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## Journal for the House of Bethany (1866-1869)

House of Bethany

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## HOUSE OF BETHANY

Having carefully read and considered the article drawn up by M. James E. Yeatman defining the duties of those who enter the Sisterhood we who hereunto sign our names do solemnly pledge ourselves to remain in connection with the Sisterhood of Bethany for one year, from the date we entered the Institution and that we will to the best of our ability conform to the rules of the "House of Bethany" laboring faithfully in our vocations mission trusted and Christian Missionaries.

Mary E. Sibley entered December 1866

Lois Reynolds February 10, 1867

April 1867

Owing to the fact that Miss Reynolds does not believe in the Evangelical doctrines of the Christian Religion and has openly advocated principles in direct opposition to those held and taught by the Sisterhood, her connection with the Institution was on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 1867 dissolved – M.E. Sibley.

Aug. 1, 1867

We who hereunto sign our names do fully endorse the above pledge and engage to remain in the Sisterhood one year from the time of our entrance. (Miss Hardenbrook 1<sup>st</sup> April 1861. Mrs. Daniels and Mrs. Lent 1<sup>st</sup> August 1867 –Mary E Sibley

Sept 27, 1867

Oct. 22 1867

Mrs. M.E. Daniels

Mrs. S.E. Lent

Emilie H. Jones

Laura H. Finney

E. Hardenbrook

C McNair

(Page 2 of typed page is missing)

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One of the ladies went once alone carrying a large bundle of reading matter on one of the hottest Sabbaths in the year—the effects of a visit to the place where so many were confined for their crimes—the clanking of the chains of those shackled as they eagerly made their way to the cell door—asking for a paper or a book or something to read, was felt for days afterwards and though we may not have known of any immediate good may we not hope that some poor soul was encouraged to strive for better things to think with sorrow of their misspent life.

Cholera

After we were known to be engaged in errands of Mercy we were even treated with respect. This field of labor we trust will be better improved. Though among a hopeless and degraded class we felt that Charity should be extended to such and that we ourselves

ought to be thankful that the grace and goodness of God had preserved us from like misery. When that long feared and terrible scourge, Cholera made its appearance in the City, our services were offered to the 10<sup>th</sup> Ward Committee, in cases of destitution or where fear kept those whose duty it has to care for the suffering from performing their duties.

### **Victims of Cholera**

While the epidemic was raging at its height a friend called upon us to go and care for a suffering family some distance from us. Miss McNair with two friends a lady and gentlemen went immediately to the place of suffering and remained until Death released a Mother and a beautiful little daughter of five years. In the midnight hour the death cart came and bore them away, while the husband and father was lying very low in another room unconscious of his loss. A son had died in the morning of the same fatal disease. The next night a physician called for someone to go where the head of the family was absent—his brother a young man in the prime of life soon passed—a victim to the epidemic. Miss McNair went alone and though they were long residents in the City of all their friends and acquaintances a brother of the wife was the only one to come himself in feeble health.

### **Miss Shepherds Absence**

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Miss Shepherd spent two days with some friends who though in affluent circumstances could find few willing to expose themselves. A case in the House for some days prevented anyone from going out—it was a very severe attack and only the most careful attention and prompt measures could have saved the patients life.

### **Miss McNair solicited to take charge of destitute children.**

#### **She made herself sick and was obliged to give it up.**

Miss McNair was requested to take charge of a Home intended to receive those children left destitute by the savages of the Cholera. Though not feeling well and being unwilling to refuse to undertake anything requested especially a work so urgent and strong in its claims upon sympathy consented to undertake the task. The house had to be cleaned and put in order two days were spent there in the dampness of freshly scrubbed floors—returning late one night in a very severe thunder storm took a cold which brought a congestive chill which made her quite ill for a few days—very greatly to her regret and disappointment in the meantime another matron was appointed.

A poor widow sent by Mr. Lock was received into the home for a few days. The cool weather caused the disappearance of the epidemic and all began to feel like working again. Visiting families was resumed. The Work House again visited.

### **Death of an Old Woman**

Page 7

Miss Shepherd after visiting the jail and a number of families in the Lower part of the City—found a woman in advanced life who with her daughter and grandchildren were on their home in Arkansas and had the consolation of singing hymns of praise, as this dying

servant on her pallet of straw went triumphantly home. Means were provided for her burial and for the transportation home of the rest of the family.

### **Visiting and distributing Tracts**

#### **Miss Starrs Arrival**

I believe much good to have resulted from the visits to the Jail as correspondence from those sent to the Penitentiary will show. Miss McNair commenced the work of regularly visiting families for the purpose of distributing tracts. Inviting children to attend Sabbath School on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October and continued it as she could until Miss Starr's arrival. When we visited together about two hundred families—Miss Shepherd one evening found a girl crying near the street corner. After hearing her story, brought her home gave her lodging and a place was provided for her the next day though it afterwards proved she deceived us—but this one instance should not discourage one from giving the work of sympathy which may save a soul forever.

It would be difficult to speak of the many recipients of our charity but one or two cases now called to mind may perhaps show that a little good has been done. A poor man discharged from the Army was laid upon a bed of suffering, prostrated for months—he was frequently visited delicious and comforts for the family furnished himself receiving religious counsel. The gratitude of his mourning wife will attest the good accomplished by going to the houses of the poor and afflicted. Caring for and sympathizing with them—and we trust that the reward given to those who giveth even a cup of cold water in His name will be received.

#### **Case of a young girl**

Page 8

A young girl deceived and deserted by her betrayer when in a situation which should have appealed to the honor of his manhood was sent to the Home where she was kindly taken in and cared for until sent to the City Hospital

The hearts of many have been relieved by supplies of clothing from the House of Bethany. Miss McNair and Miss Starr in their visits among families distributed several hundred tracts and were well received in all families—several Catholics sending their children to the Sabbath School their efforts were the means of largely increasing the Sabbath School—their visits to the Work House have been made together though it is feared the inclemency of the weather will interfere with further visits there at present.

#### **Sisterhood**

The ladies comprising the Sisterhood on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 1866 were Mrs. Mary E. Sibley, Superintendent, Mrs. Lucy E. Starr, Secretary, Miss Carrie C. McNair and Miss Deborah Daugharty Managers.

When Mrs. Sibley took charge of the Institution two young ladies were in the house to which a home had been given over two weeks. Mrs. Sibley immediately devised means to send them to their friends in Kilbourn City, Wisconsin. Their names are Miss Anna Martin and Miss Gertrude Gates, originally from Vermont and came West.

## ILLNESS OF THE SISTERS

To teach by the time they arrived in St. Louis they were destitute of money and perfect strangers were greatly in danger.

Emily St. Clair came on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October and left for the City Hospital on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October. She is a Candidate for the Guardian Home—Frank Lovelace a little boy ten years old was picked up in the street sick—was brought here the 12<sup>th</sup> of November.

### **Miss McNair leaves for Protestant Orphan Asylum.**

Miss McNair having been solicited to take the management of the Protestant Orphan Asylum has consented to do so temporarily and left on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Mrs. Sibley has been trying to obtain a home for Frank Lovelace in the country—he is going in the interim to the Colay School. An orphan girl was brought to the house by the name of Oerilla Strode. She has been fed and clothed and cared for, several months—she is now hired out but efforts are being made to find her a place also in the country.

December 20<sup>th</sup>

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### **Visit to House of Refuge**

Mrs. Sibley was quite sick the 1<sup>st</sup> of December—Mrs. Starr and Miss Daugherty have both been confined to the House for some days—and little missionary work has been accomplished the last three weeks—Mrs. Sibley visited the “Houses of Refuge” and spent some time in examining the institution, found it most admirably conducted was presented to an interesting young woman who appears to be strongly reformed—Presented her with the “Life of Mary Lyon and The Mind of Jesus”—also promised to McGleason \$15 per annum towards paying the expenses of the girl at “Mount Holyoke” if arrangements could be made to send her there.

### **Sewing School for little girls planned**

Miss Daugherty before her illness had made an arrangement to form a Saturday afternoon sewing society for little girls—their mothers appeared much pleased with the plan—as they were to meet at the “House of Bethany”. The first meeting was a failure owing to the inclemency of the weather.

### **Miss Daugherty and Mrs. Starr leave prayer meeting 9**

January 7-15, 1867

Since the above entry Miss Daugherty's health failed so rapidly she left and went to her friends—Mrs. Starr after receiving several letters on the subject of going to take charge of an “Orphans Home” in Uniontown Pennsylvania leaves tomorrow having concluded it was her duty to accept the call—Mrs. Sibley is thus left alone in the House—she has visited some twenty families during last week and found no sickness among them—The prayer meeting for females was commended her on Friday last and the little girls sewing meeting was held on Saturday—Having obtained a good place for Frank Lovelace, Mrs. Sibley went with him this morning to the N. M. Depot to see him off—he goes to David

Pitman's in St. Charles Co—Mrs. Sibley visited a sick woman on Locust Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> only needs someone to clean up her room. Her husband a carpenter seems to be a good provider—Mrs. Sibley visited the sick woman again on Locust, took a girl with her and had the woman's bed aired and her room cleaned etc., and then read 14<sup>th</sup> chapter to her and her family and prayed with them. She is forming a young men's Bible Class to meet in the Hall at McGuire Market to commence on next Sabbath if possible. The little girls came on Saturday to the number of eighteen. Mrs. Sibley was assisted by a neighbor in preparing their work and in leading the singing—gave each of the children a tract in the language used by their parents to take home.

### **Bible Class for young men commenced on 13<sup>th</sup>**

#### **July 28<sup>th</sup> History of some work done since 15<sup>th</sup> January**

Had four young men to commend the study of the Bible on Sabbath afternoon with the promise of more on the next Sabbath—visited an old woman and gave her two tracts to read—Since the above entry a number of incidents have occurred which ought to be recorded. The husband of the woman mentioned above one morning came in a heavy snow storm and requested Mrs. Sibley to go and see his wife as she was dying and wished to see her. Mrs. Sibley went immediately on entering the room the dying woman held out her hand and said I am dying the answer was "I hope you are going to heaven and that the Saviour who you have trusted is ready to receive you " would you like to have me pray with you?" the which she assented by bowing her head and pressing the hand that held hers—There being several women in the room from the adjoining tenements all knelt down and when they rose from their knees the woman's spirit had left its frail body. Mrs. Sibley remained with the family until the body was laid out. Such was the poverty of the family nothing decent could be found to put on the woman. Mrs. Sibley furnished the outward white dress to bury her in and some articles

### **Kellogg Family**

Also, about the middle of February the city missionary (Mr. Portens called and informed Mrs. Sibley that a family on Salisbury Street was in distress in consequence of the protracted illness of the head of the family. They were visited by Mrs. Sibley and some articles supplied and some relief in money—the Bible read and the sick man conversed with the family and all prayed for him at different times. Mr. Kellogg the father died in a few days and from his remarks made to Mrs. Sibley it is hoped he died with faith, a saved Soul—means were immediately taken to help the destitute and suffering family and with the assistance of Miss Reynolds who joined the sisterhood about that time and whose efforts are mentioned in some extracts from her own diary below it is hoped the whole family is brought under good influence; the two oldest boys and the oldest girl have been fixed up at very little cost so as they go to preaching and Sabbath School without feeling ashamed of their clothing—As an instance of the way in which this was done Mrs. Sibley went to her friends for some cast off clothing and obtained a good second hand coat of her minister's for the largest boy—Mrs. Kellogg with a dress sake, bonnet repaired and fixed by Miss Reynolds is prepared to go to preaching in a decent suit of mourning—The Bible Class at McGuire Market at the request of the teachers in the Sabbath School now consists of ladies and gentlemen and is to be attended to immediately after the Sabbath School is dismissed.

March 2nd

The Sewing circle of little girls increases-- The Friday evening prayer meeting was better attended on yesterday and much other work had been done which with the blessing of our Heavenly Father it is hoped will result in much good-- eventually to those assisted and to others in the neighborhood of the House of Bethany—It has been deemed proper to ask those whom we receive into the Sisterhood to sign a pledge which will be found on the first page of this book.

March 16<sup>th</sup>

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**Amount of Miss R labors for the benefit of the Kellogg family from her Journal**

The number of little girls who attend the sewing circle has increased to over thirty—The Bible class also increased in numbers and interest. Extract from Miss Reynolds diary—“on the 10<sup>th</sup> I visited the Kellogg family on Salisbury Street found Mr. Kellogg dead his wife and five children were eating in mournful silence their scanty breakfast. I soon learned there was no clothes to bury and lay our the dead and Mrs. Kellogg expressed a strong desire to have M. Kellogg buried in Illinois where two of her children were buried and where an only sister lived from whom she had been estranged four years and with whom she wished to resume friendly and sisterly relations. After consulting Mrs. Sibley offered any services to Mrs. Reynolds as a mediator between the sisters, visited Illinois reconciled the sister Mrs. Moore and kept house for her while she came to see her” Miss Reynolds has been very active every good work assisted Mrs. Howe to obtain an entrance at the Home of the Friendless.

**Mrs. Howe's babe.**

Page 12

In the course of her work found an orphan babe and took it to a woman who adopted it a Mrs. Eweing of St. Paul Minnesota took the babe to raise—The girl Annilla who had previously given us much trouble was taken by Miss Reynolds to Mrs. Smith on Spring Street Grand Avenue where she appears to be doing well—

March 19<sup>th</sup>

**Employment rooms at the Lindell Hotel**

Miss Reynolds opened the room today at the Lindell Hotel for the purpose of finding employment for destitute women and others. Miss Reynolds deserved much credit, for her energy and perseverance in carrying this project into execution. She invited Mr. Mateic of the Christian Association to meet Mrs. Sibley and herself at Bethany in order to talk over the whole subject of the importance of such a movement. Mr. Mateic particularly wished some society should take the burdens off his hands resulting from the frequency of the applications of women for employment at the rooms of the young men's C A.—In the course of the conversation it was suggested that the work come properly under the Supervision of the “Ladies Guardian Society” and Mrs. Sibley being one of the principal movers in the organization of that society it was determined by her that the scheme should be carried out. The matter was shortly after laid before the Executive Committee of that Society and approved of and finally laid before the Managers and received their unanimous approbation. It is proposed to conduct this enterprise for the

benefit of women something after the plans of the exercises of the Christian Associations. Having prayer meetings at the rooms keeping good books and papers on the tables and advising and entrusting the girls who may be waiting there for employment. The “Ladies Guardian Society” are much indebted to the indefatigable labors of the Sisters of Bethany for the accomplishment of the project as well as for the Lecture which Miss Hardings proposed to give on Wednesday night for the benefit of the Society –

March 19, 1867

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**Miss McNair returns March 1st**

Miss McNair one of the sisters having served as matron in the Protestant Orphan Asylum much to the satisfaction of the managers returned to Bethany March 1<sup>st</sup> and assumed her duties with all that quick zeal and dignity so characteristic of her. She has been doing her duties daily in the different places she finds needing her services. We are very thankful to have her again with us. She is trying to obtain for the House of Bethany in favor of the families of soldiers, the fund on hand in Union and Society. The relief of those families being one of the specified obligations of the “Sisters of Bethany” it would seem proper that the fund should be placed at their disposal.

**Mrs. Knowland**

April 1st

Mrs. Knowland having applied for admittance to the sisterhood and her references being satisfactory would have been received this week, but for an application by the managers of the “Home of the Friendless for her services for a short time until a matron could be found to take charge of the Institution.

May 1<sup>st</sup>

The record which brings up the history of the House of Bethany to this date 1<sup>st</sup> May 1867 involves some painful experience which would be excluded if it was not deemed necessary for instruction to those who may in future time have charge of this or similar institutions—

**Dismissal of Miss Reynolds**

**Mrs. Knowland not received**

The changes have been sudden an unexpected involves the dismissal of one of its members from the Sisterhood and the refusal to receive another whose application and recommendations were considered at that time unexceptionable. In the case of Miss Reynolds it was rumored abroad that she was in the habit of masking speeches and expressing herself in a way entirely inconsistent with a professor of the Christian religion, and calculated to be the means of deceiving and destroying immortal Souls instead of leading those she spoke to on the subject of religion to seek salvation through the merits of the atonement and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ she told everybody was as good as God made them and that they did not need any Saviour that Jesus Christ was only a man etc. Finding she was by this course bringing reproach upon the Sisterhood, an investigation was had, which ended in satisfying all the inmates of the House of Bethany that she ought not to remain with them. She was accordingly dismissed by the Superior—



Mrs. Knowland was on acquaintance found to be unfit for the work of the Sisterhood and was not received even on approbation of three months—

### **Miss Hardenbrook entered 1<sup>st</sup> April**

#### **Work of Sisters**

#### **Bible class**

#### **Female Prayer Meeting**

Miss Hardenbrook who had been unemployed by the city missionary Society the year previous was received on the 1<sup>st</sup> April, so that the sisterhood at this time is composed of Mrs. Sibley, Miss McNair and Miss Hardenbrook. These ladies have continued in the labors belonging to their vocation with zeal and efficient visiting and nursing the sick, distributing religious reading of all proper kinds, teaching in Sabbath Schools, visiting Hospitals work House etc., helping those who are very destitute finding places for orphans etc. The bible class is taught by Mrs. Sibley of young men and another composed of ladies and gentlemen continue to be very interesting and she hopes may be instrumental of doing much good. In order to keep up a more particular record, it is proposed that each sister shall once a week give in a short amount of her weeks work to be entered on the book as her report for the week. Female prayer meeting has been regularly attended to its commencement on every Friday in the week.

Week ending 18<sup>th</sup> May—Mrs. Sibley visited a sick woman twice on Biddle Street found her very destitute with a babe three days old the first time—read the bible and prayed with her sent Miss McNair with food to her and to see that the babe was washed and dressed—Sent her a testament two books and some tracts for her husband obtained from a friend a Wardrobe and Bedstead for the Employment rooms \$5.00 donation to Guardian Society also the use of a small clock from Mr. Niccolls from the office. Opened the rooms with prayer at 12 o'clock on Friday 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Employment Office**

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Mrs. Sibley has been busy on the committee appointed to rent and put in operation the Employment office which was burned down at the Lindell Hotel it having then been in successful operation nearly two weeks—A 12 o'clock female prayer meeting was commenced at that time it is hoped will be continued until it shall be a instrumental in accomplishing as much good for women as the famous noon day prayer meeting in Fulton Street, New York has done for the man.

In March a woman sick with consumption was received and cared for several days—was sent to “Good Samaritan Hospital” where she now is and in improved health. Since March 25<sup>th</sup> have visited Jefferson Bt's a former field of labor four time distributing papers magazines, religious books etc., among the soldiers white and colored always received a kind reception from all. Have spent several days and nights with Mrs. Gen. Miller at different times reading conversing and praying with her. She has been a great sufferer more than a year confined to her bed the past seven months. Her case is one of deed interest. Visited the Marine Hospital twice leaving there also reading of various kinds. St. Luke's Hospital has been visited five or six times taking articles of clothing to

two soldiers there also reading for the patients. Have had several pleasant interviews with the prisoners in the jail giving them books, papers tracts etc. During the absence of Mrs. Sibley we were busy every day either relieving known cases of necessity at the Home or visiting the poor and afflicted in their own home. A woman made application for relief who had pawned her bed for means to bury her child. Sickness of her husband and the sickness and death of her mother and three other children a few weeks before had exhausted their means. The case being represented to the Mayor he gave ten dollars and with her own efforts money enough was raised to redeem the bed. The gratitude shown was well worth our exertion on her behalf. Another sick woman was visited frequently and clothing food and money furnished her case excited much sympathy. Many were heavy laden baskets carried to the home of the needy. The number of families visited it would be difficult to give a correct account of usually averaging then to four per day and in scattered localities.

