat as luxuries, to look at and to pet". They are both amazed at the lavishness of the local Board of Guardians; "It seems strange to us brought up in our stricter Scotch method". They think that the reports of the Relieving officers are frequently ignored, and that almost every case has some friend or other at court. There is too much playing to the gallery, and and decisions urged have, he thinks, too often "a vote in view."

They work heartily with the local Free Church Counci

Murray - Presbyterian Southwark Park Road (4)

of the Executive of which Mr. M. is a member, and of which one of the office bearers is Secretary. With the Church of England there is little co-operation, save in Temperance matters and from time to time in certian public meetings.

Mr. M. referred to Mr. Richardson's services as "the big thing"; said that he had a great gathering, but that it was for "the less thoughtful". Mr. R. is, it appears, connected with some Cable Company, and receives £200 a year as stipend, from the Rotherhithe Free Church. Mr. Kaye Dunn is another man more or less in the n'hood whose methods Mr. M. is inclined to admire and to smile at. He described Mr. Dunn as a "lively, pushing man", and quoted these lines to illustrate the frankness of his advertisings:

"Have you heard Kaye Dunn?
He's come to turn the district upside down!"

Mr. M. described his own aim as being religious rather than social.

He mentioned the sanitary administration which, under the energetic inspectorship of Mr. Thomas, he was inclined to think was even too thorough, for it pressed very hardly at times on poor occupiers.

They both thought that drink was at the bottom of almost of the poverty. Mr. M. knew of no houses of ill-fame in the district, but noticed a certain amount of street solicitation.

abundantly the funds to carry the Gospel to the needy of the district: the poor, the destitute, and the sick.

Pardon another reference to Archie Sloss. Ere I shook hands with the captain that night, I asked how the tired warrior ended his earthly career. My reason for asking this was because I had heard how his father, a confirmed criminal, had said *as* he died in Glasgow: "This is —— bad whisky, Mrs. Mullens."

"How did he end? Why, like a good 'un, sir. On the breast of Jesus, singing 'glory.'"

"Dad, how is it with your soul?" asked one of my mates at the bedside, bending over the aged man (he was 73), and immediately his face lit up like Stephen's, and with his hand pointing to the sky, he answered, "It's all right."

"Jesus is the lover of my soul."

Archie Sloss had on his face a dreadful scar from a fellow-burglar's jemmy. I gathered that in death that scar was smoothed out and was not visible. When I heard this I thought "How beautiful!" Are not all earth's scars smoothed out in glory?

The Lord help you to see many like Archie, as blessedly saved. And let all the people say, *Amen*.

Every church ought to pray for the work of the South-East London Mission. Thank

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Report of interview with the Rev. T. Peatfield, Head of the Rotherhithe and Deptford Station of the Primintive Method.Connexion, at his Residence, 153 Lower Road. (E.A.)

Feb.6.00.

Mr. Peatfield has been here for something over five years. He is a man of ~~about 38~~ 42 years of age, and a fairly good idea of him is given in the portrait i ncluded in th inserted notice from Mr. Flanagan's paper "Light and Truth". But the real man at his own firesixde does not look quite so clerical or so severe. He wears slippers, and is made happier when he learns that you smoke, for he always feels that he can "talk better" then. The room was comfortable enough, although rather of the crude colour, anti-macassar, and crewel type.

The Plan will show the branches of the Station, and I have put on it the ordinary figures as to attendances e etc. Rotherhithe he described as a sound and solid congregational centre, but stationary, and handicapped by the tendency of many of their people, especially the younger, to move away. But it is holding its own. New Cross is something of the same kind, on a smaller scale.

Mr. Peatfield has the care of all, but his heart warms when you talk about Deptford. I mentioned this, and he admitted it. The fact is that he feels that he has saved it from going under altogether. Five years ago, it

abundantly the funds to carry the Gospel to the needy of the district: the poor, the destitute, and the sick.

Pardon another reference to Archie Sloss. Ere I shook hands with the captain that night, I asked how the tired warrior ended his earthly career. My reason for asking this was because I had heard how his father, a confirmed criminal, had said *as* he died in Glasgow: "This is —— bad whisky, Mrs. Mullens."

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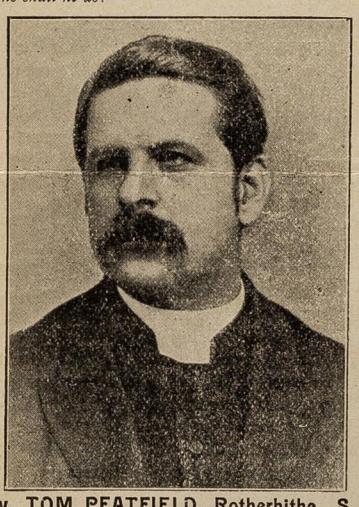
The Lord help you to see many like Archie, as blessedly saved. And let all the people say, *Amen.*

Every church ought to pray for the work of the South-East London Mission. Thank God the praying has commenced, and the work has commenced also. It must have been a grand sight in St. George's Hall to have seen that aged sinner, and with him the youth of tender years, at the Penitent Form the first Sunday evening. Surely this is a divine prophesy of coming days of salvation blessing.

"EVANGELIST."

Toilers of the Deep.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also, and greate works shall he do."



Rev. TOM PEATFIELD, Rotherhithe, S.E.

DID you say "only a column this month, Mr. Editor? and the Rev. T. Peatfield to have justice done to him and to his splendid work in Rotherhithe, Deptford, and New Cross?" This is a task, indeed. Had you said, after mentioning the name, "two columns," I could have been more *faithful*, for he is a man full of faith, of holy ardour, and is doing permanent good. His apostolic work is being pursued in a very difficult district. Mr. Peatfield is not only loved of his own people, but also by many of the people of the district in which he labours. They feel his uplifting influence. The Rev. Tom Peatfield in one column! This is condensation, indeed.

Arriving in his parish, then, one evening and stopping a stranger in the street, I asked of the man, "Do you know the Rev. Tom Peatfield, the Primitive Methodist Bisho . .?" "Do I not live in Rotherhithe?" he replied, in broken Irish, before I had finished my sentence. "Yes, I know him, I like him, and he's a man!"

Surely, thought I, here is a fine testimony: To live in Rotherhithe is to know this Toiler of the Deep. The man to whom I spoke was not a Primitive Methodist, "he did not attend 'Tom's ministry,'" he said, and it was made plain during the conversation that he had another minister of Rotherhithe in his mind of whom he thought a great deal. His peroration ere he said good night, is worth quoting:—

"Friend, a few more Peatfields in our midst, and there would be a different Rotherhithe for God and humanity!" The other day it was emphasised in one of our leading religious periodicals, that "To truly estimate a church's power, and the real ability of any man, they must be judged by the knowledge of their environment from the beginning." Have you studied Deptford?

What a depressing environment Deptford is to any man. How unhealthy, how crowded, how crushing to a finely sensitive soul! Contrast Deptford with some of our beautiful suburbs, where the critics live, and then you at once see the strong character of the man who has succeeded in such a place.

When I hear Benaiah deliberately went down and slew a lion in the midst of a pit, *in time of snow*, &c., &c., I know he must have been a smart man, optimistic, watchful, and thoroughly given up to his work, for surely the environment did not assist him. Such a man, in a spiritual sense, and in the higher service of holiness and human evangelization, is the Rev. Tom Peatfield, of Rotherhithe. I gathered from many sources that he is a workman who needeth not to be ashamed, holding a straight course manfully in the word of life. He is a minister of Jesus Christ, like unto the early champions of the faith, giving the full proof of his ministry in true consecration to his work. Yea, it can be said of him that he is doing in the spirit of lowly service the greater works that Christ prophesied should be done by those who really, absolutely, constantly believed on Him. To know the Rev. T. Peatfield and his work at Rotherhithe, Deptford, and New Cross, is to say—

"Toil on, and in thy toil rejoice."

Mr. Peatfield was born in Retford, in the year 1858, so that he is now in his prime. He was converted in 1870. His change of heart came about as foilows: Having a very well-instructed mind, though young in life, he gave lessons in English grammar to a travelling preacher belonging to his native place. In return the preacher taught his young teacher to read his own title clear to mansions in the skies. Mr. Peatfield became a local preacher on the Retford plan in 1877. Being signally owned and blessed of God in many places, he entered the ministry in 1881. His first settlement was in the circuit he now superintends, which was then part of the Walworth station. The first time he preached at Deptford, the Sunday's collections, including his own offering, amounted to 1s. 11d. There were 20 children in the school. Now there are good congregations, who give liberally, and over 200 in the school. Only 200, do you say? Yes, but listen. Really they only have accommodation for 50. If the Rev. T. Peatfield had only better premises in Deptford, say another St. George's Hall, he would doubtless have equal success in reaching the people and doing the same work amongst a much larger number. The fact is we could do with twenty St. George's Halls, in South London. In Rotherhithe there is ample room and opportunity for another forward movement by the Denomination. The leading and most interesting characteristics of Mr. Peatfield's ministry are the many remarkable conversions that have taken place in connection with it. Space will not allow special cases to be mentioned. But this is what he says: "My best supporters to-day are men who were brought out of public houses, and picked up out of the very gutter."

"Business firms in the district have many such in their employ, and come to us for more."

"In Deptford, during the last five years, results have followed the preaching of the word that cannot be excelled by any place in London. In fact, our greatest need is a better centre for work. Heaven and earth should be moved to bring it about." We agree with Mr. Peatfield that, given the place, and the larger opportunity, the greater works will immediately follow. Amen, echo all who know Mr. Peatfield and his good, courageous, successful work in Rotherhithe.

"FAITHFUL."

The Story OF A Consecrated Tramp

By JAMES FLANAGAN.

was a question as to whether anything could be done there or not. There was little or nothing going on, and everything was handicapped by the large debt. The Chapel had only been built in '87, but a debt of £1200 had been left. Five years ago an effort was made to put things on a new and better footing. A Sister went to work, and other ladies helped; a start was made; the place was turned into a centre of active missi nary work. An effort was made to diminish the debt, and £350 was raised, while the old 5% mortgage was paid off, and another at 4% taken up in its place. So good business management was added to "prodology" to use Mr. Peatfield's word, and both of these qualities are, in his opinion ~~successful~~ necessary, if success is to be achieved. And he claims that it has been. "Deptford is a big success". Not much hasbeen printed about it, and "I don't believe in throwing every ~~xxxxxx~~ paltry detail into black and white" but "I don't think that anything better than Creek Road has been done on this side of the River". Five years ago there was a congregation of six; now a membership of 69; and offertories have gone up about twenty-fold. As for the young people who come to them, they are simply crowded out.

They have a Sister working there still, and three volunteer ladies who give three days a week each. The Connexional Missionary Cttee. sends them £38 a year, but

Peatfield Prim. Meth. Union Road (3)

altogether some £200 is being spent. But there is no bribery. "We have no bread and bed customers". "If anyone turns up sponging, he has a pretty English time of it for a few minutes", and, when Mr. Tom Peatfield said this, I think he meant it. A good deal of open air work is done, and it appears that roughly there are two classes who have been got round the place -- the decent lower middle-class, and the very poor.

In relief about £25 or £30 is given, through the Sister, to the poor and sick, and to those who through age or illness are out of work. Mr. P. spoke well of the C.O.S. and said that in several cases they had co-operated.

Mr. Peatfield is inclined to take an especial satisfaction in the work at Creek Road, as having been done in a quiet way, without advertisement at an unpretentious centre. From his own point of view, therefore, a mistake has been made by Mr. Flanagan in building S. George's Hall, for what the people want is a "plain building in a plain place". In Deptford generally, he complained of the insufficient provision in buildings that is made for the young people, and it will be remembered that they were, he said, crowded out in this respect at Creek Road. He spoke of the Home for Girls that had been built by the Deptford Fund, as "the finest thing done there". The Home

Peatfield Primitive Methodist Union Road (4)

appears to have much the same objects in view as the one in Nelson Square belonging to the Clewer Sisters.

Mr. Peatfield holds the worst opinion of Deptford, East and South of Creek Road, from the point of view of poverty, immorality and crime.

I. Hrds 250. Tracts in circulation. Sunday M. 50; E. 200. S.Sch. R. 120. Av. 100. S.S.T. 15.
II. Hrds 250. Tracts (10). —"— 50 E. 150 S.Sch. Primitive Methodist Connexion.
200. S.S.T. 16. Other helpers 10.
III. Hrds 150. No Tracts. Sunday M. 12. E. 60-80. S.Sch. Aver 60-70 S.S.T. 11.

PLAN OF PUBLIC RELIGIOUS SERVICES OF THE ROTHERHITHE AND DEPTFORD STATION, 1900.

Preachers' Names & Residences.

