

observed a crowd which proved to be the Vestry and other Church-people who had come down with the Bishop and Diocesan Clergy to offer us a welcome.

They escorted us to the Church-Room, which was soon to become an historic building, where a meal was provided for us by the ladies of the congregation, to which we did full justice. Afterwards a number of speeches were made, that by the Bishop being an official welcome. Up to this point the catering had been done by the Archdeacon, and each man was responsible for cooking his own food. Now, the Archdeacon said, that as the men were receiving stipends they must provide for themselves. At our suggestion they decided to discontinue this wasteful method, and have all the food cooked together. It was further agreed that the cost should be limited to 25 cents a day per head.

As soon as the company had dispersed, we converted the Church-Room into a "Hotel"; chairs were taken out into the open, the piano and organ pushed into a corner, and camp bedsteads packed as closely as possible over the available room. There was not sufficient floor space for the whole party, so the Irish contingent took possession of a shed which had been erected as an overflow ward of the Hospital.

Dressing was no easy matter in the narrow space between the rows of camp beds, and until the congestion was relieved by the dismissal of some of the party to their work, we just removed our boots, and, wrapping ourselves in the rough blankets which had been provided, slept as best we could. The presence of the Irishmen during the daytime was appreciated, as their keen sense of humour enabled us to discover the *comedy*