May

Page 16

A conscientious discharge of all our duties in the absence of Mrs. Sibley was our whole desire and thus employed the time quickly passed. A poor woman with her young sick babe brought by a police officer was given shelter and physician and medicine brought until the return of Mrs. Sibley when a home was found for her where she thought she might be able to do something for herself and the babe seeming better. For papers and magazines distributed by us we are indebted to the kindness of Mr. Johnson of the firm of Johnson and Sawyer—paper merchants and to the office of the Democrat. For religious books and tracts to the Rev. McEnsign. That we might better acquaint ourselves with the management of Mission Sabbath Schools we visited the Soulard Mission School and the Biddle Street Market Schools—which are in very flourishing conditions were especially interested in the Infant classes. It has been necessary to condense this account of several weeks work so much, that but a faint idea of the work really done is given.

May 20

Page 16 cont.

Since May 20 called at the Board of Health Office to get the babe of a poor woman buried. This woman has been under our care for some days, called at the Good Samaritan Hospital to see another woman who was also under our care for a time. Have visited the jail, and work house distributing reading matter etc., Also went to see and provide clothing to two soldiers who have been some time in St. Luke's Hospital. A number of days were spent at the Home in looking over Stoves which were left in our possession. The number of families visited has sometimes averaged five or six per day. Many were found in very destitute circumstances which were helped with such things as we had on hand—meats, fruits etc. This ends the report until the 1<sup>st</sup> of June.

June 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>

The prayer meeting of the Employment rooms has been regularly attended and led by Mrs. Sibley attendance of girls very good. Administered medicine to a colored man read and prayed with him and his wife—visited a lady in deep distress conversed and prayed with her and gave her \$5.00 attended meeting of mangers of Female Guardian Society”

opened the meeting with prayer—met and acted with committee on Employment Office on Wednesday—Made arrangements for opening a colored Sabbath School and prayer meeting—visited woman on 4<sup>th</sup>, took her some articles of food read the bible and prayed—gave a dress to an old lady to induce her to attend preaching—went to my sisters during the week prayed with the family Tuesday morning and talked on the subject of religion with my niece MES—Mrs. Daniels was received on probation June 5, 1867—She is a widow originally from Scotland has been in the United States twenty-two years.

Week ending June 9<sup>th</sup>

Went with Mrs. Sibley to noonday prayer meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> and on 7<sup>th</sup> did some sewing for Sisters—7<sup>th</sup> made Mission visit to five families—meeting on Washington Avenue at 8<sup>th</sup>.

June 19, 1867

**Mrs. Daniels**

Soon after the above entry about Mrs. Daniels she injured herself badly by stepping on a loose step which giving way she fell with much force on the end of the step has been unable to go out on duty up to this date has done some sewing and assisted in some housework—Is at this time much better.

**Miss McNair report to**

June 16<sup>th</sup>, 1867

Miss Hardenbrook and Miss McNair have been several days engaged during the 1<sup>st</sup> week in June in overhauling and putting in order boxes of Blankets, coats, shirts and frocks which have been much injured by moths and hot weather. She and Miss Hardenbrook went to jail the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in month and took with them besides the usual reading matter flowers and distributed them in each cell with which the prisoners appeared much pleased conversed on religious subjects with many of them. Made several calls on different people visited St. Luke's Hospital taking clothing etc. to the soldiers there. Took a basket of flowers to the Orphan Asylum on 7<sup>th</sup> made the little ones rejoice to see and get them. Distributed papers again in jail some who were to be sent to Reni Y asked to be remembered in our prayers. Mrs. Daniels and myself called on seven families some were assisted and myself called on seven families some were assisted and advised with as to their faith and confidence in God—visited a poor woman who was assaulted and brutally treated and went to find a physician for her. 10<sup>th</sup> started out this morning to accomplish something for the benefit of Mrs. Phillips was greatly disappointed in obtaining the help for her I had expected visited Mrs. Miller who is very sick. 11<sup>th</sup> went to Jefferson Bks. Made several calls called at Engineer Corp.

June 14-July 14, 1867

Pg. 18-19

Quarters and left tracts—visited the jail on 4<sup>th</sup> with Mrs. Lent and conversed with the prisoners and distributed religious reading. Gave clothing to some of the men who were wrecked on the Gov. Sharkey—called upon several families to get clothing from them—Read the Bible to colored men. During week ending 22 June various efforts have been made to benefit suffering individuals. Two women have been taken to the Guardian Home. Those in the Home talked with and prayed with—one has been taken to the

“Hospital of the Good Samaritan” The prayer meeting of the Employment Rooms has been regularly kept up with an attendance of from five to fifteen each day—reading the Bible, singing explanation of scripture the usual process of conducting the meeting—Two prayer meetings were conducted by Mrs. Sibley in one day last week—A poor woman was found in a dying condition at the Martin House in a miserable room among the colored people- She was assisted and having dies was laid out in articles furnished from Bethany her husband was furnished with some clothing we find he attends preaching since having promised us to do so. Mrs. Sibley visited a woman far gone in consumption sent her medicine and tamarinds. Although a Catholic she listened to the plan of Salvation through the atonement of Jesus Christ and did not object to the assertion that He was the only Saviour and the only help for poor sinners—visited a cripple and read the prayers with her. Bible class continued interesting and well attended—boys bible class in Sunday School better attended last Sabbath than for a number of previous Sabbaths—A poor woman was talked with by one of the Sisters who had just given up three of the children to the Orphan Asylum. She said she did not know why God had “whipped her so hard” unless it was to bring her to Him, but she felt all her afflictions were right—although raised in the Catholic Church intended to unite with the Methodist Church—The meetings at the Employment rooms have been regularly attended by Mrs. Sibley or when she was absent her place was supplied by one or two of the Sisters—A meeting on Saturday night was commenced at the Employment rooms for the benefit of women who do not go to preaching anywhere, and the City Missionary Wm. Portens preached a short sermon to 12 grown persons and the same no children we hope to continue this meeting and to make exertions to induce many to attend who never hear the gospel. Some of our number propose to go out and collect such during Saturday and bring them with them to hear the word of God and our prayers that the Lord will bless the movement. Miss Hardenbrook was sent to Davenport and having accomplished her errand by bringing with her Mrs. Jones to take charge of the Guardian Home has been laboring in behalf of those who are candidates for admission in the Home an extract from her report is given that some idea may be formed of the nature of her work--Spent the day talking with erring women trying to get them to reform and go into the Guardian on the next day did the same work, praying with each one. 14<sup>th</sup> June spent the day in praying and planning to get Linie Gannon away from a House of ill fame on Green Street was assisted by the chief of police and about 8 o'clock took her to the Guardian Home. 15<sup>th</sup> went with Mrs. Sibley to G.H. to hold prayer meeting and found Linie had left—spent the day in looking for her and praying with others of the same class and urging them to reform--17<sup>th</sup> Linie Gannon came to find me went with her to a respectable place where she is to stay until a new matron is found for the Home. She says she is determined to reform and wants to be a Christian. 18<sup>th</sup>. Found another girl that wishes to quit the life and either go the Guardian Home or back to her own home. She was seduced and brought to the City with the promise of Marriage is only fifteen years age, is the daughter of a minister. Time was spent with the assistance of the chief of Police in moving the trunks and other articles belonging to the girls at the Home. In some instances the trunks had been opened and everything of value taken out and looked again.

**Mrs. Lent**

July 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>

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Mrs. Lent a niece of the Rev. Peabody entered the Institution the 8<sup>th</sup> of July her and Mrs. Daniels having proved themselves to the satisfaction of the superior worthy to be admitted into the Sisterhood they will on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of August be fully recognized as Sisters of Bethany by being allowed to wear the badge and uniform of the order. Mrs. Sibley's connection with the Guardian Society and constant attendance at the Employment Rooms finds the work for the Sisters accumulation constantly through the applications for help made at that office—Poor sufferers and the sick are relieved, women sent to hospitals orphans provided with homes and others sent to Guardian Homes are almost of daily occurrence. The histories of some cases are recorded as a sample of the work—but much must be omitted for want of time to write out cases which occur almost every day. A Mrs. Chartenton was found in great want and expecting every day to be confined a Roman Catholic one of the Sisters procured from a priest \$2.00 and from a few Catholic ladies \$4.00 more to pay the woman's rent, yesterday she came to the Employment rooms and said she would have to go to the City Hospital she had no one to take care of her and nothing to eat for her children. One of the sisters got her a permit and went with her to the Board of Health—Another Roman Catholic woman was in very bad health and was applied to the Priest for admittance into the Sisterhood. The priest was very much irritated about the application and said some very harsh things to Mrs. Lent who took a gentleman who was a Roman Catholic with her to see the priest. Invariably the story is the same with the poor suffering Roman Catholics, that neither the sisters of Charity not the Priests will do anything for them—while at the same time if they find a Protestant family that is worth Proselytizing though not in need of assistance they will pay them attention.

### **Mrs. Welsh.**

Mrs. Lent found a Mrs. Welsh and two children very destitute (Catholics) she gave them clothes and food. She found the woman and both children lying very sick on a pile of old dirty clothes and called one of the priest and asked permission to take her and the children to the Sisters Hospital but finding the Priest was not disposed to do anything Mrs. Lent took them to the City Hospital. The baby died that night and the little girl the next day—the mother expressed resignation to the will of God in taking her children—During the month a poor woman fell and dislocated her hip—every assistance was rendered her rent paid and she was moved to another room, the work being less having found a place where two rooms could be rented for \$8.00—put a poor cripple who can only go up stairs on her hands and feet in one of the rooms and paid the rent for both rooms for one month. The latter woman was found in a miserable room to reach which she had to go up three pair of stairs and for which she had to pay \$6.00 per month which she paid for by making patchwork bed spreads, besides doing her own work and paying for her food. A young girl was rescued from destruction by bringing her to Bethany and keeping her here until a place was found for her in Alton. The young girl was on the point of being taken to a house of ill fame under pretence of having a good place to live at and this was the place of a pretended friend of her adopted mother who had to leave the city but could not afford to pay the passage of the girl to Muscatine where she was going to live with her daughter. The young girl just 16 was a bright intelligent girl. She is now in Alton and we trust in good hands. The grandson to the woman who fell and hurt herself it

was ascertained was very cruelly treated by his stepfather and being the son of a soldier who was killed in the United States service we have taken steps to put in the Soldiers Orphan Home at Webster. We have also succeeded in putting a daughter of another soldier in the asylum at Webster. The father's name is Henry Miller.

August 1<sup>st</sup>

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Mrs. Sibley having heard of the illness of Miss Reynolds the sister who was dismissed sometime ago visited her and talked and prayed with Miss Reynolds urged her to receive the Lord Jesus as her Saviour and the day of the night she died took W Portens the City Missionary to see her who also conversed and prayed with her and who hoped that he gave some evidence as he expressed himself in his remarks at her funeral of accepting the Saviour as a divine Redeemer. We hope it may be so—all the teaching at Bethany during the two months she was here was intended to lead her to believe in the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ, which she was disposed to deny whenever the subject was mentioned. She had been strangely excluded—I thought that spending her time in care for the bodies of the poor was a roof that she loved God and that God loved her and was all Mercy and that she had nothing to fear. She overlooked God's justice altogether. It may be she had undergone a change and at last trusted in a crucified and divine Saviour. At least we may hope so. The great day only will reveal the truth. She was buried at the expense of Mr. James E. Yeatman having nothing whatever, not even a charge of clothing of her own. Alas, What delusions the adversary of Souls Is making use of that he may prevent sinners from coming to Christ?—a good work has commenced in the “Guardian Home” There have been several hopeful conversions and one happy death—Mrs. Sibley continues to attend meetings there and at the Employment office.

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**REPORT OF THE SUPT OF HOUSE OF BETHANY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 3<sup>RD</sup> 1867 BEING THE FIRST YEAR OF ITS EXISTENCE**

The Superintendent entered the House of Bethany (the name given by her to the home for Mission nurses and Christian Missionaries) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 1866. The year was avowedly a year of experiment to ascertain the practicability of bringing together devoted, self-denying women who could be relied upon to perform the work expected and required of them; which has been stated by Mr. James E. Yeatman as follows:

“The special work which they will be expected and required to perform will be visiting the families of our soldiers and all others who are sick or in distress and need the sympathy care and kind offices of Christian women. They are to commend Christianity by Christian acts and by caring for and nursing the poor to take care of themselves by aiding counseling and advising them, finding homes for those who have no homes, direction such as should be cared for by special charities to those charities; the orphan to the Orphan Home and those of their own sex who have fallen or are in danger of falling to the asylums prepared for them, and in every way commending the Gospel to all whom they may visit, bringing them under Christian influences as far as possible and doing all in their power to benefit their cold minds and bodies.”

The year having closed December 3<sup>rd</sup> 1867 the Supt. Begs leave to make a brief report of the labors performed by the ladies comprising the sisterhood of Bethany, who at the close of the year, number seven. Two only of the number, have belonged to the Society during the whole year: One eight months, two four months and two about two months.

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One of the ladies served nearly three months as matron in the Protestant Orphan asylum much to the satisfaction of its managers and has since gone at the urgent request of the Ladies Missionary Society of St. Paul Minnesota to work for them three months. Another of the sisters has been diligently laboring with great acceptance as an Assistant to the Matron of the W. F. G. Home. In both of these Institutions there have been many cases of sickness, in the latter all the inmates have been more or less subject to various painful diseases which were faithfully attended to by these Sisters.

It is deemed desirable, in order to make this report as brief as possible to classify the work done during the past year, in the following table: adding some extracts or narratives from "The Book of Record of the House of Bethany," necessarily leaving out a great number of very interesting incidents met with by the Ladies in their work of love and mercy. It is but just in order to ascertain the amount of work performed to keep in mind that if the six months absence of one of the sisters, is taken out of her year's work, the short time of the others have been in the Institution, and the absence of another several months is taken into consideration, it will reduce the number of workers during the year to less than three including the superintendent.

The following table will show the total under each head of work done during the year.

No. of families visited	1132
No. sick visited and relieved	343
No of catholic families visited and relieved	307

Remarks

Relief consisting in giving food, clothing, paying rent, calling in Physician obtaining homes for children and in some cases providing employment

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No of Soldiers and Soldiers families visited and relieved	44
Food and clothing for the relief of soldiers and soldiers' families to the amount of	\$103.00 300.00
Food and clothing for relief of other persons money Collected from various sources for poor	200.05
No. of persons prayed with and to whom the bible Was read	1084
No. of Prayer meetings held at different places	287

No. attending these meetings	2260
No. pages of Tracts distributed	*60500
No. Bible and Testaments distributed	60

\*The tracts were donated by a gentlemen and lady of St. Louis also indebted to a portion from Chicago through Rev. McEnsign also to the Y. M. Christian Association of St. Louis.

No. sick children prescribed for medicine furnished	*42
No. of times visited Hospital, Work House, jail, etc.	78
No. of bible classes established and taught in different places	2

\*A number of these were brought to the House of Bethany by their Mothers being infants

### **Incidents from Miss Hardenbrook Report**

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Additional narratives not included in the yearly records—One sister gives the following cheering incident from her walks among the lowly—I am often made very happy and have my faith much strengthened and my confidence and trust in God greatly increased in visiting Dos’s suffering poor. When I see the spirit of meekness, long-suffering and submission to the Father’s will exhibited by them it makes me joyful. It keeps my heart from growing faint and my feet from getting weary. In one of these walks to the extreme southern part of this city a lady more than one hundred years old was found. She had neither home nor friends and was entirely destitute so far as this world is concerned. I could not restrain tears on seeing one so aged and sick too, for I never saw a greater sufferer. I said, “I am very sorry for you,” and she replied, “My child don’t weep for me weep only for sin. Whatever is God’s will is mine too.” She said she could not read the Scriptures but that God taught her every day by His Holy Spirit, that for years he had had close communion with God. She said in times past, she had frequently been visited by missionaries and other Christians but for months past she had neither heard the reading of the holy Word nor a prayer. She said, “ I think god did it to try my faith in Him, but blessed be this holy name. I will put all my trust in Him though I die her all alone.” I read from God’s Word and prayed with her, when she followed with such a prayer of faith and trust as I had scarcely ever heard. Now, in my frequent visits there I always find her cheerful and happy. One day she said, “I am glad I am so poor, Jesus had not where to lay his head and I am only a poor sinful mortal.” I said one day, “Would you like to hear a sermon preached?” “I think I should die with joy if I could,” she said. I shall always think of that rude old shanty, which I never enter without receiving a blessing as one of the holiest spots of Earth.

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The same Sister adds the following as a common experience among a certain class of the destitute poor. A poor woman living in a garret, in a wretched part of the City, being in great straits and having heard of the Sister of Bethany through one of her neighbors whom I had visited and relieved when in trouble, sent for me, I went immediately and



found her in a very helpless condition, sick and near her confinement deserted by her husband, with five small children dependent upon her for support and two months rent unpaid. I talked and prayed with her' found that she was Catholic but a true Christian, one to whom the consolations of religion were precious. I asked her what I could do for her. She said, as she should be unable longer to pay her rent she wished me to provide some place for her children while she went to the City Hospital, as she did not want to part with them and could support them again after her recover. I spent a week trying in vain to find a place for her children. The Protestant Asylums could not take them because they were not orphans not even half orphans. They had a living father though he had basely deserted them. The Catholic Asylum would not take them unless I would pay four dollars per week for each child:-- with which money I could have paid her rent and provided very comfortably for both mother and children. In this emergency I went to the Priest to whom she had applied in vain before she sent for me. I told him of her necessities by him only emphatically replied—"We have so many poor!" so many poor! I can do nothing for you! We have so many poor! So many! So many! (my last resort was the House of Refuge, where they would have willingly have taken the children but could not according to their rules unless they were given up entirely. This the mother did not feel that she could do as she had a true affection for them and was happy in laboring for their support. I then applied to some large hearted benevolent en not in vain for money to pay her rent, and provide them food for a little season. Being detained by other duties from visiting them for some time, she sent for me again in great distress, late at night.

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The word was, "she needs a Physician and her children are crying for bread. I went for several physicians whose offices were closed and several others refused attendance because the woman was poor and I had no money to pay. I finally succeeded in finding one and went to a benevolent lady and begged a basket of food for them. They had had nothing to eat for three days and the poor mother in bed in the peril of childbirth. On visiting her a day or two after not being able to obtain nurse or was woman took her clothes home and washed them. That night her baby died in the bed wither her no light in the house and she alone and unable to rise, though knowing it to be dead. The next day I hurried with the washing that the clothes might be ready to dress the dead baby for burial—but was too late the dead cart was in waiting, and the mother had to send out and borrow 30¢ to buy a small piece of muslin to wrap he child in. Three or four drunken women were present and the Priest who would do nothing to keep this poor mother and her children from starvation was on hand to baptize the poor little dead infant: This is the sad and suffering lot of many of the industrious patient poor. This woman is worthy and intelligent and has seen better days but a series of reverses has followed her and a severe discipline been her weary portion. Since her recovery she has been able to obtain work and support her children comfortably.