1 T. PEATFIELD, 153, Lower Road, Rotherhithe, S.E.
2 W. WRAY, 55, East Rd., West Ham, E.
3 T. Seabridge, 16, Nutcroft Road, Naylor Road, Peckham, S.E
4 T. Gray, 783, Old Kent Rd., S.E.
5 A. Cope, 33, Vardens Road, Clapham Junction, S.W.
6 G. Neame, 71, Bennerley Road, Clapham Junction, S.W.
7 F. Sands, Powis Villa, Swanley, Kent
8 C. T. Perry, 27, Freda Street, Abbey Street, Bermondsey, S.E.
9 H. Ford, 4, Batsford Road, St. John's, S.E
10 R. Jackson, 100, Essex Road, Islington, N.
11 W. Ralph, 12, Loam Pit Vale, Lewisham, S.E.
12 J. Vivash & C.G., 26, Silvermere Road, Catford
13 J. Howlett, 42, Lower Kennington Ln., S.E.
14 Mrs. Burgess, 7, Devonshire Road, Greenwich, S.E.
15 G. Heigho & W.C., 14, Fawcett Rd., Rotherhithe, S.E.
16 A. Salter, Westcombe Park, S.E.
17 J. Crutch, 1, Howson Rd., Brockley, S.E.
18 H. Dowty & W.T., 44, Scawen Road, Deptford Park, S.E.
19 G. Patten, & H.W., 73, Alloa-rd, Deptford Park, S.E.
20 E. Sturgess, 66, Union Road, Rotherhithe, S.E.
21 W. M, 4, Hornshay Place, Canterbury-rd, S.E.
22 S. Warren, 9, Varcoe Road, S.E.
23 A Parsons, 16, Rolt Street, Deptford, S.E.

On Trial.

24 W. Cawley, 35, Upper Grange Road, Bermondsey.

Helpers.

25 Rev. E. Clarke, 59, Plough Road, Rotherhithe, S.E.
26 J. W. Giles, Station Rd.. Belvedere, Kent
27 T. Polkinghorn, 20, Waverley Road, Plumstead, S.E.
28 A. Hindes, 3, Houston Rd, Forest Hill, S.E.

153, Lower Road, Rotherhithe, S.E.

My Dear Friends:

With this plan 1900 begins! What a marvellous march is that of time! May all our privileges be seized, and all our responsibilities be honoured by us.

Sincerely I wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

The Quarterly Meeting desired me in this address to express its thanks, along with those of mine, to join, each and all, for the splendid support you have hitherto rendered to all the funds of the Station. This I hereby do most heartily and gratefully. We had a balance in hand for the Quarter. Please keep up the systematic giving, in the future, as in the past. If you cannot attend one Sabbath, aim at bringing your offerings for that day to the next Sabbath's services, for that will keep us from any difficulty.

May I ask your best efforts to the Efforts for Debt Reduction at New Cross? We want to pay £50 off our debt there by the end of May, 1900. Try to attend all the services, and make them successful. Pray for the building up of those who "know the Lord," and supplicate for the salvation of the unsaved by whom we are surrounded in tens of thousands. May great grace rest upon us all.

Yours in Jesus Christ,

T. PEATFIELD.

PLACES AND TIMES OF SERVICES.		JANUARY. 7	14	21	28	FEBRUARY. 4	11	18	25	MARCH. 4	11	18	25	APRIL. 1
ROTHERHITHE, Union Road	11	WM	Peatfield	Dowty	Rev E Clarke	Peatfield	Mrs Patten MS	Warren	Peatfield	Peatfield	Parsons	Peatfield	Perry	Sturgess
	6½	Perry	Heigho	Peatfield S	Howlett	Vivash	Peatfield MS	Patten	E Sturgess	Rev. Clarke S	Peatfield	T Gray	G Godfrey	Peatfield S
Open-Air	6													
I. Tuesday, Preaching	7½	Peatfield	H Williams	Peatfield	Peatfield	Peatfield T	Misy. Mg. Mon	Peatfield	Peatfield LM	Peatfield	Dowty	Peatfield	Peatfield	Peatfield
Thursday, Prayer Meeting	7½													
Y.P.S.C. Endeavour Mg, Saturday														
DEPTFORD, Creek Road	11	Peatfield	Kitchen	Peatfield	Rv Simmonds	Kitchen	Rev Wray MS	Peatfield	H Ford	Kitchen	Dowty	Crutch	Patten CE	Vivash
	6½	Peatfield S	Rev E Clarke	Ralph	Rv Simmonds	Perry	Rev Wray MS	Peatfield S	Vivash	Peatfield	Burgess	Peatfield S	Peatfield CE	Warren
Open-Air	6													
II. Open-Air	8													
Wednesday, Band of Hope	6½	Mrs. Ralph												
Thursday, Preaching	8	Peatfield	Parsons	Peatfield	Peatfield	Peatfield T	Misy Mg. Tues	Peatfield	Peatfield LM	Peatfield	Burgess	Peatfield	Peatfield	Peatfield
Monday, Mutual Aid Society		Mrs Burgess												
Saturday, Pleasant Evening														
NEW CROSS, Beeson Street	11	Parsons	H Ford	Crutch	Sturgess	Burgess	Peatfield MS	Rev E Clarke	H Williams	WM	Peatfield	Rev. E. Clarke	Peatfield	Peatfield CE
	6½	Patten	Peatfield S	Mrs Patten	Warren	Peatfield T	Dowty MS	Heigho	Peatfield S	Heigho	Neame	H Ford	Perry	A Cope CE
Open-Air	6													
III. Open-Air	8													
Monday, Band of Hope	6½													
Monday, Class	8													
Wednesday, Preaching	7¾	Peatfield	Warren	Peatfield Mon	Peatfield	Peatfield	Peatfield	Missiona'y Mg	Peatfield LM	Peatfield	Peatfield	Peatfield	Peatfield	Peatfield
Wednesday, Class	8½													

NOTICES.

a.—The Circuit Quarterly Meeting will be held at Deptford, Mar. 5th. Preachers' Meeting at 6.45 p.m. Full Board at 7 p.m. Question of Union with Bible Christians at 7-45 p m.

b.—The Circuit Committee is composed of *all* Members of the Full Board, and shall meet when and where summoned.

c.—The ordinance of Baptism will be administered at any Sunday Morning or Week-night Service. Due notice must be given to the Society Steward, and both Parents be present if possible. A charge of Sevenpence will be made for Registration and Certificate.

d.—When the services of a preacher are not required owing to any unforeseen circumstance, such as C. A. or Special Efforts, he shall be consulted as to whether he will give up his claims to the pulpit on that date before any other arrangements are made. In all such cases the correspondence shall be between the Superintendent Minister and the brother concerned. And in case a preacher cannot take his appointment, he must send word to the Society Steward not later than seven days before the time of the Services (if possible).

e.—The Preachers appointed at Special Services must be there at the commencement, and continue to the close. The first number planned is to conduct the meeting

f.—Each Leaders' Meeting must form a *Visiting* Committee to look after the negligent, the sick, and the bereft of our flock.

g.—Any of our members leaving the Circuit are requested to apply to the Minister for a Credential.

DUTIES OF A SOCIETY STEWARD.

1.—To furnish the pulpit with a written Notice of everything to be published the Sabbath before it should take place.
2.—To make all needful arrangements for public meetings.
3.—Make preparations for sacraments and lovefeasts.
4.—See that all collections are made according to plan.
5.—Cause all moneys collected for Circuit purposes to be forthcoming at the commencement of the Preachers' Meeting.
6.—Fill up the Society's Report.
7.—See that the Monthly Missionary Prayer Meetings are held, and Missionary Records read at such Meeting.

REFERENCES.

AS, Anniversary of Stone Laying.
B, Beneficent Fund.
BH, Band of Hope Sermons
C, Circuit Fund
CA, Chapel Anniversary
CC, Lighting and Cleaning
CE, Chapel Effort.
CF, Conference Fund.
CM, Camp Meeting.
FS, Flower Service.
FF, Furniture Fund.
GF, General Chapel Fund.
HF, Hospital Fund.
HT, Harvest Thanksgiving
L, Lovefeast.
LM, Leaders' Meeting.
MC, Metro. Chapel Fund.
MM, Missionary Meeting.
MS, Missionary Sermons.
MPM, Missionary Prayer Mg.
MB, Mission Band.
P, Prayer Meeting or Provide
PB, Protracted Services.
RM, Revival Meeting.
SA, School Anniversary.
S, Sacrament.
T, Ticket Renewal.
TS, Temperance Sermon.
V, Visit to School.
X, Annual Teachers' Mtg.
Y, Yearly Trustees Mtg
SAR, School Repetition.

STATION CALENDAR.

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Jan. 24—Rev. T. Peatfield to visit Junior Y.P.S.C.E., Rotherhithe.
,, 25—An "At Home," Deptford, for Church Funds.
,, 31—An "At Home," New Cross, for Debt Reduction Fund.
Feb. 4—Ticket Renewal, New Cross.
,, 6— ,, Rotherhithe.
,, 8— ,, Deptford.
,, 11—Missionary Sermons. (See body of plan).
,, 12—Missionary Meeting, Rotherhithe.
,, 13— ,, Deptford.
,, 14— ,, New Cross
,, 19—Lecture, for Station Funds.
,, 27 to 29—Leaders' Meetings. (See body of plan).
Mar. 5—Quarterly Meeting at Deptford. Union with Bible Christian Church to be introduced for discussion and decision, at 7-45
,, 20 & 21—**Sale of Work** at New Cross, for Debt Reduction Fund. (See bills).
Apl. 1—New Cross Hall Sermons.

SOCIETY MISSION BANDS.

ROTHERHITHE—The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour.

DEPTFORD—Messrs. Pomfrey, Vivash, Ralph. Clifton. Batch, Keech, Crutch. Luke, Andrews, Burgess, Church, A Pomfrey, Junr, E. Allen. A. R. Parsons, F. Meech, E. Lambert. H. Ford, W. Hall, Smith, Freeland, and Sisters Burgess, Ralph, Church, and Westley.

To meet every Sunday Evening for Open-Air Work in some place selected at 6 p.m.

NEW CROSS—Messrs T. Gray, J. Gray, J. Jordan, W. Elliott, R. Elliott, J. Jennings, Elborne, T. Seabridge, J. A. Seabridge, Claridge, King, Warren, and others.

MINUTE OF QUARTERLY MEETING.

Resolution 4

Moved by Mr. A. Cope, Seconded by Mr. T. Keech, Supported by Messrs. T. Gray, W. T. Tull, and G. Neame.—"That the Officials of this Station express our sincere and hearty thanks to Rev. T. Peatfield for the services he has rendered, and which have resulted under God's blessing in the unexpected prosperity in which we, as a Station, have the pleasure and thankfulness to record."

STATION OFFICIALS.

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STATION BOOK STEWARD—T. Peatfield, of whom Hymn Books, Magazines, and all other works published at the Book Room, may be obtained.

SUB-MISSIONARY TREASURER—Rev. T. Peatfield.

CIRCUIT STEWARDS—Messrs A. Salter, G. Heigho, and W. Ralph.

SOCIETY STEWARDS—Rotherhithe—W. T. Tull, 115, Keeton's Road, Bermondsey, S.E.; W. Sturgess, Assistant. Deptford—T. Keech, 33, Guildford Rd., Greenwich, S.E.; J. B. Batch, Assistant. New Cross—S. Warren, 9, Varcoe Road, Canterbury Road, S.E.; J. Gray, Assistant.

FINANCES.

	Membs	Class Monies. £ s. d.	Offerings, &c. £ s. d.	Totals. £ s. d.
ROTHERHITHE	75	6 12 6	10 15 0	17 7 6
DEPTFORD	69	4 9 2	12 14 1	17 3 3
NEW CROSS	40	2 5 2	4 12 8½	6 17 10½
Special				10 0 5½
Totals	184	13 6 10	28 1 9½	51 9 1

Quarterly Visitation of Classes.

Places.	Classes.	Mems	Time.	Visitor	Monies. £ s. d.
ROTHERHITHE	Mr Sharpe	12	Feb. 6, 8-0	No. 1	1 0 1
	Mrs. Pestall	17	,, ,,	,,	1 11 6
	Mrs Bennett	14	,, ,,	,,	0 18 8
	Rev. Peatfield	12	,, ,,	,,	1 14 9
	Mrs. Patten	20	,, ,,	,,	1 7 6
DEPTFORD	Mr. Pumfrey	28	Feb 8, 8-0	,,	1 15 7
	Mrs. Ralph	41	,, ,,		2 13 7
NEW CROSS	Mr. J. Jordan	33	Feb. 4, 8-0	,,	2 5 2
	Mr. S. Warren	6	,, ,,	,,	

All Saints parish

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Note of interview with Mr. J.W.Townson, Minister on the Southwark Circuit of the United Methodist Free Churches and especially attached to the Albion Chapel, Rotherhithe. (E.A.) Feb.20. Seen at his lodgings, 5 Rebecca Terrace.

Mr. Townson has been here for 2½ years, and will probably be leaving in another six months. He is a young fellow, still on the right side of thirty. Born at Barrow-in-Furness, and has come to London from a Cheshire village in the salt mining district, with a population of 5000. When he changes he will still like to stay in London, if possible, because of the advantages and the experience it brings him. But at Albion St. itself his actual ministerial work is disheartening. He is unmarried; of medium height; dark moustache; pale complexion; looks the student, but has a width of interest sufficient to enable him to be impatient of the circumstances that for the moment hold him.

Twenty or thirty years ago the Chapel at Albion St. was the best in the n'hood, but its prosperous days have passed. The last man to put life into it was Mr. Heatley, now at the King's Own Mission, Kennington. He was "exactly the man for the district" and he got the people in, and made the Chapel an influence in the neighbourhood. But the leaders of the congregation did not like it, and as soon as Mr. H. left, a reaction set in. They are an exclusive set, and restored an exclusive regime. "My predecessor

had a sorry time of it", and Mr. T. only escapes the same experience apparently by the exercise of a discreet patience. He is constantly urging a more active and more liberal policy, but is always thwarted.

