

FOURTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF MANAGERS
OF THE
PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH MISSIONARY
SOCIETY FOR SEAMEN IN THE CITY AND
PORT OF NEW-YORK.

Read at the Annual Meeting of the Society, April 1848.

WITH THE
ANNIVERSARY SERMON,

BY

REV. ALEXANDER H. VINTON, D. D.

AND

MISSIONARIES' AND TREASURER'S REPORTS,
ETC. ETC.

New-York:
PRINTED FOR THE BOARD OF MANAGERS.

1848.

permission to the Board of Managers, is herewith appended to their Report.

At the Annual Meeting of the Society held on the 24th of April, the Reports, Constitution, and By-Laws, Donations, etc., were referred to the Board of Managers for printing, and an election held for Officers and Managers for the ensuing year.

It having been communicated to the Society that one of its Lay Vice-Presidents, Mr. C. S. Benedict, had suddenly been removed by death, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted, and ordered to be printed :

“Called in the providence of God to part with one of our Officers by death, and duly sensible of our loss of a *tried and faithful friend*, and of the admonition which its suddenness conveys to us,

“RESOLVED—That in the death of Mr. C. S. BENEDICT, our late Vice-President, we mourn the loss of one, whose intercourse with us was marked by modesty of demeanor, Christian courtesy, and a generosity ever prompt and active ; and that we truly sympathize with his relatives and friends in this sudden and afflictive dispensation, by which one endeared to them, not less by the social ties of life, than by those Christian graces which adorned and elevated him, has been removed from them and from an active usefulness.

“RESOLVED—That while we mourn his loss

for ourselves and those more intimately connected with him, it is “not as those without hope,” but in the trust and belief that he hath “entered into the rest prepared for the people of God.”

“RESOLVED—That these Resolutions be signed by the presiding Officer of this meeting and the Recording Secretary, under the seal of the Society, and transmitted by the Corresponding Secretary to the relatives of the deceased, as a testimony of our respect and esteem for our departed *Associate and Friend*.”

April 24th, 1848.

REPORT.

THE Board of Managers of "THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY FOR SEAMEN IN THE CITY AND PORT OF NEW-YORK," in fulfilment of their duty, now present this, the Fourth Annual Report of the operations of the Mission.

In reviewing the transactions of the past year, your Board regrets to say, that many and painful difficulties have been encountered in procuring the funds necessary for the support of the Mission. At the commencement of the year there existed a debt of \$ 1899.07, of which \$1340.71 was on account of the construction of the Chapel of THE HOLY COMFORTER, and which it has been the ardent desire of your Board to discharge, in order that this edifice might be consecrated to the service of Almighty God—The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. This debt has been discharged, and the Chapel was consecrated by the Right Rev. Alonzo Potter, D. D. Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, on Sunday morning, the second of April instant.

Your Board regrets to be obliged to report that there exists a deficiency in the general fund of the

Mission, amounting on the 24th instant, to about \$1300, as exhibited by the accompanying report of the Treasurer of the Society. Every expedient they could devise has been tried to relieve the Society from the embarrassment of this *debt*, but all their efforts have resulted only in meeting the current expenses, and reducing the indebtedness of the Mission to the sum just mentioned.

It is the opinion of your Board, that the Mission as now established can be sustained from the sources of revenue now accessible to them, if the existing debt is extinguished, and they most earnestly solicit the attention of the friends of this Mission to the subject. The sum required is very small compared with the great importance of the work, and it will surely be contributed when the necessity of the case, and the great good to be accomplished, are duly realized.

The Board would respectfully but earnestly invite the attention of the Clergy of this city, Brooklyn, and the neighboring towns, to the claims of this Mission upon their countenance and liberal support. The Convention of the Diocese has committed to this Society the sole charge of the spiritual interests of Seamen in this city and port, and has provided that each parish shall contribute to the support of its funds. A few parishes have given liberally of their substance to this object, but a majority of them have quite overlooked or entirely neglected this important and interesting branch of the missionary operations of the Church. Your Board hopes that each Parish Minister reading this, will in future afford to this Society, at least once in each year, a collection in his Church, or a contribution from its offerings for missionary purposes.

Among many plans devised by the Board for securing a revenue, there is one which they deem it important to mention in this report. By the kind permission of the owners and captains of a considerable number of our principal ocean steamers and packet ships, boxes for contributions to this Mission have been placed in their cabins, in the hope and belief that passengers would become peculiarly sensible of the importance of this work, when brought into close contact with seamen under all the circumstances of exposure and danger incident to a voyage. The Board particularly commends these boxes to the notice of each reader of this report, having it in his power to promote the object either as a ship-owner, officer, or passenger.

The progress of the Mission in its effects upon the spiritual character of Seamen and others, is in the highest degree encouraging. The past year has been fruitful in incidents, exhibiting a truly gratifying change in many who have heretofore "lived without God in the world." Our two Chapels have been open for Divine service every Sunday at least twice, and upon the principal Holy days of the Church during the year. One of them, (the Chapel of the Holy Comforter,) has been for some months past, open for a third service on Sunday evenings, which has been productive of some interesting incidents, encouraging its continuance.

Our two faithful Missionaries have given their whole time and attention to this important and interesting work; they have been indefatigable in their efforts for the spiritual benefit of such of their flock as the winds and waves have brought within their influence, and they have left no proper means untried to secure the attention and gain the confidence of the men we desire

to enlist as Soldiers of the Cross. The attendance at the Chapels has been very good, and the deportment of seamen in the House of God such as is well worthy of imitation. It has been uniformly remarked that they are particularly attentive to the services, and seem to be much gratified when they are assisted in finding their places in their Prayer Books. In the intercourse of our Missionaries with Seamen and Boatmen, many circumstances have occurred to encourage, in the highest degree, all engaged in the active duties of the Mission; the particulars of some of these will be found in the Reports of the Missionaries accompanying this. The members of your Board can bear personal testimony to these things, for they have repeatedly, and in turn, acted as visitors to the Chapels on Sundays; visiting the vessels and boats at the wharves, and inviting the attendance at the Chapels of such as they found on board; at the same time giving them *Tracts*, &c. They have been received on these occasions with almost uniform kindness, and it is a pleasing reflection that these labors may, under God, have produced some good fruits in leading these men to seek the "Way of Life."

By the Reports of our Missionaries, it appears that the records of the Chapels for the past year exhibit the following results, viz.

THE CHAPEL OF OUR SAVIOUR.

Baptisms	32
Confirmations	25
Communicants	35
Marriages	22
Burials	18

THE CHAPEL OF THE HOLY COMFORTER.

Baptisms	7
Confirmations (a class is now preparing)	0
Communicants	17
Marriages	3
Burials	2

These statistics exhibit very imperfectly what has been accomplished by this Mission. The good seed of the Word sown at our Floating Chapels, may never bring forth fruit visible to us, but we truly believe that in many a heart now afloat upon the trackless Ocean, this seed will produce an abundant harvest of repentance, faith, and obedience. Much ingenious argument has been used to prove that seamen could be made Christians. Experience has fully established in the minds of your Board the correctness of this opinion, and they look forward confidently to the day when our ships shall be manned by crews having the grace of God in their hearts, enabling them successfully to resist the temptations peculiar to their calling, and making them patterns of Christian men to the Heathen, with whom they come in contact in distant climes.

The importance of this Mission can scarcely be over-estimated; its field is emphatically the world! For what part of it is exempt from the visit of seamen? Make them Christians, and you will be sending to the Heathen of the coasts and islands of every sea, those whose precept and example will do much to facilitate the progress of the Gospel of our Saviour.

The success which has attended our efforts in behalf of seamen, has encouraged others to what has hereto-

fore been deemed a hopeless undertaking. Already has a society in Philadelphia commenced preparations for a Floating Church; a Committee of this Association recently visited this city, for the purpose of acquiring the benefit of our experience in this branch of Missionary service. Every facility was most cheerfully tendered to this Committee, and the gentlemen composing it seemed much gratified with their visit, and returned home encouraged to still greater activity in the good work. A similar effort has been commenced in New Orleans, where we believe a church has been, or is about to be, constructed for seamen. We sincerely hope that the same thing will be done in every important sea-port throughout our extensive country, so that wherever the sailor finds a harbor, he may also find the Sacraments and services of the Church, to give him strength to resist the temptations of the World, the Flesh, and the Devil.

Your Board would call the attention of the Church to one very important means in conducting this Mission successfully. Books are found at all times to be most acceptable to seamen and boatmen, and a great number of Bibles, Prayer Books, Tracts, and other religious publications, has been gratuitously distributed by our Missionaries. The funds to procure these are mainly derived from the boxes appropriated to that purpose in the Chapels; but the supply is quite inadequate to the purpose, and donations for this object will be most acceptable.

In conclusion, the Board of Managers would earnestly invite the attention of the Church at large to the importance of giving to this Mission a hearty and liberal support. The work of providing for the souls

of seamen, so long most shamefully neglected, has been commenced, and is now progressing successfully, with encouraging prospects for the future; but the progress of the Mission is retarded by the embarrassment of its debt, and by the difficulty of securing funds for its current expenses. Each person friendly to the cause is most urgently solicited to contribute something to the advancement of this excellent work; and all are affectionately requested to pray to our Heavenly Father that He will vouchsafe to prosper this effort, until all who plough the seas shall be gathered into one fold under one Shepherd, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

NEW-YORK, *April 24th*, 1848.

REPORT

OF THE REV. B. C. C. PARKER, MISSIONARY IN CHARGE
OF THE FLOATING CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR, AT THE
FOOT OF PIKE-STREET, NEW-YORK, FOR THE YEAR
ENDING APRIL 17TH, 1848.

YOUR Missionary, in making his Annual Report, desires to acknowledge with devout gratitude to Almighty God, His merciful and gracious help in the usefulness and success of this branch of the Society's labors.