### **From Mrs. Jones Report**

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Another Sister reports—my first visit after entering the "Sisterhood: was to a sick soldier, having been sent to read and pray with him. I found him very ill. He was a Catholic but listened with interest to the reading of the Bible, said he tried to pray but that it seemed as

though he was reaching after a God afar off. He failed rapidly and required constant night watching. Though quite an intelligent American, he was married to one of the lowest Irish women, who disgraced her sex and the relationship of wife and mother by indulging in daily drunkenness, and was shamefully reckless of the comfort of her children and sick husband. Of course under the circumstances the greatest filth prevailed. Vermin abounded especially bed-bugs which often interrupted our vigils and ministries at the sick couch compelling us in self defense to make vigorous onslaughts upon whole battalions of them in their marches and countless marches. But no human skill could save the poor man, so he passed away another of our brave defenders who had given five years of hard services to his country—at his funeral was enacted a scene that beggars description, though the Protestant Sisterhood were welcomed while they provided watched and cared for the living, a Protestant burial was not holy enough to suit the wife, who was so drunken and swore so furiously over the dead body of her husband as to require the presence of the Police to quell the tumult.

**REPORT OF SUPT. OF THEHOUSE OF BETHANY FOR MONTH ENDING  
JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> 1868**

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The supt. would report for this month

No. of families visited	113
No. of sick visited and relieved	41
No. Catholic families relieved add visited	17
No. of soldiers and soldier; families relieved	15
Food and clothing for soldiers and soldiers' families and	
Food and clothing for relief of other persons	\$51.00
Money collected from various sources for poor	28.50
No. of persons prayed with and Bible read to	143
No. of prayer meet9ings held at different places	36
No. attending prayer meetings	165
No. pages of tracts distributed	1545
No. bibles and testaments distributed	10
No. sick children prescribed for and medicine furnished	5
No. times visited Work house, Jail, Hospital etc.	9

**From Miss Jones Report**

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The following are some of the details of the work accomplished, as reported by the sisters: from one.

Went to the F G Home to assist the matron in the absence of her Assistant. At night watched with the sick – at morning devotions had a long talk with the girls about overcoming the terrible habit of quarrelling and we made it a specialty in prayer. Went to the Mayor's Office and obtained four dollars for a poor woman. In the evening the girl's happy faces told that the attempt to overcome one of their besetting sins had not been a failure. Attendant noonday prayer meeting, met a poor Russian who was unable to speak or understand a word of English, a stranger in a strange land without money, laid the case

before the mayor, who gave him a written permit to stop a few days at the Emigrant's Association Rooms.

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Visited a poor, dying woman a soldier's widow. She was suffering for some of the common comforts of life obtained \$5.00 from the Mayor for her benefit; also made some investigation in regard to her deceased husband's country who had contracted disease while in the service of his country.

Had an earnest talk with two of the girls at the "Guardian Home" who seem beset by the evil one on every side. Satan seems determined to take sole possession of them whether they will or not. Both expressed an earnest desire to do right and please God. One expressed a determination "to bite her tongue rather than speak unkindly to any one during the day" and succeeded so well that she said she meant to try the same method in the future. The poor girls have much to contend with from their own wicked hearts.

### **From Miss Finney's report**

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Another sister reports "visited a very sick woman, the widow of one of our soldiers. She was nearly gone with consumption. I saw that all I could do would be to smooth her passage to the grave. She was very needy and the mayor kindly furnished five dollars with which at different times I purchased coal, medicine and such articles of food as her weak state required. Talked with her often as to her hope of heaven, repeated some of the sweet words of Jesus and prayed with. She was "only waiting ready to go whenever called. One day when I found her suffering greatly, I said "You are almost done with pain" She replied "yes I think so—but I must wait till God sends for me." When leaving I said "good bye, I don't think I shall see you again when I call again I expect you will be gone home to heaven" Oh" she answered "good bye, god bless you, you have been so good to me I want to meet you in heaven, "God bless you". Very highly do I value the blessing of those who love God and very near of ten times, does our Saviour come to his poor, suffering little ones."

Visited the Hospital once a week, distributed tracts and papers, talked read and prayed with the sick; enjoyed the work there very much. In one word, found two girls who seemed very persistent and desirous of leading better lives. One wanted to be sent to a brother who had promised her a home' the other wished to enter the Guardian Home. Promised to assist them both as soon as they were able to leave the Hospital. Visited every day among the sick and the poor-finding much encouragement to labor on with all diligence."

### **From Mrs. Daniels Report**

Another reports "In a visit to a poor woman I found in the same tenement one, whose life had been very sinful. I talked and prayed with her. She seemed much affected, wept and said it was so hard to do right, there were so many temptations." I finally concluded as she seemed anxious for it to establish a prayer meeting once a week in her room and invite those near to attend. It has now continued several weeks with a varying but attendance. The Spirit of the Lord is present, many seem interested and good is being

done—I spent eight days in nursing a sick woman giving nearly the whole of each day to the work.”

### **From Mrs. Lents Report**

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One of the sisters has devoted a portion of her time for the last three months in working for the benefit of families residing in the Whittier Building and its surroundings. The first prayer meeting which she was instrumental in organizing was attended by four persons only. The meeting gradually increased in numbers and interest until the room in which the meetings were held was crowded. Dr. Whittier the owner of the Building having attended one of these meetings was solicited to give the use of a larger room—which he did by taking down partitions and preparing a Chapel. The Chapel was dedicated the last Sabbath of 1867. There first prayer meeting after its dedication, there were present about one hundred persons. It is hoped that several have been converted through the instrumentality of these meetings, thus giving evidence that the blessing of God has attended the effort put forth.

The same sister during the time mentioned above, visited the jail, distributed religious, reading matter and conversed with the inmates. On Christmas day she requested the City Missionary to go and preach to them, his sermon was attentively listened to and gratefully received. She also spent several days and nights in nursing a young lady who has since died very happily. She found a colored woman with five little children put out of door because unable to pay her rent’ solicited money and paid her rent and saw her again under shelter.

This monthly report is intended to make the yearly report for the year 1867 complete. The New Year for the Institution will commence with the year 1868. All its affairs having been settled up to January 1868.

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### **YEARLY RECORDS OF THE HOUSE OF BETHANY CONTINUED**

From Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 1868

One of the Sisters was prostrated with typhoid fever the 8<sup>th</sup> of January and continued sick the rest of the month and the greater part of February. Two weeks of the time another Sister remained at home to take care of her. Dr. G. F. Dudley gave medical attention free of charge. These two sisters spent the 1<sup>st</sup> week of January chiefly among the sick.

### **Emilia and Laura**

#### **Work of Mrs. Finney**

January 1<sup>st</sup> visited a sick girl on Elm Street took her two jars of fruit, also visited two sick women on 9<sup>th</sup> Street, went to the Ward. Physician for prescriptions and to the City Dispensary for medicine. January 3<sup>rd</sup> went to city Hospital distributed tracts, read and prayed with several and talked with a large number on the subject of religion went through seven wards. Went again to Dispensary and got more medicine for the two sick women on 9<sup>th</sup> Street. January 4<sup>th</sup> visited a sick man on Bates Street took him food and clothing and a blanket for his bed and sent him a Physician. Also, visited the jail and gave

reading matter. January 8<sup>th</sup> visited and relieved a soldiers family on Spruce Street also visited one of our soldiers on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street whose health was lost in the army; paid his rent, and took him and his family food and clothing—we found them shivering over a few dying embers, with nothing to eat in the house and not a cent of money to buy anything.

### **Proper meeting established at Rolling Mill Row**

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January

Afterwards visited at Tolling Milk Row got the consent of a man and his wife to come to meeting at Fairmount/Mission. They had not attended church in two years. Also made arrangements with a lady there to hold a weekly female prayer meeting in her rooms. Visited a sick soldier on 9<sup>th</sup> Street who lost his health while serving in the union army. His wife also was in poor health and their babe very sick and soon after died. During its illness they were cared for by the Sisters. Their rent was paid and food clothing and medical furnished. Dr. Parsons and afterwards Dr. Glatfelter gave their services free. Rev. M. Heath officiated at the funeral of the infant the soldiers widow mentioned in the December's report died Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> She expressed earnest desires to the last to see the Sisters again who had visited her so often' but the sickness of one, and the detention at home of the other, prevented their seeing her again, but her end was peace.

### **Mrs. Daniels Work**

Another Sister reports visiting a very destitute woman on Biddle Street whose husband died last fall with cholera. She was a cripple, with seven small children and near her confinement, took four of her children to an Industrial School where they were provided with warm comfortable clothing and a warm dinner every day. Also through the kindness of friends obtained clothing for the infant and comforts for the mother in her confinement.

### **Mrs. Kent's Work**

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The Sister who labors in the Whittier Building, reports the organization of a Sabbath School the 1st Sabbath in January in Whittier Hall which before the month closed had an attendance of nearly 150 scholars—and infant class of 36 which she teaches. The religious interest in the Whittier Mission Hall meetings continued through the month with numbers of conversions. An interesting weekly prayer meeting was kept up in which the young converts labored earnestly for others and in this way an influence went out from these meetings that was felt by those who by sickness or other causes were prevented from attending them. Among the latter was a man who had been confined in Jail Several months upon unjust suspicion and who had contracted while there a sickness which confined him to his bed. He was visited and prayed with and both himself and wife experienced religion.

In another part of the City visited a poor destitute, sick woman with four children and found a home for one of them in the country with a Christian firmly. Also visited often and applied many necessary wants of a poor widow 112 years of Also, spent part of every week nursing sometimes watching every other night.

February

### **Sewing Society organized at Whittier Building**

During the month of February this Sister organized at Whittier Hall a Sewing Society for the benefit of the poor of the Sabbath School to which was given the name of Whittier Mission Sabbath School Dorcas Society—this Society meets weekly and is always opened with religious exercises. Also every Saturday PM has, a little girls sewing school and prayer meeting at the House of Bethany. During the month also devoted considerable time to nursing visited one man who had led a very wicked life—had been a boatman and barkeeper and at one time in very good circumstances—but now quite reduced and for a long time afflicted with sickness of rheumatic form while able to be about he went to consult a quack physician who professes to cure diseases as Christ by laying on of hands prayer etc.—he offered to cure this man if he would first give him fifty dollars as he had not he fifty dollar to pray, after he went home he thought if prayer would effect a cure why could he not as well pray for it as to pray some one else to do it and accordingly did pray earnestly to be relieved of his sufferings soon began to improve as he believes in direct answer to prayer.

### **Mrs. Lent**

This was also the means of leading him to feel the disease of sin in his soul and to cause him to seek its removal through the atoning blood of Christ in whom he is now sweetly trusting and has great faith in the efficacy of prayer—Once he was thought to be dying and while prayer was being offered he immediately grew better. His health has not been fully restored—but he is patient and peaceful. His wife has also embraced religion.

### **Mrs. Daniel's Report**

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Another Sister reports among the incidents of her visits during them month of February the following found a poor widow with two small children completely destitute having been burnt out—took her to a Soup House where she was provided with comfortable dinners and got a stove and other necessaries for her. She expresses her elf in very grateful terms for the kindness manifested in her. Visited a woman with a sick husband and five children which she had to support with her own efforts—took the children to an industrial school where thy were provided with food and clothing which greatly relieved the overtaxed and anxious mother. Visited a sick German with a wife and three children. The husband had been suffering a long time with consumption had become so feeble that he had to be fed; gave them money to relieve their necessities and purchase some little delicacies for the invalid. He knew that he could not live, felt prepared and willing to die and leave his family in the hands of God. He was very anxious to partake of the sacraments of the Lord's Supper before he died and earnestly requested that a minister might come and administer it to him—The Sister brought Rev. Portrons the City Missionary He was too feeble to talk but seemed to enjoy this precious privilege. It was a solemn and deeply interesting scene to the few who were present.

### **Daniel's Report**

A poor old woman from Tennessee cam to the city to hunt her son who had been a soldier in the Union army and had never been home since the war. She did not know the

Company of Regiment her son was in. He had some land which if her were dead she wished to sell for her own benefit. Mr. Yeatman finding her without money or stopping place brought her to Bethany, where she stayed four days—went to the Mayor and got her a pass to go to Leavenworth city where she thought her son had some friends who she hoped could tell her something about him—took her to the Depot and put her under the protection of the Christian lady who promised to care for her on her way there. Afterwards, learned that he reached their safely and found other benevolent persons to care for and help her in her search for her son. Thus God raises up friends for those in adversity.

### **Miss Jones report**

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Another sister reports the following incidents from her visits. One day in the City Hospital as I entered Ward 22, my attention was attracted to a poor sufferer in one of the corner cots. I seated myself by her side and began to speak to her of Jesus and read to her some of His precious promises which seemed to comfort her greatly. When I was about to leave her she said “Dear lady I feel that you can sympathize with me in my affliction and I would like to tell you what troubles me—my sickness is almost as much of the mind as of the body. As I lie here and think of my dear little family who are dependent upon the charities of the world for their daily bread feel nearly distracted. We had a good home and never knew what want was, until sickness laid my husband up for months, before he dies.” I comforted her all I could, took the address of the children’s home and told her to trust in God, I would see that her little ones did not suffer. After praying with the sick mother I left her. The children were keeping house together in a small room in one of the poorest localities of the City, the eldest a girl of 13 years, the youngest only 18 months. All that had kept them from suffering from cold and hunger was the meal and coal kindly furnished them by the Provident Association,” but the baby needed milk the rent was due, and the Landlord a hard, rough man, declared they should not remain longer, unless it was paid. I first went and got a basket full of groceries, crackers and butter gave the daughter some money to buy milk for the baby, then visited some benevolent ladies and told them of the children—they paid the rent and provided clothing for the children. The mother was sick over four weeks during which time I visited her at the Hospital and looked after the welfare of the children at their home. The heartfelt expressions of gratitude I receive from mother and children make me feel, that, truly “it is more blessed to give than to receive”—visited a Jewish family, the wife had been long sick with Typhoid fever—found them very needy, the poor woman had not nourishing food to make her gain strength indeed she said “we are glad to get enough to keep us from actually suffering the pangs of hunger: They are entire strangers in the City and did not know where to go for help. Procured the aid of the Provident Association for them and gave them some money to purchase some groceries.

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February

Found a German woman a widow with seven small children and no means of support except what she could earn by daily labor and as she had been sick with chills and fever five months, they were entirely dependent upon charity—all that kept them from

starvation was the helping hand of some of the neighbors, not much better off than the poor woman, but who never the less shared their scanty stores with her. One of these neighbors made the wants of this family known to us—we visited them again after ascertaining their wants but not with empty hands. From our own stores of canned meats, fruits, bedding and clothing they received a goodly portion and as we had no shoes to donate The Lord opened the heart of a lady to donate several pairs. When the poor woman took the basket of provisions and bundle of clothing she said with tears in her wyes “I felt confident that our Heavenly Father would not let us suffer. Truly God careth for His children.”

**Jones.**

Another widow who has been able to support herself and two small children comfortably since her husband’s death has been recently unable to get sufficient sewing to keep them from want, but she did not make known her destitute condition until both of her children were taken very ill one with Typhoid Pneumonia the other with Fever. The rent was due and she had no money to pay it, nor had she anything in the house to eat. We paid her rent, took her some groceries and provisions and went after a Physician. The children have both been on the verge of the grave. The oldest is now nearly well but the youngest still continues in a very critical condition. Dr. Parsons (Homeopathic Physician) has faithfully attended them during the past four weeks free of charge. The mother does not trust in God and avoids all our efforts to lead her to Christ. We can only do our duty and leave the rest with God He we trust will yet lead her to see herself a lost sinner unless she repents and comes to Christ. She expresses the deepest gratitude for all we do for her but cannot seem to feel that it comes from God. A poor woman came with her babe in her arms and said that she had neither home nor friends in this City—She came from the country with her husband who was shortly after their arrival here taken sick and after an illness of eight months died--

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Leaving his wife and child entirely destitute. Found by inquiry that her story was true so relieved her immediate wants to as best we could ad told her to find a small room and we would pay the rent. She found a room and remained in it nearly a month, but found that even with our assistance she could not support herself comfortably as her health was very poor—so she aid if she only had means to get home to her friends in Illinois she could do better. I procured a pass from the mayor for her and gave her some comfortable clothing for her babe and got her nicely started on her homeward journey.

**From Miss Finney’s Report**

Visited a soldier’s widow and found her quite needy—her three bright looking boys were sadly in need of good warm jackets, just such as the coats we have for distribution make—so I told the mother to come to Bethany an I would see what could be found to help her – We found enough to make the soldiers orphans comfortable for sometime. Another sister adds, we often see the manner in which God comforts those that are His we were sent for to watch with a young lady, lying very low—the only child of a widow, a beautiful intelligent girl to whom life had been very bright. Found her resigned to the will of god—“It is only for mother that I grieve” said she, “if I die, it will leave her all alone in the world” I feel that god laid His hand upon me in mercy, I was growing so thoughtless and giddy; I loved the world too well and was forgetting my duty to Him, but



I have time to think of all this, while I have been lying her, and I am fully determined, if I am spared, to make a decided change in my life and give myself to the service of Christ—I feel that I am forgiven and am willing to live or die as God sees best. In our frequent visits it was pleasure to read and pray with her—never did the precious word of Jesus fall on a more attentive ear. Her eyes would grow radiant and tears would roll down her white cheeks as she would exclaim “how beautiful it is how sweet it is!” After weary months of suffering it pleased our Father to restore her health. Returning strength did not lessen her love to God—or her desire to lead a new life. As soon as strong enough she began to attend church and publicly professed her faith in Christ—

### **Finney**

Our work generally so happy sometimes presents dark sides where such deep depravity exists that our hearts sicken at the picture. In visiting in a poverty stricken street we found a woman and four children turned into the street—Her pitiful story of distress so excited our sympathies that we paid a month’s rent gave her food and other help—but she proved very unworthy—a liar and drunkard are the only words that express her character, she was a bigoted Catholic and yet thinking to get more help from Protestants she denounced the Priests and sister in the strongest language possible.

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March

### **The old woman of the boat**

#### **Incidents of Misses Finney’s and Jones’ work**

One of our mottos, “Whatsoever thy hands find to do, do with thy might,” we often find a chance to put in execution. One morning early an old woman came to our house and asked to see the ladies—we saw at a glance that she was in trouble, and when we spoke to her kindly, asking the cause of her grief she burst into loud weeping. O! she said my child is dead my little Lucy is dead—she told us that she, with her family had started for some place in Illinois to go to Arkansas—they were going the whole distance on a flatboat—a few days before reaching this city, her baby a little girl of seven years, was taken ill--they moored their boat here on Saturday and on Monday she died—they were very poor too poor to buy a coffin or a shroud. We gave her some food, and muslin enough to make a shroud, and promised to make known the case to the board of Health—but as the boat lay just outside the city limits we reported to the Coroner, who agreed to attend to it and see the child buried that day. But the next day the woman returned saying no one had called and her child was still unburied. We went again to the Coroner who said they had spent nearly all the afternoon hunting them but failed to find them. We had walked a long distance that morning trying to see them, but got tired out and turned back—they told us it was only a short distance. The whole matter began to look strange, so we went to the Chief of Police who has ever proved himself a warm friend of our Sisterhood. He sent an officer to find the exact locality of the boat and investigate the case—He reported to us that the family had put the child in a box and buried it about two feet under ground. We at once informed the Coroner, who said he would send again immediately and have the child properly buried. The old woman came for help a number of times afterwards—We gave her clothing and food, and tried to direct her to Jesus as an all sufficient Saviour and a very present help in time of trouble.

