

## MONTHLY NOTES

### THE GIRLS' AUXILIARY

The Annual Meeting of the St. Alban's Girls' Auxiliary was held in the Chapel on Monday Evening, March 13th, 1899. Mrs. de Pencier and eighteen members were present. Miss Gray read a letter from the Leaflet, an account of the Black-foot Hospital telling of the work there and also gave a short account of the last monthly meeting which was held on Thursday, March 9th at St. Thomas'.

The following officers were elected for the coming year.

President	Miss Carrie Hamilton
Honorary Vice President	Miss Gray
1st Vice President	Miss E. Paddon
2nd " "	Miss D. Zimmerman
Secretary	Miss Madge Holt
Treasurer	Miss Gretchen Meyer

Mrs. de Pencier closed the meeting with Prayer.

### WHAT IS PRAYER?

When any number of christian people meet together, and with united hearts and voices present their praises and petitions at the throne of grace—that is public prayer.

When any one of God's children, moved by His Holy Spirit, withdraws from all others, and pours out his soul before Him who seeth in secret—that is private prayer.

When any one of God's people who has for many years been led by Him through the wilderness of this world, and like Bunyan's pilgrim has passed through the dark "Valley of the shadow of death" and escaping the allurements of "Vanity Fair" has arrived at the land of "Beulah," from the tops of whose mountains occasional glimpses of the heavenly Jerusalem may be obtained—when the spirit of such an one—forgetful of its bodily environment—oblivious of everything earthly—rising on the wings of faith—penetrating even to the heaven of heavens—prostrating itself before that Glorious Being in whose presence the dazzling light of the mid-day sun sinks into dim shadow—craves such sustenance as is of the very essence of the souls existence—THIS IS PRAYER.

### WORLDINESS AND ITS CURE

What is Worldiness? Probably the answer first on our lips would be—Oh! the delighting in things of the world, the mad rush after pleasure, the gratification of all desires, and the gradual sinking into a life of sin and evil. Is that true though? Is that the form the Worldliness of the present day is taking? We are not of those who think the world is getting worse and worse and more steeped in wickedness and sin, our Faith in God prevents such a thought; we have only to look carefully around us to disprove that theory. The tone of public morality is on a higher plane than it ever was; public opinion, that mighty force of modern nations, is set against the things it once countenanced and encouraged, and instead is struggling hard to follow good, legislation and unwritten laws of conventionality are based more and more on ethical principles. Justice, Truth and Morality are rapidly becoming the standards by which we judge character, and our great public institutions for the care of the sick and poor and helpless are living witnesses of the growth of humanitarian feelings amongst us. In fact to quote

the closing words of a book by one of the cleverest students of Social Evolution—"An Ethical movement is taking place, in which qualities and attributes, which we have been all taught to regard as the very highest of which human nature is capable, find the completest expression they have ever reached in the history of the Race"—And yet we are getting more worldly!—What, then, is Worldiness? In a few words we may perhaps best describe it as—A neglect of the means God has Himself provided to lift the Human Race to a position it has never before occupied; a neglect which leads to a forgetfulness of the God who has provided these means—In other words, it isn't that we are not trying to do, and to be good, we ARE trying and perhaps unnecessarily hard, because our energy is to a certain extent wasted by being mis-directed and misplaced.

And now for the cure, because there is a cure:—we need a fuller and more practical realization of the complete life of a member of Christ's Society, the Church; we want to more thoroughly appreciate the fact that we ARE members, with all the duties, privileges and responsibilities that such membership entails. Let us divest our minds of the idea that Salvation consists in mere church going, or that our duties as members (i. e. christians) end when we leave the church doors on Sunday evening, that is utterly false; as a matter of fact we are less truly working members of the Society when we are in church than at any other time; that is our time for spiritual refreshment and mutual encouragement, and it is only in proportion as we labour and love and are weary in the cause of our Master, we shall receive refreshing strength and renewed energy from our meeting together to worship and praise our Lord. Our work must be done, our practical christian lives must be lived, outside the church doors, we must put into practice the precepts and rules of our Society, wherever we are and at all times. A full attendance at our churches will follow as a matter of course, for that will be the outward and visible sign and a witness to the world, that we are indeed realizing that God's ways are not our ways, and that His methods are best; and with that realization will come an increasing love for God and a desire to follow more closely the example of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### THE CHURCH

The crying need of the present day is for a truer conception of the claims and methods of the Church and for a better knowledge of Her history. In all man-made institutions and societies, for the benefit of our temporal lives, it is a test of good membership, almost, for the members to be well grounded in the rules and regulations of their order, and to have a thorough knowledge of the ritual connected with the proper carrying out of the functions of their Society; the members will point with pride to the date of their organization, and will never tire of telling us about the beauty, and grandeur, and strength of their Institutions, and will not be satisfied until they have induced others to become members also. If all this obtains in matters relating to the temporal life, how much more important it is when we are considering the affairs of the Spiritual Life. God Himself has instituted a Divine Society—The Church—and we, its members, should recognize and value the privileges we enjoy and take upon ourselves the responsibilities such membership entails. We must be active members thoroughly conversant with the history of our Society, recog-