The religious services of the chapel have been attended by a very large number of seamen during the past year; and in the interviews which your Missionary has had with some of them, his heart has been humbled and cheered by the avowal of religious impressions made on the minds of those who were before living without any religious aim or hope in the world. Their private journals have sometimes been seen by him on their return from long voyages, and it has been with no ordinary feelings of gratification that he has found in them mention made of the benefits they had received by their attendance on our services. He humbly hopes sinners have been converted under his ministrations, and that many have gone to sea with their faith strengthened, their hopes animated, and their spiritual life renewed.

The improvement of seamen in all our ports must be a *progressive* work. The promises of Him, who is "the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that remain in the broad sea," are being as plainly fulfilled among them as in the religious improvement of any other class of men to whom the ministers of Christ now preach. This impression has gone forth in the community, and is well substantiated by facts. The opinion is now justly prevalent, that through the improvement in the religious and moral character of seamen, both *life* and *property* in their hands are becoming *more safe*; in consequence of this, the good work in which the Society is engaged, has been greatly encouraged by those who are interested, in no ordinary degree, in the moral conduct and character of the crews of our ships.

The good impressions which have been made by the distribution, on every Sunday, of religious books to those bound immediately to sea, have been of the deepest and most permanent kind. [Over 1200 bound volumes, purchased through the liberal contributions of worshippers at the chapel and other friends, have been gratuitously distributed by your Missionary.] These impressions have been often avowed in their conversations by officers and seamen on their return from their voyages. Through the instrumentality of these books your Missionary is convinced that more religious benefit has been conferred than from all the labors he has been able to perform in any other way, as the books have been widely circulated in the steamers, the United States' vessels, and on board our merchant and whale ships, navigating all the oceans and seas of our globe. In those distant regions they have

touched the hearts of many far from the reach of any religious instructor's voice—and kept alive, in some instances newly implanted, religious impressions in the heart. These influences, as well as from the prayers, the ordinances, the sacraments, and preaching in the chapel, can only be fully known "on that day when the secrets of all hearts shall be revealed."

Twelve persons were confirmed in the chapel in April, 1847, by the Bishop of Michigan, and in the following June thirteen more by the Bishop of Western New-York. A seaman, who was baptised after being saved from a dreadful shipwreck, was confirmed in the month of February, in the Church of "The Holy Evangelists." One adult and thirty-one children have been baptized by your Missionary during the past year—twenty-two persons married, eighteen funerals attended. Over 300 Bibles, 200 Testaments, 250 Prayer Books, and 7000 pages of religious Tracts have been put by him into the hands of seamen—these were generously contributed by "The N. Y. Bible and Common Prayer Book Society," "The N. Y. Bible Society," "The Protestant Episcopal Tract Society," "The American Tract Society," "The Protestant Episcopal Sunday School Union," and by individuals from "The American Sunday School Union." Twenty communicants have been added—not more than thirty-five persons usually communicate at the Chapel on any occasion—the other communicants are for the most part absent at sea or in foreign ports; and some often sail from other ports, and but seldom visit New York.

B. C. C. PARKER.

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY FOR SEAMEN, NEW-YORK, BY THE REV. D. V. M. JOHNSON, MISSIONARY IN CHARGE OF THE FLOATING CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER.

NEW-YORK, April 17, 1848.

It is now one year and nearly seven months since the Church of the Holy Comforter was moored at the foot of Dey-street, on the North River. Your Missionary accepted the charge of it the first of March, 1847. And he herewith presents his first annual report.

Besides the two regular services upon the Lord's day, the Church has been opened for two services upon the greater Festivals and Fasts. For the last four months a third service has been added upon the Lord's day, which has called together a congregation mostly composed of seamen and boatmen. And it is exceedingly gratifying and encouraging to have such a continued increase in the number of attendants as we have experienced, since this service was commenced. The Sailor and the Boatman seem to delight in an evening service, and I am happy that, with the aid of some of my brethren, I have been enabled to give them these additional ministrations.

For about ten months past seamen and boatmen have been gratuitously supplied with Bibles, Prayer Books, Tracts, &c. after the afternoon service. The

amount of this distribution will here be given, together with such other statistics as the record furnishes.

238 Bibles—50 Testaments—300 Prayer Books—about 3000 Tracts—300 Sailor's Manual of Devotions, and about 275 other volumes of a moral and religious character. To meet this demand, the New-York Bible and Common Prayer Book Society has furnished 138 Bibles—278 Prayer Books.* The New-York Bible Society 100 Bibles and 50 Testaments, and Tracts from the New-York Protestant Episcopal Tract Society and the American Tract Society. The other books have been obtained with donations for this object from members of the Church, among whom I cannot refrain from mentioning those of the Parish of St. Paul's Church, New Haven.

This distribution gains for us an access to the Sailor and Boatman; and a Bible, accompanied with a Prayer Book and also some other well selected book, can scarcely fail of salutary impressions; and they have often been found productive of happy results.

The Parish register furnishes the following items:—Baptisms 7, (one adult)—Marriages 3—Funerals 2—Communicants 17.. There has been no Confirmation. A class, however, is now preparing for that holy rite.

The mission upon the North River is only in its infancy, but it is full of interest, and this interest is constantly increasing. Incidents have and are occurring in our experience, which show that God is with us, and has and will bless us, if we are only faithful. Week by week furnishes greater encouragement to renewed, and more vigorous, and more enlarged effort. Much, very much, has been done in this noble work—the good has followed, and we have seen it to our joy; and I

trust, with gratitude, have acknowledged Him who is the Author of every good and perfect gift. But when the time shall come, when our Church and her members will see and do their whole duty herein, in providing for the sailors a retreat, where they may remain while on land under her influence and accessible to her ministry at all times—where they will be cared for, that she may minister unto them and do them good in body and in soul—where their sick may be nursed and ministered unto by the ministry of reconciliation—their poor fed and clothed, and their children watched over, instructed, and trained up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, then it will be, that we shall see, the eyes and the hearts of seamen and boatmen drawn with wonder and astonishment towards this great provision which our blessed Lord has made for sinful and suffering man in the Gospel, and through his mysterious Cross and Passion. We trust that such a *home* will ere long be provided on the North River, through the abundance of the members of our Church. Our mission needs it. The sailor and the boatman need it.

Your Missionary has, in addition, been led to believe, that a lending library, connected with the Church, might be instrumental of good, and enable him to follow the boatman up and down the rivers and canals, while it serves to bring him more and more under his influence. He has accordingly purchased about one hundred volumes from monies which have been sent him for such purposes; and he proposes to add from time to time, to the numbers, as God shall put it into the hearts of his people to contribute towards such an object.

In conclusion, let me congratulate the Board upon the consecration of the Chapel of the Holy Comforter, for the accomplishment of which they have labored so steadily and zealously, that they might offer it unto the Lord, with no earthly claim upon it—to be His own—His own for worship, for prayer, for praise, for reading and preaching His holy word and administering His holy sacraments. And that it is FREE—*free for sailors and boatmen, for the poor and the needy*, to come and find rest unto their souls through Jesus Christ our Lord.

D. V. M. JOHNSON.

THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY FOR SEAMEN IN THE CITY AND PORT OF NEW-YORK, in account current with J. DAVENPORT, Treasurer, from April 5th, 1847, to April 17th, 1848.

Dr.

To paid Jarvis Johnson, in full for building contract	\$130 00
" " in full for bill of extra work	250 00
" " Geo. Jardine, in full for organ	
" " C. S. Demming, for tank and labor	
" " Rich'd Upjohn, Esq., superintending building of Chapel of "Holy Comforter"	
" " G. W. Betts, for carpeting	
" " J. Harkness, bill of pumps	
" " Polter & Mann, bill of chains	
" " Tucker, Cooper & Co., bill of rope	
" " M. O. Roberts, "	
" " A. H. Bennett, bill of liming work	
" " Loan from a member of the Board of Managers	
" Balance transferred to "Disposable Fund," February 4th, 1848, by vote of Board	
	\$1,169 72

J. DAVENPORT,
Treasurer.

NEW-YORK, 17th April, 1848.

PERMANENT FUND.

Cr.

By Balance on hand, April 5th, 1847	250 06
" Collection at Anniversary at Ascension Church, 11th April, 1847	197 79
" St. Stephen's Church, N. Y., donations	48 63
" All Saints' Church, N. Y., "	28 00
" St. George's Church, N. Y., " from a member	20 00
" Church of the Holy Communion, N. Y., donation	47 25
" St. Paul's Church, Sing Sing, N. Y.	9 25
" Trinity Church, New Haven	3 00
" Josiah L. Hale, donation	25 00
" Mrs. Ferrate, "	30 00
" Henry Chauncey \$25, J. Alsop, Jr., \$25	50 00
" R. B. Minum \$25, S. S. Howland \$25	50 00
" J. L. Aspinwall \$25, Stewart Brown \$20	45 00
" E. B. Graves \$20, W. S. Wetmore \$20	40 00
" Donations from sundry individuals	560 75
	\$1,169 72

Audited and found correct.
EDWARD HAIGHT, }
B. S. THOMAS, }
Auditing }
Committee.

April 22d, 1848.

THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY FOR SEAMEN IN THE CITY AND PORT OF NEW-YORK, in account current with J. DAVENPORT, Treasurer, from 5th April, 1847, to the 17th of April, 1848.

Dr. DISPOSABLE FUND. Cr.