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### **Report of Mrs. Finney and Jones**

#### **The Old Woman of 76 Years of Age**

We feel much interested in an old woman 76 years of age—she has a little room scarcely large enough to turn around in—yet she is contented and happy in it, because she can call it home. She supports herself by her needle—she finds that her poor old eyes often give out, when stitching some fine garment—still she says, if the Lord will give her health and strength she can support herself awhile longer—She expresses much gratitude for the groceries, bed clothing and canned fruit which we have taken her from time to time. She trusts in her Saviour and believes that our Heavenly Father will not let her suffer when health and strength fail her.

### **Story of Rose**

March

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Another case of our varied work, brought us both pleasure and pain—We dropped into the Employment Rooms of the F. G. Society, as we often do, to see if any urgent case had been reported there and found a girl not more than 17 years sitting there who told a pitiful story of having started from Boston to go to New Orleans to see an only brother who was dangerously sick—on her way here, was robbed of her money and checks—so lost her baggage—we felt thankful that we had found, before and harm befallen her. Some Christian friends gave her some clothing a trunk and a little money—but there was delay in getting her a pass to the South, and in the meantime she being sick and not able to travel, was taken to the house of a Christian man, whose wife and daughter treated her with great kindness—but some inconsistent acts of hers, so weakened the confidence of those who were trying to help her, in at least her judgment and ability to protect herself, and in the Christian Character she professed, that it was decided to not send her to New Orleans but if she had any friends at the East to 1<sup>st</sup> her go back to them. Accordingly, the Chief of Police procured a pass for her to go East. We trust it was not time wasted, but that some little seed will yet spring up and bring forth fruit to the honor of His name for whose sake we labor.

In the face of a heavy rain went to Grand Avenue to look after a protégée of ours, who had found a home there, and we had heard was sick—Found her not dangerously ill, but needing a little medical attention. Dr. F. G. Porter visited her at our request, and offered to treat her as long as she needed care. Dr. Porter, Dr. Dudley, Dr. Wilcox, Dr. Barker, Dr. Parsons and Dr. Whipple have kindly offered to treat any poor persons whom we recommend to them “wishing, they say, ‘to do their part in the cause of God and humanity, they will cheerfully go whenever we call for them.

### **Death of Little Georgia**

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March

#### **Incidents of Misses Finney and Jones' work**

Just as we were starting out of the door at daylight one morning with baskets full of tracts and papers, for Quarantines a poor widow whom had assistance came in with a sad tearful countenance that told at once that her little boy who had suffered several weeks, had been taken from her. She was in great trouble—Not only had she to mourn the loss of her child, but she had great poverty to tend with—she felt as if she could not permit her little one to have a paupers burial, and yet not one dollar of money to defray the expenses of the funeral. Her husband and one little daughter are buried two miles from the City and she felt anxious that this little one should be placed beside them. We spoke a few comforting words to her and told her that we should do all in our power to raise means sufficient for the funeral expenses. Of course we deferred our visit to Quarantine—we spent the day in soliciting means and making the necessary preparations for the funeral—we started out trusting in God's to open the hearts of the friends of the Widowed and Fatherless—and wherever we told the story we met with such warm sympathy and such cheerful ready responses to our call, that we felt sure the widow's God had gone before us. We soon raised the needed sum, purchased material and a shroud, bought a coffin, and engaged a conveyance which was to start at seven the next morning to take them to the country, It would be too early to have religious exercises which the mother wishes to have before her child was buried so Mr. Alexander a ministerial friend from Arkansas who was stopping in the City, came at our request to hold them that evening—the scene was deeply impressive—it was late—intensely dark—the wind blowing a gale and jarring upon the solemnity the noise of the rats in the wall, who were holding high carnival—while a few of us were bowed in prayer for the mother, around the little dead boy, whose sweet face, so freed from all traces of pain so untouched by any trace of sin was beautiful in its purity and peace. We stayed all night made the shroud and laid the little one in his coffin, and felt well repaid in the morning when we saw a smile break through the mother's tears as she said "how sweet you have made Georgia look." The little one was buried, and we trust the mother's heart which had before resisted all the sweet appeals of the gospel is being drawn toward that land where her child is gone—Again and again had God called, and she would not—May the taking of this little lamb bring the mother into the fold of Christ.

### **Finney and Jones Report**

#### **Set up a woman in housekeeping**

As we were passing out of the Mayor's office one day we were accosted by a poor woman who said she had waited through long hours in hope of getting an opportunity of speaking with the Mayor; but the office was so crowded with applicants that there seemed to be little hope of her getting a hearing that day. She had been sick at the City Hospital nearly six months and while there, her three children shared the scanty fare of a poor neighbors children who had scarcely enough to keep from suffering the pangs of hunger—she said if she could get a room and a few things in it for housekeeping she could support her children by sewing—we rented a room for her, gave her bedding, dishes, knives, and forks, canned meats and fruits and a little money for groceries. The Provident Association supplied her with coal wood and flour and an old neighbor gave her a table and a couple of chairs, while another gave her an old stove, so that she was able to get along without suffering, and keep her children with her which was a source of great comfort to her.

## **Extracts from Diary**

March

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Several days work was made up of “little things” of which our diary will tell the story. Got a pass for a poor girl to go to her friends in Tennessee. Then went to the wharf boat to see when she could go and hoping to get better fare for her if we spoke to the Captain in her behalf, as her pass gave her only deck passage.

Called at the office of the President of the Bellefontaine Street Railway to see if any arrangements could be made by which our Society could get passes or tickets on that route—He promised at the next meeting of Directors to lay the case before them, and use his influence in our favor—Also, went to President of 5<sup>th</sup> Street R.W. who agreed to do the same thing and in addition sent us 20 tickets.

Also went to the office of Supt. of Iron Mountain R. R. who gave us a complimentary pass till Dec. 1868, for two the Sisters to visit the Hospitals at quarantine. The agent for the State had before extended the same favor to us when the Road was in the hands of the Governor.

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March

### **Mrs. Lent's Report**

Secured homes for two girls in the country

### **Mrs. Daniel's Report**

#### **Young man converted**

Was deeply interested in a young man who seemed little inclined to listen to religious truths—read the bible to him and had several long conversations with him upon the importance of his becoming a Christian—at my request he attended religious worship—He shortly after beginning to attend meetings became deeply interested in religious things and seemed much concerned for his Souls salvation. He sought diligently for the “Pearl of great price”—and our father, who said, “Seek ye my face,” verified His promise of receiving those who come unto Him. He is now trusting in Christ.

Spent four days at Whittier Block working for the Dorcas Sewing Society.

April 1868

### **Mrs. Daniel's Report**

“Visited a poor woman with her family of six little children. Her husband had been out of employment all winter and a hard struggle. They found the battle of life to be still she tried to keep up a stout heart—and train her children for the Lord—She was a Protestant and her husband a Catholic—still he did not object to her sending their children to any Sabbath School she pleased. But for sometime they had had nothing decent to wear and had been obliged to remain at home—I promised to provide them clothing if she would send them regularly, which she promised to do—the clothing was given—and the little

ones are faithful attendants of the Sunday School where we trust they will so learn of Jesus and imbibe His spirit as to be what their mother wishes them to be “ Children of the Heavenly King.”

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### **Mrs. Daniel's Report**

Another similar case came in my months work. A poor woman with four children, whom I helped in the same way and made them members of the Mission School in the Whittier Building. We find many such fighting the conflict of life single handed and alone. God help the poor widows and fatherless children of St. Louis.

### **Miss Hardenbrook**

Miss Hardenbrook has been ill a part of the month of March and all of April. Confined to her room nearly all the time her labors formerly so abundant have been entirely suspended—her doing the will of God has been exchanged for suffering it, “They also serve who only stand and wait.”

### **Mrs. Lent's Report**

I have sent one boy to the Hospital for the medical treatment and care, which poverty prevented his having at home—Also, secured employment for one boy and one man and have organized one sewing society and one prayer meeting. Two weeks of the month I have been sick.

### **Misses Jones and Finney's report**

Our prayer meeting on Davis street is a blessed little Beulah. Though few in numbers varying from only three to seven or eight, we often feel that our Father comes very especially near to bless us. One special subject of prayer is the conversion of the husband's of the two women who live in the house' and we are encouraged to know that one of them seems to be thinking more seriously than every before of these things, reads his Bible and speaks of the goodness of God yo men. His wife a devotedly pious woman told us with a happy face of these evidences that the spirit of the Lord was working with him, we mean to plead the promises and pray on.

April 1868

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### **Jones and Finney**

Our Hospital work is precious. We love to go to the suffering, and read to them the sure promises of the Bible sing to them of “that unchangeable home,” where Jesus of Nazareth stands, and pray with them that all our souls may be purified by the “bloods of sprinkling and fitted for His Kingdom”

### **The Scotch Exile**

April 1868

Jones and Finney

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We have not space to now note the many incidents that make it a blessed work to us but two or three will show the nature of our labors—as we slipped into a ward one day we noticed among the new faces a pole, sad-looking, middle-aged man who when we spoke to him replied with a scotch accent. We sat down beside his cot gave him some reading matter and spoke to him of that home beyond the river, where there was no more pain, but he burst into loud sobbing and covering his face with the blankets wept long and bitterly, “I have no home there,” said he, “I am a great sinner.” He told us his history, how all those he loved were far of in “Bonnie Scotland” and he a wanderer from the home circle, was, too a wanderer from God. We tried to point him to the “Friend of sinners and during our regular visits in the weeks that followed he would listen with the teachable spirit of a child while we talked to him of Jesus. One day he reached out his hand saying, “sister I promise you let what will come I will be a Christian. I have wasted my time in the past, but in the future I will try to redeem it. He felt that God had forgiven his sins—great and many as they were, and his language was “I love the Lord because he hath heard my cry.” When he left the city soon after we gave him a testament and Psalms which he promised to keep read and be guided by. The judgment day will show the result of our Labors. God grant that then he may stand with those who shall hear the welcome “Come ye blessed.”

### **Ellen**

As we were hastening along through the hall of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor in the City Hospital one day we were called into one of the wards by an inmate—she said please read too us awhile—it was already quite late and we felt anxious to get home before dark, but could not resist that appeal coming as it did, from one who had always shown quite an aversion to hearing the bible read or having us converse with her upon the subject of religion—as we saw that she did not wish to have us we did not read to her; but read and conversed with the other patients and prayed with them. Always endeavoring to be heard by all in the Ward. She had been very sick and imagined that her improved state of health was in direct answer to a prayer offered up for her by one of Sisters—she is a catholic and we never felt quite convinced in our own minds whether she only detained us by her bed side reading one chapter after another in the Bible for the sake of keeping us from others who might not be a strong in the Catholic faith as she—she gave no evidence of a change of heart—God only knows her heart and motives. We do know that she is not ignorant of the only and true way of Salvation—our selections from the “word of Life” were always such portions as had direct bearing upon the plan of salvation. We leave her in the hands of God praying that at the “Last Great day” we may meet her among the Redeemed. Case thy Bread upon the Waters” is comment that we try daily to obey and we trust that we shall see the promised “thou shalt find it after many days” verified in her case.

April 1868

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Lizzie

### **Extracts from misses Jones and Finney’s reports**

One day as we entered ward 25 a feeble voice said, “I’m so glad that you have come my bible has such fine print that I cannot read it since I got worse—we read some of Christ’s

own words and some of the songs of praises from Psalms then sung the beautiful little hymn, "I will sing for Jesus"—"Yes, Yes she said, I will sing for Jesus as long as I live if He will only help me and keep me from sin—pray for me I need your prayers—I do want to be true Christian and ask Jesus daily many times to forgive my sins. After praying with her, she offered up and earnest little petition for pardon and strength to do right—we have every reason to believe that she is now rejoicing in a new found Saviour.

### **The Sailor**

#### **Extracts from report of Finney and Jones**

April 1868

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We had another lesson from the text. Learn to labor and to wait. In the case of a Sailor who was sick for a long time in the Hospital—He was of a most ungovernable temper—would be so furious in his fits of rage that the other sick men were really afraid of him—are such times his profanity was awful—and at all times in conversation with any one, lady or gentlemen, the oath would slip from his lips. He would not seem to know that he had sworn and when reproved would beg pardon and seem very much ashamed. He promised to reform and it was curious to watch his struggle with a habit to which he had been a slave so long' if the fountain from whence so vile a stream proceeded was not purified, as we hoped to see it by the blood of Christ, he certainly took a long step forward—restrained his passion and gradually desisted from profane words—told us he wished to become a Christian said her wanted that religion which led us to labor with such men as he, that they might be saved. He promised not to give up seeking till he felt that he too was saved—We were strengthened to work to hear him say that it was wholly our influence that head led him to wish for a better life.

May 1868

### **Mrs. Welsh**

#### **Finney and Jones**

In one of the hospital Wards lay on of the most patient cheerful sufferers we ever met. A terrible Cancer was eating her life away—but she never complained "God is good" was ever upon her lips—suffering grace were abundantly given her—It was wonderful to see her bear up under her afflictions. She suffered the most intense physical pain—The physician decided to cut the cancer out—She asked some friends to pray for her and submitted cheerfully—after when the doctor spoke of her remarkable fortitude and strength with which she bore the operation she said, "No it's not me—I can tell you where the strength came from—it was all of God! I had good friends praying for me"—and it was god who carried me thorough—she grew stronger and apparently well—and went to her home in the country—we missed her happy face and pleasant Christian words and acts her quieting peace making influence among the other inmates but were glad to feel that she was ell and happy at home—one day several week after, as we stopped into the Ward, there lay Mrs. Welch.

### **Mrs. Welch Finney and Jones**

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May 1868

She greeted us with tearful eyes and quivering voice but we found that though her hopes were blighted her faith God was still strong—It was a real pleasure to read and pray wither her—and sing of “that beautiful land so free from all sorrow and pain” She suffered terribly twice more was the cancer cut out. Only to break out again then she was made to endure excruciating agony by the application of medicine to eat it out—she bore it with patience and even cheerfulness and when the dread messenger came, went willingly forth Death had no terrors for her—and when her feet stood in the cold waters of Jordan the dear Saviour she loved and trusted held her hand and led her to the other side.

### **From Report of Misses Finney and Jones**

#### **The German**

We came across a young man in Ward 36 who interested us very much he lay in a corner cot an his pale face spoke of intense suffering—he could not speak English as we spoke to him in German the glad look of surprise in his intelligent face, told how welcome was the sound of his own native tongue—He told us of loved ones far away in his own native land—how he had started for American alone, with bright hopes for the future, trusting soon to be able to send for his relations—Now he was low spirited and disheartened—long continual sickness had blighted all his hopes. After conversing with him sometime about his friends and cheering him up and best we could, we spoke to him of that “Friend who is ever near” and asked him if he loved him and tried to do His Will – he said “ I fear not as I should” his recovery was slow so that he was compelled to remain in the Hospital many weeks—Each week found us at his bedside reading to him the Saviour’s own precious promises to those who believe—we gave him a bible and he studied the “word” faithfully and prayerfully—and sought diligently after the “Pearl of Great Price.” The last time we saw him he said with great earnestness “With God’s help I mean to live a Christian life the remainder of my days!

#### **Mrs. Taylor**

May 1868

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A poor woman’s little boy came running up to Bethany in great haste, said his mother thought she was dying and wanted us to come down—We went immediately and found her in a congestion chill-We sent for a physician and in the meantime resorted to the best means at hand, for her relief—we remained with her most of the day and night watching her closely and administering the medicine’s prescribed—during the three weeks of illness which followed we visited the family almost daily and contributed such things as we have at hand for their comfort and getting the proscriptions filled for the sick woman. That family had been in good circumstances but a series of misfortunes together with sickness has reduced them to actual want.

#### **Louisa**

Got a pass for young girl to go to Illinois where we felt sure she would have a good home and kind friends to help her do right—gave her a dress and pair for new shoes—the reports we hear of her good behavior since she has been an inmate of her new home are very cheering.



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**Incidents from Report of Mrs. Daniels**

**Poor Colored Woman's Child**

A poor colored woman came to Bethany telling a sad tale of suffering and want—I went with her to her home and found a poor miserable place just this side of the City limits—her babe lay dead and she had no means to bury it—so I went and spoke to the Board of Health about the matter and they attended to the burial of the child gave the woman some canned meat.

**Mission School.**

Placed nine children in the Mission School on 8<sup>th</sup> Street where they will have on e good meal a day and some comfortable clothing provided for them, besides good instruction. Got employment for three women.

**Miss Hardenbrook**

Sister Hardenbrook is slowly recovering from her tedious illness—she expects soon to leave us for a visit to her friends in Ohio, where we trust she will regain her wasted strength sad soon be able to engage again in her accustomed duties.

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**Mrs. Lent Report**

Found a woman on 2<sup>nd</sup> street very sick lying upon the floor in very destitute circumstance. Called in a physician for her, got her prescription filled—supplied her present wants—left her in the care of the Lord—asking to be with her.

**The Old Woman on 10<sup>th</sup> Street**

Visited an old lady on 10<sup>th</sup> street who Is living all alone—She has no friends in the City—She is trying to support herself by sewing her health is very poor and she is almost blind but seems very anxious to support herself trusting in the Saviour for assistance.

**The littler girl on Chest. Street**

Found a little girl on Chestnut street who is and has been a very great sufferer for several years—she is a very devoted Christian, perfectly willing that the Lord's will may be done for her. We have a prayer meeting at her room every Thursday eve. We would be glad to have any one attend who may feel and interest in her or her parents.

**Sick Woman on 10<sup>th</sup> Street**

Visited a woman on 10<sup>th</sup> street who was very sick—her sickness having been occasioned by her little boy running away –she supposed he was drowned—I solicited \$5.00 for her got her some tea, sugar and paid \$3.00 rent for her. I hope and pray that the Lord will bless all the poor and afflicted ones.

**Mrs. McNair's Report**

The ladies Christian union of St. Paul Minnesota held a public meeting on Sunday Eve at the Central Presbyterian Church. The Church was crowded to overflowing and much interest was felt in the objects of the meeting—after opening exercises and the reading of Treasurers Report—Miss McNair, the City Missionary presented the following very interesting Report of her labors:

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Nearly five months since I came here to labor as City Missionary under the Auspices of the Ladies Christian Union an organization then recently formed. Of the objects of this organization many of you already know, all which have claims Upon Christian Charity and active sympathy. There were some discouragements at first. As a stranger, unacquainted with the work needed, or what might be done, I had to acquaint myself with the ways open and the plans to pursue. The ladies saw the necessity of an effort of some kind to accomplish the objects included in their plans of proposed work, but the work being so new a one in this city, they could not give the information as to the best way of going to work, that would have been desirable.

