

the boys and homeless men was to have a building, equipment, and facilities for aggressive Christian work second to none on the continent. No wonder that the small band of workers shrank from the responsibility of undertaking a task so formidable. "If Thy presence go not with us carry us not up hence," was their prayer. But the Divine Hand clearly pointed out the way, and the Divine Voice whispered "Fear not, I am with thee," and the Fred Victor Mission, erected by the late H. A. Massey at a cost of \$60,000, was handed over as a free gift to Methodism in Toronto, the simple yet broad trust being to carry on the "work of the character usually known as Mission work."

It was opened in October, 1894, and for the first year was conducted almost entirely by voluntary workers. Since then, it has had a superintendent who devotes his whole time to the work. The present superintendent, Rev. J. W. Graham, is a minister of the Methodist Church, and is stationed there by the Conference. From its opening to the present day, the work has been wonderfully blessed and successful.

The aim of the Mission is to be permanently beneficial to those to whom it ministers. The intention is not merely to bring the neglected and careless within sound of the Gospel message, but by gathering in the children, training them in domestic economy as well as in spiritual matters, by visiting and entering into the home life of the people, ministering to them in body as well as soul, to thus do a practical as well as a lasting work among them.

For these reasons, the work is systematized and divided into departments. First and foremost comes the Evangelistic, with its Junior Epworth League on Sabbath morning, having an average attendance of about 125. This is one of the most promising features of the Mission. It is really wonderful and very encouraging to see and hear these little children—coming as they do from poor, and, many of them, from vicious homes—conducting and taking part in these meetings, leading publicly in prayer, visiting the sick and absentees, and otherwise showing their intense interest and co-operation in the work of the League. On Sunday afternoons there is a well conducted Sunday-school with an average attendance of about 150.

The principal religious service of the week is on Sunday evening, when the large Hall during the fall and winter months, holding about 400 people, is filled to its utmost capacity. The meetings are all evangelistic, with hearty singing and music from piano and orchestra, a short earnest exposition of Gospel truth, followed by brief testimonies, and an urgent and pressing exhortation for instant decision, which nearly always results in several responses. Then the seekers are invited forward in good old Methodist style to the "penitent bench," and the workers scatter themselves amongst the kneeling people and try and point the unsaved to Christ. God is wonderfully present in saving power at these meetings, and many are brought to Christ.

The Tuesday evening Gospel Temperance meetings are well attended, and are usually conducted by the members of the Epworth Leagues from the different Methodist churches in the city. In these meetings an earnest effort is made to stem the tide of intemperance, which flows so strongly and rises so high among the class of people reached by the Mission. On Thursday evenings there is another Gospel meeting, conducted similarly to that held on Sunday evenings, but with a smaller attendance.

Among the most fruitful and encouraging agencies are the Cottage Meetings held in the homes of the people twice every week. Here those who are too diffident to take part in the larger meetings freely lead in prayer or testimony, and thus strengthen themselves and others. A Converts' Class for Bible instruction and spiritual training is held weekly with good attendance and results.

Next, probably, in order of importance to the Evangelistic comes the Industrial Department, and perhaps the most interesting and hopeful classes in this department are the kitchen garden—held daily—where the little girls are taught how to keep house. By a system at once attractive and helpful, with their little dishes, brooms, beds, tubs, etc., they are taught how to make home clean and comfortable, while the lessons are made inviting, and fixed in the memory by simple little rhymes and tunes.

From the kitchen garden the little ones graduate into the Cooking School, where they are taught by an efficient instructress that most useful branch of domestic economy. No one can tell the ultimate benefit resulting from this training. Much of the misery in the homes of the poor comes from slatternly housekeeping and poorly cooked meals, and even already the results are seen and felt in the homes of these little children. The teaching in the Cooking School is not, however, confined to the mission children, or even the mission people. There are classes also for public school children, teachers, hospital nurses, young ladies, deaconesses, and others. and about 150 people are taught every week through this department.

A Mothers' Meeting on Thursday afternoon has an attendance of over 50, and is much appreciated by the women. It is often remarked by visitors to the Gospel meetings that the attendants seem very well dressed for poor people, while the secret lies in the fact that many of them owe their neat and comfortable attire to the Mothers' Meeting.

A branch that has been wonderfully successful is the Savings Bank—open on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday evenings—when deposits from one cent upwards are received. Everything is transacted on strictly business principles. From these small sums, there is now a balance of over \$2500 lying on deposit with about 500 accounts open. The tellers have a busy time of it during the two hours or so the bank is open—taking in the money, making the necessary entries in pass books, ledgers, etc., and paying out withdrawals.