To paid Rev. B. C. C. Parker, on acct. of salary, 1846 and 1847,	901 07	By balance on hand, 5th of April, 1847,	2057
" " Rev. D. V. M. Johnson, on account of salary, 1847 and 1848,	911 66	" Loan from a Member of the Board, two Notes at 90 days, \$500, less discount, \$9 01,	491 99
" " Chas. Hornberg, sexton of N. R. Chapel, on account of wages, 1847 and 1848,	226 50	" Estate of J. R. Van Renssalaer, Esq., through the Executor, Hon. Hamilton Fish,	50 00
" " J. G. Rowe, sexton E. R. Chapel, in full,	230 00	" J. W. Dominick, donation,	20 00
" " Joseph Lam, sexton of E. R. Chapel, on account,	10 00	" Sunday School of St. Stephen's Ch., N. Y.,	25 00
" " Nelson, sexton of E. R. Chapel, 1 week,	5 00	" A Member of St. Mark's Church, N. Y.,	20 00
" " Mrs. Leavenworth, organist of North R. Chapel, on account, 1847 and 1848,	115 00	" Rev. G. T. Bedell, donation,	20 00
" " Miss Cady and Mrs. Mirick, organist of E. R. Chapel, 1846 and 1847, on acct.	87 50	" Mrs. Helen Stuyvesant, donation,	20 00
" " Sundry Bills for Fuel, Lamps, Oil, Painting, &c., &c., for N. R. Chapel,	112 43	" General Mutual Ins. Co., N. Y., donation,	50 00
" " Sundry Bills for Painting, &c., &c., of E. R. Chapel,	42 64	" Union " " " " "	25 00
" " Jansen & Bell, balance of Bill for Printing 1845 and 1846,	37 75	" Mercantile " " " " "	75 00
" " Sundry Bills for Printing and Books	36 37	" Mutual Safety " " " " "	100 00
" " Wharfage N. R. Chapel, to 1st Feb. 1848,	348 00	" Sun Mutual " " " " "	200 00
" " " E. R. Chapel, from 1st Nov. 1847, to 1st Feb. 1848,	187 50	" Atlantic Mutual " " " " "	200 00
		" Grace Church, Van Vorst, N. J. "	1330
		" Calvary Church, N. Y. "	220 29
		" St. Thomas' Church, N. Y. "	50 00
		" St. Luke's Church, Brooklyn, N. Y. "	19 51
		" Grace Church, N. Y. "	220 00
		" Trinity Church, N. Y. to 1st of May, appropriations for Missionaries,	550 00
		" St. George's Church, N. Y. donation,	35 78
" " Howard Insurance Comp. for Insurance on the 2 Chapels, 1 year, \$3000 each,	75 00	" Trinity Church, Fairfield, Conn. donation,	35 50
" " Sundry expenses, opening room for meetings of managers, anniversary, &c.,	25 50	" St. Paul's Church, Sing Sing, N. Y. "	5 00
" " Rev. B. C. C. Parker, collections for Books at E. R. Chapel,	89 59	" St. Matthew's Church, Jersey City, "	17 67
" " Rev. D. V. M. Johnson, collection for Books at N. R. Chapel,	13 02	" Holy Trinity, Brooklyn, Church of, "	78 84
" " Bill for making and lettering boxes for Ships, three dozen,	68 56	" St. George's Church, Astoria, N. Y. "	14 00
" " Loan in part,	400 00	" St. George's Ch. Hempstead, L. I. "	14 39
" " Brown & Ingliss, bill of labor and materials on hull of N. R. Chapel,	272 48	" St. John's Church, Islip, L. I. "	3 86
" " McNeil & Barlow, bill for Painting of E. R. Chapel, 1846,	27 00	" St. George's Ch. Newburg, N. Y. "	40 63
" " C. L. Dennington, Carpenter's work, E. R. Chapel,	11 43	" St. Paul's Ch. New Haven, Conn. "	10 00
		" St. Paul's Church, N. Y. "	57 29
		" St. John's Church, Brooklyn, N. Y. "	29 62
		" St. Peter's Church, N. Y. "	44 72
		" St. Paul's Church, Glen Cove, N. Y. "	2 00
		" Collections at the Chapel of the Holy Comforter, N. R., for Books,	14 52
		" Collections at ditto, for the Mission,	113 93
		" Collections at the Chapel of our Saviour, E. R., for Books,	89 59
		" Collections at ditto, for the Mission,	58 31
		" Annual Subscriptions paid for 1847,	527 50
		" Donations from sundry Persons,	611 75
		" Amount transferred from "Permanent Fund," 4th of Feb. 1848,	38 44
	\$4,234 00		\$4,234 00

J. DAVENPORT, Treasurer.

Audited and found correct,

EDWARD HAIGHT, } Auditing
B. S. THOMAS, } Committee.

New-York, 17th April, 1848.

April 22d, 1848.

Total receipts for " Disposable Fund," 5th April, 1847, to 17th April, 1848,	\$4213 43
Total Receipts for " Permanent Fund," 5th April, 1847, to 17th April, 1848,	1144 66
	<hr/> \$5358 09
Balances 5th April, 1847, on hand,	
Permanent Fund, 25 06	
Disposable Fund, 20 57	45 63
	<hr/> 5403 72
Total payments,	
Disposable Fund, 4234 00	
Permanent Fund, 1169 72	\$5403 72
	<hr/>

This ends the Treasurer's Report to the Board for the year, and the occasion seems a proper one to venture a few remarks upon our past and present condition.

We commenced the year with a debt of \$1900, which at times has been increased to upwards of \$2200, with two Chapels and their Missionaries to sustain, somewhat doubtful of the *prudence* of our second undertaking, and with much anxiety for the future; we end it, having sustained an expenditure for current expenses of about \$3500, with our debt diminished to \$1300, and with an increase of friends, and a more extended and increasing usefulness. The anxiety which so long weighed upon our minds, and rendered the meetings of the Board of Managers peculiar for their financial expedients, has in a measure subsided, and is replaced by abundant hope for the future. For this result, we are largely indebted to the Marine Insurance Companies of this city, who, coming to our aid in our time of need, generously contributed to our funds, the sum of six hundred and fifty dollars.

I cannot, therefore, but congratulate you upon this result. You have done nobly in this noble cause, and have only to continue your usual efforts, pursuing steadily and perseveringly, the path which Providence seems to have indicated, to have your most sanguine wishes realized, your labors crowned with abundant spiritual success, and the seas of the wide world made, by God's blessing on your instrumentality, to sing together for joy at the new creation in Christ Jesus, of those who live and die upon their unstable surface.

I think, therefore, that we may truly congratulate our Church, Seamen, and ourselves, upon this auspicious closing of the year, and with thankful and devout hearts, address ourselves anew to our work, rejoicing that we are permitted to labor in so good a cause, and one so truly blessed of God.

Respectfully submitted,

J. DAVENPORT, *Treasurer.*

April 17th, 1848.

To the Board of Managers of the Protestant Episcopal Church }
Missionary Society for Seamen, New-York. }

OFFICERS AND MANAGERS OF THE SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT.

THE BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE.

CLERICAL VICE-PRESIDENTS.

REV. W. BERRIAN, D. D., REV. T. H. TAYLOR, D. D.,
 " H. J. WHITEHOUSE, D. D., " G. T. BEDELL, D. D.,
 REV. S. L. SOUTHARD.

LAY VICE-PRESIDENTS.

AUGUSTUS PROAL, HENRY MEIGS, JR.,
 J. R. LIVINGSTON, JR., B. S. THOMAS,
 CHAS. W. CARMER.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

HENRY FISHER.

RECORDING SECRETARY.

THOMAS P. CUMMINGS.

TREASURER.

JOHN DAVENPORT.

MANAGERS.

John C. Merritt, -	Edward Haight, -
Chas. Ely, -	Francis Many, -
Richard Sill, -	Chas. J. Chipp, -
Andrew H. Green, -	T. B. C. Berrian, -
F. H. Trowbridge, -	John L. Aspinwall, -
Theo. D. Meigs, -	Thos. W. Ogden, -
Worthington Romaine, -	Henry Rogers, -
Edw. M. Duncan, -	Geo. N. Titus, -
John V. Cox, -	Edward L. Houghton, -
W. R. Ronalds, -	W. C. Dayton, -
Alpheus Banning, -	Edmund M. Young, -
W. A. Smith, -	Jas. S. Sandford, -
Jas. W. Underhill, -	A. W. King, -
David H. Dick, -	Henry Drisler, -
John Wight, -	L. Augs. Bleecker, -
C. L. Dennington, -	John T. Adams, -
Geo. C. Morgan, -	Henry Kummell, -
Francis U. Johnston, -	Geo. W. Morell, -
Lewis S. Thomas, -	Geo. S. Parker, -
James R. Swords, -	N. M. Stratton, -
Isaac Fryer, -	Floyd Smith, Jr., -
Albert McNulty, -	Ellis Potter, -

S. B. Cauldwell, -
 R. B. Carrier, -
 Elizur Ward, -

John Neilson, Jr.,
 Lieut. F. B. Ellison, U. S. N.
 One vacancy.

COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS,

ELECTED FOR 1848.

COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS.

JOHN T. ADAMS, *Chairman*,

Jas. W. Underhill,	E. M. Young,
E. L. Houghton,	A. H. Green,
The Treasurer, <i>ex officio</i> .	

SUPERINTENDING COMM., CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR.

Augs. Proal,	Geo. C. Morgan,
H. Meigs, Jr.,	John Wight,
Thos. P. Cummings,	Henry Rogers,
Richard Sill,	James R. Swords,
W. Romaine,	Geo. S. Parker.

SUPERIN. COMM., CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER.

Edward Haight,	E. M. Young,
Chas. Ely,	B. S. Thomas,
F. H. Trowbridge,	Jas. S. Sandford,
L. Augs. Bleecker,	Chas. W. Carmer,
L. S. Thomas,	E. Ward.

PATRONS,

CONSTITUTED SUCH, BY THE PAYMENT AT ONE TIME, OF
 THE SUM OF ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS.

Mrs. Remsen,	John D. Wolfe,
Robt. B. Minturn,	Wm. H. Aspinwall,
Jacob R. LeRoy,	Wm. S. Wetmore,
Mrs. Banyer,	P. A. Schermerhorn,
Edgar Howland,	Geo. T. Fox, Jr.,
Henry Chauncey,	Boorman, Johnston & Co.,
Joseph Sands,	Hicks & Co.,
J. F. Butterworth.	

LIFE MEMBERS,

CONSTITUTED SUCH, BY THE PAYMENT OF FIFTEEN
DOLLARS OR MORE AT ONE TIME.