### **Miss McNair's Report**

**June 1868**

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There was little delay however, before I entered upon my labors. The work is better understood and of the difficulties of the first is so far removed s to be not great hindrance to its prosecution. I will give you some facts to show that work has been done that gradually a system has been developed that should induce all to preserve, and will be a ground work for future usefulness. The little mountain will in its silent unassuming way do its work as thoroughly have it mission as much as the river is broad and deep and unresisted and every heart readily acknowledges it s obligation to each. So this work has gone on in a quiet unobtrusive way. Those who are interested in its success have watched its progress with hopeful hearts. And to with little outward stir but with an influence and an effect that cannot be known, until the secrets of effects shall be revealed, it has steadily pursued its way. I cannot relate tonight many strange experiences or thrilling scene and with some hesitancy do I make the attempt preferring that those who have been lookers on, should give their ideas in relation to these mother's. But, if any word of mine can interest one heart, can encourage even one heart to seek to do good, to speak words of kindness and warning to the careless traveler in the broad road, to revive the soul already sinking with its burden of repentant sorrow, or can teach any one of us to have greater faith in the law of brotherly kindness and charity, then I will be glad that my voice has been heard, for the cause in which I and which we all have so deep an interest and which has called us together now. This city is not lie others of larger and older growth as Chicago, St. Louis and New York with their multitude of the wicked of both sexes with their thousands of homes of wickedness and vice, and we hope it may never become as there. That it may not philanthropic and Christian people by providing and caring for those exposed to temptations and dangers by giving them employment furnishing them with suitable homes, and above all by exercising that charity inculcated by the precepts and examples of our Saviour, who while upon Earth sought opportunities of doing good,

esteeming more worthy His companions, exemplifying His precepts by his example. All know how much easier it is to prevent crime than to cure it, and for this purpose ought all to labor rowing be side all waters. And this union we trust, is one of the Agencies to do some of this work. Since commencing the work, one thousand visits have been made, some of these have been repeated many times in special cases, of sickness or interest. Everyday with very few exceptions, has something been done in the way of visitations, the inclemency of the weather only prevention several thousand pages of Tracts have been distributed with four or five hundred of small books. Some of these were of those sent from Dublin and kindly furnished me by the YMCA. To many homes these little messengers have gone, with their words of warning of hope, of joy, of the Saviour's love. Some of these came from Dublin and were kindly furnished me by the YMCA. It may be interesting to some of you to know the history of these Dublin Tracts. A gentlemen in Dublin who had taken stock in the Atlantic Cable promised to devote to the Lord whatever of profit might accrue to him if the undertaking proves a success. His proceeds from this investment which has been very large has been used in publishing tracts and religious works.. Many of these were sent to this country; two tons to Chicago, from which place some were sent here. I am also indebted to the YMCA for tracts left by the Christian Commission. The association has also given me a library for the use of the prisoners at jail. Reading matter from a number of private individuals places were under obligations to them. I have given away three bibles, two of which were furnished by the Depository and one was given b a gentlemen. Quite a number of articles of clothing have been distributed the gift of some benevolent ladies. Material aid has been given to a number and hoes have been reclaimed by the effort s of the embers of the Association. Some have been induced to go to Sabbath School and provided with suitable clothing others persuaded to attend Church. Of the large number conversed with, many have expressed the desire to know the way of truth and to become Christians. The wavering have been encouraged—the weak strengthened, while mutual benefit has been reaped from moments spent with Christian of ripe years and experience

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### **The Invalid Stranger.**

#### **Incidents from Miss McNair's report**

I visited a mother who came here to visit a dear son who had been in this State for some time, in search of health. She came in the hope of retuning with her only boy but had the sad task of returning with his lifeless body. She was comforted with passages of scripture and prayer. The mother bereaved found Christian sympathy among strangers. The invalid strangers have not been passed by but have in many instances been visited, conversed and prayed with, much time has been spent with the sick doing whatever could be done for their relief. Sometimes preparing little delicacies of food and in many ways assisting in the domestic duties of households afflicted or bereaved.

### **The sick Soldier**

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In a poor tenement house were found a couple, the husband an invalid from disease contrasted in the service of his country. They had few of the comforts and none of the luxuries of life. To the latter of which, they had evidently been accustomed. Thy young wife patiently and cheerfully administered to the wants of her husband and bravely did she keep up courage, ever looking on the bright side, lest he might despair. But at last hope was gone—for the physician told them there was none—and advised them to return East. The day before they left the City I made the last of many visits to them accompanied by a friend. As these stricken ones were about to commence their sad journey homeward all knelt and commended them to the protection of the Heavenly Father Who is our refuge and strength and present help etc. As we arose the wife threw her arms around my neck weeping as if her heart were breaking saying” o how much good you have done us!” Then clasped her husband in one long embrace as if she feared he m9ght be even then, taken from her faithful love. A few days afterwards he died in Chicago before they were nearly home.

### **Extracts from Miss McNair’s Report Drunkard Reclaimed**

A family was found living in a cellar of a newly erected shanty in which there’s was no window, the door being left slightly open for light and ventilation. The secret of this poverty was found to be intemperance. While conversing with the family one morning the husband and father came in with a comrade. They were told that I was about to read one of the little books and were asked if they would like to hear it. Both expressed a cheerful willingness to hear me. After reading prayer was offered, the men standing with uncovered heads. Before leaving I urged them to think seriously of the things concerning their highest and best interest. Help was offered to get a window but the husband respectfully refused, saying he would try to get one himself. I told him I hoped to see it when I came again. His first greeting at my next visit (a few days after) was “the window is fixed.” A short time ago arose for prayer in one of our churches and is, I trust, earnestly trying to live soberly and righteously. His little daughter of ten or eleven years, said “She lobed Jesus” when I last saw her. His friends also are striving after better things.

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### **Jail**

#### **From Miss McNairs’s Report**

I have visited the Jail nearly every week, often twice a week, distributing books, papers and tracts. The prisoners are ever ready to listen o words of counsel and warning, and I am glad to speak of the respect these men have always show me. Services were held one morning this last week One young man going from there to serve a time at the Penitentiary when I called to bid him goodbye sad with tears, “I think you for what you have done for me and for you r interest I am a changed man in the last two months. I don’t think the time spent there will be lost. I intend to read and study the bible and hen I leave there to lead a different life.” He then told me something of his past history and I cannot doubt, that new resolves were formed and that he would penitently seek for forgiveness of his many sins against God and his fellow beings—a letter received the

other day increased my hope for him, that he will be sincere and earnest in his new resolution.

### **The poor family**

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June 1868

A poor woman whose husband is confined in the jail, for acts committed while in a state of intoxication, came to visit him while I was there. The last crust had been eaten, the last stick of wood and been burned that morning. Five little ones were at home. She stood weeping for she had never had to ask charity before. The cause of her distress was made known by her husband. Kind words were spoken, and she was taken where she obtained relief for her necessities and a few days ago she said I thank you. Intercession at the throne of Brace was made for that husband, that he might be led to forsake that cup which had brought such unhappiness to those who should be so dear to him.

### **From Miss McNair's Report**

It gives me pleasure to speak of the kindness with which my visits have been received, and the smile of welcome and hearty shake of the hand which have met me, when I repeated them. Perhaps in about a dozen cases, tracts have been refused, but never in a rude or unkind manner, prayer has been offered in many homes where it perhaps was never heard before. The request to be permitted to pray has always been granted. Some times the one praying was the only one kneeling, but all listened with respectful attention. Once, it was said by a Saloon keeper it is not every one that can go around this way, even if they would like to. I don't see how you can but it was not done trusting in the strength of self; by relying upon Him who has promised, "Ask and it shall be given thee."

Among other ways of doing good arrangements have been made to send a quantity of trade and reading matter to a party of men working on the Rail Road, some distance from here. Thus have I bestowed poorly it may be and if good has been done, all honor to Him who moveth the hearts for the children by the influences of the Holy Spirit. The consciousness of having done something for Christ's Kingdome Ameliorating life's sins and woes is a sweet reward which Earth honors could not give.

### **Miss Hardenbrook**

June 1868

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We hear very encouraging news from Sister Hardenbrook—she is gaining strength rapidly and hopes soon to return to her missionary labor in St. Louis.

### **Mrs. Lent**

Mrs. Lent is spending a few weeks out of the City—her health has been very poor for some time past and her friends thought best for her to spend a few weeks in the Country and rest.

### **Extracts from Misses Finney and Jones Work**

A poor woman came, telling a pitiful story of suffering and want—her husband left her five months ago to work on the Tail Toad and she has heard nothing from him since—she has four children two of them have been very sick, thus, the only means of support for the family was cut off, because she could not leave her children to go to work. Being unable to pay rent, the landlord was unwilling to let her remain longer in his house. Hearing of cheaper and better rooms than those that she occupied, we rented them for her—gave her some food and clothing for her children, also medicine for her sick ones—reported her case to the provident association where we found she had already received some assistance. Having done all in our power for her relief, we commended her and family to the Father who careth for us all—and went to look after another poor woman who was sick and anxious to go to the City Hospital. She had three children and had partly made arrangements with some friends to keep the two little girls but her little boy we did not know where to find a home for him. After some consideration they kindly gave him a home in the Mission School, and then she went with a lighter heart to the Hospital where she will have good care.

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**Extracts from Misses Finney and ones report.**

**John Goebler**

We were asked to call upon a young man lying at the point of death. On entering the room he said with a smile “welcome lady I have wished to see you so long and talk of that Friend of Sinners that you spoke to me about last winter—I have been sick nearly all the time since then, and have had plenty of time to think of these things—I have taken much pleasure in reading, not only the texts that you recommend in the Bible, but many other portions. The bible is my daily comforter—my stay on earth is shore, I know it, I feel it, but I do not read death, I trust that the “Friend of sinners” is my Friend and that he will take me to Himself when my time is up here. It grieves my friends to speak of going to be with Jesus so soon that is why I made bold to send for you. I could not remember ever having seen the young man before and thought he must be mistaken in the person—he referred me to the Drug Store on Broadway of my picking up and advertisement for a Sunday Theatre of my talking to the Drug store about the sinfulness of profaning God’s holy day, and that from only thing to another we spoke of Jesus and I had spoken so lovingly of Him, as being very precious friend to me, that I urged them to make him their friend. I recalled the Circumstance, though I had not thought of it since. I could but feel what responsible beings we are and that God is able to bless even our feeblest efforts, to speak a word for our Lord and redeemer. We visited him several times the few remaining days that he lived—read the Bible, conversed and pray<sup>3</sup>d with him—we spent some time with him and we felt that truly his was a soul ripe for the Kingdome of Heaven. His trust in the sufficiency of Christ’s atoning blood to such as believe and have faith, was beautiful to see.

**Extracts from the Report of misses Finney and Jones  
Industrial Aid Office**

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June 1868

The monotonous work of the "Industrial Aid Office" is made up of incidents apparently so trifling that there is little to record—One sees in such a plan how small the atoms are which make up the whole of life—every day it is the same scarcely varied routine—everyday the same story of hardship and trial and sorrow and labor listening to the stories of the women in the hopes of doing them good—finding out what they have stumbled over the past, to be better prepared to warn them for the future—trying to discourse the different natures and characters of the different girls to see which one would best suit in this place and which in that. So trying to place them in homes when they would please and be pleased—encouraging the weak in resolutions for good, and warning the vicious that they cease to do evil and learn to do well. There is a terrible lack of truthfulness among them and believing that to be the root of all evil or at least when that exists all other evils flourish, we have made it a specialty to try to raise their ideas of the value and beauty, may the inestimable importance and necessity of truth—have read such portions of scripture bearing on the subject, and always made it a subject of prayer at our noon day prayer meetings—this meeting held every day at noon—has been a source of pleasure and profit to many after a morning of hard and often annoying labor. We have found it very refreshing to turn aside from the world and take all our cares to Him who beareth our burdens if we carry them to him, who beareth our burdens if we carry them to him. There are many whose individual histories excite our sympathy—one young girl came to the office—a stranger in the City a stranger in the Country—a sweet faced English girl whose parents were still in England. Anna came from Cincinnati at the request of a young man to whom she was engaged with the promise that they would be married as soon as she got here—but would not admit a doubt of the good faith and honor of her friend—finding it useless to wait she wished to go back to Ohio but had no means—having spent all her money in coming—so through the kindness of the mayor we procured her a pass to Cincinnati—got her trunk from the baggage room and saw her started on her return. If she has erred we trust it may be a start towards right and goodness; and that our efforts for her may help to keep her feet in the path of virtue—we can only strive to sow good seed in the hearts of these girls and pray the lord of the harvest to water it and give the increase. During this month we were nearly three weeks without help and most of the household cares fell to our lot. Still the sick and suffering ones could not be neglected and day after day found us at the bedside of some sick or dying ones. These we always tried to point to the Saviour who is ready and willing to save all that come unto Him in faith believing.

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January 1868

### **Extracts form Report of Misses Finney and Jones**

Procured passes from the Mayor for several poor women who wished to go to their friends in hopes of getting some assistance from them. Spent a couple of days in trying to get a home for the babe of a poor unfortunate girl—a man was much pleased with the baby and ha about decided to take It when to his disgust the Mother had red hair: of course he could never think of adopting a child whose mother had red hair! If the babe did have black eyes and hair. Induced a couple of wandering ones to go to the Guardian Home.

Our weekly prayer meetings on Dabis Street are still kept up with interest—we feel that there we gain spiritual strength and can truly say it is good to meet with those Sisters—Spent three or four days in laboring for our S. School picnics—collected about \$18.00 in all for it. Our visits to the Hospitals, Quarantine and Jefferson Barracks are often fraught with the deepest interest—we feel that our father deigns to bless our feeble efforts to lead souls to Jesus. The sick and weary ones love to hear us read His Word, and sing songs of praises—The hearty “God bless you, I want to lead a better life!” which we often hear, gives us fresh courage and high hopes to labor on.

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June 1868

#### **Extracts from Report of Misses Finney and Jones**

The ups and downs of life were perfectly illustrated in a case which came under our notice—“a lad came to the Office to seek relief stated hat she was a widow with two young children. Only a few years before she had been the petted daughter of a happy home—her father the pastor of that thriving City Church—gave her the advantage of Education and Society. She married and went to another home—but not many years to enjoy it—Her Father was far distant, old and poor—death claimed her husband and she a delicate carefully nurtured woman was left to struggle on as best she could—When we saw her she had been without food two days giving what little she had to her children. We provided for her pressing wasn’t and called the attention of good people, who had known her Father, to her need and she was soon made comfortable, and placed in a condition to help herself.

#### **Extracts form Mrs. Daniels Report**

Found a poor woman in a wretched condition –she was lying on a pile of rags, rather than bed clothes—no one to care for her—she lay alone with a high fever and no one to even give her a drink of water—her babe a couple of weeks old was neglected and crying.—went to the Board of Health and reported her, then attended to getting her ready for the City Hospital—Have visited her since she went there and find her very grateful for the care she received and thankful to me for taking the trouble to place her where she can have care.

Was interested in two girls who are anxious to reform—they are now in the Guardian Home and are trying to do right. Had a little girl left in my care for six weeks—Solicited money—got her clothes and had them made up for her—Sent her to New York to her grand parents.

#### **Extracts from Ms. Lent’s Report**

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Found a woman and child on 14<sup>th</sup> street lying very sick, without anything in the world to eat or drink or I might say to wear—secured assistance form the Provident Association for her called a physician and got her medicine.

Sent one girl to the Guardian Home--Secured a home for two girls in the country.



**Mrs. McMichael**

Mrs. McMichael entered the Sisterhood on probation July 1, 1868. Has been in rather poor health part of the time so has not been out much to do Missionary work—visited Hospital several times and Workhouse, Widow's Home etc. At home she has attended to management of household duties, fixing up bedding towels etc. Has watched with sick several nights and visited in Whittier Building four times.

**Extracts from the Report of Misses Finney and Jones****July 1868****Pg. 78****Extracts from Report of Misses Jones and Finney**

A neighbor came in to our house in great haste one morning saying that she believed her Mother was dying. We went over immediately—conversed with the old lady and found her in a peaceful frame of mind. Ready to go at the call of her Lord or suffer a little longer. She felt that she would like to see a minister—so we went after Mr. Morton and we read and prayed with her. In the course of conversation found that she had no physician and asked if she would not like one. She said with some hesitation, that if she was able she would like to have one but they had already spent a great deal of money in the house for the bare necessities of life. I stopped to hear no more, only asked if she had any choice in Physicians then went after Dr. Curtman. He answered with his usual promptness and prescribed something that soon relieved her. During her sickness of over two weeks he prescribed for her free of charge, and, we got the medicine from Mr. Lasswell's Drugstore free of charge. The whole family seemed very grateful for all the kindness shown them.

August

**Misses Jones and Finney's Report**

Perhaps we cannot better tell what and where our work has been for sometime past than by transcribing the following which was submitted to the Managers of the Western Female Guardian Society the 1<sup>st</sup> of September.

September 1, 1868

Ladies of the Committee:

On leaving the office, where I have labored for the past three months I feel that though anything like a report is uncalled for yet a few remarks may not be entirely valueless. I went through humbly seeing before me a work great in its magnitude—great in its responsibility. My experiences every week only made me feel more keenly its worth. Among a class so uneducated and ignorant may more blinded and falsehood led with minds warped and distorted by bigotry and prejudice it requires a zeal tempered by knowledge. I determined not to spare myself in working to make the Industrial Aid office all that you wished it be, as a power for good, and instrument to promote the ends you had in view. The great lack among the girls coming there, the keystone of all their deficiencies—I soon found to be untruthfulness.

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I have tried by every possible means to raise them in that respect. By the enforcement of rules made for that purpose, by reading from the bible and other good books b prayer and personal conversations—and I have seen enough good resulting to give me great hope for the future.

Curing the time I have been in the office there have been.

Poor women helped to days work	24
Children put in Mission School	1
Sick sent to Hospital	1
Permits to Emigrants Relief Association	1
R.R. passes from Mayor for poor woman	1
Homes for women and children in country	24
Letters written asking recommendations for girls	117
Nights lodging furnished	126

I have been asked to make any suggestions that may occur to me but I do not think it at all necessary, the work is in good hands and I believe will ably conducted yet I feel so great an interest in it, that I would put in one word of pleading, that still in the future the good of the souls of those women be the chief end in view. The mere business of the office is but little—but the blessing of the Lord it maketh rich and I feel sure it will rest upon your institution so long as the good of immortal souls is the end for which you work.

Respectfully,

Laura M. Finney  
Sister of Bethany

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August 1868

After the monthly meeting held September 7, 1868 the following letter was received from the Managers of W. F. G. society.

St. Louis Sept 8, 1868

My dear Miss Finney:

Allow me as corresponding Secretary of the Western Female Guardian Society to convey to you the thanks f the board of Managers for the very efficient manner in which you have discharged the duties devolving upon you, as Superintendent of the Industrial Aid Office. And while we remember that all human thanks are of little worth when the last great harvest is gathered you shall reap a full reward.

Personally permit me to add my own appreciation of the Christian zeal you have manifested in considering the poor and those in affliction.

Very sincerely yours,  
T. J. Couper

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**Mrs. .C. Kaggs entered Bethany as a probationary member Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1868 and at the end of the month submitted the following report**

Visited a widow who had four children. She was very poor and needy and an entire stranger in the city. Feeling much interested in her case I visited her often through two weeks of severe illness and was enabled to minister considerably to her wants. She was a Christian and her faith in the goodness of God, was strong and unwavering. On every occasion I read and prayed with her, which she said was a great comfort to her. Her children were lovely in characters and manners, showing by their behavior that the mother was an exemplary woman. She wished to live for her children's sake but it was only too evident that she was in the last stages of consumption—but she rallied somewhat and was well enough to get to some relatives in Illinois who on hearing of her illness sent her money to come to them.

