

**THE UNION MISSION AT
1219 CANAL STREET, BUFFALO, N.Y.**

WE believe that our readers will be interested in the following report of the "Union Mission" which has been doing a blessed work among the fallen in our city. Miss Anna Prosser, the organizer of this Mission, was raised from a sickbed several years ago, in answer to the prayer of faith, and has since been mightily strengthened by God to pursue her difficult labors among the sinful and destitute. Those interested in her healing, and call to the Lord's service, will find it recorded in the eleventh chapter of our little book, "The Prayer of Faith."

We trust that our readers will pray for God's richest blessing upon this work of faith, and may others be encouraged to go forth into similar darkened places, carrying tidings of the Light of life. – *Editor*

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that My house may be filled. (Luke 14:23)

It is with grateful hearts that we issue this, the first annual report of our Mission for the poor and fallen. This can truly be called "a work of faith and labor of love." (1 Thessalonians 1:3.) "A work of faith," because we have looked to God alone for means to carry it on, and because it has required an unfaltering trust in God's promise that His word should not return unto Him void, even when sown in so wild and barren a spot as Canal Street. It has been "a labor of love," because nothing short of the burning love which our blessed Savior felt for the outcast and the perishing could have led us to devote time, means and strength to working among a class so utterly abandoned and repulsive.

The wretched homes we have visited, made desolate by the inroads of alcohol; the tears, the agonized pleadings for mercy; the helpless children, inheriting from their parents every low and sensual appetite, and daily breathing in crime and vice from the very atmosphere about them; the poor fallen woman, lost to every sense of shame, pushing her way through the crowd, luring silly young men into her dreadful haunts, the drunkenness and wild revelry on every hand.

Alas! Alas! Who can ever accustom himself to such sights and sounds as daily meet us on Canal Street? Sometimes the thought has come "Who is sufficient for these things?" But quickly the answer has been given "Our sufficiency is of God." We give the following sketch of the work's origin, for the benefit of those who know little of it.

Nearly six years ago, prompted by a desire to do something to elevate the laboring classes, a Bible class for working men was started by the writer at the Temperance Inn, and shortly after,

Miss Jennie McMillan entered as an assistant teacher, which position she now holds both in Sunday afternoon and Saturday evening classes. This class was from the outset signally owned and blest of God. So precious was the time spent in study of the Word that we frequently remained the entire afternoon thus engaged, and soon learned to look forward longingly to Sunday afternoon as a "time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord."

I have sometimes wished for the pencil of an artist that I might sketch the group of eager faces about me, leaning forward to drink in every word, many times with the tears silently trickling down their cheeks. It is a picture, however, which is stamped indelibly on my memory. They were men from various walks in life, carpenters, machinists, painters, sailors, day laborers, etc. Some were quite well educated, intelligent men; others had barely learned to read and write, and yet were very quick and apt to learn, and in most instances very grateful for instruction. Some had

been rescued by Christ's redeeming power from the lowest depths of drunkenness and crime. As the years rolled by, a very strong and tender attachment sprang up between teacher and class.

In June 1884, we removed to 45 South Division Street, where we met weekly for a Tuesday evening Bible Reading, Friday evening Gospel meeting and usual Sunday class. The following April (1885), at our monthly business meeting, we organized as a Mission, admitting women as well as men, as litany of the former had crept into the class by degrees, and desired to remain. Officers were elected, a Constitution and by-laws adopted, which we have since dropped, and in the following summer we began looking about for a suitable hall in which to hold meetings for the fallen.

We were directed in the most remarkable way, by God's own hand, to 129 Canal Street, a hall, which had been used by Mr. J. W. Wells for the same purpose for some years previously. The

question was at once raised-"But where will you get money for rent, coal, oil, janitor, etc., and where will you get workers to carry on meetings every night in the year?" The answer came without the shadow of a doubt. We will "have faith in God. "We had not the means among us at that time, to even meet the rent, to say nothing of the many other expenses, but...

"Faith, mighty faith,
The promise sees
And looks to that alone;
Laughs at impossibilities,
And cries 'It shall be done!'"