Stewart Brown,	Mrs. Pierrepont,
Adam Norrie,	Miss Pierrepont,
C. J. Aldis,	James S. Aspinwall,
John P. Stagg,	Alfred Edwards,
Edward Prime,	F. T. Peet,
L. M. Hoffman,	B. R. Winthrop,
Richard Irwin,	Miss Lorrillard,
S. T. Jones,	G. V. S. Roosevelt,
James A. Edgar,	W. A. Spencer,
James S. Tooker,	John D. Wolfe,
Saml. Bowne,	J. R. Moorewood,
R. Bowne,	David Austen,
W. N. Seymour,	Joseph Sampson,
Wm. Nelson,	H. D. Aldrich,
Moses Taylor,	Francis Tomes,
H. C. De Rhem,	D. A. Cushman,
John Griswold,	H. Merrill,
Wm. Couch,	Benj. Loder,
Miss Jay,	F. C. Tucker,
H. R. Bogert,	P. V. Hoffman,
G. T. Adee,	J. C. Boisseau,
Robt. Kermit,	W. E. Wilmerding,
Anna Watts,	Joseph Pettit,
Wm. B. Astor,	B. N. Benedict,
J. B. Herrick,	E. L. Houghton,
J. Alsop, Jr.,	John J. Kingsford,
Rev. G. T. Bedell,	Wm. Alexander Smith,
Eugene Dutilh,	Prosper M. Wetmore,
E. Boonen Graves,	C. W. Van Ness,
Josiah L. Hale,	Hickson W. Field,
John H. Ruckle,	T. P. Cummings,
John Wighs,	Denning Duer,
S. S. Howland,	Mrs. Ferrars,
Geo. Hastings,	J. W. Hamersley,
John L. Aspinwall,	Joseph Lawrence,
Hugh N. Camp,	Mrs. Helen Stuyvesant,
J. W. Dominick,	Joseph Walker,
W. W. De Forest,	

DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

PAID FOR THE FISCAL YEAR FROM 5TH APRIL, 1847,
TO 17TH APRIL, 1848.

J. D. Abrams	\$2 00	George Butler	\$1 00
Jas. S. Aspinwall	12 00	Rev. G. T. Bedell	20 00
Wm. Adams	2 00	J. A. Bogert	2 00
John T. Adams	2 00	Wm. Benjamin, Jr. and Co.	2 00
A. through T. N. Stanford	2 00	A. W. Woodford	2 00
N. K. Anthony	4 00	W. B. Cooper	2 00
Z. Alsop, Jr.	25 00	Abram L. Cox	2 00
John L. Aspinwall	25 00	S. M. Cornell	2 00
D. H. Arnold	10 00	Sidney Cornell	2 00
John Auchincloss	2 00	John V. Cox	5 00
David Austin	10 00	E. P. Clay	4 00
John Authon	5 00	T. P. Cummings	20 00
A. G. V.	25 00	C. J. Chapp	5 00
Mrs. Horatio Averill	2 00	J. M. Catlin	2 00
J. W. Alsop	2 00	Henry Chauncey	25 00
Charles J. Aldis	10 00	S. S. Cambrelong	2 00
A. G. P., Jr.	5 00	O. J. Cammann	2 00
Hugh Auchincloss	1 00	C. W. Carmer	12 00
Edmund Rutke	2 00	Mrs. H. S. Crail	2 00
A. J. Bleecker	2 00	Rev. Richard Cox	2 00
C. P. Burdett	2 00	S. T. Cary	12 00
S. De Babcock	3 00	W. H. Carter	2 00
A. L. Bleecker	2 00	Miss M. J. Coolidge	2 00
J. Buxton	2 00	J. S. Carpenter	2 00
Thomas Bull, Sen.	4 00	R. B. Currier	1 00
W. P. Bleecker	2 00	Cash through T. B. C. Berrian	5 00
Capt. C. C. Berry	2 00	Church St. Thomas, N. Y.	100 00
Mrs. Captain Berry	2 00	" Emanuel, Brooklyn,	
C. S. Benedict	15 00	" N. Y.	58 39
L. A. Bleecker	2 00	" Christ, Brooklyn, N. Y.	70 06
John Bakley	2 00	" Grace, N. Y.	471 00
Wm. M. Benjamin	1 00	" Zion, N. Y.	30 00
Thomas Bull, Jr.	2 00	" St. Paul, N. Y.	107 69
Charles Burdett	5 00	" Trinity, N. Y.	550 00
Wm. Burton	2 00	" St. Peter, N. Y.	44 72
C. N. Buck, Jr.	2 00	" Of the Holy Communion,	
Mrs. P. O. Byrd, Va.	1 50	" N. Y.	47 25
Sanford Brown	5 00	" Of the Epiphany Sunday	
James Bishop and Co.	5 00	" School, N. Y.	5 00
E. C. Boughton	5 00	" Calvary, N. Y.	340 20
Mrs. Louisa Battelle	2 00	" Christ, Poughkeepsie,	
Stewart Brown	20 00	" N. Y.	25 00
H. Bronx	2 00	" Ascension, N. Y. 197 79	
B. H. Butterworth	4 00	" less individual dona-	
Michael Burke	2 00	" tions credited by	134 79
Phillip Barrowes	2 00	" name	63 00
John H. Brower	5 00	" St. Stephen's, N. Y.	48 62
John H. Retts	2 00	" All Saints, N. Y.	28 00
Wm. Burger	2 00	Oswald Cammann	5 00
Mrs. L. Brewster	2 00	Cash through H. and J. Peck	0 00
Wm. C. Barrett	1 00	Rev. Chas. D. Cooper	10 50

Cash through R. Still	\$2 00	Thomas Dean	5 00
Cash through L. A. Bleecker	10 00	J. M. Davies	2 00
Cash through H. Kummell	1 00	Mr. Doremus	3 00
Mrs. Henry Chauncey	2 00	Eugene Dutill	15 00
Cash through R. B. Currier	4 50	H. E. Davies	5 00
Francis Smith	2 00	W. W. De Forest	5 00
Hugh N. Camp	20 00	J. W. Dominick	20 00
Charles Congdon	5 00	Daniel Dana, Jr.	1 00
S. B. Cauldwell	5 00	D. H.	5 00
Peter Cooper	5 00	Frederick Depewster	10 00
Charles Carville	5 00	George F. Everson	2 00
A. W. Clason, Jr.	1 00	G. S. Easton	2 00
A Churchman	20 00	Charles Ely	10 00
Cash through S. B. Cauldwell	7 00	N. J. Elliott	2 00
Cash through J. V. Cox	1 25	Wm. Elwes	1 00
Cash through L. A. Bleecker	2 00	E. W. L.	5 00
Church St. George's, N. Y.	35 78	Miss Evers	2 00
C. A. D.	5 00	Charles Easton	1 00
Church St. Paul's, Sing Sing, New York	14 25	" "Episcopalian"	5 00
" "Of the Holy Trinity, Brooklyn, N. Y.	78 84	E. K.	5 00
" "Trinity, Fairfield, Ct.	35 50	J. W. Fowler	7 00
" "St. Paul's, Glenn Cove	2 00	Henry Fisher	2 00
Capt. Copeland	6 50	Isaac Fryer	10 00
Church St. George's, Astoria, N.Y.	14 00	A Friend thro' W. R. Reynolds	3 00
Cash through J. T. Adams	3 30	John Frink	2 00
" "Sundries through Chas. C. Hatch	59 00	Charles Foster	5 00
Church St. George's, Hempstead, L. I.	15 39	Mrs. Ferrers thro' T. N. Stanford	30 00
" "St. John's, Islip, L. I.	3 86	J. G. Ferguson	2 00
" "St. George's, Newburgh, N. Y.	40 63	A Friend, thro' T. P. Cummings	16 00
" "St. Matthew's, Jersey City	17 87	Mrs. Colonel Fish	5 00
Miss E. T. Chardevoynes	2 00	F. A. Guyor	2 00
John Campbell	5 00	David Gardner	2 00
Thomas F. Coek, M.D.	5 00	George D. H. Gillespie	2 00
Church St. Mark's, N.Y.	1 50	Mrs. Isaac Gibson	2 00
" "St. Paul's, N. Haven, Ct.	10 00	Stephen Greenland	2 00
" "St. Paul's, N. Y.	57 29	E. B. Graves	22 00
" "St. John's, Brooklyn, N.Y.	29 62	Alexander Gwynne	1 00
" "St. Luke's, N. Y.	5 00	Henry R. Goff	2 00
Grace Church, Van Voorst, N. J.	13 30	G. T. S.	5 00
C. M. L.	5 00	Mr. Gilleland	2 00
Church Trinity, N. Haven	3 00	H. G. Griffin	2 00
" "St. Luke's, Brooklyn, NY	19 51	A. H. Green	2 00
Cash 3 Subscribers through John Wight	6 00	Miss H. M. Gerry	12 00
David H. Dick	4 00	Dayton Hobart	2 00
W. W. Dibbles	2 00	H. C. Hobart	2 00
E. M. Duncau	4 00	Ed. Haight	12 00
Do. do. from Sundries	20 00	W. H. Hobart, M.D.	2 00
W. A. Duncau	2 00	Miss Hoffman	1 00
C. Dubois, Jr.	2 00	Mrs. Hoffman	1 00
W. C. Dayton	2 00	Miss H. P. Hoffman	1 00
J. D.	7 00	James H. Hoffman	1 00
Denning Duer	17 00	C. C. Hoffman	1 00
Henry Drisler	5 00	L. M. Hoffman	4 00
Miss Elmira Deming	2 00	Mrs. D. Huntington	4 00
Miss Jan- Deming	2 00	D. Huntington	5 00
Joseph Dixon	2 00	P. Handford	2 00
C. L. Dennington	10 00	James Hurry	2 00
Miss Margaret Duffie	2 00	E. L. Houghton	20 00
		E. Houghton	2 00
		D. Mubbell Hoyt	4 00
		Jasper W. Hughes	2 00
		S. S. Howland	25 00
		J. W. Hamersley	15 00
		Josiah L. Hale	25 00