On one occasion I found a poor colored girl in nearly a dying state her mother was a widow and this, her only surviving child. They were miserably poor wanting not only the comforts but even the necessaries of life. I gave them all the help I could and procured a physician for the girl. She slowly recovered and during her convalescence I often read and prayed with her and have good reason to believe that she is truly converted.

**Report of Mrs. Daniels**

I took two girls to the Guardian Home, They seemed glad to go there, said they had their minds made up to do better. I visited a poor woman who had four children who was destitute, provided her with clothing to the amount of five dollars. I found employment for four women—got one prescription filled—Took a girl from the House of the “Good Shepherd” to the Hospital. Visited a poor woman who was sick and gave her one dollar. Nursed a sick woman two days--:Labored for the FG Home seven weeks.

**Report of Misses Jones and Finney**

The Hospital work has been unusually interesting. Many have seemed greatly drawn toward Christ. A special blessing has seemed to attend the reading matter we have distributed—every one has grasped it eagerly and we have prayed earnestly that it might be blessed indeed to their good. Many have been the encouragements we have had to be earnestly faithful to these immortal souls. One young man who said he was a Catholic was among our most engaging cases. He was intelligent in look and speech but his heart was full of bitterness and hatred. He was at enmity with all his family except one brother. His people were all Catholics except this new brother who was a member of the sixth street M. E. Church. The poor fellow declared he would never forgive his brothers and sisters. They had so wronged him that he would go to his grave without speaking to them for he would never forgive. His great black eyes burned with fierce fires while speaking showing the feeling of his soul. But after several visits when we read and plead and prayed with him he seemed to yield. The words of Jesus touched his stony obdurate heart and he would listen reverently while we read “forgive as ye would be forgiven” and at our last visit he promised to forgive them to try to be a true Christian to read his Bible

and pray and to meet us in Heaven. May the dear Lord give him grace to carry out his good resolution.

We might mention many other similar cases, in this truly delightful part of our work. Delightful because, though we see pain and suffering yes and sin, we can tell to softened hearts” that sweet story of old,” We can comfort aching hearts by reminding them of the great love of Jesus! We can invite sinners to come to Calvary’s Cross and lay their burdens down.

### **Extracts from Report of Misses Jones and Finney**

We love the Hospital work and now, as we make our farewell visits, preparatory to going to other fields of labor, it goes straight to our hearts to see the moistened eye—feel the earnest grasp of the hand—and hear the fervent “God bless you I am so sorry you are going.” It encourages us to know that our labor has not been in vain there and we go to our new fields determined to be diligent faithful workers in the vineyard of our blessed Master.

### **Report of Mrs. Daniels**

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I took two women to the Guardian Home. Got the Doctor for a sick woman and had a prescription filled. Visited a very sick family nursed them and provided them some clothing and food. Took a woman to the Board of the Health and got a certificate for her to go to the Hospital.

### **Report of Mrs. Skaggs**

I visited a lady who is a Catholic. She has the consumption and is evidently near her grave. She had been reared in the Catholic faith, but found it unsatisfactory and I think I never saw a person who exhibited a greater degree of longing for salvation, or a greater hungering and thirsting after righteousness. I took her books conversed read and prayed with her. The last time I saw her, she expressed herself as fully resigned to the will of God, trusting, everything in his hands, and relying only on the merits of Christ.

### **Harry Anderson**

Sept 1868

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One evening while visiting at the Whittier Building my attention was directed to a lady whom I found in a small room not more than twelve feet square, lying on a wretched bed with an infant only four days old, and a child of three years old who was apparently dying. Mrs. Anderson was a beautiful woman refined and educated. One could see at a glance that she was a lady despite her poverty and miserable surroundings. The beautiful little blue eyes of the little suffered shone with an unearthly brightness and from his pale forehead the soft hair fell away in wavy golden curls. As I looked at him so lovely even then I wondered not—that the mother’s heart was rent with agony at the thought of parting with him. I could easily imagine how his presence must have brightened that dark mean little room in his days of health and childish glee. The next morning I visited then again and found little Harry breathing his last. Mrs. Anderson sat up in bed bending over the

dying child, unheeding the wailings of the living one. When she found that he was really dead her shrieks were heart-rending and soon her room and the adjoining halls were filled with a curious crowd of lookers-on. At the time of the death and burial of the chilled, the heart of the husband and father seemed touched but these tender feelings soon wore off and he returned to his old haunts, the drinking saloon and gambling table. His case I fear is a hopeless one.

### **Report of Mrs. Skaggs**

One morning I went to a Catholic home where I had visited often before, and found the old gentlemen dying. "Oh said he, I am dying and I have lived such a wicked life. He listened eagerly while I spoke of the goodness for God, and endeavored to point him to the Saviour but I was so interrupted by the Catholics in the room that I was obliged to leave him, and I presume he died soon after.

### **Extracts from Report of Miss Hardenbrook**

#### **Soldiers widow**

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Was informed by Mr. Yeatman of the illness and destitution of a soldier's widow. Visited her and found her in very distressing circumstances—she seemed to be a devotedly pious and very intelligent woman; enduring her afflictions with truly Christian resignation, often exclaiming, "It is all sent in mercy" It is all for my good. Afflictions always made me better. I visited her frequently and did all I could for her comfort. She became convalescent but could not get strong. The Dr. said she could not get well in this climate that she might rally for awhile but would never entirely recover. This seemed sad indeed as the poor woman had not a cent of money in the world and only the prospect of a lingering death. Still, she could say like one of the old "Though He slay me yet will I trust him and she did not trust in vain for with the assistance of friends, a pass and money was procured to convey her to northern climate. I have since heard that she is fast recovering.

Found a very interesting young girl in the Calaboose placed there by her father with the intention of putting her in the "Good Shepherd" Believe her to be pure and innocent but in great danger of becoming demoralized through the injustice and severity of a Godless father. Persuaded him to let her go to the House of Bethany where she remained one month until Mrs. Sibley procured her a home in a Christian family.

October November, and December

During these months three ladies were admitted on probation visited Mrs. Skaggs from Kansas, Miss Murphy from Chicago and Miss Buchan from Ohio—the former lady was not considered competent on account of want of health and some other disabilities to discharge the duties of a Sister and left the "House of Bethany" before the end of the three months probation. The same causes led to the same result in the case of Mrs. McMichael who came in July on probation—Miss Murphy and Miss Buchan owing to the intended closing of the House of Bethany accepted situations in the City where they are at work and highly appreciated. Miss Finney a very highly estimated sister was

married and had gone to Arkansas—a clause which is here recorded as a part of Our plan gives our Society should it hereafter be perpetuated the benefit of the continued labors of our Sisters wherever they may in the Providence of God be called to labor—Mrs. Lent is the only one who has officially withdrawn from the Sisterhood, her letter will be found in “letter book” to that effect

\*an extract from the Superiors report for the year 1868 will show why The House of Bethany was closed.

[Report from the Superintendent]

**Report of the Supt. of House of Bethany for the year ending Dec. 3, 1867, being the first year of its existence.**

The Supt. entered the “House of Bethany,” (the name given by her, to the home for Mission Nurses and Christian Missionaries). On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Dec. 1866. The year was avowedly to be a year of experiment, to ascertain the practicability of bringing together, devoted, self-denying ladies, who could be relied upon to perform the work expected and required from them; which has been stated by Mr. James E. Yeatman as follows:- “The special work which they will be expected and required to perform will be- visiting the families of our soldiers and all others, who are sick or in distress, and need the sympathy, care and kind offices of Christian women. They are to commend Christianity by Christian acts, - by caring for and nursing the sick in their own homes, and teaching the poor to take care of themselves, by aiding, counseling, and advising them-finding homes for those who have no homes, directing such as should be cared for by special charities, to those charities the Orphan to the Orphan’s Home, and those of their own sex who have fallen, or are in danger of falling to the Asylums prepared for them. They shall read and pray with them, and in every way command the Gospel to all whom they may visit, and bring them under Christian influences so far as possible, doing all in their power to benefit their souls, minds and bodies.” The year having closed the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1867 the Supt. begs leave to make a brief report of the labors performed by the ladies comprising the Sisterhood of Bethany, who at the close of the year number seven. Two only of the number have belonged to the Society during the whole year, one, eight months, tow, four months, and tow about two months. One of the ladies served nearly threemoOnths as Matron in the Prot. Orphan Asylum, much to the satisfaction of its Managers, and has since gone at the urgent request of the ladies Missionary society of St. Paul to work for them three moths. Another of the sisters has been diligently laboring as an assistant to the Matron of the “Guardian Home”. In both these Institutions there have been many cases of sickness in the latter, all the inmates have been more or less subject to various painful diseases, which were faithfully attended to by these Sisters.

It is deemed desirable, in order to make this report as brief as possible to classify the work dine during the past year, in the following table: adding some extracts or narratives from “The Book of Record of the House of Bethany,” necessarily leaving out a great number of very interesting incidents met with by the Ladies in their work of love and mercy. It is but just in order to ascertain the amount of work performed to keep in mind that if the six months absence of one of the sisters, is taken out of her year’s work, the short time of the others have been in the Institution, and the absence of another several months is taken into consideration, it will reduce the number of workers during the year

to less than three including the superintendent. The following table will show the total under each head of work done during the year.

No. of families visited	1132
No. sick visited and relieved	343
No of catholic families visited and relieved	307
No of Soldiers and Soldiers families visited and relieved	44
Food, clothing furnished for relief of other persons to the amount of	\$103.00
Food, clothing furnished for the relief of other persons to the amount of	\$300.00
Money collected from various sources for poor	\$179.05
No. Individuals prayed with and to whom the bible Was read	1084
No. of Prayer meetings held at different places	287
No. attending these meetings	2260
No. pages of Tracts distributed	60500
No. Bible and Testaments distributed	60
No. sick children prescribed for medicine furnished	42
No. of times visited Hospital, Work House, jail, etc.	78
No. of bible classes established and taught in different places	2

#### Remarks

Relief consisting in giving food, clothing, paying rent, calling in Physician, obtaining homes for children and in some cases provided employment

A portion of these (children) were brought to the "House of Bethany" by their mothers, being infants

#### Extracts from Book of Record.

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December. Two young ladies were provided with a home at Bethany over tow weeks, when means were devised to send them to their friends in Wisconsin. Induced by reports of large salaries, they came west to teach. By the time they reached St. Louis, they were destitute of money, and being perfect strangers, they were greatly in danger of falling victims to the many snares laid for the unsuspecting.

A little orphan boy was picked up in the street sick, having been deserted by the man who had charge of him, on his way from Kansas to Illinois. He was cared for, cured of a disease of long standing, and sent from "House of Bethany" to the Public School, until a home was found for him in St. Charles Co. where he was sent by the Superintendent, she going to North Mo. Depot to see him off and put him under the care of the Conductor.

Jan 7<sup>th</sup>. The Supt., the only inmate at this time of “Bethany”, visited twenty families, during the past week, found no sickness among them.

A female Prayer meeting was commenced here on Friday. A Sewing Society to benefit little girls, was commenced at Bethany on Saturday. Visited a sick woman greatly in need of assistance, took a girl, sheets and some pillow cases and had the bed aide and the room cleaned; then read the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of John to her and her family and prayed with them.

Jan. 16. The Superintendent is forming a young men’s Bible Class meet at the Maguire Market. Feb. The husband of the sick woman mentioned above, came in a heavy snow storm and requested the Supt. to go and see his wife, as she was dying and wished to see her. She went immediately, on entering the room the dying woman held out her hand and said, O, I am dying—the answer was “I hope you are going to heaven and that the Saviour whom you have trusted is ready to receive you—would you lie to have me pray with you?” The woman assented by bowing her head, and pressing the hand that held hers. There being several women present from the adjoining tenements, all knelt down, and when they rose from their knees, the woman’s spirit had left its frail body. Such was the poverty of the family, that nothing decent could be found to put on the woman, the Supt. provided all necessaries for the decent burial of the woman.

About the middle of Feb. the City Missionary called and informed the Superintendent, that a family was in distress in consequence of protracted illness of the head of the family. They were visited and relieved by some articles of clothing, food, and money. The Bible read, the sick man conversed with, and all the family prayed with at different times. The man died in a few days and from his remarks it is hoped that he died in the faith. A saved Soul! Decent clothing for the dead we furnished from the House of Bethany. Means were immediately taken to help the destitute family, and it is to be hoped that all of its members were brought under good influences. The three oldest children were nicely clothed so that they can go to church and Sabbath School, and a neat suit of mourning was obtained for the widow.

March 16. The little girls Sewing Circle has increased to 30. One of the sisters in the course of her work found an Orphan babe and took it to a woman from Min. who adopted it.

March 16. The Bible Class at MaGuire Market increases in numbers and interest.

May 1. The record of this month involves some painful experience which would be excluded, if it were not deemed necessary for instruction to those who may in future time have charge of this, or similar Institutions. The changes have been sudden and unexpected and produced the dismissal of one of its members from the Sisterhood; and the refusal to receive another, whose application and recommendations were considered at the time unexceptionable. In the case of the dismissed Sister, it was rumored abroad, that she was in the habit of making public ably speeches and expressing herself in a way



entirely inconsistent with a professor of the Christian religion, and calculated to be the means of deceiving and destruction immortal soul, instead of leading them to seek salvation through the merits of the atonement and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. She told them that everybody was as good as God made them, and that Christ was only a man, etc. Finding that she was by this course bringing reproach upon the Sisterhood, and investigation as made, which ended in satisfying all of the inmates of the House of Bethany that she ought not to remain with them. She was accordingly dismissed by the Supt. The pledge given by each lady who enters the sisterhood is as follows. "Having carefully read and considered the Article drawn up by Mr. James E. Yeatman defining the duties of those who enter the Sisterhood, we who here unto sign our names do solemnly pledge ourselves to remain in connection with the Sisterhood of Bethany for one year from the date we entered the Institution, and that we will to the best of our ability conform to the rules of the House of Bethany, Laboring faithfully in our vocation as Mission Nurses and Christian Missionaries. The record in regard to the dismissal of the lady spoken of above is as follows. "Owing the fact that Miss \_\_\_\_\_ does not believe in the evangelical doctrines of the Christian religion, and has openly advocated principles in direct opposition to those held and taught by the Sisterhood, her connection with the Institution, was on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 1867 dissolved"

May 18. Visited a woman, found her very destitute with a babe here days old—read the Bible and prayed, then sent a Sister with a basket of food, clothing and other comforts to her.

Receive a woman at Bethany sick with consumption and cared for her several days—send her to "Good Samaritan Hospital"

Two Sisters visited the Jail and took with them the usual reading matter and flowers—distributed them in the cells. The prisoners seemed much pleased with them. Conversed upon religious subjects with many of them. Some who were sentenced to Penitentiary asked to be remembered in our prayers.

A poor woman was found in a dying condition in a miserable room among colored people. She was made comfortable and having died, was laid out in articles furnished from Bethany. Her husband was furnished with some clothing. We find her attends preaching since, having promised to do so.

A poor woman was talked with by one of the Sisters, who had just given up three of her children to the Orphan Asylum. She said she did not know why God had "whipped her so hard", unless it was to bring her to him' but she felt all her afflictions to be right." Although raised a Catholic she intended to unite with the Methodist Church.

July—one of the sisters has been laboring in behalf of those who are candidates for admission to the "Guardian Home." An extract from her report is given. That some idea may be formed of the nature of her work. "Spent the day talking with erring women, trying to get them to reform and go into the 'Guardian Home'—spent next day in same manner praying with each one. July 14. Spent the day in praying and planning to get a

young girl had left that morning. Spent the day in looking for her and praying with others of the same class, urging them to reform.

July 17. The young girl above mentioned came to find me. She says she is determined to reform, and wants to be a Christian.

July 18. Found another girl that wishes to reform and is willing to go either to the G.H. or back to her own home. She was seduced and brought to the City with the promise of marriage, is only 15 years of age; is the daughter of a minister, spent some time with the Assistance of the Chief of Police in procuring the trunks and other articles belonging to the girls at the "Home". In some instances the trunks had been opened and every article of value taken out, then locked again."

[separate document for the year of 1868 from Mary Sibley]

Work of the "Sisters of Bethany", for the year 1868

Number families visited*	2000
No. catholic families visited	463
" soldiers families visited	143
" sick visited and relieved**	778
" families assisted **	533
" persons prayed with	2422
"prayer meetings held	191
" times hospital and jail visited	193
" to whom Bible and Testaments given away	128
" pages, tracts distributed	87884
Women and children provided with homes in City	26
No. C. Country and abroad	39

Amount collected and spent for the poor \$234.05

Remarks

\*visits made of performance of missionary work

\*\*assistance and relief consisted, in nursing, giving food, clothing, paying rent, calling in Physicians, filling prescriptions, obtaining homes for children. Providing employment.

--with the views of increasing the wealth and power of the Roman Catholic Church, the "Sisterhood of Bethany", is still in existence, by the members are all scattered and at work in various institutions and in various places. It has never been the intention to keep more than two or three at the "House of Bethany" at any one time, and applications have been made far and near for the eservices of the "sisters", to a greater extent, than the Superintendent had been able to supply.

Also visited jail and gave reading matter. 8<sup>th</sup> visited and relieved a soldiers family also visited one of our soldiers on 2<sup>nd</sup> street, whose health was lost in the Army: paid his rent, took him and his family food and clothing. We found them shivering over a few dying embers, with nothing to eat and not a cent of money to buy anything. Afterward,

visited the Rolling Mill Buildings, got the consent of a man and his wife to come to meeting at Fairmount Missouri. They had not attended church for two years. Made arrangements with a lady there, to hold a weekly female prayer meeting in her rooms. Visited a sick soldier who lost his health while serving in the Union Army, his wife also was very sick, and soon after died. During her illness, they were cared for by "Sisters," Their rent was paid, food, clothing and medical aid furnished, Another sister reports visiting a very destitute woman on Biddle Street, whose husband died last fall with Cholera. She was a cripple, with seven small children, and near her confinement. Took four of her children to an Industrial school, where they are provided with warm comfortable clothing, and a warm dinner every day. Also through the kindness of friends obtained clothing for the infant, and comforts for the mother during her confinement." Another sister reports the organization of a Sabbath school the 1<sup>st</sup> Sabbath in Jan., which before the month closed, had an attendance of over hundred. An infant class of thirty which she teaches. This sister also visited a poor destitute sick woman with 4 children, found a home for one of them in the country with a Christian family. She often visited and supplied many necessary wants of a poor widow 112 years old.