They have only 48 members, and numbers are going slowly down. About half live in the immediate n'hood, and of the 48, about a third are men. But the real difficulty appears to come from the attitude of the office-bearers. They are a body of comparatively young men, who have been fighting for years for the positions they now hold, and now, having obtained them, they are satisfied and want no change. "It will be the curse of our church". And these men hold the purse strings. "If two or three left us, I don't know what we should do financially", for the great majority of the people are poor. Thus, the outsider who might be got in by missionary effort is not wanted, and the Chapel has a local reputation for a feeling of eclusiveness. No one coming as a stranger need expect to get a welcome from any of the officers. "They don't seem to want the poor in." This is therefore the block that confronts Mr. Townson, poor fellow, and, in spite of the attractiveness of London, he is inclined to compare things as they are with him now, as they were in the Cheshire village. "There it was quite another thing," a well filled church,

plenty of young people about, enthusiasm and vigour, all Gospel, cakes and ale. Here exclusiveness, stagnation, chill. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx And the paper that is circulated from this Chapel is headed "The Rotherhithe Forward Movement Magazine", and in the monthly letter that the minister writes I see the following for February: "That is it. "How can I serve?" Are we serving? Is the world richer for our presence? What are we giving to men? What are we doing for men? Are we dimming and darkening the world, or brightening it? The answer we give to these questions determines what the real aim of ou life is." Poor Mr. Townson! He is something of a Socialist, feeling, as he said, that while "much of our Socialism wan's Christianizing, much of our Christianity wants socializing." And his lot is for the moment cast at Albion Street!.

The building holds 250. Sunday morning congregation averages 20; the evening, from 80 to 100. Sunday School Register, 120; average, 110. Teachers, 8, and a few other helpers. But helpers "are just what we lack, and are very difficult to get".

Preachers' Plan of the United Methodist Free Churches,

LONDON DISTRICT—FOURTH (SOUTHWARK) CIRCUIT, JANUARY 7th, 1900, to APRIL 1st, 1900.

Places and Hours of Service.	JANUARY. 7	14	21	28	FEBRUARY. 4	11	18	25	MARCH. 4	11	18	25	APRIL. 1
GRANGE ROAD, 11 0	Steward	Steward	Steward	Hockin	Steward	Dunn	Steward	Steward	Steward	Townson	Steward	Steward	Broad
Bermondsey .. 6 30	Steward	Steward	Steward	Steward	Steward	Steward	Steward	Steward	Steward S	Steward	Steward	Steward	Steward S
Wednesday.. 8 0	Steward	Steward	Steward	Steward	Steward	Steward	Steward	Steward	Steward	Steward	Steward	Steward	Steward
ALBION STREET, 11 0	Townson	Townson	Townson	Broad	Dnnn	Dempster	Townson	Townson	Townson	Steward	Townson	Townson	Hockin
Rotherhithe .. 6 30	Townson C S	Townson	Townson	Townson	Townson S	Dempster	Townson	Townson	Townson	Townson	Townson	Townson	Townson S
Wednesday .. 8 0	Townson	Townson	Townson	Townson	Townson	Townson	Townson	Townson	Townson	Townson	Townson	Townson	Townson
HILL STREET, .. 11 0	Matthews	Broad	Everett	Townson	Dowsett	Morey	Dunn	Quin	Matthews	C. A.	Hockin	Everett	Steward
Peckham .. 6 30	Crombie CS	Quin	Cook	Morey	Matthews S	Attwood	Everett	Bastin	Batty S	J. A.	Crutcher	Matthews	Crombie S
Tuesday .. 8 0	P. A.	P. A.	Brooks	Pinder	Bastin	Everett	M.B.	Cook	Morey	C A,	Dowsett	M. B.	Quin
BRUNSWICK, .. 11 0	Hockin	Hockin	Hockin	Steward	Hockin	Hockin	Hockin	Dunn	Hockin	Hockin	Letzer	Hockin	Townson
St. John's Rd., Deptford, Wednesday 6 30 7 30	Hockin C S Hockin	Hockin Hockin	Hockin Hockin	Hockin Hockin	Hockin Hockin	Hockin Hockin	Hockin Hockin	Hockin Hockin	Hockin S Hockin	Hockin Hockin	Hockin Hockin	Hockin Hockin	Hockin S Hockin
MANOR CHAPEL, 11 0	Dunn	Dunn WO	Dunn	Dunn	Townson	Steward	Supply	Hockin	Dunn	Dunn	Dunn	Dunn	Dunn
Galley Wall Road.. 6 30	Dunn C S	Dunn WO	Dunn	Dunn L	Dunn S	Dunn Q L	Dunn	Dunn L	Dunn S	Dunn Q L	Dunn	Dunn L	Dunn S
Men's Own 3 0	Dunn		Dunn		Dunn		Dunn		Dunn		Dunn		Dunn
Women's Own, Mon. 3 0	W O A		Mrs. Dunn					Mrs. Dunn		Dunn		Mrs. Dunn	

PLUMSTEAD CHURCH AFFILIATED WITH (LONDON) FOURTH CIRCUIT.

CRESCENT ROAD, 11 0	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster	Townson	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster
6 30	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster S	Townson	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster S	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster S
Thursday .. 7 30	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster	Dempster

CLASSES

Grange Road:

Christian Endeavour (Juniors)	Tues.	6 45
,, (Seniors)	,,	8 0
Service	Wednesday	8 0
Mothers' Meeting ..	Thursday	2 30
Band of Hope	Thursday	6 45
Young Men's Guild ..	Friday	8 30
Young Women's Guild ..	Friday	8 30
Mission Band	Sat.	8 0

Society Steward:

Mr. W. Archer, Alexis Street Bd. School, S.E.

Albion Street:

Mothers' Meeting ..	Monday	2 30
Bro. Townson	Tuesday	7 30
Service	Wed.	8 0
Christian Endeavour ..	Thurs.	8 15
Prayer Meeting	Saturday	8 30
Prayer Meeting	Sunday	6 0

Society Steward:

Mr. J. D. Thompson, 5, Moodkee St., R'hithe.

Hill Street:

Mothers' Meeting ..	Monday	2 30
Open-Air Service, ..	Tuesday	7 30
Band of Hope ..	Wed.	6 30
Prayer Meeting, ..	Thursday	8 0
Christian Endeavour..	Thursday	8 30

Society Steward:

Mr. R. B. Wilson, 179, Peckham Park Road, S.E.

Brunswick Chapel:

Mothers' Meeting ..	Monday	2 30
Band of Hope	Tue.	7 0
Young Peoples Guild..	,,	8 0
Service	Wed.	7 30
Bro. J. S. Hockin ..	Thursday	7 0

Society Steward:

Mr. W. H. Turner, 133, South St., Greenwich.

'Manor,' South Bermondsey Mission.

C.E. (Junior)	Tuesday	7 0
C.E. Young Men & Young Women	,,	8 30
Class Meeting (Bro. Morgan)	,,	8 0
Mothers' Meeting	Wednesday	2 30
Band of Hope (Junior) ..	,,	7 0
,, ,, (Adult)	,,	8 30
Institute (Boys)	Thursday	8 0
,, (Young Men) ..	,,	9 0
Young Womens' Institute ..	,,	8 30
Dorcas Meeting, 1st Thursday in month		3 0
Mothers' Prayer Meeting ..	Thursday	7 0
Church Prayer Meeting ..	Saturday	8 0

Society Stewards:

Mr. W. H. Hobbs, 226, Southwark Park Road, S.E.
Mr. E. W. Campion, 9, Kemsing Rd., Greenwich, S.E.
Church Sec.: Mr. Gilham, 71, Senegal Rd., Sth Bermondsey, S.E.

Crescent Road

Class Meeting (Bro. S. J. Wood)	Tuesday	7 30
Band of Hope	Wednesday	7 0
Service	Thursday	7 30
Peoples' "Guild"	Friday	8 0
Prayer Meeting	Saturday	7 0
Choir Practice (Mr. C. N. Wright)	,,	8 0

Society Steward:

Mr. S. J. Wood, 38, Majendie Road, Plumstead.

NOTICES.

Preachers' Meeting at Bro. Dunn's on Saturday, March 10th, at 4 o'clock.

The **Circuit Committee** will meet at **Brunswick** on Monday, March 12th, at 7.30

The **Circuit Quarterly Meeting** will be held at **Brunswick** on Monday, March 19th, at 7.30

Plan Money to be paid at Circuit Committee Meeting.

Preachers unable to attend their appointments must obtain an accredited substitute, failing this, early information should be given to the Society Steward.

No Preacher must be displaced without his previous consent.

Pastoral Visitation.—Persons who are Sick, or who desire a pastoral visit, will please forward their names and addresses to the Minister.

Marriages.—Grange Road, Hill Street and 'Manor' Chapels are Licensed for the solemnization of Marriages. Information to the Minister.

Magazines. Hymn Books, and other works published at the Book Room, may be obtained of the Ministers.

CIRCUIT OFFICERS

Chairman:
Rev. J. S. HOCKIN.

Stewards:
Mr. G. S. KNIGHT, Stralethen, Sutton, Surrey.
Mr. G. MILNE, 24, Hanover Park, Peckham

Secretary:
Mr. H. FABLING, 27 Ashmead Rd, St. John's, S.E.

ADDITIONAL OFFICERS.

Secretary to Preachers' Meeting:
Mr. C. BASTIN, 6, Cottage Green, Camberwell.

Plan Secretary
Rev. J. S. HOCKIN.

Missionary Treasurer:
Mr. W. DELEVANTE,
9, Lind Sreet, St. John's, S.E.

Missionary Secretary:
Mr. J. NEW.
40, St. Mary's Road, Peckham.

Secretary to London Chapel Extension Fund:
Rev. F. W. STEWARD.

Temperance Secretary
Mr. W. B. BROAD, 53, Reverdy Road, S.E

Assistant Circuit Secretary:
Mr. B. W. STEPHENS,
64 Alscot Road, Bermondsey, S.E.

Circuit Secretary to Connexional Young People's Committee, &c.
Mr. WALTER J. MORGAN.

Auditors:
Mr. J. SCADENG,
18, Scawen Road, Deptford Park, S.E.
Mr. W. H. TURNER,
133. South Street, Greenwich.

BAPTISMS.

On Sunday mornings (first in month preferred), or at week night service. Notice to Chapel Keeper.

REFERENCES.

C. A. Chapel Anniversary.
S. Sacrament. L. Lantern Service.
S. S. A. Sunday School Anniversary.
T. S. Temperance Sermon.
Q. Answers to Questions.
F. Flower Service
H. Harvest Thanksgiving
C. S. Covenant Service & Sacrament.

1900.

CIRCUIT COMMITTEES.

Brunswick, March 12th.
Grange, June 11th.
Brunswick, September 10th.
Grange, December 10th.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

Brunswick, March 19th.
Hill Street, June 18th.
Manor, Sept. 17th.
Grange, Dec. 17th.

Anniversaries.

Manor S.S.A. in March.
Alderman Duckworth, M.P.
Hill Street C.A.—March 11th & 13th.

PREACHERS' NAMES.

Hockin, J.S., 6 Cliff Terrace, St. John's S.E.
W. Kaye Dunn, B.A., 'Manor,' South Bermondsey, S.E.
F. W. Steward, 97, Avondale Square, Old Kent Road, S.E.
Townson, J. W., 5, Rebecca Terrace, Gomm Road. S.E.
H. K. Atkinson, F.G.S., 58, Bonham Rd Brixton Hill.
Bastin, C., 6, Cottage Green, Camberwell
Letzer, F.B., 50, Friendly Street, St. John's.
Broad, W. B., 53, Reverdy Road, S.E.
G. C. Sterling, 23, Nelgrade Road, Catford.
H. Brient, 41, Balaclava Road, S.E.

Plumstead Preachers.

Dempster, D., 48, Ennis Road, Plumstead, S.E.
Pearce, W. H., 198, Lakedale Road, Plumstead, S.E.

AUXILIARIES.

G. Allen, B.A., Handsworth College, Birmingham.
Crombie, A., 119, Salisbury Square, E.C.
Perry, J. J., Albion Villa, Nottingham Road, Upper Tooting.
Carter, F., 3, Queen's Road, Peckham.
Snell, E. S., Treverbyn, Cambridge Park, Wanstead, E.
Baker, G. L., 75 Ermine Rd., Ladywell S.E.
Batty, J. H., 22, The Gardens, Peckham Rye.
Bourne, 69, Jerningham Rd., New Cross.
Bell, I. D., 25 Talfourd Rd., Peck'm, S.E.
Crutcher, T., 48, Derrick St., Rotherhithe
Coulson, A. W., Handsworth College, Birmingham.
Cook, A., 42 Gowlett Road, Peckham Rye.
Everitt, J., 25, Lynton Rd., Bermondsey.
Hall, H., 37, Reverdy Rd., Bermondsey.
Hudson, R., 27, Arcadia, Great Dover Street, S.E.
Law, R. A., 45, Saltoun Road, Brixton.
Matthews, J., 39, Bournemouth Road, Peckham.
Willett, C. J., 33, Avondale Square, Old Kent Road.
Lane S., 40, Camberwell Road, S. E.
Quin, 41, Ashbourne Grove, Dulwich, S.E.
Morey, C., 52, Lyndhurst Rd., Peckham.
Adshead, J, S., High Street, Plumstead.
Bow, T., Preston House, Banchory Road, Blackheath.
Whitburn, J., 142, Drummond Road, Bermondsey.
Blott, H. W., 11, Bonham Rd., Brixton.
Dempster, G., Blonfield Rd., Plumstead.
Bastin, A., Wrottesly Road, Plumstead.