W. H. and J. Hyde	\$10 00	G. A. Mayher	\$3 00
Miss Hughes	0 75	H. J. Minor	1 00
William Hinton	2 00	John R. Maurice	7 00
Henry G. Hadden	3 00	John C. Morrison	1 00
J. H. Headley	1 00	T. B. Merrick	1 00
Richard Hasluck	5 00	John Morris, Jr.	2 00
Bailey J. Hathaway	2 00	R. Morgan	1 00
John Halcy	2 00	Thos. G. Marsh	2 00
Rev. Dr. Henry	2 00	Horace H. Moore	2 00
J. W. Hunter	2 00	J. P. Mumford	2 00
Mrs. Jacobs	2 00	Mr. Moore	2 00
John Jay	2 00	Miss A. C. Moyer	2 00
Isaac A. Johnson	5 00	Member St. Mark's Ch., N. Y.	20 00
Oscar Johnson	2 00	" "St. Luke's Church, Brook- lyn, New-York	5 00
J. A. T.	2 00	Mrs. Maxwell	2 00
Mrs. M. Johnson	2 00	Albert McNulty	1 00
Mrs. M. through J. V. Cox	10 00	John A. McVickar	2 00
General Mutual Insurance Com- pany	50 00	H. G. Nichols	4 00
Union " " "	25 00	Step. P. Nash	4 00
Mercantile " " "	75 00	M. T. Nicholson	2 00
Mutual Safety " " "	100 00	Wm. Nelson	10 00
Sun Mutual " " "	200 00	John Neilson, Jr.	7 00
Atlantic " " "	200 00	E. H. Nichols	2 00
Chester Jennings	2 00	John Noble	10 00
J. M. Kupfer	2 00	N. W., through T. W. Ogden	20 00
J. R. Kearney	2 00	Mrs. S. H. Nichols	2 00
D. Kingsland	2 00	John Ogden	2 00
John J. Kingsford	15 00	Mrs. Henry Owen	2 00
A. W. King, from Sundries	11 00	Mrs. John Patterson	1 00
Henry Kummell	2 00	David Perkins	2 00
J. R. Lewis	2 00	Wm. Poole	2 00
B. Livizaton	2 00	W. S. Popham	2 00
Stephen R. Lounsbury	2 00	W. H. Popham	2 00
James H. Lounsbury	2 00	Capt. Augustus Proal	2 00
A Lady, through Floyd Smith, Jr.	3 00	Ellis Potter	2 00
Robert Lewis	10 00	Geo. S. Parker	7 00
Joseph Lawrence	20 00	Capt. N. Palmer	5 00
Richard Lawrence	5 00	J. N. Perkins	10 00
A Lady, through J. R. Swords	5 00	Elezazer Porter	3 00
Mrs. Henry Laight	10 00	John Paine	2 00
A Lady Friend, through J. R. Swords	5 00	J. M. Phyfe	5 00
L. X. or X. L.	10 00	A Presbyterian, through F. H. Trowbridge	2 00
Cambridge Livingston	2 00	A Presbyterian, through Mr. Abrams	2 00
G. W. Morris	10 00	John M. Patterson	2 00
A. B. McDonald	4 00	J. H. Perkins	2 00
Thomas Messenger	4 00	Mrs. Pierrepont	2 00
Henry Messenger	4 00	C. N. S. Rowland	4 00
H. P. Marshall	2 00	P. R. Roach	4 00
J. R. Morewood	3 00	Jas. E. Ray	2 00
A. L. McDonald	2 00	Henry Rogers	2 00
Theodore D. Meigs	4 00	Miss C. Rogers	2 00
Mrs. P. E. F. McDonald	2 00	Miss F. M. Rogers	2 00
Henry Meigs, Jr.	12 00	Doct. J. S. Rogers	2 00
George D. Morgan	2 00	Mrs. S. A. Remson	2 00
John C. Merritt	2 00	Chas. R. A. Routh	2 00
Hector Morrison	1 00	Fred. R. Routh	2 00
J. Miller	1 00	Saumerez L. Routh	2 00
Clarkson G. Mitchell	2 00	E. Rossiter	2 00
R. B. Mintura	25 00	John H. Kuckel	15 00
George Merritt	5 00	Richardson & Watson	10 00
R. W. Martin	1 00	John A. Robinson	10 00
Wm. Marshall	5 00		

Rev. Doct. Ramsay	\$1 00	Geo. P. Titus	4 00
Walter Roome	2 00	Fanning C. Tucker	5 00
J. H. Raymond	2 00	Lewis S. Thomas	20 00
H. De Bar Routh	2 00	Fredrick Tinson	4 00
Robert Reed	2 00	Mrs. Wm. C. Talmadge	6 00
G. S. Rainsford	3 00	John S. Tooker	10 00
L. M. Rutherford	3 00	Mrs. Tillott	1 00
Chas. W. Sandford	2 00	Ray Tompkins	10 00
R. H. Sawyer	2 00	Geo. F. Thomas	10 00
G. C. T. Seaman	2 00	Mrs. Tibbatts	2 00
Jas. S. Sandford	2 00	Lewis F. Therasson	2 00
Arthur Stewart	4 00	Richard Upjohn	36 50
John H. Swift	2 00	S. Verplanck	4 00
Wm. Alex. Smith	40 00	Wm. Van Hook	2 00
W. N. Seymour	10 00	C. W. Van Ness	15 00
Floyd Smith, Jr.,	2 00	E. Van Bokelen	1 00
A. Sherman	2 00	Estate of J. R. Van Rensselaer	50 00
A. B. Sands	2 00	R. D. Van Wageningen	4 00
Chas. R. Swords	2 00	Mrs. J. R. Van Rensselaer	2 00
Richard Sill	3 00	R. M. Ward	2 00
Jas. R. Swords	3 00	Moses Ward	2 00
H. E. Strange	5 00	Timy Whittemore	2 00
W. A. Spencer	20 00	Henry Whittemore	2 00
Francis Smith	2 00	A. R. Walsh	2 00
John P. Stagg	5 00	Mrs. Wickham	1 00
Nathan Starr	2 00	Wm. H. Weston	2 00
Mrs. Henry Sheldon	2 00	Capt. John Wight	20 33
C. B. Sampson	1 00	J. W. Winans	2 00
J. and J. Stuart	10 00	Miss M. Woodruff	2 00
Jos. A. Sprague	2 00	Miss E. Woodruff	3 00
McNeil Seymour	6 00	Hiram Wanzler	1 00
Miss Starger	0 50	Prosper M. Wetmore	15 00
S. C., through G. W. Morrell	5 00	John H. Williams	5 00
D. H. Stebbins	5 00	John H. Williams, Jr.,	10 00
Member of St. George's Church	5 00	Reuben Withers	2 00
Mark Spencer	10 00	J. B. Wurdie	1 00
Cash, sundries, by Mr. Stratton	11 00	Joseph Walker	15 00
H. I. Seaman	2 00	T. L. Walls	1 00
S. E. B., through L. A. Bleecker,	2 00	Eli White	1 00
Sunday School, St. Stephens Ch.,		Wotherspoon & Co.	5 00
N. Y.	25 00	Christopher Wolfe	10 00
Mrs. Helen Stuyvesant	30 00	W. M., through T. W. Ogden	25 00
Ship Burgundy	1 21	Wm. S. Wetmore	20 00
S. Ship Southerner	6 55	Miss Wright	1 00
" " Northerner	3 35	David Wagstaff	2 00
" " Hermann	7 88	W., through G. W. Morrell	5 00
Ship Silas Holmes	2 25	Wm. Whitlock	5 00
A. H. Suowden	2 00	Miss Elvise R. Wiswall	2 00
Ship Liverpool	1 30	Wetmore & Co.	10 00
"Seamen's Friend"	20 00	Capt. Thos. M. Wilson	2 00
Ship Queen of the West	1 45	Ed. Whitehouse	2 00
Ships, sundries	1 38	Elizur Ward	2 00
F. H. Trowbridge	10 00	Capt. Wm. H. Wilson	2 00
J. P. Thompson	2 00	Hosea Webster	2 00
Henry Trowbridge	2 00	W. W. Wright	2 00
Benj. S. Thomas	5 00	Ed. M. Young	2 00
Miss Elizabeth Terrill	2 00	C. F. Zimmerman	5 00

AN ACT

TO INCORPORATE THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MISSIONARY SOCIETY FOR SEAMEN IN THE CITY AND
PORT OF NEW-YORK.

[PASSED APRIL 12, 1844, BY A TWO-THIRD VOTE.]

The People of the State of New-York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. REV. SMYTH PYNE, GEORGE N. TITUS, J. R. VAN RENSSELAER, PIERRE E. F. McDONALD, and AUGUSTUS PROAL, and their associates, being members of a Missionary Society attached to the Protestant Episcopal Church, in the City of New-York, and their successors, are hereby declared to be a body politic and corporate, by the name of the "THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY FOR SEAMEN IN THE CITY AND PORT OF NEW-YORK," and as such shall possess all the general rights and privileges of a corporation, as the same are declared in the third title of the eighteenth chapter of the first part of the Revised Statutes.

§ II. The objects of the said Society are declared to be, to provide by building, purchase, hiring, or otherwise, so many floating and other churches for seamen, at different points in the City and Port of New-York, as they may deem proper: in which churches the seats shall be free; and to provide suitable clergymen, to act as missionaries in the said churches.

§ III. The corporation hereby created shall be subject to all the provisions and restrictions contained in the 10th, 11th, and 12th sections of the act, entitled "An Act for the Incorporation of Religious Societies," passed April 5th, 1813.

§ IV. The members of the corporation hereby created shall, by their By-Laws, prescribe the number and description of officers to manage its concerns, the duration of their offices, the time and manner of their elections, and their duties and powers.

§ V. The Legislature may at any time alter or repeal this act, which shall be in force from the time of its passage.

STATE OF NEW-YORK, }
Secretary's Office. }

I have compared the preceding with an original act of the Legislature, deposited in this office, and do certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of said original.

ARCH. CAMPBELL, *Dep. Sec'y of State.*

ALBANY, April 18, 1844.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY FOR SEAMEN IN THE CITY AND PORT OF NEW-YORK.

ARTICLE I.—Name.

