

1, 1888.

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DOMINION CHURCHMAN.

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Children's Department.

ANNE BERGUNION,

Foundress of the Order of St. Paul.

BY K. F. J.

"She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she stretcheth forth her hands to the needy."—PROVERBS, xxx. 20.

(Continued from Last Week.)

Hard it is to be poor, but oh! think how hard to be poor and blind too! Never to see the faces of those you love, never to see the flowers, the sunshine, the beauty of nature, which is the free gift of our Father to poor and rich alike. To be neglected all through childhood because nobody has time for the patient daily teaching which alone can train the blind to help themselves; to have no prospect before one but a life of darkness, dependent on charity for food and clothes; too often a life of sin and misery—such is the fate of many, especially in a great city. It was the lot of these poor creatures that Anne longed to make easier, so she gathered these poor blind girls about her till she had a housefull. She taught them to sew and to read, to help her in the house-work, and, as they grew older, and their power of helping themselves, and of learning readily, increased, she set them to teach the little newcomers. One of these girls became so wonderful in her intelligence that she was able to correct the little ones at their sewing, and her sense of hearing developed (as it often does with the blind) so that she could hear when they drew to long a stitch!

Now that her family had become so large and the older girls so helpful, Anne Bergunion resolved to form a sisterhood for work among the blind. So a dozen of her girls gladly joined her, and she became Mother Superior of the Sisters of St. Paul. They were very poor—too poor to support a chaplain, but at last a good priest who had money of his own offered to become their chaplain, and told them if they had anything to spare for a chaplain, to use it instead to make their chapel more beautiful, or to pay for one more blind girl.

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of that home life; the blind sisters looking so contented as they fulfil their offices of love and mercy for each other, and for those whom they are training up for the same good and useful work. All the powers that God has given them are developed and improved to their fullest extent, till hearing and feeling become so acute that they almost take the place of sight. Rescued from sin and despair and suffering, such as you in your safe homes know nothing of, these women spend their time between their prayers and their work, rising daily on these two wings of active work and loving devotion nearer to heaven and God. Think what will be the joy to them when the eyes that have been close to the sights of earth, open on the glories of Paradise. How wonderful to them must be the promise, "Thine eyes shall see the King in His beauty; they behold the land that is very far off."

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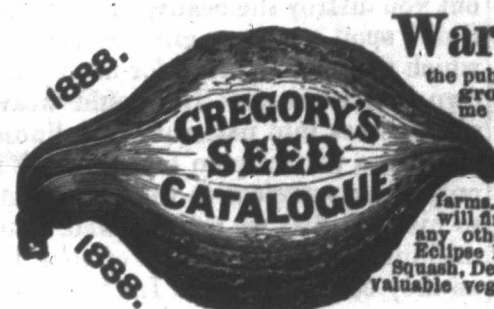
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