Read the "FREE METHODIST" Newspaper. Weekly: One Penny. Agent for Free Methodist, Mr. J. NEW, 40 St. Mary's Road, Peckham. Of all Newsagents.

Capt. A. J. Parris
Rotherhithe Corps
Salvation Army

GA
March 14/1900

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Captain A.J. Parris, Officer in charge of the Salvation Army Corps, Lower Road, Rotherhithe. Seen at his lodgings: 23 Union Road.

Capt. Parris is a bright frank young man, under 30. He is better educated (than) and in speech and manner decidedly superior to the ordinary type of officer. Has been here four months; was previously at Stockwell and Richmond. Is married, but his wife is away ill, so that all the work falls on him.

The corps very weak - only 53 soldiers and 3 recruits. Has 6 local officers, a Band of 13 & the Captain & his wife.

The Hall holds 450 persons & they have a small room at the back.

Their work is mainly in the streets to the north & east of Southwark Park, going from Farncombe Street to the Gasworks & south to the Redcliffe, Plough Rd. The place he regards as a stronghold of drink and the people are indifferent in a corresponding degree. They drink much and are poorer than those at Stockwell,

his

his previous station, although he does not think they earn less. He lives opposite a publichouse and occasionally draws down the ~~his~~ venetian blind and watches thro' the laths. Has seen a woman come and call to a man ~~xxxxx~~ "Give me money for bread for the children" + subsequent go into the pub. with the man.

They hold the usual 4 meetings on Sunday but these are very poorly attended, the evening being the best when they get nearly 100, this being an increase on the winter record. The week evening meetings are very small, only about 15 or 16 people. They cannot get the people in + so depend on their open air meetings, of which three are held on Sunday, while on week evenings they have not held meetings during the winter.

The children's meetings are the best part of their corps work. They get 70 on Wednesday and about 50 on Friday and have ~~abou~~ six classes on Sundays afternoon. Also have a Band of Love + classes in connection. He is thinking of giving

DEAR FRIEND,

We seek the Salvation of your Soul. This is more precious to you than worlds. Time is short.

"Ye must be born again."

Meetings are held in the Salvation Army Barracks on Sundays at 7 and 11 a.m., 3 and 6.45 p.m., and every week-night at 8 p.m. (except Tuesdays). Children's Meetings, Sundays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 7 p.m.

"Seek the Lord while He may be found."

Where will you spend Eternity?

DEATH IS COMING.

up the adult meeting on Sunday afternoon and devoting the time to the children. There are plenty of children running about the back streets on Sunday afternoon.

He visits constantly in the district, taking some streets consecutively. Has only had the door banged in his face twice, although a good many have said they are Catholics or go to church. When at Richmond he had some leaflets printed & he utilizes these at Rotherhithe, tearing off the Richmond address and stamping Rotherhithe on.

The Rotherhithe Corps seems to have got as low as it could do without suffering extinction and Capt P. has probably been sent here to secure it. His explanation of the position is that most of the younger soldiers having improved their position have left the neighbourhood & the corps only retains the older people, many of whom are past work - 'have had their day'. When he came the soldiers were very discouraged but they are beginning to get 'linked up again'.

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4-13

SEAMEN & BOATMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY
COMMERCIAL DOCK
LONDON, S.E.
CHAPEL
Est. 1846

59, Plough Rd
Rotherhithe
March 22/900.

Dist 33

Mr C. H. Booth.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your request I enclose a copy of my Report just published

I trust you may find some useful details for your publication.

Shall be glad to see a copy when published

yours sincerely
E. Clarke. - Supt.

Holy Trinity parish

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Dist. 33

THE INCORPORATED

Seamen & Boatmen's Friend Society.

ESTABLISHED 1846.—INCORPORATED JANUARY, 1899.

OBJECT:—To promote the Social, Moral and Religious Welfare of Seamen, Bargemen, Fishermen and Canal-boatmen.

CONSTITUTION - - Undenominational and Evangelical.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

LONDON DISTRICT

FOR 1899.

PUBLISHED FEBRUARY, 1900.

Patrons:—W. STRANG, ESQ.; F. A. BEVAN, ESQ.; A. POMEROY, ESQ., L.C.C.; CUMMING MACDONA, ESQ., M.P.; S. GURNEY SHEPPARD, ESQ.; F. C. CARR-GOMM, ESQ. S. BROWNFIELD, ESQ., Superintendent, Surrey Commercial Docks, Rotherhithe.

Local Committee:—Rev. T. PEATFIELD (*Chairman*), 153, Lower Road, Rotherhithe; MR. H. F. MORRISS, St. Winifred's, Lower Road, Rotherhithe; MR. H. BELLSHAM, Lower Road, Rotherhithe; MR. W. L. MATTHES, Plough Road, Rotherhithe; MR. F. JONES, 102, Jerningham Road, New Cross; MR. J. REESON (*Hon. Sec. and Treasurer*), Lower Road, Rotherhithe.

Bankers:—LONDON, CITY AND MIDLAND BANK, Limited, Rotherhithe Branch.

Auditors:—A. C. PALMER & Co., Chartered Accountants, 7 and 8, Railway Approach, London Bridge, E.C.

Superintendent and Collector:—REV. E. CLARKE, 59, Plough Road, Rotherhithe.

Missionary:—MR. J. RACKHAM, Fawcett Road, Rotherhithe.

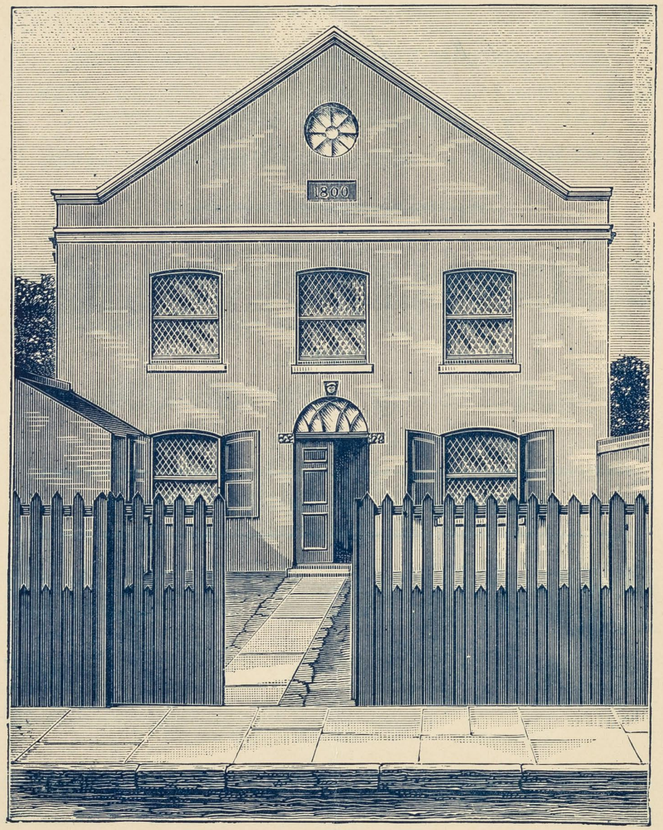
SEAMEN & BOATMEN'S COMMERCIAL LONDON

THE INCORPORATED

Seamen and Boatmen's Friend Society.

ESTABLISHED 1846.—INCORPORATED JANUARY, 1899.

London and District Centre.



SEAMEN'S CHAPEL, DERRICK STREET,

COMMERCIAL DOCK, ROTHERHITHE, S.E.

Order of Services and Meetings:

Sunday Services: 11 a.m., 7 p.m. Sunday School: 10.30 a.m., 2.45 p.m.
Monday: Band of Hope, 7 p.m. Entertainments, etc., occasional.
Tuesday Service: 8 p.m. Wednesday, Bible Class, 8 p.m.

Sailors, Bargemen, and others connected with the water are cordially invited to the above services. Seats free. Hymn Books provided.

Holy Trinity parish

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THE INCORPORATED

Seamen and Boatmen's Friend Society.

ESTABLISHED 1846.—INCORPORATED 1899.

REPORT

OF THE

London and District Branch,

From January 1st to December 31st, 1899.

PUBLISHED FEBRUARY, 1900.

THE following is a brief

SUMMARY

Read at the Annual Meeting held in February.

Visits to Vessels and Barges	=	4,641
Visits to Homes on Shore	=	1,010
Visits to Sick and Dying	=	120
Men Conversed with	=	22,140
Literature Distributed	=	54,610
Services & Meetings in Chapel		320
Meetings on Board Vessels	=	70

SEAMEN & BOATMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY
COMMERCIAL DOCK
LONDON

Holy Trinity parish

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THE MISSION WORK,

BRIEFLY summarised on the preceding page represents a large amount of **daily, careful, patient, earnest effort.** It comprises many details of an interesting and an encouraging character—details (to a large extent) known only to those engaged in the work, but faithfully recorded in the Missionaries' journals.

The experience has been varied. Dealing with a floating population, with men "here to-day and gone to-morrow," with men of varied nationality and types of character, with men of all temperaments and shades of thought and feeling, men with strange prejudices, fancies and beliefs—the work has naturally and necessarily been lifted out of the rut of sameness and tiring monotony. The workers have required tact, discretion and sound judgment frequently coupled with great **patience, forbearance** and **prayerful perseverance.**

The work has not been done spasmodically or by any uncertain methods. The **visiting of ships, barges and homes,** the conducting of meetings, the distribution of literature, the dealing with men personally and all other details, have been carried out systematically from day to day and from week to week and in such a way and manner, we are glad to say, that all friendly investigation and criticism are earnestly courted rather than shunned.

THE **distribution of Literature** has been made a special feature. The Missionaries have never gone empty-handed among the men on board ship, barge or boat. The demand for good, interesting reading of the best and purest kind, thanks to various excellent publishing societies, has been readily and freely supplied, not only in **English,** but very much in **Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, Finnish, German, Greek, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, French, etc., etc.**

The gifts have consisted of **Religious and Temperance Tracts** (illustrated), **Text Cards, Magazines** (including the "**Waterman**" and "**Monthly Welcome,**" the Society's own publications), **Scripture portions, New Testaments,** and **Bibles, etc., etc.**

This Literature has been received thankfully and gladly by the men, and we have reason to believe has been read and re-read, and only God knows what blessing has resulted.

We have placed the word of God—the word of life, light and comfort, into the hands of men—men who need it, and who have called for it and we are assured that word "shall not return unto" God "void"; we believe that somehow or other, at some time or other, "it shall accomplish the thing" whereto it has been sent.

PERSONAL dealing with men has been another important feature in our work. Men on board vessels, on the quay, on the canal side, in fo'castles and cabins, have been dealt with not only in groups—but singly. The Missionary has often had a congregation of not more than one! He has, as opportunity offered, conversed, read and prayed **with one man alone,** and that visit, that effort, has been made a blessing to both the visited and the visitor.

Need we say the record of good accomplished by such means **cannot be tabulated!** Figures will not represent it! It is unseen and unknown save by Him and to Him who sees and knows all things.

SERVICES AND MEETINGS.

While the good work has thus been prosecuted in the open air it has been equally and successfully carried on in the chapel—**The Seamen's Chapel, Derrick Street, Commercial Dock, Rotherhithe.**

Sunday services, Sunday school, Band of Hope, week-night meetings for adults have been conducted weekly during the year. To many of these services both **sailors** and **bargemen** who have been in the neighbourhood at the time have been invited, and they have frequently given a hearty response and have expressed their desire and purpose to attend again at a future time. Frequently on the Sabbath day **vessels in the Commercial Dock have been visited several times,** and in the evening the visitor has waited while the men have finished their tea, washed and changed themselves, and by this means has secured their attendance at the service.

Not infrequently, however, has the visitor met with disappointment. After all such effort he has failed to induce the men to leave their cabin or fo'castle and has had to be content with a few words in season there and then, the distribution of some tracts or gospels, a brief prayer and a hope for better success at a future time.

SEAMEN & BOATMEN'S COMMERCIAL ROAD LONDON E.

Holy Trinity parish

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SPECIAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS.

BESIDES the ordinary services and meetings referred to on the previous page, a number of interesting events have taken place during the year.

The following is a brief summary:

Sunday School Prize Giving. January 24th. Chairman, Mr. A. Sindall. 41 prizes for regular attendance and good conduct. Music, recitations and singing.

Local Annual Missionary Meeting, and Tea for workers and friends. February 22nd. Chairman, Mr. H. Trengrouse of Kingston. Report and Statement of Accounts presented. Speakers: Rev. T. N. Ritson, Mr. W. Gorrie, Mr. J. Everitt, Mr. J. Rackham, Mr. Jones and Rev. W. L. Barry (Bristol Superintendent). Collection.

Lantern Lecture. March 23rd. "Stories from the lives of great men," by Mr. J. G. Ketchen (S. Tottenham). Excellent attendance. Admission by ticket, 2d.

Sunday School Anniversary. June 11th and 12th. Preachers, Mr. J. Rackham and Mr. J. G. Ketchen. Choir of 60 voices under leadership of Rev. E. Clarke, assisted by string band. Organ by Mr. W. E. Clarke.

Public meeting on Monday evening. Chairman, Mr. Bartlett (Lower Road). Speaker, Mr. J. Buttfield (B.A.S.S. Union). Recitations and hymns repeated. Collections.