Agreeably to the Act of Incorporation, this Society shall be called "*The Protestant Episcopal Church Missionary Society for Seamen in the City and Port of New-York.*"

ARTICLE II.—Objects.

The objects of this Society (as declared by the said act) are "to provide by building, purchase, hiring, or otherwise, so many floating and other churches for seamen, at different points in the city and port of New-York, as they may deem proper, in which churches the seats shall be free; and to provide suitable clergymen to act as missionaries in the said churches."

ARTICLE III.—Members.

The members of this Society shall be, all *Clergymen* residing in the city of New-York, and canonically connected with this diocese; *Patrons*, paying to the Treasurer one hundred dollars or more, at one time; and *Life Members*, paying fifteen dollars or more, at one time; and *Annual Subscribers*, making an annual contribution of not less than one dollar.

ARTICLE IV.—Officers.

The Bishop of the Diocese of New-York shall be *ex officio* President of this Society. There shall also be five clerical and five lay Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, and a Treasurer, to be chosen by the Society at each annual meeting, *by ballot*, (unless that mode be dispensed with by a vote of two thirds of those present.) The officers shall sustain the same relation to the Board of Managers. They shall continue in office until the next annual meeting, and until others are chosen in their places.

ARTICLE V.—*Managers.*

The managers of this Society shall consist of the officers, patrons, all clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church residing in the city of New-York, and entitled to seats in the convention of the diocese, and fifty lay managers, to be chosen at the annual meeting from the Church at large in the city of New-York. Any fifteen of these managers, including the President or one of the Vice-Presidents, shall be a quorum.

ARTICLE VI.—*Vacancies.*

Each officer of the Society shall be forthwith notified by the Secretary of his election; and unless his acceptance is signified within one month after such notification, his office shall be considered vacant, and the Board shall proceed to supply the same. Any lay manager absenting himself from more than two successive meetings of the Board, his station may be considered vacant, and be supplied by the Board. The Board shall have power to supply vacancies occurring in any other manner between the stated elections, in any of the officers or in their own number.

ARTICLE VII.—*By-Laws, &c., of the Board.*

The Board of Managers shall have power to pass By-Laws and Rules of Order for their own government. They shall make an annual report of their proceedings at each anniversary of this Society.

ARTICLE VIII.—*Meetings.*

There shall be monthly meetings of the Managers, and an annual meeting of the Society for the election of officers and lay managers, on the evening of Monday in Easter week. Special meetings of the Board, or of the Society, may be called by the President, or in case of his absence from the city, by the senior Vice-President present in the city.

ARTICLE IX.—*Of the Presiding Officer.*

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board or of the Society. In case of his absence, the senior Vice-President, who may be present, shall preside. The presiding officer shall not vote on any question, unless there be an equal division of the members present, in which case he shall give the casting vote. He shall appoint all committees not otherwise specially provided for.

ARTICLE X.—*Duties of the Secretaries.*

The *Corresponding Secretary* shall be charged with the correspondence of the Society, under the direction of the Board of Managers.

The *Recording Secretary* shall keep the minutes of the Society and of the Board, and give notice to each manager of all meetings. He shall carefully preserve the records and all papers directed by the Board to be filed. He shall keep the seal, and attest all acts of the Society.

ARTICLE XI.—*Duties of the Treasurer.*

The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds of the Society, and keep accurate accounts of the same. He shall acknowledge every payment made to him, in such church periodical as is published under the supervision of the Bishop. He shall pay out no money without a previous appropriation of the Board of Managers. It shall be his duty to make a report of the receipts and expenditures at each meeting of the Board, and a full and particular report of the same before each annual meeting. His accounts shall be audited by a Committee appointed for that purpose before each annual meeting, and whenever the Board may direct.

ARTICLE XII.—*Funds.*

The monies of the Society, shall consist of a *Permanent Fund*, and a *Disposable Fund*, under the direction of the Board of Managers. The Permanent Fund shall consist of all contributions expressly appropriated to the purpose by the donors, and of such monies as may be so appropriated by the managers. The Permanent Fund, or any part thereof, may be appropriated by the managers to the purchase of, and payment for, buildings and vessels for the use of the Society.

ARTICLE XIII.—*Appointment of Missionaries.*

In the appointment of Missionaries, the Board of Managers shall nominate, subject to the approval of the Bishop, and in case of a vacancy in the episcopate, subject to the approval of the standing committee of this diocese.

ARTICLE XIV.—*Alterations.*

No alteration or addition shall be made in these Constitutional By-Laws, except at an annual meeting of the Society, by the vote of two-thirds of the members present, and with the approbation of the Bishop, or in case of a vacancy in the episcopate, with the approbation of the standing committee of the diocese.

ARTICLE III.—*Superintending Committees.*

SECTION 1. At the first meeting of the Board of Managers every year, there shall be elected by ballot a Committee of Superintendence for each Missionary station, to consist of ten persons, to be chosen from among the lay members of the Board. All vacancies occurring in these committees between the annual elections, may be filled at any meeting of the Board, and the members shall hold their places until their successors are appointed.

§ 2. Each Missionary shall be Chairman of the Committee of Superintendence of his station.

§ 3. The Committees of Superintendence shall be entrusted with the general supervision of the temporal affairs of their respective churches, and of the schools connected with them. They shall take charge of all collections in their respective churches, and pay the same to the Treasurer of the Society. They shall report at each stated meeting of the Board, recommending such appropriations as they may deem necessary for the incidental expenses of their respective stations, the disbursement of which shall be under their control.

§ 4. There shall be at least one member of each Superintending Committee present at one service on each Sunday in their respective churches.

ARTICLE IV.—*Visiting Committee.*

SECTION 1. At each stated meeting of the Board of Managers, a committee of eight for each station shall be appointed from the lay members of the Board, to be called the Seamen's Visiting Committees.

§ 2. It shall be the duty of two members of each committee to attend every regular service in their respective churches, to assist the Missionary in visiting the seamen's boarding houses or vessels in port, for the purpose of inviting seamen to attend service. They shall report to the Board the number who have thus been brought to attend, and what proportion of the congregation were apparently seamen.

ARTICLE V.—*Committee of Ways and Means.*

SECTION 1. There shall be a Standing Committee of the Board of Managers, to be called the Committee of Ways and Means, to consist of six lay members, of whom the Treasurer shall be *ex-officio* one. The other members shall be chosen by ballot at the meeting of the Board next after the annual meeting of the Society, the Board being competent at any time to fill vacancies in this committee.

§ 2. This committee shall meet from time to time to devise means for increasing and improving the funds of the Society.

§ 3. The committee shall report to the Board of Managers at each stated meeting.

ARTICLE VI.—*Vacancies.*

SECTION 1. Whenever a vacancy occurs in the Board of Mana-

BY-LAWS.

OF THE

BOARD OF MANAGERS.

ARTICLE I.—*Of Meetings.*

SECTION 1. The stated meeting of the Board of Managers required by the 8th article of the Constitutional By-Laws, shall be held on the second Monday in each month.

§ 2. There shall also be a meeting of the Board of Managers on the Monday next before Easter.

§ 3. The order of proceedings, at every stated meeting of the Board, shall be as follows:

1. Devotions by the Presiding Officer.
2. Reading and approval of the minutes.
3. Calling of the Roll.
4. Communications from
 - (1.) President and Vice-Presidents.
 - (2.) Secretaries.
 - (3.) Treasurer.
5. Reports of Seamen's Missionaries.
6. Communications and Reports from the following Standing Committees:
 - (1.) Superintending Committees.
 - (2.) Visiting Committee.
 - (3.) Committee of Ways and Means.
7. Reports from Special Committees.
8. Miscellaneous business.
9. Devotions.

ARTICLE II.—*Seamen's Missionaries.*

SECTION 1. Every Missionary appointed agreeably to the Constitutional By-Laws, shall occupy such station, perform such duties, and receive such salary, as the Board of Managers may direct.

§ 2. Each Missionary shall report to the Board of Managers at their stated meetings. In this report he shall state whatever he may think calculated to advance the cause of the Mission. He shall also prepare and present the usual Missionary Report to the Bishop.

gers or any of the officers thereof, nominations shall be made at one stated meeting, and the elections be held at the subsequent one, and it shall be the duty of the person nominating, to ascertain, prior to the election, whether the individual nominated will accept the office.

ARTICLE VII.—*Special Committees.*

The annual report of the Board Managers shall be prepared by a Special Committee, to be chosen by ballot, who shall report to the Board at the meeting on the Monday next before Easter. A Special Committee shall also be appointed to make arrangements for the annual meeting of the Society.

ARTICLE VIII.—*Rules of Order.*

SECTION 1. When the report of a committee is presented it shall be read, and if so ordered by the Board, entered on the minutes. If accompanied with resolutions, the resolutions shall be separately considered.

§ 2. When a question is before the Board, it shall be in order to postpone, divide, amend, or commit; and a motion for any one of these proceedings may be considered, precedence being taken in the order named.

§ 3. The ayes and noes shall be called, when desired, by five members.

§ 4. On all questions of order the President shall decide, subject to an appeal to the Board.

§ 5. No member may speak more than twice upon the same question, without leave of the Board.

§ 6. A question being decided, shall not be reconsidered during the same meeting, without the consent of two-thirds of the members present.

§ 7. The question of adjournment shall always be in order, and shall be put without debate.

§ 8. All Special committees shall be appointed by the Chair, unless otherwise directed by a special resolution of the Board.

§ 9. All reports and resolutions shall be reduced to writing before they are offered to the Board.

ARTICLE IX.—*Of Balloting.*

The balloting required by articles 3d, 5th, and 7th, may be dispensed with, by consent of two-thirds of the managers present.

ARTICLE X.—*Of Amendments.*

No alteration of these By-Laws, and no addition to them shall be made, without being considered at two meetings of the Board of Managers.

A SERMON

PREACHED AT THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE

P. E. MISSIONARY SOCIETY FOR SEAMEN,

IN

THE CITY OF NEW-YORK,

ON

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER, APRIL 30TH, 1848,

BY

ALEXANDER H. VINTON,

RECTOR OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, BOSTON.

