

CHAPTER II

The Ladies' Association

Having traced the origin of Bank Street Presbyterian Church and the successive steps leading up to its complete organization including the Session, the Committee of Management, the Prayer Meeting, and the Sabbath School, we have reached a point at which it is becoming to give some account of various agencies which have made important contributions to its prosperity and usefulness.

Foremost among these must be named the Ladies' Association. The Association was first formally organized at a meeting held in the house of the Pastor, Maria Street, now Laurier Avenue, West, at three o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, 28th January, 1867. The aim of the Association was declared to be to advance the temporal interest of the church.

The next resolution determined that the Society should be styled "The Ladies' Association" of Bank Street Church. The officers were then appointed as follows:

Mrs. Wm. Moore, President; Mrs. Wm. Hutchison, Vice-President; Mrs. Geo. Cocker, Treasurer; Mrs. Thos. McKay, Secretary.

The constitution there and then adopted, required the appointment of three committees: one on finance; one on socials and bazaars, and one on buying and selling for the sewing room.

The only article of the constitution out of the ordinary line of things runs as follows:

"On the days of meeting of the Association for sewing, it shall be the duty of the President to read, or to request one of the members to read an entertaining tale in order to avoid unprofitable conversation." Though no formal organization existed before this date, there must have been some common understanding among the women of Bank Street Church as to things to be done, and some plan of joint action.