Sunday School Excursion. June 21st. To Ashstead Woods. An excellent party spent a pleasant day. Good tea, games, etc.

United School Gatherings. Sunday, September 24th. Afternoon service at Silver Street, Wesleyan Chapel. Present, majority of both schools. Address by Rev. E. Clarke.

Harvest Festival. October 8th. Preachers: Rev. T. Peatfield, E. Clarke and Mr. J. Rackham. Public meeting on Monday evening following. Chairman, Mr. F. Jones. Speakers, Rev. K. Dunn, B.A., and Rev. W. Townson. Decorations of bread, fruit, corn, vegetables, etc. Gifts to poor and sick at close. Collections.

Lantern Lecture. November 16th. By Mr. Jarvis (Stroud Green), subject: "London in Olden Times." 70 splendid slides. Recital by Master Ernest Clarke. Excellent attendance. Tickets 2d. Mr. H. F. Morriss Chairman.

Band of Hope Tea and Entertainment. December 21st. Lantern pictures on various subjects. Recitations and solos by young members. Address and recitals by Mr. Menzies (Chairman S. Band of Hope Committee). Chairman, Rev. E. Clarke.

A PAGE FROM THE MISSIONARY'S JOURNAL.

FEBRUARY 1st. London and St. Catherine Docks, visited a large steamer. Went into the fo'castle where sat some ten sailors at dinner. They spoke eight different languages, but most could understand English. I gave them each a gospel in his own tongue, and each read in that tongue a verse of Scripture—the 16th verse of 3rd chapter of John. I spoke to them for nearly half-an-hour from that verse and then offered prayer. The men shook me heartily by the hand and said, "We hope we shall meet you again soon."

February 13th. Paddington Basin. Visited the above basin where a number of canal boatmen were located. They had journeyed from different parts of the Midlands. In conversing with some I found they dabbled largely with the drink and suffered accordingly. I spoke and read to them briefly, urging them to give up the drink. I then prayed for them. One man signed the temperance pledge, and the others promised they would try and do better. I have seen some of them since that visit, and am glad to know that they are trying their best with God's help to keep that promise.

February 15th. Millwall Dock. Visited a Liverpool steamer. Went into the fo'castle and explained the nature of my visit. A sailor immediately said, "You are just the man we want. We have been caught in a terrible storm at sea, and thought it was all up with us. The chief mate hunted for a Bible, but could not find one in all the ship with a crew of 35 hands. Have you got a Bible you can give us?" "Yes," I said, and I gave them two. We then had a good meeting together in that fo'castle. They all thanked me for my visit and hoped to see me again. I have seen them since then, and have reason to believe that a change for the better has come over some of them.

April 27th. West India Docks. Visited a large ship there. I entered the fo'castle, where 11 men sat at dinner. I told them why I had come, and asked if I might read and speak to them for a short time? They consented. When I had finished I asked if any were christians? One man held up his hand and said. "Yes, sir, I am." I was glad, and gave him a word of encouragement. Four of the men promised to try and live a better life. Then a German sailor said: "Well, if he can be a Christian on board ship, I think I can." I said, "Will you try? God will help you." Said he, "I will try." I left that ship feeling very much encouraged.

Holy Trinity parish

CHAPEL CENTENARY.

AN APPEAL.

THE SEAMEN'S CHAPEL, DERRICK STREET, Commercial Dock, Rotherhithe,—the centre of the Society's work in London, was erected by the Congregationalists in Jamaica Road, Bermondsey, in the year 1800. It is now, therefore, 100 YEARS OLD.

Being built soundly it is still in a good state of repair, and with careful use will last many years yet in which to carry on the Society's work.

It and the site were purchased by the Society from the Congregationalists in the year 1877. The money was raised by mortgage, which stands to-day at £280 at 5 per cent. per annum.

In order to make sundry repairs, clean the place, and assist the funds of the Mission generally, the Local Committee purpose opening a special **CENTENARY FUND,** seeking to raise by that means ***£100***—that is, one pound for each of the hundred years the building has stood and served its useful purpose. This is a modest sum to ask for in these days of wealth and pubiic generosity. The Committee earnestly appeal for this amount, and trust that a hearty response will be the result.

DONATIONS will be gladly received and acknowledged by the Superintendent and Collector, Rev. E. Clarke, 59, Plough Road, Rotherhithe, or by Mr. J. Reeson (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer), Corn Merchant, Lower Road, Rotherhithe.

THANKS.

Our Thanks are due to the following Societies and Institutions for special free grants of Literature: ***The Religious Tract Society, the Drummond Tract Society, the Evangelical Tract Society, the Trinitarian Bible Society, and Wright and Muller's Orphanage.***

The parcels received have contained excellent and valuable assortments of illustrated tracts, leaflets, cards, Magazines, New Testaments, Gospels, and other Scripture portions.

Interesting Literature Needed.

The demand for good reading increases. We want to supply both Sailors and Bargemen with the best form of literature.

Will our friends help us by sending parcels, free of charge, of Religious and Temperance Tracts, Gospels and Scripture portions, "Horner's," and other penny stories, Illustrated Monthly Magazines, "British Workman," "Band of Hope Review," "Spurgeon's Sermons," etc., etc. ?

The Superintendent will return sincere thanks.

Address: E. CLARKE,
59, Plough Road,
Rotherhithe, S.E.

Holy Trinity parish

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The Funds

of the Society are supported entirely by voluntary contributions.

They are collected annually by the Superintendent, Rev. E. Clarke.

A printed receipt is given for each amount.

The accounts are examined quarterly by the District Committee and audited annually by chartered accountants.

The Balance Sheet (see page 16), signed by auditor, is read at the Annual Meeting of Subscribers and friends, held in February, in Rotherhithe.

New Contributions

are urgently needed to meet current expenses and to carry on the work efficiently. We wish to keep out of debt and go forward. Will our friends help us? Small sums, where large ones cannot be obtained, will be thankfully received and acknowledged.

In the name of the Committee we make an earnest appeal.

E. CLARKE, Superintendent,
J. REESON, Hon. Sec. and Treasurer.

THE INCORPORATED

Seamen & Boatmen's Friend Society.

ESTABLISHED 1846.—INCORPORATED 1899.

List of Subscriptions and Donations.

Received for the London District from January 1st to December 31st, 1899.

PUBLISHED FEBRUARY, 1900.

	£	s.	d.
Allen Bros. & Co. ...	1	1	0
Anglo-American Oil Co., Limited	1	1	0
Arter, A.	1	0	0
Aste, A. & W.	1	1	0
Atkinson, Geo. & Co. ...	1	0	0
Bailey & Leetham, Ltd.	1	0	0
Barrow, S. & Bro., Ltd.	1	1	0
Besant, Sir Walter ...	1	1	0
Bevan, F. A.	3	0	0
Bevington, Colonel ...	1	0	0
Bevingtons & Sons ...	1	1	0
Boutcher, Mortimore & Co.	2	2	0
Bowring, C. T.	2	2	0
Braby, F., Ltd.	1	0	0
Brandram, Bros. & Co., Limited	1	1	0
Brownfield, Samuel ...	1	1	0
Butler's Wharf, Ltd. ...	1	1	0
Catchpole, E. & Sons ...	1	0	0
Coode, Son & Matthews	1	1	0
Cook, J. W. & Co., Ltd.	1	1	0
Collins, W. C.	2	2	0
Cory, Bros. & Co., Ltd.	1	1	0
Courage & Co., Ltd. ...	1	1	0
Cross, W. M.	2	2	0
Crow, W. R. & Son ...	1	1	0
Cunliffe, Dobson & Co....	1	1	0
Denistoun, Cross & Co....	1	1	0
Dowell, W. & Co. ...	1	1	0
Evans, J. Johnson ...	1	0	0
Findlater, Gamble & Co.	1	1	0
Foy, Morgan & Co. ...	1	1	0
Fremlin & Co.	1	1	0
Gabriel, T. & Sons ...	1	1	0
Galsworthy, J.	1	1	0
Garland, W. G.	1	0	6
Gellately, Hankey & Co.	1	1	0
Gibbs, A. & Sons ...	1	1	0
Gladstone, Wyllie & Co.	1	1	0
Gomm-Carr, Mr. & Mrs.	2	0	0
Gonzalez, Byass & Co. ...	1	1	0
Carried forward £48	14	6	

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ...	48	14	6
Gordon, A. & Co. ...	1	1	0
Gray, Dawes & Co. ...	1	1	0
Gridley, Oscar C. ...	2	2	0
Griffin, J.	1	1	0
Hanson, Son & Barter ...	1	0	0
Harris & Dixon	1	1	0
Hawkins, A.	1	1	0
Hichens, Harrison & Co.	1	1	0
Hills, F. C. & Co. ...	2	2	0
Holland & Hannen ...	1	1	0
Howard, Bros. & Co. ...	1	1	0
Humphery, A. J. ...	1	1	0
Huth, F. & Co.	1	1	0
Jaffrey, W.	1	0	0
Jewett, G.	1	1	0
Jones, F. (Dons.) ...	2	12	6
Lampson, C. M. & Co....	1	0	0
Ledger, Mrs. E.... ...	1	1	0
Ledger, Miss L.... ...	1	0	0
Lipton, Sir T. J. ...	1	1	0
Livesey, Geo.	1	0	0
Major & Field	1	1	0
Mann, Crossman & Paulin	1	1	0
Mason & Son	1	1	0
McAndrew, R. & Co. ...	1	1	0
McArthur, W. & A., Ltd.	1	1	0
McEwan, J. & Co., Ltd.	1	1	0
Minett, T. & Co. ...	1	1	0
Mongomerie & Workman	1	1	0
Morgan, J. S. & Co. ...	1	1	0
Morriss, H. F. (Don.) ...	2	18	0
Neame, G. F. & Co., ...	1	1	0
Norris, T.	1	0	0
Olney, T. H.	1	1	0
Palmer, A. C. & Co. (Don.)	1	1	0
Pearson, S. & Son, Ltd.	1	1	0
Peek, Frean & Co. ...	2	0	0
Penn, J. & Sons, Ltd. ...	1	1	0
Pim, Vaughan & Co. ...	1	1	0
Pomeroy, Ambrose, L.C.C.	1	1	0
Price & Pierce	2	2	0
Ralli, Bros.	1	1	0
Carried forward £100	1	0	

Holy Trinity parish

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	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ...	100	1	0
Rennie, J. T., Son & Co.	1	1	0
Reeson, Smith & Clarke (Dons.)	2	2	0
Rüffer, A. & Sons ...	1	1	0
Schofield, J., J.P. ...	1	0	0
Schroder, J. Henry & Co.	1	1	0
Sharp, J. & Sons ...	1	1	0
Sheppards, S. Gurney ...	3	0	0
Sheppards, Pellys, Scott & Co.	1	1	0
Simson, T. & Co. ...	1	1	0
Smith, B. F.	1	1	0
Smith, Wood & Co. ...	1	1	0
Snow, Snow, & Fox ...	1	0	0
Steel, Young & Co. ...	1	1	0
Strang, W.	1	0	0
Surrey Commercial Dock Co.	5	5	0
Swire, John & Sons ...	1	1	0
Tabor, Trego & Co., Ltd.	1	0	0
Thompson, G. & Co. ...	1	1	0
Thompson, W. J. & H.	1	0	0
Webb, S. (Don.) ...	1	0	0
Wilson, W.	1	0	0
Winter, R. J. & Co. ...	1	0	0
Wood, Field and Hanbury	1	1	0
Wrightson & Co. ...	1	1	0
Alexander, E.	0	10	0
Anderson, Anderson & Co.	0	10	6
Anglo Continental Guano Works	0	10	0
Attlee, Charles	0	10	0
Ball, T. M.	0	10	0
Barr & Edward	0	10	0
Barry, C. & Co.... ...	0	10	6
Beeson, A.	0	10	0
Bennett, J. Wheeler & Co.	0	10	0
Berry, Oscar	0	10	6
Bigland, E. & Co. ...	0	10	0
Blackwall Galvanized Iron Co., Limited	0	10	0
Blandy, Bros. & Co. ...	0	10	6
Brooksbank, A. & Sons	0	10	6
Brown, F.	0	10	0
Brown, W. Palgrave ...	0	10	0
Bryant, Palmer	0	10	6
Bull, A. H. & Co., Ltd.	0	10	0
Bullard, King & Co. ...	0	10	0
Buller, Dean & Rohde ...	0	10	0
Bulloch, Bros. & Co., Ltd.	0	10	0
Burt, Boulton & Haywood, Ltd.	0	10	0
Carried forward	£143	4	0