PUBLISHED BY REQUEST OF THE SOCIETY.

NEW-YORK :

STANFORD AND SWORDS, 139, BROADWAY.

1848.

SERMON.

“They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters.”—*Psalm cvii.* 23.

THESE are the persons of whom I am to speak to you this evening. In God's name, whose way is in the sea, and whose path is in the mighty waters; in the name of the incarnate Son, whose first and holiest intimacies were with mariners; and in the blessed Spirit's name, who has often brooded on the bosom of the deep, and has caused many a soul to be born to life everlasting; in the name of society and its interests; of humanity and its sufferings, I plead the cause of them “that go down to the sea in ships, and do business in great waters.”

You are aware that we are this evening to offer our alms for the support of the Seaman's Mission in this city. And, in order that we may give understandingly, give with our hearts, it may be well to review the character, condition, and prospects of the class of persons for whom our interest is demanded. They go to make up the great family of our brothers; and yet by the singular allotment of their life, they are practically aliens from all that adorns and strengthens

the bond of brotherhood. They are strangers to the genial influences of *home*—strangers in the yet larger circles of social intercourse—unknown in the parlor, in the public assemblies, on the exchange, in the Church. Where citizens congregate, the sailor is not found. The wharf is his landing-place, and his starting-place, and the only resting-place of his untravelled feet, for his short sojourn on shore. Neither is the ship *his home*. It is to him as it is to others, only the vehicle of his restless wanderings. All the images of quiet, of repose, of sympathy, of oneness, which enter, as elements, into our favorite idea of home, are strange things to the minds of these world travellers. These images find no answering things on ship-board. A crew of strangers thrown together by mere accident—unchosen and unloved—bound together by nothing stronger than the influence of position, and this of the most transient sort; voyagers together for a year, never, perhaps, to meet again—there is little or nothing to blend many hearts into one, nothing to imbue the soul with tenderness, or inspire it with those steady purposes of labor and perseverance for others' good, which are born only amidst the loves of the household, warmed at the domestic hearth, and disciplined by the forbearance and concession to others as dear as our other selves. The deck, the fore-castle, or the yard-arm, is no trysting place, no rendezvous of loving hearts to which the thoughts turn many times in the din of the day, and where the whole man can repose in the sober rest of the evening.

The seaman has no day, no night, no sure repose. His life is not measured thus—his toil may be hardest

in the night time, and unintermitted for days and nights. He is the quick, obedient servant of the most capricious power on earth. He is unchangeably bound to nothing, except that which is the most changeful of all things. The tossing waves and the shifting breeze, are the signs, as they are the means, of his unsteady love. Such a condition as this, baffles all man's instinct for home and its joys, until he loses both the longing and the conception. The heart grows to be a travelled and a wandering heart; and from being an effect, becomes in its turn a cause, until the seafarer never can have a home. There may sometimes be a remembrance not yet died out, of a home where the boyish heart used to love, and revel, and laugh, the image of a blest mother, of a play-mate sister, of long winter evenings of contentment, and long summer days of happy labor. All these, garnishing the sunny scene of home, with its out-spread green fields, hills, woods, and waters, may draw themselves out before the memory of some thoughtful mariner, as he lies aloft in the rigging, or walks his watch on deck, and fill him with the distinct assurance that these once made a part of his daily life. But yet with this, there is not less distinct assurance that they can never become his again. And, although with these restored images of his boyhood, there will be a resurrection of his boyish tenderness, yet, he feels he cannot always be a boy. The home that he remembers so touchingly, is not a thing that does or can belong to his present condition. It forms no part of his future, nor of his present, and, therefore, it influences not his practical life. He wipes it away from his memory, as he wipes away its tear from his eye, and rouses the man within him, to attend to the duties

which he feels are, and are to be his whole mortal condition of *homelessness*. This is the saddest feature of a sailor's condition, and one which has attracted most powerfully the thoughts of philanthropy, that he has *no home*; nothing to make a home of, no wife, no children, no domestic fraternity, no snug harbor for his heart to rest and anchor in. I do not speak thus of all, but of so great a majority as to make it safe to say it is true of the body of common seamen as a class.

The effect of this condition has a twofold mischief. It re-acts unfavorably upon the sailor's condition, and it operates to produce some of the worst vices of his character. In consequence of the sailor's homelessness, he has no place, no rank in the social scale. The world, says an old writer, is divided into three classes, men, women, and sailors. A wanderer on the face of the deep, he is no less a wanderer upon the land. Every part is equally, because not at all, his home. While society at large is constantly reaping the benefit of his labors, it never recognizes the hand whose agency procured them all. The luxuries of the table, of the wardrobe, of the parlor; the outward comforts of our common subsistence; the refinements of art; the refreshment of literature; every thing in fact, which is the fruit of the highest civilization, all the advancement of mind and character, springing from the collision and communion of national intercourse, the emulation of foreign example, and above all, the enlargement of the human sympathies, to embrace the world in the feeling of brotherhood and philanthropy, these which are the dignified results of commerce—are all of the sailor's procuring. He may

seem the uninterested agent—a mere machine in the work—and as society is now arranged, he is, indeed, nothing more. For society does not recognize him as one of its members. She has no place for him on shore. She leaves him to be entrapped by the first villain that takes him by the hand. And he is entrapped. No sooner does his foot touch the shore—nay, no sooner does the anchor rest in the bed of the bay, than he is assailed by some of the agents of wickedness, of both sexes, offering him the temptations of what is now only the vile substitute for home. Herding only with his shipmates, as unrestrained and desolate as he, or with others far more wicked, whom society has sloughed off like a gangrene; he lingers on shore only long enough to be stripped of his gains, as a sheep is shorn of his fleece, still unrecognized as one of society's living things, until he is needed again for the labors of commerce, and then the active men of the community seem to know that there is such a thing as a sailor. The only point, I will not say of contact, but of approach, which the common seaman bears to the great body of the community, is, then, by his unthought of, unanswered labors for the general weal. He does not even come near us as an object of charity, to make us feel that he is our brother. Neither our alms nor our taxes are made higher on his account. He is a stranger every where, on the land or on the deep. If he die on the water, the great oblivious sea buries him out of sight no more effectually than he was already buried out of mind. If he die on land, his own company of strangers bury him where they may. If he live and grow old, the hospital which his own taxed earnings has built and

endowed, receives him to his last living abode, but still not a home. Every where he is unrecognized, and every where unmissed. His life is typified by the ship in which he sails, cutting its way through all waters, but leaving no track in any.

Now, the character of the seaman cast in the mould of such a lot as this, must be singularly, all his own. We look upon him unconsciously as a strange being, whose impulses and feelings are unlike those of all other men. The peculiar isolation of his condition, while it prevents the sober, steady love of domestic life, does not rob him of the power of feeling. Nature has a rule of compensation, and the fires of his being, if they cannot burn gently at the family hearth, and smoulder away easily as his life goes out amidst the daily endearments of the household, will burst out at some other vent when the pressure is removed, and glare up fiercely and fitfully. All his unspent energies will gather themselves into every action. His freedom from restraint makes him reckless, daring, impulsive. While his vices will be more flagrant than other men's, his virtues will be more open. He is apt to be heartlessly cruel or dashing generous, courageously good or boldly bad. His gifts are bounties, his kindness is self-sacrifice. His piety is intrepid as a martyr's. While, on the other hand, his resentments are apt to be murderous, and his profaneness is blasphemy. Remember I am speaking of them as a class. I make all due allowance for the difference of natural constitution and early education. I am now estimating the professional character which is produced by the circumstances of their peculiar life, such as in every profession stamps a likeness upon all its mem-

bers. It is in this respect that the sailor is what he is, always and every where. I have already ascribed this peculiarity to that most remarkable feature of his life, his want of a home. But I do not mean to deny the power of other influences in shaping his character. And they are certainly very powerful. The very spirit of adventure, the lust of seeing which made the boy a truant, in the first place, from his mother's side and the house of his birth, has not died in his bosom yet; and it is an enlarging thing of itself. It turns the boy into a premature man, and makes the man himself taller than other men. The mind and will that determine a life of enterprise, must have no small influence on all the subsequent character. And the very fact of enterprising, stiffens all the ambitious energies of the youth into a hardy shape. It inures him to toil, to self-denial, and patient endurance. It makes him indifferent to danger, either by shutting his eyes to it, or nerving him to brave it with his eyes open. It develops, in a word, the whole manhood to a pitch of courage and skill which few circumstances beside can induce. Battling with polar frosts or resisting tropical heats; sailing among icebergs or in a simoon; becalmed or bestormed; floating freely before a fair gale or drifting disastrously before a foul; now in deep water, now in shoal and rock; lying idly upon the basking deck with every faculty unstrung, and presently stretching to the perilous yard-arm, with every energy agonized with effort; now tossed up like a mad thing to kiss the clouds; then suddenly pitching as if to be embraced of the black gulf—this is the seaman's life, and it is not strange if it should create a sailor character. Hung, as he seems to be,

by a single cord always over the grave, it must be that his feelings and impulses will be such as no other men have. The most dependent of all men upon hidden causes, he seems the most independent and free. The sport of alternate hope and fear, he knows more variations of feeling than all men beside. The victim of sudden changes, the fluctuations of feeling grow to be no less sudden. Dealing with the mightiest powers of the world, the wind and the sea, the very types of omnipotence, he borrows from them an infusion of a power not born with him, and when he comes forth to our survey we find him, in all that belongs to our common nature, the manliest of men. Subject to such powerful formative influences, he must be very bad or very good. His is evidently not a character for tame mediocrity, but for extremes. We hear of him in the way of vice, as very vicious. If he be intemperate or licentious, he is excessively so. If he be mirthful, he is noisy and turbulent. If he be unwilling, he is rebellious. And in the way of virtue he is no less conspicuous. Free-hearted—forth putting, unchecked, he speaks right on the confession of his guilt, or the exulting pride of God's mercy, and is willing all the world should know that he is a Christian.