One "Sister says in her report, "visited a sick German with a wife and three children. The husband had been suffering a long time with consumption. Had become so feeble that he had to [be] fed. Gave some little delicacies for the invalid. He knew he could not live, felt prepared and willing to die, and leave his family in the hands of god. He was anxious to partake of the sacrament of "the Lords Supper, "and earnestly requested that a minister might come and administer it to him. The "Sister brought the precious privilege; it was a solemn and interesting scene to the few who were present. Another Sister reports," visited a Soldier's widow and found her quite needy. Her three bright looking boys were sadly in need of good warm jackets, just such as the coats we have for distribution make, so I told the mother to come to "Bethany" and I would see what could be found to help her. We gave her enough to make the soldiers orphans comfortable for some time. One sister reports, was informed by Mr. G. of the illness and destitution of a soldier's widow, visited her and found her in very distressing circumstances. She seemed to be devotedly pious and very intelligent Christian woman, enduring her afflictions with truly a Christian resignation, after exclaiming," it is all for my good, afflictions always make me better" I visited her frequently and did all I could for her comfort. She became convalescent, but the doctor told her, he could not get well in this climate, that she might rally for awhile, but would never entirely recover. This was sad indeed, as the poor woman had not a cent of money in the world, and only the prospect of that lingering death. Still she would say like one of old, "those he stay me, yet will I trust Him, "and she did not trust in vain, for with the assistance of friends a pass and money were procured to convey her to a northern climate. I have heard she is fast recovering." The same sister says" found a very interesting young girl in the Institutionm, "The Good Sheppard". We believed her to be pure and innocent, but in great danger of becoming demoralized, through the injustice and severity of a godless and wicked stepfather, persuaded him to let her go to the "house of Bethany", where she remained month, when the Supt. procured her a home in the country in a Christian family. A "Sister engaged in missionary work in a far off city, gives many very interesting incidents, but the limits assigned to this report, will allow of but one being mentioned" a family was

found living in a cellar, of a newly erected shanty in which there was no window, the door being left slightly open for ventilation. The secret of this poverty was found to be intemperance. While conversing with the family one morning the husband and father came in with a comrade. They were told I was about to read one of the little books, and asked if they would like to hear it. Both expressed a cheerful willingness to hear it. After reading, prayer was offered. The men standing with uncovered heads. Before leaving, I urged them to think seriously of the things concerning their highest and best interests., help was offered to get a window, but the husband respectfully refused, saying he would try and get one himself. I told him I hoped to see it when I came again. His first greeting at my next visit, a few days after, was "the window is fixed" a short time ago he arose for prayer in one of our churches, and I trust earnestly trying to live soberly and righteously. His little daughter of 10 or 11 years said, "I love Jesus," when I last saw her. His friends also are striving after better things."

The following incidents in our own city: "we were asked to call upon a young man lying at the point of death. On entering the room, he said with a smile "welcome lady." I have wished to see you so long, and talk of that "friend of sinners" that you spoke to me about last winter, I have been sick nearly all the time since then. I have had plenty of time to think of these things. I have taken much pleasure in reading my Bible, it is my daily comforter, my stay on Earth is short, I know it, but I do not dread death, I trust that the friend of sinners is my friend and that he will take me to Himself, when my time is up here, I had never thought of Christ the son of God, as one whom we could claim as our friend until you said so last winter, in reply to my light talk." I thought he must be mistaken in the person as I could not remember ever having seen the young man before. He referred me to a drug store on Broadway, of my taking up an advertisement for a Sunday theatre, of my talking to the druggist about the sinfulness of profaning God's holy day, and that from one thing to another we spoke of Jesus, and I had spoken lovingly of Him as my friend, and of His being very precious one to me, and that I urged them to make Him their friend,. He added, "I thought, that you would be glad with me, that I was going to be with Jesus so soon that is why I made bold to send for you". I could but feel what responsible beings we are, and that God does bless even our feeble efforts, to speak a word for our lord and redeemer. We visited him several times, the few remaining days he lived, read the Bible, conversed and prayed with him. The day before he was called "up higher", we spent some time with him and we felt that truly, his was a soul ripe for the kingdom, His trust in the sufficiency of Christ's 's atoning blood, to such as believe and have faith, was beautiful to behold.---Hospital Work.—a "sister", give the following. "one day in City Hospital, as I entered ward 22 my attention was attracted to a poor suffer[er] in one of the corner lots. I seated myself by her side, and began to speak to her of Jesus and read to her some of His precious promises, which seemed to comfort her greatly. When I was about to leave her, she said, "Dear lady, I feel you can sympathize with me, in my afflictions, and I would like to tell you what troubles me; my sickness is almost as much of the mind, as of the body. As I lie here, and think of my dear little family, who are dependent upon the charities of the world, for their daily bread, I feel nearly distracted. We had a good home, and never knew what want was, until sickness laid my husband up for months before he died." I comforted her all I could, took the address of the children's home, and told her trust in God; I would see that the little ones

did not suffer' after praying with the sick mother I left her. The children were keeping house together, in a small room, in one of the poorest localities in the City. The eldest a girl of 13 years, the youngest only 18 months. All that had kept them from suffering from cold and hunger was the meal and coal kindly furnished by the Provident Association. By the baby needed milk, the rent was due, and the landlord a hard, rough man, declared they should not remain longer, unless there and was paid. I first went and got a basketful of groceries, crackers and butter and gave the daughter some money to buy milk for the baby. Then visited some benevolent ladies and told them of the children. The mother was sick over four weeks, I visited her at the Hospital, and looked after the welfare of the children at home. The heartfelt expressions of gratitude I received from Mother and children, makes me feel, that truly, it is more blessed to give than to receive. Another sister says, "Our Hospital work is precious. We love to go to the suffering and read to them the sure promises of the Bible, to sing to them of that unchangeable home, where Jesus of Nazareth stands," and pray with them, that all our souls may be purified by the blood of sprinkling, and fitted for His kingdom, We have not space to narrate the many incidents that make it a blessed work to us, by two or three will show the nature of our labors. As we slipped into a ward one day, we noticed among the new faces, a pale, sad looking middle aged man, who, when we spoke to him, replied with a broad Scotch accent. We sat down beside his cot. Gave him some reading matter and spoke to him of that "home beyond the river", where there is no more pain. He burst into loud sobbings, and covering his face, with the blankets, wept long and bitterly, "I have no home there, said he, I am a great sinner". He told us his history, how all he loved, were far off in "Bonnie Scotland," and he a wanderer from the home circle, was too a wanderer from God. We tried to point him to the friend of sinners." And during our regular visits in the weeks that followed, he would listen with the teachable spirit of a child, while we talked to him of Jesus. One day, he reached out his hand, saying" Sisters, I promise you, let what will come, I will be a Christian, I have wasted my time in the past, but in the future, I will try to redeem it". He felt that God had forgiven his sins, many and great as they were, and his language was" I love the Lord, because he hath heard my cry. When he left the city we gave him a testament and psalms, which he promised to read and be guided by. At another time as we were hastening along through the Hall of the first floor in the City Hospital we were called into one of the wards by an inmate. She said, "Please read to us awhile." It was late and we felt anxious to get home before dark, but could not resist that appeal. Coming as it did from one, who had always shown quite an aversion to hearing the Bible read, or having us converse with her on the subject of Religion. We therefore read and conversed and prayed with the other patients: always endeavoring to be heard by all in the Ward. She had been very sick, and imagined her improved state of health, was in direct answer to a prayer offered up for her by one of the "sisters". She is a Tomen Catholic" and we never felt quite convinced whether the sudden change, was sincere or whether she only detained us by her bedside reading one chapter after another, for the sake of keeping us from others, who might not be so strong in the Catholic faith as herself. She gave no evidence of a change of heart. God only known her heart and motives, we do know she is not ignorant of the only and true way of salvation. We came across a young man in ward 365 who interested us very much. He lay in a corner cot, and his pale face, spoke of intense suffering. He would not speak English" he was spoken to in German, the glad look of surprise in his intelligent face, told how welcome was the

sound of his own native tongue. He told us of loved ones far away, how he had started for America alone, with bright hopes for the future, trusting soon to be able to send for his relations. Now he was low spirited and disheartened, long continued sickness had blighted all his hopes. After conversing with him some time about his friends, cheering him up as best we could, we spoke to him of that "friend" who is ever near and asked him, if he loved Him and tried to do His will, he said "I fear not as I should" his recovery was slow' so that he was compelled to remain in the Hospital many weeks, each week found us at his bedside, reading to him the Saviour's own precious promises to those who believe. We gave him a German bible, and he studied the work, faithfully and prayerfully, and sought diligently for the "pearl of great price". The last time, we saw him he said with great earnestness, "with God's help, I mean to live a Christian life the remainder of my days." We love the Hospital work, and now as we make our farewell visits, preparatory to going to other fields of labor, it goes straight to our hearts, to see the moistening eye, feel the earnest grasp of the hand, and hear the fervent, "God bless you, I am sorry you are going." It encourages us to know that our labor has not been in vain there" and we go to our new fields, determined to be diligent, faithful workers, in the vineyard of our blessed Master" The statement appended, containing a summary of the work expected to be performed by the sisterhood" in inserted her, that a comparison may be made between the work required, and the work performed.

"Sisters of Bethany at St. Louis, Mo., a Protestant sisterhood, not denominational, but strictly evangelical, whose work is visiting the families of our soldiers and all others who are sick or in distress and need the sympathy, care, and kind offices of Christian women. They are to commend Christianity by Christian acts, by caring for, and ministering to the sick in their own homes; aiding, advising and counseling the poor' finding homes for those who have no homes' and directing such as should be cared for by special charities to those charities he orphan to the Orphan's Home, and those of their own sex who have fallen or are in danger of falling, to the asylums prepared for them' in every way commend the gospel to all whom they may meet, and bring them under Christian influences, so far as possible; doing all in their power to benefit their souls, minds and bodies.

"in order to work efficiently, none but women of good sound health shall be admitted' women capable of enduring the fatigue incident upon a life of self-denial and labor. They shall be women of fair education and sound judgment, actuated by the sole desire of doing good."

Extract from a letter, accompanying the first years "Reports" written by the Super. "From the report you can judge whether it is desirable to continue the "Institution" or not. It is my opinion that the experiment is a success, and if properly carried on, the "society" may become eminently useful, in promoting the happiness and welfare, both spiritually and physically of a large number of our fellow beings. I would suggest, if the "Institution" is to be continued, a charter should be obtained, incorporating the "Sisterhood," giving the "Society" all the privileged and power, usually allowed to societies of men. By so doing woman's rights can be recognized in a form entirely consonant with the duties allotted them by the Divine Being. The Charter could be so

drawn up, that in case at any time the Sisterhood should fail to be perpetuated, in the Spirit in which it was organized, its property should inure to any "Institution" selected by the Board".

Respectfully,  
Mary Easton Sibley  
Super. House of Bethany

Report of the Super. Of the House of Bethany for the year ending 1<sup>st</sup> Jan, 1869. The second year of the existence of the "Sisterhood of Bethany" during that year. In doing Super. Feels it to be her duty to lay before the friends of the society, a concise report of the work accomplished by the "Sisters of Bethany" during that year. In doing this it is impossible to do justice to them of their work—so many and varied are the incidents given, so interesting the reports, so thrilling and appealing to narratives related, that quite a volume, would be required, to make know the extent of the blessed influence they have been the means of exerting in the city of St. Louis and elsewhere. The following annexes table will show the aggregate and some extracts from the "Book of Record", the nature of their work.

In the providence of God the means by which this Institution was supported, having been with drawn and applied to anther Benevolent Institution, the Super. We owe it to the Society and the public to say that this has not been don from and wasn't of confidence in the practicability of perpetuation a Protestant Sisterhood, or owing to any failure in accomplishing what they were expected to do in the premises, But chiefly from the want, of funds to carry our the whole plan. The following is an extract from a letter written to one of the gentlemen interested in the Society by the Super. Bearing date, H. Bethany, January 7, 1868, Mr. J.E.Y. Dr. Sir: you will remember in one of my notes to you last year I made the remark that nursing the sick to any extent could only be done in a well ordered Hospital. I find my opinion confirmed by reading the work you sent me the other day. Miss Nightingale says, " I need scarcely say that the Hospital itself is the only field for training nurses, whether for rich or poor, whether to be employed in Hospitals or Infirmaries; in the houses of the rich or the in the dwellings of the poor". All are agreed on the necessity of Hospital training for nurses and on the great advantage to be derived from the intimate connection we propose between the training of the Sisters and the Hospital. I have heard Hospit [the Hospital] will have to be sold. It is perfectly a matter of indifference to me individually which plan is adopted. For I believe in that the Glorious Gospel of our Saviour may be brought to perishing sinners, which is, after all/of far more importance that merely caring for their poor bodies". The above will explain that one of the features of the Sisterhood requiring a field of usefulness as nurses, could not be attained without a Protestant Hospital or Infirmary in which o carry on this work and this the Protestant community of St. Louis were not ready to furnish means to inaugurate. The "sisters of Bethany" will be missed at the "City Hospital", where they have ever been welcomed by those having charge of it, although it is too a great degree(owing to the constant and untiring efforts of Roman C. Priests and Sisters) under the same influences as the Catholic "Sisters Hospital," where all is done with the view of increasing the wealth and power of the Roman C. church. The "Sisterhood of Bethany" is

still in existence, but she the members are all scattered and at work in various Institutions and in various places. It has never been the intention of the Super. To keep more than two or three at the “house of Bethany”, and applications have been made far and near for the services of the “Sisters” to a much greater extent that she has been able to supply. Work done by sister of Bethany for the 1868:

Number families visited*	2000
“ of Catholic families visited	463
“ of soldiers families visited	143
“ of sick visited and relieved*	778
“ of families assisted *	533
“ of persons prayed with	2422
“ of prayer meetings held	191
” times hospital and jail visited **	193
“ to whom Bible and Testaments given away	128
“ pages, tracts distributed	87884
Women and children provided with homes in City	26
No. C. Country and abroad	39
Cash	\$204.65

[regarding the cash amount]

Amount solicited and spent for the poor. \$100.00 of which was given by Mayor

Remarks

\*Assistance and relief consisted, in nursing, giving food, clothing, paying rent, calling in Physicians, filling prescriptions, obtaining homes for children. Providing employment.

\*\*Principally City Hospital

The following extracts form Our Records speak for themselves:-

1868, “Jany. 1<sup>st</sup> visited a sick girl on Elm St. took her two jars of fruit, also visited two sick women on 9<sup>th</sup> Streedt, went to the Ward Physician for prescription and to City Dispensary for Medicine. Jan 3 went to City Hospital distributed tracts read to and prayed with several and talked with a large number on the subject of religion, Jany 11<sup>th</sup>, visited a sick man on Bate St. took him food and clothing and a blanket for his bed and sent him a Physician, also visited Jail and gave reading matter. Jan 8<sup>th</sup> visited and relieved a soldier’s family, also visited one of “Our soldiers’ on 2<sup>nd</sup> St. whose health was lost in the Army, paid his rent and took him and his family food and clothing. We found them shivering over a few dying embers, with nothing to eat in the house and not a cent of money to by anything.. Afterwards visited at Bolling Mill got the consent of a man and his wife to come to meeting at Fair Mr. Missouri. Hey had not attended a church for two years. Made arrangement with a lady there to hold a weekly female prayer meeting in her rooms. “visited a sick soldier who lost his health while serving in the Union Army, His wife also was very sick and soon after died. During her illness they were cared for by the sisters, their rent was paid, food, clothing and medical aid furnished. “another sister reports visiting a very destitute woman on Biddle St. whose husband died last fall with Cholera. She was a cripple with seven small children and near her confinement. Took 4 of her children to an Industrial School, where they were provided with warm comfortable



clothing and a warm dinner every day, also through the kindness of friends obtained clothing for infants and comforts for the mother during her confinement. Another Sister reports the organization of Sabbath School the 1<sup>st</sup> Sabbath in Jany. Which before the month closed had an attendance of over a hundred, an infant class of 30 which she teaches. This Sister "also visited a poor destitute sick woman, with 4 children, found a home for one of them in the country with a Christian family "also visited often and supplied many necessary wants of a poor widow 112 years of. One Sister says in her report " visited a sick German with a wife and three children, the husband had been suffering a long time with consumption and become so feeble that he had to be fed. Gave them money to relieve the necessities and purchased some little delicacies for the invalid. He knew that he could not live, felt prepared and willing to die and leave his family in the hands of God. He was anxious to partake of the Sacrament of the "Lords Supper" before he died and earnestly requested that a minister might come and administer it to him. The sister brought Rev.----- City Missionary. The man was too feeble to talk much, but seemed to enjoy this precious privilege. It was a solemn and interesting scene to the few who were present. "Another Sister reports thus" One day in City Hospital, as I entered ward 22 my attention was attracted to a poor sufferer in one of the corner cots. I seated myself by her side, and began to speak to her Jesus, and read to her some of his precious promises which seemed to comfort her greatly when I was about to leave her, she said " dear Lady, I feel that you can sympathize with me in my affliction and I would like to tell you what troubles me. My sickness is almost as much of the mind as of the body. As I lie here, and think off my dear little family, who are dependent upon the charities of the world for their daily bread I feel nearly distracted. We had a good home and never knew what want was, unto sickness laid my husband up for months before he died" I comforted her all I could, took the address of the children's home' and told her to trust in God. I would see that the little ones did not suffer. After praying with the sick mother I left her. The children were keeping house together in a small room, in one of the poorest localities in the City. The eldest, a girl of 13 years, the youngest only 18 months. All that had kept them from suffering from cold and hunger was the meal and coal, kindly furnished by the Provident Association, by the baby needed milk, the rent was due, and the Landlord a hard rough man, declared they should not remain longer unless it was paid. I just went and got a basket full of groceries, crackers and butter, gave the daughter some money to buy milk for the baby. Then visited some benevolent ladies and told them of the children. The mother was sick over 4 weeks, visited her at the Hospital and looked after the welfare of the children at home. The heartfelt expressions of gratitude I received from Mother 7 children makes me feel that, truly "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

With the view of \_\_\_ the wealth and power of the Roman Catholic Church. the "Sisterhood of Bethany" is still in existence but its members are all scattered and at work in various Institutions and in various places. It has never been the intention to keep more than two or three at the "House of Bethany" at any one time, & applications have been made for & near the service of the "sisters" to a greater extent than the supply. Has been able to supply.

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Has been sent home a physician. Also visited jail & gave reading matter. 8<sup>th</sup> visited & relieved a soldier's family; also visited one of our soldiers and 2<sup>nd</sup> that, whose health was lost in the Army; paid his rent, took him and his family food & clothing. We found them shivering over a few dying embers, with nothing to eat and not a cent of money to buy anything. Afterward, visited the \_\_\_ mill buildings, for the consent of a man & his wife to come to meeting at Fairmount Mission. They had not attended church for two years. Made arrangements with a lady then, to hold a weekly female prayer meeting in her \_\_\_. Visited a sick soldier who lost his health while serving in the Union Army; his wife also was very sick, and son after died. During her illness, they were cared for by the "sisters", their rent was paid, food, clothing & medical aid furnished. Another sister reports visiting a very distant woman in Biddle street, whose husband died last fall with cholera. She was a cripple, with seven small children, and was her confinement. Took four of her children to an Industrial school, where they are provided with warm comfortable clothing, and a warm dinner every day. Also through the kindness of friends obtained clothing for the infant, and comforts for the mother during her confinement". Another sister reports the organization of a Sabbath school the 1<sup>st</sup> Sabbath in Jan., which before the month closed, had an attendance of over a hundred, & an infant class of thirty which she teaches This sister also visited a poor destitute sick woman with 4 children found a home for one of them in the country with a Christian family. She often visited and supplied the many necessary wants of a poor widow 112 years old.

