

1913

WHAT IS THE UNITED OFFERING?

THE United Offering follows this rule: As the work grows, so shall the Offering grow; therefore we should use all diligence and zeal to bring this work to the knowledge and understanding of every Churchwoman in every parish and mission.

Because there are so many departments of the Auxiliary work, and because this one is so entirely independent and distinct from all other departments, let us understand exactly what is the United Offering, who gives it, and for what it is given.

In the first place, What is the United Offering? The United Offering is a Thank Offering. It is placed on the Altar at the Triennial Service of Thanksgiving, at the time when the Woman's Auxiliary has its Triennial Meeting, which is at the time and place where the Church holds its General Convention. It is the Thank Offering of all our women, the expression of our gratitude for the Christian privileges which we enjoy; and while it expresses our thankfulness, it also kindles our thankfulness. Who that has been present at one of these services, and joined in the hymn of praise which goes up with the presentation of the Offering, but has thrilled with the joy of giving thanks? Who can contemplate with indifference such a gift laid upon the Altar of God by the

women of the Church, and remember that, with that gift, a great company of women can be cared for in the mission work to which they have given themselves?

More even than a Gift of Thanks is this Offering a Gift of Substitution. The woman who cannot go herself, with prayer and love and self-denial makes her gift, gathering little by little through the three years, perhaps by one single contribution at its close, what shall send the woman to take the place which, had she the power, the training—or is it *will* only sometimes that is lacking?—she herself might fill.

Who gives the United Offering? It is given by the women and girls of the American Church and its missions, not Auxiliary members only, but all women. It excuses no one from any other obligation, and it entails no other obligation, except that to our united gifts there shall be added our united and earnest prayers that God will put it into the hearts of many faithful women to give themselves to the work of the Master in the mission field. The United Offering of 1913 represented the gifts of one hundred and two Dioceses and Missionary Districts, including Honolulu, the Philippines, Porto Rico, and Alaska; our foreign missions in Mexico, Brazil, Cuba, China, Japan and Africa. There were gifts from the Canal Zone and the European Churches, from Greece, and Turkey, and from our friends of the Church Periodical Club.

Many of us use the little blue boxes, accumulating small sums slowly; some of us prefer to make a semi-annual offering; some who give do no other work for the Church's missions, and some are the most generous and diligent in every

branch of the Church's work, and yet feel that they can afford to give, if only a small sum, so that they may share in this Offering.

The United Offering is collected each spring and fall, and sent to the United Offering treasurer in the diocese, who deposits the offering in the bank, and at the time of the Triennial Service of Thanksgiving takes or sends it, together with the interest it has earned, to be placed on the great golden alms-basin that is used for the purpose. And then the Board of Missions distributes it among the women workers in the mission field. Of the Offering of 1913, \$10,000 is to be devoted to the new building for the Mary Josephine Hooker School in Mexico and \$5,000 to complete the George C. Thomas Memorial dormitory at St. Augustine's School, Raleigh. A part of the remainder is being used to train inexperienced volunteers in Church training-schools, or otherwise to fit them for the arduous work they would undertake. A large part of it sends women out to their field of work, and supports them there; and a small part of it cares for those women missionaries who may be sick or disabled.

The United Offering missionaries in the United States are working among the Indians, the Negroes, the mountain people of the Appalachian plateau, and in other places where there is need of a trained woman worker under the direction of the Bishop. Their work is very obviously a national gain. The results are measured in better citizenship, in higher standards of intelligence as well as of religion and morals; in habits of industry and thrift, in happier childhood, and old age that is more contented and revered. These United Offering missionaries, in kindergartens, schools

and hospitals, are also helping to assimilate the vast hordes of immigrants, and so helping to solve one of the most serious problems of our Republic.

Others of these women, United Offering missionaries, are in Alaska. Some are in Honolulu, in Porto Rico, in the Philippines. If you do not realize the good they are doing, if you do not know the wonderful results of their missionary labors, take down your file of THE SPIRIT OF MISSIONS. Read the articles written by our Bishops and other missionaries. Travellers, writers, students agree that the age is ripe for missionary work. The bars are down, the gates are open. Everywhere ignorance is looking toward the light.

In the foreign field, supported by the United Offering, are nurses, teachers, mission workers, a little band carrying in their hands the torch of civilization, the balm of healing, the Message of Salvation. Comparatively there are not many who hear the call and who are willing to go. There are not many who have the faith and courage and happy optimism. Therefore we are called to add to our gifts our prayers that more and more of our girls and women may hear this sacred call and may obey. So, the gift of means and the gift of life together shall make our United Offering.

Copies of this leaflet, U. O. No. 1, United Offering boxes, and the United Offering Prayer Card, may be obtained from the Secretary of the Woman's Auxiliary, Church Missions House, 281 Fourth Avenue, New York City.