There is something in such a character that is very engaging. An air of romance seems to gather about it, of chivalrous heroism and generosity, such as belongs not to the familiar types of manhood. In every thing that pertains to him, we seem to see something borrowed from the mystic depths of the mighty waters, on whose bosom his character is nursed—something that we landsmen know nothing

of. We look at him with a curiosity always new, as if he had been more familiar with the Almighty than any of us. We set him down in our minds as a peculiar being, and so he is.

And now a question comes, what are the *prospects* of the sailor, as viewed in the light of Christianity and of God's great purpose of converting the world? A very important question, and bearing directly upon the object of this discourse. Can the sailor be evangelized like other men? Is it a promising undertaking? Ought it to be done? I take the affirmative side of all these questions. In the first place, it ought to be done, if it can. It ought to be done out of regard to the great interests of Christianity, in evangelizing the rest of mankind. The Christian Church has undertaken the great work of missions to the Heathen. She has sent forth Christ's ambassadors to the near and the remote lands of Heathendom. She has addressed her best energies to this as her chief work on earth. I am not going to defend the propriety of Christian missions. I take this as an axiom of all true Christian practice. But if it be right to prosecute this great work, it is our duty to remove all obstacles and hindrances to its success, and one of the chief of these is the influence of seamen in foreign ports. There are, it is estimated, 2,000,000 of sailors in the world, of whom 150,000 are from our own land. On the great highway of the world, they traverse up and down, and leave no port unvisited. They mingle with the people on shore; they carry, wherever they go, their characteristic vices, and they vent them with characteristic violence. They, themselves, conduct forth the ministers of the Gospel, and set them down

on unchristianized shores, and then by their protuberant vices do all they can to neutralize their influence. The standard of the cross is erected in the sight of the nation, and they are the first to defame it. The minister opens his lips to proclaim a religion of holiness, and their practice gives it the open denial. The simple minded people turn from the Christian preacher's words to the Christian sailor's lives, and they shake their heads in suspicion and doubt. They cannot distinguish between professing and non-professing Christians. They judge of the tree by what they suppose to be its fruits, and they condemn both the teacher and his doctrine, and refuse to be saved. They have been known to declare, that if the sailor is going to the Christian's heaven, they have no wish to go. One foreign missionary in a frequented port has felt himself obliged to resign his proper work, of converting the Heathen, and devote all his labors to the reforming of foreign seamen. Another informs us that the instructed Heathen who are under his charge, have organized a society to improve the character of the seamen from abroad. A missionary in the northern part of China, congratulates the friends of missions that ships from Christian lands are excluded from their ports. The grand commissioner of China inquires of the British Ambassador, if something cannot be done to improve the character of seamen; for, says he, "they corrupt our people, and our people abuse them." Capt. Wilkes of our own Navy has uttered, as the fruit of his large observation, this strong declaration, "that if a tenth part of the labor, means, and prayers, which are bestowed upon the missions, were given to the seamen themselves, the

benefit to the cause of missions would be far greater in every missionary station, than now it is;" and in his opinion, the missionary enterprise can never have full or marked success, until seamen be generally improved and christianized. These facts, and the declarations they have given rise to, are enough to illustrate this first point,—the imperative necessity of evangelizing the sailor before we can evangelize the world. We cannot afford to squander our energies upon an undertaking retarded by so many, and formidable hindrances. The church of Christ is too poor to waste the little substance which Providence puts into her hands, to be dispensed to the soul perishing. It ought not to be, that the same ship which carries out the saving balm, should diffuse more widely the potent, death-dealing contagion. Christian nations have no right to contradict and blacken the holy profession of Christ's agents and messengers. The cause groans with its tremendous disadvantage, and calls out for relief in the conversion of sailors. And see what relief the cause would gain by his conversion, not only relief, but strength and vigorous impulse. Just suppose the thing possible, that 150,000 American seamen could be converted to God, and become genuine, heart-changed followers of Jesus Christ. Suppose the impressible energies of the sea-faring character, trained into indomitableness by coping with wave and breeze, and all the thick perils of the sea; suppose those energies twisted into stout cords like the rigging of his own ship, to endure the tug and strain of any enterprise; suppose them, instead of spending themselves in the service of wickedness, to be sanctified for the employment of grace and godli-

ness. Suppose that all the exuberance of life and power that now flows over in streams of vice, polluting and damning all that it flows upon, should be purged at its fountain and spread abroad in a living flood of piety, purifying and blessing every spot that it washes. Suppose that, instead of being a living contradiction to the Gospel of Christ in the eyes of the nations, the seamen should be the Gospel's living witness; and when the preaching missionary would confirm his words by example, he might point to the crews of our ships, and say, behold the Gospel alive. Nay, suppose again, what would be most natural to the forth-putting tendencies of the sailor, that every one of them should become himself a lay preacher at every port where he lands, and use his influence not only to illustrate, but to enforce the grace of Christ. Can you conceive of any better and stronger co-workers with the missionary? What an impetus would be given to this best of causes, when not only the dead negation of the sailor's example should no more block its way, but the long pull, and the strong pull, and the pull altogether, of our converted and sanctified marine, should be laid out to speed the Gospel through the world. Every ship that sails would be a winged messenger of life and salvation, every sailor an untitled and unsalaried herald of mercy to lands beyond our reach, fulfilling the word of "many running to and fro, and knowledge being increased." Every exploring expedition would be like the feeling forth of God's right hand of rescue to the nations. Every new nautical discovery would be matter of jubilee around the throne of God. Ah! you say, it is fancy's idle sketch.

Then listen a moment, while, in the *second* place, I

show not only that the sailor ought to be converted if he can be, but God has promised it. Jehovah's way is eminently in the sea. His brightest path has been in the mighty waters. He has once and again, carried his chosen people through the cleft waves. He once built a ship in which there sailed, above the drowned world, all the godliness there was.

The prophetic singer has called upon the coming generations of sailors to glorify God. "Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise from the ends of the earth, ye that go down into the sea." And another Prophet foretelling the grace of redemption exclaims, "the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee." And again, "the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish are first to bring thy sons from far unto the name of the Lord thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, for he hath glorified thee." We appeal then to the Christian faith, to receive the assurance of this fixed promise of God. The sailor ought then to be converted if it be possible; and it is certainly possible, because Heaven has declared it shall be. May it not be, then, when we consider the apparent impossibility of supplying all Heathendom with educated and trained missionaries, may it not be that this is in fact, the chosen agency by which the world shall be most largely evangelized. It is only by our navigation that all lands can be reached, and why may not that navigation be the sanctified instrument of grace to all lands? Since Christian ships were the first to make the Heathen know our vices, why may they not be the last and completing agency, to spread equally wide our restoring piety. So far is this from an impossibility, that it has already begun to be. The

roused mind of Christendom has already learned to calculate the power of this agency, and not without results. In most, if not all our sea ports, a system of effort has been begun by means of houses of worship, well named Bethels, because the wanderer has there often met his God, and wrestled in saving prayer for his soul. Boarding houses have been established, directed by religious influence, where the sailor may be free from the seductions of intemperance and licentiousness, and find the best substitute on earth for that which he has not, a home. And God has blessed these means. The sailor's tough heart, it is found, can be penetrated by God's truth and grace; and when it is, it always gushes with fervent love, like molten iron from the furnace. He has carried his piety aboard, and there are instances in which one holy seaman has converted a whole ship's crew. On many a ship the flag at the mast head is a Bethel flag. The Sabbath is sacredly observed by prayer, and praise, and scripture-teaching, and the ship's crew is a pious household in which the sailor has found no poor apology for a home, but a home in its best sense—a Father tenderer than any of earth—a Saviour dearer than any mother of his human life—a band of brothers closer to his heart than any natural tie can bind them—a home in the exalted meaning of that word—a home for his soul—an anticipation of his immortal home. It is a blessed work bringing the vagrant sailor to this home. Try it and see. To use the words of a clerical brother, "if you have no heart, he will give you one. If you have a cold one, he will make it warm. If you have a warm one, he will make it burn."

For the extension of this happy enterprise, our

church, following as usual in the wake of other pilot churches, yet with not inferior strength and effectiveness, has, in several of our cities, reared her own Bethel flags, and invited our seamen to Christ. The same work has been begun among us. For nearly four years, your devoted missionary of the Floating Chapel, has labored amidst the encouragement which always stimulates, as well as the indifference that freezes so many well-begotten undertakings. And although the interest which arises from conviction has begun to grow general, betokening a better promise, yet the unpaid expenses of the past year make it necessary to call for the aid of the churches, that their servants may have their just contracted dues. The appeal we make is suggested by the Board of Missions for Seamen. To those of you who have attended the services of the chapel, and witnessed how much good is possibly done, I need say nothing. But others may be willing to learn some of the statistics of the Mission. The number of seamen who have attended the services of the chapel, is at the smallest estimate, 4000. The number of public services, 250. Bibles distributed in several languages, 500. Testaments in various languages, 300. Prayer books, 550. Other bound volumes of religious works, 3500. Religious tracts, 30,000 pages. Here is a mass of religious influence floating on the world-tide: silent, but mighty, through God; passing from hand to hand, and mind to mind: pondered in the quiet hours of a fair breeze, and sinking unconsciously into the heart, and then coming up again with a resurrection of power in the waking thoughts of the sailor's berth, and the meditations of his night-watches—working, it may be, mighty spiritual

changes, which we cannot estimate, simply because it is God's truth; but which eternity may reveal in the salvation of many a ship's crew, who else had been everlastingly wrecked. The question which our contribution this evening will determine, is, whether this congregation are ready to lend their efficient aid to the pious work; which recommends itself, not only by all the sacred arguments of the Gospel, but by the prudential consideration that it is directed on a most economical plan, by a Board of Laymen, who are some of them practically interested in the sailor's welfare.

Is it too much to hope that you, from whom the Christian community have learned to expect no stinted charity, should give substantial demonstration that a cause so near, yet so far-spreading, so good, and promising of greater good, has not appealed to you in vain. Let the work go on. Let your willing and sufficient aid be as a thank-offering to God, for the good it has already done to them that "go down to the sea in ships, and do business in great waters." And let all the praise be ascribed to the adorable Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, now and always. Amen