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ...	143	4	0
Burton, J. & Co.... ...	0	10	6
Butler, Wilks & Co. ...	0	10	0
Cannon & Gaze, Ltd. ...	0	10	0
Carbutt & Co., Ltd. ...	0	10	6
Cattley, Gridley & Co. ...	0	10	6
Chambers, R. & Co. ...	0	10	6
Clark & Standfield ...	0	10	0
Clements, Newling & Co.	0	10	6
Coates, W. & Co. ...	0	10	0
Cook, E. & Co., Ltd. ...	0	10	6
Cooper & Nephews ...	0	10	0
Colman, J. & J., Ltd. ...	0	10	0
Connorton, T.	0	10	0
Corry, W. Sir, Bart. ...	0	10	0
Croshaw, G. & Co. ...	0	10	0
Cuff, H. S.	0	10	0
Daintree, J. T.	0	10	0
Day, F. F.	0	10	0
Deane, Ransome & Co....	0	10	0
Denny, C. & J.	0	10	0
Doubleday, W. B. ...	0	10	0
Dowson, Taylor & Co. ...	0	10	6
Ellis, A. A.	0	10	0
Enthoven & Sons ...	0	10	0
Evans, T. H.	0	10	0
Forbes, Cunningham & Bond	0	10	0
Fox, F. Douglas ...	0	10	0
Gailey, A. & J.	0	10	0
Gale & Co.	0	10	0
Galsworthy, J. (Don.) ...	0	10	0
Gibbs, D. & W., Ltd. ...	0	10	6
Gridley, J. & F. ...	0	10	6
Griffin, T. P. & Co. ...	0	10	6
Grimwade, Ridley & Co.	0	10	0
Grose, W. & Co. ...	0	10	0
Hanson & Co.	0	10	6
Harris, H. W. & Sons ...	0	10	6
Haslehurst & Co. ...	0	10	6
Hawkins, J.	0	10	0
Henderson & Liddell ...	0	10	0
Hindley, W. H. & Co. ...	0	10	0
Hobman, J. G.	0	10	6
Holman, J. & Sons ...	0	10	6
Horsnaill & Reynolds ...	0	10	0
Hughes, H. P. & Sons ...	0	10	6
Huntley & Palmers, Ltd.	0	10	0
Huntley, T. R. & Co. ...	0	10	0
Ismay, Imrie & Co. ...	0	10	0
Jenks, Geo.	0	10	0
Jenson & Nicholson ...	0	10	6
Jones, S. & Co.	0	10	0
Jones, W.	0	10	0
King, G. H.	0	10	0
Carried forward	£170	2	6

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ...	170	2	6
Kingerlee, T. H. ...	0	10	0
Kittel & Co., Ltd. ...	0	10	6
Kohnlein, F.	0	10	6
Lane & Neeve	0	10	0
Lawrence, W. & Sons ...	0	10	6
Leach & Co.	0	10	6
Lee, W. Son & Co. ...	0	10	0
Lehmann & Co.... ...	0	10	0
Longmans, Green & Co.	0	10	0
Macdona, Cumming, M.P.	0	10	0
Manganese Bronze Co. ...	0	10	0
Martinez, Gassiot & Co.	0	10	0
May, R. & Son	0	10	0
McConnell, J. & Co. ...	0	10	0
McIlwraith, McEacharn & Co., Ltd.	0	10	6
Meadows, T. & Co. ...	0	10	0
Melville, Ficus & Co., Ltd.	0	10	0
Metham, Capt.	0	10	0
Micklem, T.	0	10	0
Miller, W. R.	0	10	0
Moger & Co.	0	10	0
Nesbitt, A. &. W. ...	0	10	0
Nevill, Druce & Co. ...	0	10	0
Nickerson, Bros. ...	0	10	6
Nicholl & Co.	0	10	6
Nicholas, F. B.	0	10	0
Nixon, Gower & Co. ...	0	10	6
Norman, J.	0	10	0
Parnall, R. & H. & Co., Limited	0	10	0
Partridge, W S. & Co....	0	10	6
Paul, R. & W., Ltd. ...	0	10	0
Peatfield, Rev. T. ...	0	10	0
Peek, Frean & Co. (Relief)	0	10	0
Phillipps & Graves ...	0	10	6
Pocock, Bros.	0	10	0
Procter & Bevington ...	0	10	0
Putney, S.	0	10	0
P. & W. D.	0	10	0
Rackham, Golds & Co. ...	0	10	6
Rackham, Golds & Co. (Relief)	0	10	0
Reeson, J.	0	10	6
Rose, Smith & Co. ...	0	10	0
Rownson, Drew & Co. ...	0	10	0
Runchman, J. B. ...	0	10	6
Salmon, Mrs. F. ...	0	10	0
Sanderson, Murray & Co.	0	10	0
Saunders, T. H. & Co. ...	0	10	0
Shaws, Bryant & Co., Ltd.	0	10	6
Shaw, F. & Co.	0	10	0
Singer Manufacturing Co.	0	10	0
Carried forward	£195	9	6

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ...	195	9	6
Smith, D.	0	10	0
Smith, F. F.	0	10	6
Smith, Garrett & Co., Ltd.	0	10	0
Smith & Lister	0	10	0
Southwell, Charles & Co.	0	10	6
Stewart, J. & Son, Ltd.	0	10	6
Stone & Swanson ...	0	10	6
Storer, D. & Sons ...	0	10	6
Stuart, R. L.	0	10	6
Taylor, Seth	0	10	6
Trengrouse, H. & Co. ...	0	10	0
Trengrouse, H. (Don.)...	0	10	0
Turner, T.	0	10	0
Tyrrell, J. E.	0	10	0
Uhthoff & Co.	0	10	0
Vanner, J. & Sons ...	0	10	0
Wackerbarth, J. H. & Co.	0	10	6
Walker & Son, Ltd. ...	0	10	0
Wallace, Bros.	0	10	0
Warner, R. & Co., Ltd....	0	10	0
Watney, J. & Co. ...	0	10	0
Wells, E. & Son ...	0	10	6
Wigan, Richardson & Co.	0	10	0
Wilks, E. J. (Don.) ...	0	10	0
Williams, H. J.... ...	0	10	6
Willmott, J.	0	10	0
Winter, Bothamley & Co.	0	10	0
Wood & Parker... ...	0	10	0
Wordley, W.	0	10	0
Yarrow & Co., Ltd. ...	0	10	6
Akehurst, S.	0	5	0
Aldwinckle, A. C. & Co.	0	5	0
Allen, A. V.	0	5	0
Allen, J. W.	0	5	0
Andrews, W.	0	5	0
Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co.	0	5	0
Arding & Hobbs ...	0	5	0
Arkcoll, Cockell & Chadwick	0	5	0
Armfield & Co., Ltd. ...	0	5	0
Arnold & Co.	0	5	0
Arrowsmith, H. S. ...	0	5	0
Ashby & Co.	0	5	0
Atkinson, Dr.	0	5	0
Aveling & Porter, Ltd	0	5	0
Bailey & Halstead ...	0	5	0
Bailey, T.	0	5	0
Baker, J.	0	5	0
Banks & Bryan	0	7	6
Barber, Mrs. I.	0	5	0
Barber, R.	0	5	0
Barclay & Co., Ltd. (Clacton)	0	5	0
Carried forward	£216	2	6

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ..	216	2	6
Barclay, Miss	0	5	0
Barnard, A.	0	5	0
Bax, F. & Sons	0	5	0
Beachcroft, R. M. ...	0	5	0
Beaching, Bros., Ltd. ...	0	5	0
Beaton, Bros.	0	5	0
Beecroft, T. C.	0	5	0
Bell, Rannie & Co. ...	0	5	0
Bellin, P. B.	0	5	0
Bellsham, H.	0	5	0
Benham, H. A.	0	5	0
Benito, Novella & Co. ...	0	5	0
Bennett, R. & Co. ...	0	5	0
Berk, F. W. & Co., Ltd.	0	5	0
Beves & Co.	0	5	0
Bird, Stanley G. ...	0	5	0
Birts, J. A.	0	5	0
Black, Moore & Co. ...	0	5	0
Bobby, F. J.	0	5	0
Borkett, F.	0	5	0
Bott, W. E. & Co. ...	0	5	0
Boyd, T. L.	0	5	0
Bremer, Bennett & Bremer	0	5	0
Bridges, G.	0	5	0
Brown, E. G.	0	5	0
Brownfield, Sidney ...	0	5	0
Brownhill, T.	0	5	0
Bruce, G. B., Ltd. ...	0	5	0
Bryant & Co.	0	5	0
Burton, Son & Sanders, Limited.	0	5	0
Button, A. & Sons ...	0	5	0
Buxton, Ronald & Co. ...	0	5	0
Candlish, R. & W. Ltd.	0	5	0
Cape, F. & Co.	0	5	0
Carr, Arthur	0	5	0
Carrick & Coles... ...	0	5	0
Christy & Co., Ltd. ...	0	5	0
Christy F. A. & Son ...	0	5	0
Cleaver, F. S. & Sons ...	0	5	0
Clement, Andrew & Son, Limited	0	5	0
Clowes, T. E.	0	5	0
Coles & Williams ...	0	5	0
Collier, W. E.	0	5	0
Collis, J....	0	5	0
Corderoy, G. A. & Co. ...	0	5	0
Coventry, Sheppard & Co.	0	5	0
Curling G. Wyman & Co.	0	5	0
Dalton & Morgan ...	0	5	0
Dann, H....	0	5	0
Dartford Brewery Co., Limited	0	5	0
Carried forward £228	12	6	

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ...228	12	6	
David Cornellie & Co...	0	5	0
Dawbarn, J. & Sons ...	0	5	0
Dawson, H.	0	5	0
Dawson, J. & Sons ...	0	5	0
Dawson, W. A.	0	5	0
Defries, J. & Sons, Ltd.	0	5	0
Drysdale, G. A.... ...	0	5	0
Du Croz, Doxat & Co....	0	5	0
Duncan, G. & Co. ...	0	5	0
Dunster & Wakefield ...	0	5	0
Durler, H.	0	5	0
Ebdy & Co.	0	5	0
Edie, H. & Co.	0	5	0
Earle, J....	0	5	0
Eastwood & Co., Ltd. ...	0	5	0
Edmonds, Joseph ...	0	5	0
Erith & Dartford Lighterage Co.	0	5	0
Evans, E.	0	5	0
Falkirk Iron Co. ...	0	7	6
Field, J. C. & J., Ltd....	0	5	0
Finch, Rickman & Co....	0	5	0
Fisher, F.	0	5	0
Fisher, F. (Don. Relief)	0	5	0
Fisher, S. A.	0	5	0
Flack, Chandler & Co....	0	5	0
Footman, Pretty & Co....	0	5	0
Foster, W. J.	0	5	0
Frame, W.	0	5	0
Francis & Co., Ltd. ...	0	5	0
Francis, E.	0	5	0
Franklin & Son... ...	0	5	0
Friend, A.	0	5	0
Friend, R. O.	0	5	0
Furness, Withy & Co., Ltd.	0	5	0
F.U.F.	0	5	0
Gadd, Mrs. R.	0	5	0
Gardner, J. & Co. ...	0	5	0
Garland, W. G. (Don. Relief)...	0	5	0
Garrett & Co., Ltd. ...	0	5	0
Gibson, T. F.	0	5	0
Gilbert, Mr. & Mrs. ...	0	5	0
Gillett, Bros. & Co. ...	0	5	0
Goad, Rigg & Co. ...	0	5	0
Goble & Sothers ...	0	5	0
Gordon, G. H.	0	5	0
Gordon, Woodroffe & Co.	0	5	0
Goslin, J. D.	0	5	0
Gray, Mrs.	0	5	6
Gregson, H. S. Knight...	0	5	0
Grey, Mr.	0	5	0
Groom, Daniels & Co. ...	0	5	0
Carried forward £241	10	0	

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ...241	10	0	
Groom, H. L.	0	5	0
Groves, T. & Sons ...	0	5	0
G.C.	0	5	0
G.D.	0	5	0
G.S.	0	5	0
Hale & Son	0	5	0
Hall, J. & E., Ltd. ...	0	5	0
Hardy, R.	0	5	0
Hawtrey, W. & Son ...	0	5	0
Haycraft & Son, Ltd. ...	0	5	0
Haynes, H.	0	5	0
Hazell, Watson & Viney, Limited	0	5	0
Hellard, A.	0	5	0
Hemery, C. & Son ...	0	5	0
Henderson, F. A. & Co.	0	5	0
Hepburn & Co.	0	5	0
Herron, G. R. & Son ...	0	5	0
Higgins, C. R. & Co. ...	0	5	0
Hilton, Rider & Co. ...	0	5	0
Hives, H.	0	5	0
Holderness & Wareham	0	5	0
Holmes, J.	0	5	0
Hood, R., Haggie & Son	0	5	0
Hookey, Ernest	0	5	0
Horseshoe & Nail Co., Ltd.	0	5	0
Hosking, T. & J. ...	0	5	0
Howell, Bros.	0	5	0
Hucklesby, A. J. ...	0	5	0
Hughes, H. G.	0	5	0
Hunt, C. H.	0	5	0
Hunter & Co.	0	5	0
Hurst & Son	0	5	0
Hyde, T. & Co.	0	5	0
H. & Co. (Relief) ...	0	5	0
Ind, Bros.	0	5	0
Jackson, J., Sir... ...	0	5	0
Jackson, T. D.	0	5	0
Jacobs, John I. & Co. ...	0	5	0
Jacobs, J. A.	0	5	0
Johanson, A.	0	5	0
Johnson, A. M., Miss ...	0	5	0
Johnson, C. J.	0	5	0
Johnson, M. S.	0	5	0
Johnson, J.	0	5	0
Johnson, R. J. & Co. ...	0	5	0
Johnson, Walter ...	0	5	0
Johnston, W. & Co., Ltd.	0	5	0
Jones, Miss L.	0	8	0
Jones, F. H.	0	5	0
Jones, R. G., Price & Co.	0	5	0
Jones, Walter & Sons ...	0	5	0
Kearley, C. F.	0	5	0
King, F. G. & Co. ...	0	5	0
Carried forward £254	18	0	

