

GENERAL MEETING OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY, OCTOBER 3, 1895.

NEVER, surely, was the blessing of Almighty God upon the Woman's Auxiliary more evident than upon this, its happiest day.

From every section of the land came the largest representation of its seventy diocesan branches that had ever assembled in the twenty-four years of its history, gathering from East and West and from North and South, under the glorious Minnesota sky and sunshine—fair types and emblems of the sheltering Church whose daughters they all were, and of that brighter Sun of Righteousness for whose shining throughout the world they prayed and labored, and in whose increasing glory they rejoiced.

In Christ Church, St. Paul, at half-past nine in the morning, the great United Service of praise and thanksgiving began the day, a crowded congregation of women coming to present to God their greater gifts of love and gratitude, accompanied by their United Offering, which should, in some degree, show forth that grateful love.

Fifty-four thousand dollars, the largest gift for Missions ever laid on God's altar at one service in the American Church, marked this triennial gathering with a special joy and brightness of its own, the

result of the three years' effort, by many self-denials and faithful, conscientious, systematic giving, to secure for all time a Missionary Bishop for the poorest and weakest and least remembered of Christ's flock on earth.

No one knew, until the announcement was made late in the afternoon, the full amount of the offering; but as the heaped-up and overflowing alms-basin—the very alms-basin presented to the American Church by the Mother Church of England—was placed upon the altar, glittering with gold and purple and scarlet and blue, the “suitable receptacles” in which so many of the branches had sent their gifts, with the bewildering number of simpler but not less interesting and hopeful envelopes, some tied with purple and white ribbons, the tide of joyful enthusiasm rose high, and feelings of fear and discouragement and anxiety vanished.

All the while the gifts of the great congregation were being collected, the sweet strains of that most lovely hymn for such an occasion filled the church, a thousand voices striving to express the feelings of a thousand hearts:

Holy offerings, rich and rare,
Offerings of praise and prayer,
Purer life and purpose high,
Claspèd hands, uplifted eye,
Lowly acts of adoration

To the God of our salvation ;
On His altar laid, we leave them :
Christ, present them ! God, receive them !
Homage of each humble heart,
Ere we from Thy house depart ;
Worship fervent, deep and high,
Adoration, ecstasy ;
All that child-like love can render
Of devotion true and tender ;
On Thine altar laid, we leave them ;
Christ, present them ! God, receive them !
To the Father and the Son,
And the Spirit, Three in One,
Though our mortal weakness raise
Offerings of imperfect praise,
Yet with hearts bowed down most lowly,
Crying, Holy ! Holy ! Holy !
On Thine altar laid, we leave them :
Christ, present them ! God, receive them !

Will any one who had the blessed privilege of joining in the sacred service of that day ever forget it ? Will any one who had even the smallest share in that offering ever regret it ? And as for those who were neither there themselves nor through their gifts, how we sympathize with them in the sorrow they must feel over the opportunity they have lost, and pity them if they feel no sorrow and recognize no lost opportunity !

We can speak freely of this, the outwardly crowning feature of the day, but of that inner joy, when all in slow and reverent files approached the chancel rail to share together in Holy Communion with

their Divine Master and with all the invisible company of His Church, it is not fitting here to speak. For each separate heart there was its own special blessing increased beyond the power of words to express by the sweet and close and unique companionship of the hour.

With overflowing and most generous hospitality the Minnesota Branch of the Woman's Auxiliary had made every possible provision for the comfort and convenience of its guests during the remainder of the day, luncheon being provided for 1,500, and every arrangement being most complete and satisfactory.

Other accounts will be given of the many and valuable addresses made, and especially a full report of the beautiful and impressive address of the Bishop of Minnesota, but this is only a faint attempt to convey some slight impression of the brightness of the day to absent and interested friends, and to take to them the message, that they want first to hear, of the result of their last three years' United Offering.

MARY A. E. TWING.

Honorary Secretary.

NOTE.—It should be remembered that the United Triennial Offering is additional to the general work of the Woman's Auxiliary, which now amounts, in money and the value of boxes, to over a million of dollars in every three years.