

Northern Messenger

VOLUME XXXIV., No. 32.

MONTREAL, AUGUST 11, 1899.

33 Cts. Per An. Post-Paid.

Armour Mission.

A GREAT PHILANTHROPY IN CHICAGO.

The Armour Mission was established in November, 1886, and owes its origin to the bequest of the late Joseph Armour, who left \$100,000 for its foundation and directed that the carrying out of his design should be intrusted chiefly to his brother, P. D. Armour. The latter accepted the trust willingly, and, giving the matter the same attention, energetic and critical, that he has always given to his private affairs enlarged upon the original design of his brother and added from his own resources whatever was necessary in order to make the facilities for the work complete in every detail, thus more than doubling the original fund.

Mr. Armour has a deep interest in children, and it is his desire to help all those who are ambitious to help themselves. It being his firm conviction that boys and girls develop into useful and happy men and women according to their early training and surroundings, he feels that he can do much for the advancement of humanity by lending a helping hand to childhood and youth. This conviction has inspired and guided him in all he has done in connection with the Mission, and in the Institute, which has been an outgrowth of it.

The Mission is located on the corner of Thirty-third and Butterfield streets, a beautiful building constructed of the best and costliest material. It is a broad and wholly non-sectarian institution, free to all to the extent of its capacity, without distinction as to race or creed.

The largest department of this beautiful charity is the Sunday-school, with its kindergarten, where there are nearly two thousand children in attendance. Every Sunday afternoon sees Mr. Armour here, and he finds great happiness among the children to whom he gives so much of delight and benefit. The choir for this service is selected from the pupils of the music department, where the children are drilled in singing every Wednesday afternoon. There is also a Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor.

A source of much benefit to the frequenters of the Mission is in the library. Here is arranged a collection of the best works of the standard authors in literature, American history and biography, and also of modern religious writers.

The Boys' Brigade of Armour Mission has developed into the Armour Battalion. The object of the drill of this battalion is to promote habits of reverence, discipline, self-respect and all that tends to true manliness. The company is fully officered and admirably drilled.

The girls, too, have their Drill Corps. This is composed of two companies, well drilled in physical culture. The girls wear a uniform of white flannel blouse, blue skirt and zouave jacket, with scarlet mortar-board cap, black shoes and stockings and white gloves. Much of the social enjoyment of the Mission is afforded by the efforts of these girls, who give pretty entertainments which are generously patronized. By means of the proceeds from these entertainments the girls

are able to defray the expenses of their summer excursions.

Quite distinct from the Sunday-school kindergarten is what is known as the Armour kindergarten proper, which has been from the first the object of Mrs. Armour's special thought and care. Here are brought together children of all sorts and conditions, and there is observed neither race, religion nor color line, good behavior and an honest endeavor to do their best being the only requirements for social distinction.

Chicago is as cosmopolitan in respect to its residents as any city on the seaboard and the children come to the kindergarten from families of all nationalities. A large proportion of them are of Swedish parentage, and among these are found some of the most painstaking and enthusiastic workers. There are also many Germans, Irish, Italians, Bohemians and French, beside the young Am-



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ericans properly so-called. The little colored children from Armour avenue and Dearborn street meet there on the same footing with the fair children from more aristocratic neighborhoods, and the dainty little maidens from the flats sit beside other less favored ones whose homes are in dark and dingy rear tenements, and to whom the kindergarten is a paradise of comfort, delight and freedom unwonted.

The children assemble from a wide territory with a radius of four or five blocks, but they are so devoted to their school that neither winter cold nor summer heat seems to discourage them, the average attendance remaining about the same throughout the eleven months of the year, the school being closed during August. Children are received at the age of three and kept until they are six, the school age, and the commodious quarters make it possible to admit all applicants.

Every Friday a light lunch is served, and if any child has been fortunate enough to have had a birthday within the week, it is presented with a birthday cake, ornamented with the proper number of candles, which, when lighted, give a quite festal appearance to the room. The happy child takes home the cake, candles and all, and a second celebration is then held, making the day one long to be remembered. Friday is always the happiest day of the week, and little surprises are planned for the children on this

day in the way of special music, to which they listen with very great delight.

Visitors are always welcome to the kindergarten, and scarcely a day passed without the appearance of some, who wonder, question, and admire. Once a month the mothers of the children meet with the teachers and are given a short talk bearing on the children, their physical wants, moral training, home amusement, everything that pertains to their careful bringing up. Light refreshments are served and the mothers are encouraged to talk freely, all of which results in a better understanding between parents and teachers.

But the Mission is not given entirely to the needs of the children. A Saturday Night Club, composed of young men, is carried on for the purpose of the work usually connected with literary societies. The ordinary programme is made up of debates, essays, readings and discussions of literature. This work is very elevating and refining to the young men, besides giving them entertainment and instruction and keeping them from less desirable places and amusements. There is also a Young Women's Club which meets every Friday evening for the purpose of mental improvement.

To yield an annual revenue for this mission Mr. Armour built the Armour Flats. This is a large building adjoining the Mission, and is divided into two hundred and thirteen flats of six or seven rooms each, where families can find clean and pretty homes at a rental of from seventeen to thirty-five dollars per month. This building serves a two-fold purpose. Beside providing an income for the Mission it helps to carry out Mr. Armour's idea that if you build pleasant homes for people with small incomes they will leave their ugly surroundings and lead brighter lives.—Union Gospel News.

Sights Unseen.

(By the Rev. G. E. White.)

More than once 'The Sunday School Times' has published an article on the theme of 'Seeing the Invisible,' showing the need of looking with the spiritual eye beyond the things of sense. Two further illustrations come to my mind.

Not long since, in company with two friends, I had the pleasure of a visit to the old Hittite region of Euyuk and Boghaz-keui in central Asia Minor, where we saw the wonderful writing, pictures, sculptures, lions, etc., carved upon the rocks by the Hittites in the time of the Old Testament. Inquiring of the people for any new places of similar interest, we were directed to the village of Eski Yapar. There we saw Greek burial-stones perhaps a thousand years of age, and a Roman milestone of Antoninus Pius, well nigh two thousand years old. Then a villager remarked that there was another queer stone near by; perhaps we would like to look at it, though it had no writing nor anything of that sort. On going to the spot indicated, we found a fine specimen of a Hittite lion, carved in red sandstone, and—uncomfortably erected upon his tail—built into the corner of a dwelling-house. Strange to say, the humble 'Red-head' or Shiite Mohammedan villagers had never seen a