One "sister" says in her report, "visited a sick German with a wife & three children. The husband had been suffering a long time with consumption. Had become so feeble that he had to be fed. Gave them money to relieve their immediate necessities & purchase some little delicacies for the invalid. He knows he could not live, felt prepared & willing to die, and have his family in the hands of God. He was anxious to partake of the sacrament of "the Lord's supper," and earnestly requested that a minister might come & administer it to him. The "sister brought Revd. P. City Missionary. The man was too weak to talk much, but seemed to enjoy the precious privilege. It was a solemn and interesting scene to the few who were present. Another "sister" reports "visited soldier's widow & found her quite needy. Her three, bright looking boys, were sadly in need of good warm jackets; just such as the coats we have for distribution make. So I told the mother to come to "Bethany" & I would see what could be found to help her. We gave her enough to make the soldier's orphans comfortable for some time. One sister reports, was informed by M. G. of the illness & destitution of a soldier's widow; visited her & found her in very distressing circumstances. She seemed to be a devotedly pious and very intelligent Christian woman, enduring her afflictions with truly Christian resignation, often exclaiming "it is all for my good, afflictions always make me better" I visited her frequently, and did all I could for her comfort. She became convalescent, but the Doctor told her, she could not get well in this climate, that she might rally for a while. But would never entirely recover. This was said indeed, as the poor woman had not a cent of money in the world, & only the prospect of a lingering death. Still she could say like one of old, "Tho' he slay me, yet will I trust him" and she did not trust in vain, for with the assistance of friends, a pass & money were procured to convey her to a hotter climate. I have heard she is fast recovering" The same

sister says "found a very interesting young girl in the calaboose placed there by her father, with the intention of putting her in the Catholic institution." The good Shepard we believe her to be pure & innocent, but in great danger of becoming demoralized, tho' the injustice and severity of a godless & wicked step father \_\_\_ him, to let her go to the "House of Bethany" where she remained a month, when the supertd. Procured her a home in the country with a Christian family. A "sister engaged in missionary work if a far off life gives many very interesting incidents, but the limits assigned this report, will allow of but on being mentioned

"A family was found living in a cellar of a newly erected shanty in which there was no window, the door being left slightly open for ventilation. The secret of the poverty was found to be \_\_\_. While conversing with the family one morning the husband and father came in with a comrade. They were told, I was about read on of the little books, and asked if they would like to hear it. Both expressed a cheerful willingness to hear it. After \_\_\_ prayers was offered. The men standing, with uncovered heads. Before leaving, I urged the to think seriously of the things concerning their highest and best interests. Help was offered to get a window, but the husband respectfully refused, saying he would try and get on himself. I told him I hoped to see it when I came again. His first greeting at my next visit, a few days after, was "the window is fixed" A short time ago, he arose for prayer in one of our Churches, and is, I trust earnestly trying to live soberly and righteously. His little daughter of 10 or 11 years said "I love Jesus" when I last saw her. His friends also are striving after better things".

The following incidents \_\_\_ in our own City "We were asked to call upon a young man lying at the point of death. On entering the room, he said with a smile "welcome lady" I have wished to see you so long, and talk of that "friend of sinners", that you spoke to me about last winter; I have sick nearly all the rime since then. I have had plenty of time to think of these things; I have taken much pleasure in reading my Bible, it is my daily comfort, I trust that "the friend of sinners" is my friend & that he will take me to himself, when my time is up here, I had never thought of Christ the son of God, as one, whom we could claim as our friend, until you said so last winter, in reply to my light talk "I though he must be mistaken in the person as I would

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She following \_\_\_ from our "record" speak for themselves. Jany 1<sup>st</sup> 1886, visited a sick girl on Elm St. took her two jans fruit. Also visited sick woman on 9<sup>th</sup> St. went to to and Physician for prescriptions & to Dispensary for medicine. Jany. 3<sup>rd</sup> went to Lily Hospital" distributed tracts, read to & prayed with several, and talked with a large number on the subject of religion. Jany. 4<sup>th</sup> visited a sick man on Bates street, took him food and clothing & a blanket for

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Not remember ever having seen the young man before. He referred me to a drug store on Broadway, of my taking up a divestment for a Sunday \_\_\_, of my talking to the druggist about the sinfulness of profaning God's holy day; and that from one thing to another spoke of Jesus, & I had spoken, lovingly of Him as my friend, and of his being a very precious one to me, & that I urged them to make him their friend! He added "I thought, that you would be glad with me, that I was going to be with Jesus so soon, that is why I made bold to send for you." I could but feel what responsible beings we are, and that God does bless even our feeble efforts, to speak a word for our lord & Redeemer. We visited hi, several

times, the few remaining days he lived. Read the Bible, conversed & prayed with him. The day before he was called "up higher" we spent some time with him & felt that truly, his was a soul ripe for the Kingdom. His trust in the suffering of Christ atoning blood, to such as believe and have faith, was beautiful to behold. Hope to work. A "sister" gives the following. "One day in City Hospital, as \_\_\_ 22 my attention was attracted to a poorly sufferer in one of the \_\_\_. I seated myself by her side, and began to speak to her of Jesus & read to her some of His precious promises, which seemed to comfort her greatly. When I was about to leave her, she said "dear Lady I feel you can sympathise with me, in my afflictions, and I would like to tell you what troubles me; my sickness is almost as much of the mind, as of the body. As I lie here, and think of my dear little family, who are dependent upon the charities of the world, for their daily bread, I feel meanly disharted, we had a good home, and never knew what want was, until sickness laid my husband up, for months before he died". I comforted her all I could, took the address of the children's home & told her to trust in God; I would see that the little ones did not suffer. After praying with the sick mother I left her. The children were keeping house together, in a small room, in one of the poorest localities in the city. The eldest a girl of 13 years, the youngest only 18 months. All that had kept them from suffering from cold & hunger was the meal and coal kindly furnished them by the \_\_\_ association. But the baby needed milk, the rent was due, and the landlord a hard, rough man, declared they should not remain longer, unless the rent was paid. I just went & got a basket full of groceries, \_\_\_ & butter, & gave the daughter some money to buy milk for the baby. The visited some benevolent ladies & told them of the children. The mother was sick over four weeks; I visited her at the hospital, and looked after the welfare of the Children at home. The heartfelt expressions of gratitude I receive from mother and children, make me feel that, truly, it is more blessed to give than to receive. Another "sister" says " our hospital work is precious we love to go to the suffering and read to them the same promises of the Bible, to sing to them of that unchangeable home, where Jesus of \_\_\_ the stands " & pray with them, that all our souls may be purified by the blood of \_\_\_ & fitted for his kingdom. We have not space to narrate the many incidents that make it a blessed work to us. But two or three will show the nature of our labors. As we slipped into a ward [line unreadable] the aged man, who, when we spoke to him, replied with a broad detachment. We sat down beside his cot, gave him some reading matter & spoke to him of that "home beyond the river" where there is no more pain. He burst into loud sobbings, and covering his face with the blanket wept long and bitterly, "I have no home there, said he, I am a great sinner" e told us his history, how all he loved were far off in "Bonnie Scotland" & he a wanderer from home circle, was too, a wanderer from god. We tried to point him to the "friend of sinners" and during our regular visits in the weeks that followed, he would listen with the teachable spirit of a child, which we talked to him of Jesus. One day he reached our his hand, saying "sisters, I promise you let what will come, I will be a Christian, I have wasted my time in the past, but in the future, I will try to redeem it." He felt that God had forgiven his sins, many and great as they were, and his language was "I love the Lord, because he hath heard my cry. When he left the city we gave him a testament and Psalms, which he promised to read and be guided by. At another time as were hastening along through the Hall of the hospital we were called into one of the ward by an inmate. She said "Please read to us a while". It was late & we felt anxious to get home for before dark, but could not resist that appeal, coming as it did from one, who had always shown quite an aversion to hearing the Bible read, or having us converse with her on the subject of Religion. We therefore read & conversed & prayed with the other patients; always endeavoring to be heard by all in the Ward. She had been very sick, and imagined her improved state of health was in direct answer to prayers offered up for her by one of the "sisters". She is a Roman Catholic; and we never felt quite convinced why then the sudden

change, was sincere, or whether she only detained us by her bedside reading one chapter after another, for the sake of keeping us from others, who might be so strong in the Catholic faith as herself. She gave no evidence of a change of heart. God only her heart and motives; we do know, she is not ignorant of the only and true way of salvation. We came across a young man in ward 36 who interested is very much. He lay in a corner lot, and his pale face, spoke of intense suffering. He could not speak English; he was to in German, the glad look of surprise in his intelligent face, told how welcome was the sound of his own native tongue. He told us of loved ones far away- how he had started for America along, with bright hope for the future trusting soon to be able to send for his relations. Now he was low spirited & dishearted. Long continued sickness had blighted all his hopes. After conversing with him some time about his friends, cheering him up as best we could, we spoke to him of that "friend" who is ever near, & asked him, if he loved him & tried to do his will. He said "I fear not as I should" his recovering was slow; so that he was compelled to remain in the Hospital many weeks – each week found us at his bed side. Reading to him the saviors own precious promises to those who believe. We gave him a German bible and he studied the word, faithfully & prayerfully & sought diligently for the "pearl of great price". The Last time, we saw him, he said with great earnestness "with God's help, I mean to live a Christian life the remainder of my days". We love the Hospital work, and now as we make our farewell visits, preparatory to going to other fields of labor, it goes straight to our hearts, to see the moistening eye, feel the earnest grasp of our hand, & hear the fervent "God bless you, I am sorry you are going" It encourages us to know that our labor has not been in vain there; and we go to or new fields. Determined to be diligent, faithful workers, in the vineyard of our blessed master. Thr statement appended containing a summary of the work expected to be performed by the "Sisterhood" is inserted here, that a comparison may be made, between the work required and the work performed.

SISTERS OF BETHANY at St. Louis, Mo., a protestant sisterhood, not denominational, but strictly evangelical, whose work is visiting the families of our soldiers and all others who are sick or in distress and need the sympathy, care and kind offices of Christian women. They are to commend Christianity by Christian acts, by caring for, and ministering to the sick in their own homes; aiding, advising and counseling the poor; finding homes for those who have no homes; and directing such as should be cared for by special charities to those charities: the orphan to the Orphan's home, and those of their own sex who have fallen or are in danger of falling, to the asylums prepared for them: in every way commend the gospel to all whom they may meet, and bring them under Christian influences, so far as possible; doing all in their power to benefit their souls, minds and bodies.

In order to work efficiently, none but women of good sound health shall be admitted; women capable of enduring the fatigue incident upon a life of self-denial and labor. They shall be women of fair education and sound judgment, actuated by the sole desire of doing good.

Extract from a letter accompanying the first years "Report" written by the superind.t "From the report you can judge. Whether it is desirable to continue the "Institution" or not. It is my opinion, that the experiment is a success, and if properly carried on, the "society", may become eminently useful, in promoting the happiness and welfare, both spiritually and physically of a large number of our fellow beings. I would suggest, if the "Institution" is to be continued, a charter should be obtained, incorporating the "Sisterhood", giving the "society all the privileges and power, usually allowed to societies of men. By so doing woman's rights can be recognized, in a form entirely consonant with the duties allotted them by the Divine Being. The charter could be so drawn up, that incase at any time the

“sisterhood” should fail to be perpetuated in the spirit in which it was organized, its property should inure to any “institution selected by the Board”

Respectfully

Mary Easton Sibley

Supertd. House of Bethany

Number of families visited	2000	Remarks
No' Catholic families visited	463	Visits made in performance of missionary work
“ soldiers families visited	143	
“ sick visited & relived	778	Assistance & relief consisted in nursing, giving food, clothing, paying rent, calling in physicians, filling prescriptions, obtaining homes for children, providing employment etc. etc.
“ families assisted	533	
“ persons prayed with	2,422	
“ to whom Bible was read	2,827	
“ prayer meeting held	191	
“ times hospital & jail visited	193	
“ Bibles & testaments given away	128	
Women & children provided with homes in city	26	
“ “ “ “ “ in country & abroad	39	

Amount collected & spent for the poor \$234.65

Report of the Supertd. Of the House of Bethany for the year ending 1<sup>st</sup> Jany. 1869. The second year of the existence of the "sisterhood of Bethany" having expired the supertd. Feels it to be her duty to lay before the friends of the society, a concise report of the work accomplished by the "sisters of Bethany" during that year. In doing this it is impossible to do justice them or their work. So many & varied are the incidents given, so interesting the reports, so thrilling & affecting the narratives related that quite a volume would be required, to make know the xtent of the blessed influence they have been the means of executing in the city of St. Louis and elsewhere. The following annexed table will show the aggregate and some extracts from the "Book of Record" the nature of their work.

In the providence if god the means by which this institution was as supported having been withdrawn and applied to another Benevolent institution, the suptf. Owes it to the society & the public to say that this has not been done from my want of confidence in the practibility of perpetuating and protestant sisterhood, or owing to any failure in accomplishing what they were expected to do in the premises. But chiefly from a letter written to one of the gentlemen interested in the Society by the suprted. Learning date H. Bethany Jany. 7 1868 Mr. J. E. Y. Dir. For, you will remember, in one of my notes to you last year I made the remark, that nursing the sick toy extent, could only be done in a well ordered hospital. I find my opinion confirmed by reading the work you sent me the other day. Miss Nightingale says, 'I need scarcely say that the hospital itself is the only field for \_\_ needed whether for the rich or poor, whether to be employed in Hospitals if \_\_; in the houses of the sick or the dwellings of the poor" x x x all are argued on the necessity of Hospital training for nurses & in the great advantage to be desired from the intimate connection we propose between the training of the sisters & the Hospital. I have heard Hospitals will have to be sold. It occurs to me if the Board prefer training nurses to carrying on this institution in its present form, they might sell this property & buy that. It is perfectly a matter of indifference to me individually which plan is adopted. For I believe in \_\_ the glorious gospel of our Savior my be brought to \_\_ \_\_; which is after all of far more importance than merely caring for their poor bodies." The above will explain that one the features of the sisterhood, requiring a field of usefulness as nurses, could not be attained without a Protestant Hospital or infirmary, in which to carry on their work & this the Protestant community of St. louis were not ready to furnish means to \_\_. The 'sisters of Bethany will be missed at the "City Hospital" where they have ever been welcomed by those having charge of it all tho' it is t o a great degree (owing to the constant \_\_ effort presence of Roman C. Priests & sisters,) made the same influence as the Catholic sisters hospital, where all is done with the view of increasing the wealth and power of the Roman C. Church.

The "sisterhood of Bethany" is still in existence, but the members are all scattered abroad in various institutions & in various places. It has never been the intention of the supertd. To keep more than two or three at the "House of Bethany" & applications have been made far & near for the services of "sisters" to a much greater extent than she has been able to supply.

Work done by the Sisters of Bethany for the year 1868

No. of Catholic families visited		
No. of Catholic families visited & assited	463	
No' of soldiers families visited	143	
No' of sick visited and relieved*	778	*assistance & relief consisted in nursing, giving food, clothing, paying rent, calling in

		Physicians, filling prescriptions obtaining homes for children & providing employment
No' of families assisted	533	
No' of persons prayed with	2422	
No' of prayer meetings held	191	
No' times Hospital & Jail visited X	193	X principally City Hospital
" Bibles and testaments given away	128	
" of women & children provided with homes in the city	26	
Cash - - - - -	\$204.65	Amount __ & spent for the poor \$100 of which was gave by mayor.

The following extracts taken from our record, speak for themselves-

1868 "Jany. 1<sup>st</sup>. visited a sick girl on Elm St. took her two jars of fruit also visited two sick women on 9<sup>th</sup> street, went to the Ward Physician for prescription & to city Dispensary for medicine. Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> went to city Hospital. Distributed tracts read to & prayed with several & talked with a large number on the subject of \_\_. Jany. 4<sup>th</sup> Visited a sick man on Bates St., took him food & clothing & a blanket for his bed & sent him a physician. Also visited jail & gave reading matter. I \_\_ visited & relieved a soldier's family, also visited One of "our soldiers" on 2<sup>nd</sup> whose health was lost in the Army, paid his rent & took him and his family food & clothing. We found them shivering over a few dying embers, with nothing to eat on the house & not a cent of money to buy any thing. Afterward visited at Rolling Mill got the consent of a man & his wife to come to meeting at Friar M' Mission. They had not attended church for two years. Made arrangements with a lady there to hold a weekly female prayer meeting in her rooms. "Visited a sick soldier who lost his health while serving in the Union Army. His wife who was very sick & soon after died. During the illness they were Cared for by the sister, their rent was paid, food, clothing & medical aid furnished. "Another Sister reports visiting a very destitute woman on Biddle St. whose husband died last fall with Cholera. She was a cripple with seven small children & near her confinement. Took 4 of her children an industrial school, where they were provided with warm comforts, clothing & a warm dinner every day. Also thro' the kindness friends obtained clothing for infant & comforts for the mother during her confinement. Another sister reports the organization of a Sabbath School the first Sabbath in Jany., which before the month closed had an attendance of over a hundred. An infant class of 30 which she teaches. This sister "also visited a poor destitute sick woman, with 4 children. Found a home for one of them in the country with a Christian family. "also visited often & supplied many necessary wants of a poor widow. 112 years old - - One sister says "in her report "visited a sick German with a wife & three children. The husband has been suffering a long time with consumption, had become so feeble that he had to be fed. Gave them money to relive their necessities & purchase some little delicacies for the invalid. He knew that he could not live, felt prepared & willing to die & leave his family in the hands of God. He was anxious to partake of the sacrament of the "Lord's Supper" before he died & earnestly agreed that a minister might come & administer it to him. The sister brought Revd- City missionary.- The man was too feeble to talk much, but seemed to enjoy this precious privilege =. Have a solemn & \_\_ in City Hospital, as I entered ward 22 my attention was attracted to a poor sufferer in one of the corner cots. I seated myself by her side, & begged [page taped over] to speak to her of jesus, & read to her some his precious promises which [page taped over] seemed to comforted her greatly. When I was about to leave her, she said "Char lardy, I feel that you can sympathise with me in my affliction & I



would like to tell you what troubles me. My sickness is almost as much of the mind as of the body. As I lie here, think, oh my [page taped over] little family, who are dependent upon the charities of the world for thir daily bread I feel nearly \_\_\_ that we had a good home [page taped over] never knew what want was, until sickness laid my husband up for months before he died." I comforted her all I could too [page taped over] the address of the childrens home; and told her to trust in God [page taped over] would see that the little ones did not suffer after praying [page taped over] the sick mother I left her. The children were keeping house together in a small room, in one of the poorest localities in the city. [Page taped over] a girl of 13 years the youngest only 18 months. All that had kept them [page taped over] suffering from cold & hunger, was the meal & coal kindly furnished by the provident association. But the baby needed milk the rent was due and the landlord a hard rough man, declared they [page taped over] not remain longer unless it was paid. I just went & got a basket [page taped over] of \_\_, crackers, & butter, gave the daughter some money to buy milk for the baby. Then visited some benevolent ladies & told them of the children. The mother was sick over 4 weeks, I visited her at the Hospital & looked after the welfare of the children at home. The hereafter expression of gratitude I receive from mother & children make me feel that, truly, "It is more blessed to give than to receive"