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward .. 254	18	0	
Kingham, H. & Sons ...	0	5	0
Kim, E.	0	5	0
Kirkaldy, D. & Sons ...	0	5	0
Knight & Morris ...	0	5	0
Knight, P. B.	0	5	0
Knopp, G. & Sons ...	0	5	0
Lacons, Youell & Kemp	0	5	0
Lang, M. & Co.	0	5	0
Langford, R. A. ...	0	5	0
Lancaster & Co. ...	0	5	0
Langley, W.	0	5	0
Larkin, S.	0	5	0
Lawrence & Co.... ...	0	5	0
Leeson & Vokins ...	0	5	0
Lee, L. H.	0	5	0
Levens, W.	0	5	0
Lewis, Hyland & Co. ...	0	5	0
Lillie, A. E.	0	5	0
Lillie, H. W.	0	5	0
Linnington, Bros. ...	0	5	0
Locket & Judkins ...	0	5	0
Long, T. E.	0	5	0
Longhurst, H. B. & Son	0	5	0
Lovell & Partington ...	0	5	0
Lowndes, Bendir & Jones	0	5	0
Lynn & Gibson	0	5	0
Mackey, Mackey & Co....	0	5	0
Marlborough, E. & Co....	0	5	0
Marsh, J. & B.	0	5	0
Martin, Charles	0	5	0
Matts, J....	0	5	0
Maw, J.	0	5	0
McIntyre, Hogg, Marsh & Co.	0	5	0
McKenzie, J.	0	5	0
McLellan, W. J. ...	0	5	0
Melchers, Runge & Co....	0	5	0
Mills & Knight	0	5	0
Milsom, J. & Sons ...	0	5	0
Mitchell, A. C.	0	5	0
Montgomery & Co. ...	0	5	0
Moore, R.	0	5	0
Morgan, J.	0	5	0
Morse, A. T. Sons, & Co.	0	5	0
Morter, Mrs. A. E. ...	0	5	0
Moss, R. W.	0	5	0
M.J.E.	0	5	0
Nelson, T. & Sons ...	0	5	0
Nestle, Henri	0	5	0
Nichols, F. & C. ...	0	5	0
Nichols, C. A. & H. ...	0	5	0
Nicholas, F. C.	0	5	0
Nix, J.	0	5	0
Noakes, F.	0	5	0
Carried forward £268	3	0	

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ...	268	3	0
Noakes, H.	0	5	0
Noakes, M. H., Miss ...	0	5	0
Nunn & Ridsdale ...	0	5	0
Oakes, J. & Co.... ...	0	5	0
Ofverberg, F.	0	5	0
Olney, W.	0	5	0
Osborne, C. H.	0	5	0
Owens, S. & Co.... ...	0	5	0
Page, S. & Son	0	5	0
Palmer, A. C. & Co. ...	0	5	0
Parks, Mrs. C.	0	5	0
Patience, H.	0	5	0
Patterson, H. S. & Co., Ltd.	0	5	0
Pedley, J.	0	5	0
Pewtress, J.	0	5	0
Peters, Hall & Co. ...	0	5	0
Pillman & Phillips ...	0	5	0
Pine & Sons	0	5	0
Pink, W. & Sons ...	0	7	6
Phillips, Bros.	0	5	0
Phillips's, Ltd.	0	5	0
Plowman, E.	0	5	0
Pooley, H. & Sons, Ltd.	0	5	0
Pope, H. J. & Co. ...	0	5	0
Pott, Mrs. A.	0	5	0
Pott, N.	0	5	0
Pratt, B....	0	5	0
Price, F. C.	0	5	0
Priday, S.	0	5	0
Pritchard & Co.... ...	0	5	0
Pryor, Miss E.	0	5	0
Puttock & Peacock ...	0	5	0
Quirk, Barton & Co. ...	0	5	0
Ramsden, Lankester & Co.	0	5	0
Ray, M. A.	0	5	0
Rhodes, B. & Son ...	0	5	0
Ridgeway & Co., Ltd. ...	0	5	0
Ridley, W. & Sons ...	0	5	0
Ridley, Whitly & Co. ...	0	5	0
Roberts, Adlard & Co. ...	0	5	0
Robson, Thos.	0	5	0
Ronald, J. & Sons ...	0	5	0
Rowson, A. J.	0	5	0
Runge, A. & Co.... ...	0	5	0
Sadler, Firth & Ross, Ltd.	0	5	0
Saker, S....	0	5	0
Salter, A.	0	5	0
Sankey & Co.	0	5	0
Saw Mills & Co., Ltd. ...	0	5	0
Schwann & Co.	0	5	0
Schwartz, H. & Co. ...	0	5	0
Scorgie, Norman ...	0	5	0
Sharp, James	0	5	0
Sharp, J. & Sons ...	0	5	0
Carried forward	£281	15	6

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ...	281	15	6
Sheppard, Charles ...	0	5	0
Siggs, Geo. & Co. ...	0	7	6
Simonds, J.	0	5	0
Simmons & Co.... ...	0	5	0
Simmons, J. & Co., Ltd.	0	5	0
Sindall, A.	0	5	0
Skudder, Geo. & Co. ...	0	5	0
Smith & Co.	0	5	0
Smith, E.	0	5	0
Smith, E. A.	0	5	0
Smith, Joel & Sons ..	0	7	6
Smith, Rhodes & Co. ...	0	5	0
Smith, W. G.	0	5	0
Smithers & Sons ...	0	5	0
Snuggs, Mrs. A. ...	0	5	0
Squires, J. & G.... ...	0	5	0
Staley, Radford & Co. ...	0	5	0
Stanbury, G. & Sons ...	0	5	0
Starkey, Room & Co. ...	0	5	0
Stenning, J. & Sons ...	0	5	0
Stevens, A., Miss ...	0	5	0
Stewart, Bros. & Spencer	0	5	0
Stokes, J. J.	0	5	0
Stone, Frank	0	5	0
Stotesbury, W.	0	5	0
Strickland, R. & H. ...	0	5	0
Style & Winch, Ltd. ...	0	5	0
Talbot & Lugg	0	5	0
Tamset, R. H.	0	5	0
Tapley, F. & Co. ...	0	5	0
Taylor, C. & Co. ...	0	5	0
Taylor, F.	0	5	0
Teede & Chappell ...	0	5	0
Templeman, G. E. ...	0	5	0
Thalsino & Deal ...	0	5	0
Thompson, C. J. ...	0	5	0
Thompson, J.	0	5	0
Thornton, R.	0	5	0
Thorp, W. F.	0	5	0
Tighe, E.	0	5	0
Topp, Wm.	0	5	0
Tough & Henderson ...	0	5	0
Tough & Miskin ...	0	5	0
Townend, A. & Co. ...	0	5	0
Townsend, E.	0	5	0
Trenchard & Sons ...	0	5	0
Trengrouse, H. & Co. (Don. Relief.) ...	0	5	0
Treliving & Smith ...	0	5	0
Tuff, C. & C., Ltd. ...	0	5	0
Tugby, Hosea & Co. ...	0	5	0
Turner, F.	0	5	0
Turton, Geo.	0	5	0
Tweedy, G.	0	5	0
Carried forward	£295	5	6

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ...	295	5	6
Tye, G. T.	0	5	0
Virgo, R. W.	0	5	0
Voller, S. J.	0	5	0
Waddell, J. & Sons ...	0	5	0
Walker, J.	0	5	0
Walker, W. B. & Co. ...	0	5	0
Wallett, Duncan & Co.	0	5	0
Ward, W. & Co. ...	0	5	0
Watkins, C. E.	0	5	0
Webb, S.	0	5	0
Wells, Bros.	0	5	0
White, T. B., Bros., Ltd.	0	5	0
Wildish, E.	0	5	0
Wilks & Co.	0	5	0
Willcox, W. H. & Co., Ltd.	0	5	0
Williams, G. P.... ...	0	5	0
Willmott & Cobon ...	0	5	0
Carried forward	£299	10	6

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward ...	299	10	6
Wilson, W.	0	5	0
Willson, Cobbett, Ltd....	0	5	0
Wimble, J. M. & Sons ...	0	5	0
Winter & Co.	0	5	0
Winter, T. B.	0	5	0
Winter, T. B. (Relief)...	0	5	0
Wood, E.	0	5	0
Wood, Mrs. S.	0	5	0
Woodbridge & Sons ...	0	5	0
Woodbridge & Lacy ...	0	5	0
Wogan & Co.	0	5	0
Wright, Bros.	0	5	0
Wright, Layman, & Umney	0	5	0
Young & Rawley, Ltd....	0	5	0
Sums under 5s.	64	0	6
Total	£367	1	0

Form of Bequest.

I give to the Treasurer for the time being of the London District *of the* Incorporated Seamen and Boatmen's Friend Society, *the sum of* *pounds sterling, to be paid out of my pure personal estate, for the purpose of the* London *District of the said Society: and for which the receipt of such Treasurer shall be a sufficient discharge.*

If a testator wishes the legacy to be paid free of duty, he will add the following words to the above form:—*And I direct that the legacy duty upon the said legacy be paid by my Executors out of the same fund.*

Holy Trinity parish

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THE INCORPORATED

Seamen and Boatmen's Friend Society.

ESTABLISHED 1846.—INCORPORATED JANUARY, 1899.

LONDON AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

METHODS.

SAILORS, Bargemen, Canal-boatmen, and others, are reached by the following means and methods :—

1.—**The Daily and Systematic Visitation of Ships**—(English, Scandinavian, German, Finnish, Italian, Spanish, Greek, &c.)—barges and canal boats in the Docks and Wharves, and on the Canals of the London District.

2.—**The Free Distribution of the Best Literature**—including the Scriptures, Gospel and Temperance tracts, books, magazines, etc., etc., in English and the languages required.

3.—**Conducting Short Services on Board,** personal conversation with men, reading of Scriptures, prayer, inducing men to sign the Temperance pledge, and in promoting habits of cleanliness, purity and thrift.

4.—**Holding of Religious and Temperance Services** and Meetings, Sunday School, Band of Hope, Bible Class, Lantern Lectures and Entertainments, Social Meetings, etc., etc., in the Seamen's Chapel, Derrick Street, Commercial Dock, Rotherhithe, S.E.

THE INCORPORATED

Seamen and Boatmen's Friend Society.

ESTABLISHED 1846.—INCORPORATED 1899.

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1899.

Dr.

	£	s.	d.
To Balance at Bank (Sunday School, and Band of Hope)	3	12	2
,, Subscriptions and Donations	307	1	0
,, Voluntary Offerings	8	9	9
,, Entertainments	1	17	6
,, Sunday School	9	13	8
,, Band of Hope	1	8	11½
,, "Monthly Welcome" Magazine	20	14	1½
,, Miscellaneous	1	18	0
	£414	15	2
To estimated value of Chapel and ground ...	£480	0	0

Cr.

	£	s.	d.
By Salaries and Payments for Labour	294	14	0
,, Coal, Wood, Gas, etc. (Chapel)... ...	5	6	7
,, Travelling (Collecting and Missions) ...	29	16	7
,, Printing, Stationery, Stamps, Reports, etc. ...	14	7	11
,, Literature	5	7	11
,, Relief of Poor and Sick	7	3	6
,, General Funds	9	0	0
,, "Monthly Welcome" Magazine	16	8	0
,, Sunday School	9	9	1
,, Band of Hope	1	15	3
,, Repairs to Chapel...	0	6	9
,, Entertainments	0	4	0
,, Interest on Chapel Mortgage	14	0	0
,, Donations to other Stations	0	19	0
,, Miscellaneous	1	15	6
,, Balance in hand (Sunday School, Band of Hope, etc.)	4	1	1
	£414	15	2

We have examined the above Balance Sheet with the books and vouchers of this Mission, and hereby certify that it is a true and correct statement of the same for the year ending December 31st, 1899, as appears thereby.

A. C. PALMER & CO.,
Chartered Accountants,
7 & 8, Railway Approach,
London Bridge, E.C.

January 18th, 1900.

LIABILITIES.

	£	s.	d.
By Mortgage on Chapel and Ground and accrued Interest	£284	0	0
,, Salary (Superintendent)...	5	8	0
	£289	8	0

Holy Trinity parish

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THE INCORPORATED

Seamen and Boatmen's Friend Society.

Established 1846.—Incorporated January, 1899.

OBJECT :—To promote the Social, Moral, and Religious Welfare o Seamen, Bargemen, Fishermen, Canal-boatmen, and thei families.

CONSTITUTION :—Undenominational and Evangelical.

GENERAL COMMITTEE.—Mr. A. Arter, Hammersmith; Mr. T. M Ball, East Harting; Mr. H. F. Morriss, Rotherthithe; Mr. J. Reeso Rotherhithe; Mr. J. Cadbury, Birmingham; Mr. Wm. Hutton, Birmingham Capt. J. Simpson, R.N., Liverpool; Mr. A. Morton, Bristol; Mr. J. C Holland, Plymouth; Mr. J. Willmott, Leytonstone; Mr. W. B. Maso Leeds; Mr. T. Marston, Leeds.

CHAIRMAN.—Mr. A. Arter, Linden House, Hammersmith.

TREASURER.—Mr. F. Rayner, Carpenter Road, Edgbaston.

HON. SOLICITOR. — Councillor W. Barrow, 4, Bennet's Hil Birmingham.

HON. SECRETARY.—Mr. J. Cadbury, Birmingham.

RECORDING SEC.—Rev. R. W. Cusworth, Boatmen's Hall, Bridge Stree Birmingham.

TRAVELLING AND ORGANISING SECRETARY. — Rev. J. W Cannings.

MISSION CENTRES.