Convinced that God had spoken, we went forward, expecting the Red Sea to divide before faith and obedience, and it did. The first money which was put into the writer's hand was five dollars, given entirely unsolicited by a minister of the Gospel at Wesley Park Camp Meeting, August, 1885, who said he felt constrained by

the Spirit to give it. Two other ministers followed, entirely strangers, with gifts of two dollars and one dollar each, having heard that such a work of faith was contemplated here. With this plain token from our God we set forth. Our rooms were opened and dedicated Sunday evening, October 4, 1885, Rev. E. P. Marvin, of Lockport, preaching the dedication sermon to a vast crowd, which thronged the hall and also the sidewalks.

Meetings have been continued nightly, with two exceptions, throughout the year, with very encouraging results. Always during the fall and summer months a band of singers have stationed themselves at the door and drawn a crowd of listeners about them by singing our sweetest Gospel Hymns. While we sing these simple songs, hoping thus to touch some hard heart, Satan's employees across the way shout and yell in their drunken dance, endeavoring to confuse and put us to rout. "But greater is He that is in you than He that is in the world," said Jesus to His disciples. We are never dismayed.

Some of the most powerful meetings we have ever been privileged to attend have been held in this Mission, and some of the clearest and sweetest testimonials have been heard there from those in the lower walks of life, who, though "poor in this world," are "rich in faith." Are they not written down in the "book of remembrance," of which Malachi speaks? (Malachi 3:16)

We have had several very interesting entertainments during the year, including a Thanksgiving supper and praise meeting; a Christmas tree for our Sabbath school children, and supper to all who came in; also recitations and singing; the 5th anniversary of the bible class, Easter, Children's Day, and in July a Sabbath school picnic to our beautiful park. All these have been largely attended and deeply interesting. We cordially invite our friends in the various churches to visit any of our meetings, which are held as follows:

Services- Sunday: Bible class at 10:30 a.m. led by Mr. Angus Smith; Sunday school at 2 p.m., Miss Jennie McMillan, Superintendent; Adult Bible Class at 3 p.m.; Mrs. W. L. Gregory, Teacher; Children's Service at 7 p.m. and Gospel Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Anna W. Prosser, Leader.

Monday evening – Anna W. Prosser

Tuesday evening – William Jones

Wednesday evening - Children's "Band of Hope."

Thursday evening - Messrs. Fairbairn, Tweedly, Love and Young.

Friday evening, - Mrs. W. I. Gregory and Miss J. McMillan.

Saturday evening – Bible class for all. Anna W. Prosser, Teacher.

Every Wednesday afternoon the lady workers meet at the rooms for prayer, after which we go forth by twos and threes visiting the women of that locality. Much might be said of the heartrending scenes witnessed during these visits, but space forbids it here. Suffice it to say that we are always

received respectfully, often thanked for coming, and asked to call again. We persuade as many as possible to leave these vile dens of iniquity and go to the Ingleside Home, where we know every effort will be made to lead them to Christ. In addition to the above-named services, we trust that much good has been accomplished by the distribution of thousands of tracts and papers.

The following statement shows the number of meetings held during the year, etc.:

Number of Gospel meetings from October 1855, to October 4, 1886	363
Average attendance	40
Average attendance Sunday evening	150
Total attendance	20,000
Number of seekers	416
Conversions say	200

As very many with whom we labor pass on out of the city, it is impossible for us to judge of the number of genuine conversions. But it is with this work, as in revival work everywhere, some come

forward who are simply actuated by the emotion of the hour, who belong to the large class mentioned in the parable of the sower (Matthew 13: 20), who receive the word with joy, but having no root in themselves, endure but for a while, and when the testing time comes, immediately they stumble. However, we think we can safely say that it is probable that half the number of those who asked for prayer were saved. Eternity alone will reveal in how many hearts the "incorruptible seed "was sown unto life everlasting.

Undoubtedly many names have escaped us in the confusion and excitement of the work, although we earnestly desire to preserve every one. We wish to express deep gratitude to all who have in any way assisted us in this important work during the year, and beg your combined interest and your prayers in behalf of the poor and the perishing whom "ye have always with you."

Respectfully submitted, ANNA W. PROSSER
General Superintendent

This work is sustained wholly by free-will offerings of the people. Any contributions of money or second-hand clothing may be sent to Miss Prosser, 392. Pearl St., Buffalo, N. Y.

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