LONDON—Seamen's Chapel, Derrick Street, Rotherhithe
BIRMINGHAM—Boatmen's Hall, Worcester Wharf.
LIVERPOOL—Flatmen's Bethel, George's Dock.
SEACOMBE—Flatmen's Bethel, Wheatland Lane.
BRISTOL—Seamen's Bethel, Bathurst Basin.
PLYMOUTH—Seamen's Mission, Vauxhall Street.
HEDNESFORD—Boatmen's Hall, Canal Basin.
LEEDS—Mission Room, Warehouse Hill.

Report of an interview with the Rev. Father Murnane, Christchurch parish (Abbey St) and three of ~~xxx~~ his fellow priests, ~~ax~~ at the Presbytery close by the Church of the Most Holy Trinity, Parker's Row. (E.A.) Feb.22.00.

33/1-2a

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When I called to keep the appointment I was first received by Father Murnane, the Senior Priest of the Mission. He has not been in this position for many years, but has known the district for a long time, for twenty years or more, and belongs to a family that has for even longer been identified with

the work of the Catholic Church in Bermondsey. "Murnane" is a household word down here" as one of the other priests said later. He asked if the others might come in, and, at a summons from an adjoining room, in they trooped, three out of the other four of the staff. Father Murnane is Irish, something over medium height, rather delicate in appearance, pleasant, cultivated, of good judgment. He took the lead in the conversation, by virtue alike of his position, longer experience, and also of his possession o the eloquent Irishman's tongue. Father Sagessa (?) must be English, however his name may be spelt, and he was perhaps the quietest member of our party -- a charming person, who, although one of his special pieces of work is connected w with the boys and who has a brigade 200 strong, seems at first to be one of the last men to be marked out for dealing with the noisy crew that the district must produce. Quiet, cultured, thoughtful, fragile, tall, occasionally xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx interpolating a remark of gentle banter -- a kind of languid saint.

Quite different was Father Mostyn, also tall and well nurtured, but of a blustering intellect, given to exaggeration, young, a priest of some three years' standing and in his first position; enthusiatic, and, I suspect, a convert; beloved by his colleagues, but taken cum grano. "A

Welshman, thank God", as he said later, while he and Father Sagessa were left alone with me for a few minutes and conversation had turned on local feeling about the War.

Father Stanton said little; he was of the rougher type of Irish priest -- short, square, ugly -- probably of different social standing to all the rest; honest and hard-working; less interesting; probably with less brain; certainly with less culture.

Father Moloney, the fifth priest, did not appear.

The Mission has for long been one of the strongest in South London, although only lately has the staff numbered five. Excepting for the part taken off by the more recently formed Paradise St. district, the Mission takes in the whole of the area lying north of the South-Eastern Railway, east of Bermondsey New Road and Bermondsey Street, & west of a line running across Southwark Park drawn from Silwood St. to Princess St.

We began on the Map, and, while Father Murnane was talking, Father Mostyn took possession of it, and studied it quietly for a minute or two. Suddenly, he broke out: "Why! it might have been coloured dark blue to show our people; that's where they all are", and he rattled off the names of some of the patches of squalor: "In every one of them, our people form the bulk of the occupants," and the

others agreed, that , while in these places the Roman Catholics were always more or less congested, elsewhere they were only found scattered. It follows, and Father Murnane mentioned the point, that the bulk of their people live in the northern part of the Mission district. In fact 80 per cent of the families were said to be connected with riverside employments. Nearly all the rest are labourers, and the whole form an essentially poor community. estimated at some 10,000 souls. They have 1200 children in their schools.

In spite of clearances, the proportion of their people is, Father Murnane thought, tending to increase rather than to diminish, the industrial change from the leather industries in which the men are comparatively well-paid and not Irish, to various manufactures that employ cheap labour, promoting the congestion of their people. x Female x

Mem: Local economic conditions probaly represent both cause and effect, as regards this massing of a poor Catholic population.

employment is increasing, and mat-making, jam-factories, tin-works, and, most obnoxious of all, work in the glue-yards, were mentioned.

As regards the actual conditions of employment in the wharves and the South side docks, they did not know much, and opinions were conflicting. All agreed, however,

that while in some branches of the work in the Surrey Docks the trade union was strong, employment was normally uncertain and irregular. Their own people belong, however, for the most part to the lower grades even of riverside labour, and the less efficient men, as Father Mostyn said, "curse the Strike", since it has increased their difficulty in getting work. The women, too, complain, saying that it has hardened the general conditions of employment, and diminished the friendliness and the more kindly give and take of the past. All agreed that, qualified by occasional bursts, their people were willing to work. The normal irregularity was greater than they desired; they were not loafers.

The following are some Mission facts. In addition to the priests, there are 35 Sisters of Mercy, who not only teach in the Schools, but help in visiting etc.

There are five masses on Sunday, and attendance was described as "fair", the weekly average being about 1200, this number including some 200 children. The above figures are taken from an actual count. At Easter some 1500 make their duty, this number again, of course, including a certain number of children.

While, therefore, there are many whose conexxion with Mother Church is very slight, all thought that there was

very little falling away, so far as ultimate sympathy and loyalty were concerned. All emphasised, and were proud of, the generosity of their people, ~~xxx~~ poor and struggling, and still paying some £200 each year to the Schools, and some £600 for other Mission purposes -- enough to make it self-supporting. In this respect all sang the praises of their people, Father Mostyn being especially enthusiastic, and appealing to me to say whether it was not the only ch church, at any rate in such districts, that kept itself. They decribed the readiness of people to pay their coppers; the incidents when some person had been passed over in the house to house collection, as for the Schools, running out with a contributory mite: "One feels quite ashamed, sometimes," said Father Mostyn "In other churches, when visitors ~~xxxxxx~~ go round, they expect to receive something, but ours ~~people~~ want to give something". So all joined in the paean of their poor and even ragged folk, and asserted their affection for and their loyalty to the Church; their willingness to make sacrifices; to defend it against attack or insult; to fight for it. "Certainly, to fight for it" said Father Sagessa with a smile, and I asked him later what had been in his mind. Father Mostyn was present, and both appeared to think that the rougher and the more neglectful of his religi us duties a man was, the more stalwart a de-

fender he would prove in case of real or imaginary need. Let the Church or a priest be insulted in the bar of the public-house, in a club, on the wharf, and fisticuffs would soon be flying about. And Father Mostyn gave an amusing instance of what had happened to him lately. Owing to a complete misunderstanding a man was supposed to have insulted him. The next day going down Tooley St. he was met by one of the flock: ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ "Mornin', F'thurr, ~~x~~ I've bin waitin' for you. Two ov us 'ave got 'im down there by the river all right, the chap that insulted you, and we want to know wot we shall do to 'im." And so, it appeared, said Father Mostyn, that these men had captured the imaginary offender, had sacrificed a good deal of their time, and were quite prepared to fight, punch, or duck him as the order might be given. The men were quite strangers to Father Mostyn who remarked on the way in which they all rallied round him. He had been told that nobody but an Irishman was any good in dealing with these people, but this was far from the truth if his own experience was any criterion.

(An analogy, perhaps between these ~~xxxxxxxx~~ rascals who fight for Mother Church but never pray, and the poor tumbler of the story who, befriended in the convent and impressed by the devotion of the brethren, mourned that he had nothing to offer in service to the Virgin Mother. Then at length he bethought him of his poor calling, and daily, in a little-used chapel of the convent, he ~~turned his accomplishments~~ before the shrine.)

The people are difficult to form into guilds etc. but a good deal appears to be done of one kind or another in addition to the ordinary ministrations of the Church. The follwoing were mentioned: The League of the Cross; Men's Club, with over 200 members; Boys' Brigade, with 200 members; the Soc. of S. Vincent de Paul, a useful influence, with 15 or 20 men working in it, and expensing perhaps £15 or £20 a year; various Confraternities and Guilds; and 2 loan clubs. Their policy, said Father Murnane, outside the church and the purely religious offices, was to aim at "liveliness, brightness, and brotherliness."

Drink is the great enemy, and the spread of drinking habits among women and girls was again mentioned. The pawn-shop and the habit of borrowing are cognate difficulties. The facilities for borrowing are numberless, existing both in the place of employment , in the shape of a man who will "sub"; in the public house, in the man who will give tick; and in the every street and court, in the person of some one who is prepared to make adavnces. The abuse of Father Buckley's Loan Club was mentioned, he having discovered that some of its members had taken advantage of the comparatively low rate of interest charged, and borrowed to lend again in what may be called the open market!! These illustrate some of the more specific temptations of the district, but the

great difficulty with which their people are faced is the prevailing irreligiousness. Every one is inclined to go along the line of least resistance, and the force of environment here makes strongly for the neglect of the observances of religion. On Sunday morning the whole place is asleep until ten or eleven. A Catholic in many of the courts who went to early mass would probably be the only person strrring. Imagine, they said, the effect of this upon their own people, and still more the shock it would give and the strain it would cause to some devout Irishman whoomight have come over recently from a village where all his neighbours habitually went to early mass.

In the summer large numbers of their people go to the hop-picking:"You can go to Kent and find the whole of our congregation" said Father Mostyn with a careless generality that made one of them say "Now,you have got his measure." "All" of course do not go, but they appeared to agree that perhaps some 30 or 40 per cent of the children did; large numbers of the adults; and that on some of the grounds the great majority of the pickers, "two out ofx three" were their own people.

The increasing poverty, and the increasing deadness of the level that is being reached appears to Father Murnane to be preparing a great practical administrative prob

lem for the future. It is the kind of district that London alone can produce. This remark was made with special reference to the Poor Law. Father Mostyn is a Guardian, and, with misgivings, and with the growing feeling that many of his colleagues are a shouting lot of wirepullers and agitators, he supports the policy of the Board.There is clearly a division of o inion on this matter in the house, and when Father Mostyn claimed that the Board was "the best in London" he said it half in jest. But he was prepared to claim quite seriously that in feeling for the poor it stood high. He was more doubtful as to the wisdom of its administration. He sees that things are getting worse, and that the Workhouse is over full, even while the out door list is steadily going up. But "What is to be done?" It is clear that the Board is used to supplement the charity of the Church, or, perhaps, to take its place, and Father Murnane said quite frankly that he did not know how they would manage without the Board.

The uncompromising trade union policy of the Board is also causing Father Mostyn a little searching of heart because he is beginning to see its intolerant and exclusive side. Here too, therefore, he has some misgivings, but, as he says, no one has the ghost of a chance of getting in who does not throw in his lot with this party. So, for the mo-

ment, this enthusistic, good-hearted, scatter-brained young priest is still an adherent of the majority. But he is being made to think.

As to other churches etc. in the district, they clearly did not think that much was being done. "I do not wish to be uncharitable" said Father Murnane, and he reverted to the point more than once, but it did not seem to him that any serius attempt was being made to reach any considerable section of the people apart from those who were being dealt with by themselves. There was no sign of it. In fact, and he said it very gently and sweetly, the Church of England seems rather "dead" round here, and I bethought myself of disheartened Mr. Lees Bell and poor Mr. Wallace. Certainly no one that I have seen in this n'hood is a patch upon the members of this Roman Catholic Mission — keen, capable, attractive, and backed by their great authority.

The housing conditions of most of their own people were, they thought, distinntly bad, but the district contains samples of all kinds. Among block dwellings, they mentioned the Barnham, Wolseley, and Hanover, as examples of the three grades of good, fair and bad, and in every respect the first was judged an easy worst. Both Occupants, structure and management are alike bad, and the first class in-

clude many of their own people.

My appointment had been for 3 o'clock, and most of our conversation was held in a somfortable room that appeared to be a kind of common study for the house. At about four-thirty we had tea, going for the purpose into what, I suspect, was the dining-room -- a bare room. with furniture limited mostly to a table and some straight backed chairs. The former was covered with a white table cloth; a tray and cups etc. at one end, and a plate of thin bread and butter and another of biscuits in the middle. The latter were uninteresting, and perhaps for show. Nobody touched them. Fathers Murnane and Stanton had at the moment been called away, so Father Sagessa took the head of the table. It was at this time that conversation turned on the War, and, seeing a map of South Africa on the wall, I asked what local feeling was about it. "Awful" said Father Mostyn, and they proceeded to tell me how very "pro-Boer" the bulk of the adult Irish are. "They know nothing about it, have a vague feeling that the Boers are fighting for Home-Rule, and therefore sympathise with them". But it is very different with the children. They are comparatively free from the Nationalist feeling; know that somebody is being fought, and are prepared to go for him at any moment. Then Father Mostyn related with much glee an episode at some recent children's entertainment, when magic-lantern

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slides were being shown by Father Moloney. A figure came up that looked something like Kruger, and with one accord the children began to shout and boo "Yah! Krrooger! Krrooger", and so on, for quite a long time, greatly disgusting and disconcerting Father Moloney, who is pro-Boer and who wanted to bring the audience back to the real subject of the slides. Asked as to whether Father Moloney was in a minority of one in the house, they both sorrowfully admitted that, on the contrary, it was they who stood alone in the house, a minority of two on the Government or loyalist side. However, difference of opinion on this question clearly does bot divide the general sympathies of the house; all that I saw appeared to be the best of friends.

They were extremely cordial; gave a standing invitation to come again; and would certainly be very glad to give any further information or help if such were wanted.

After tea, Father Sagessa produced excellent cigarettes, and everybody smoked, Father Mostyn preferring a pipe. As I left he was preparing to hurry away to a meeting of the Guardians.