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THE SHELTERING ARMS.



A DIOCESAN INSTITUTION

LIBRARY
SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE
AUG. 1--1899

FOR THE CARE OF

ORPHAN AND DESTITUTE CHILDREN.



MINNEAPOLIS.

The Sheltering Arms, the Diocesan Orphanage of Minnesota, was organized in 1883, its object being to care for, protect, educate and provide homes for all orphan and destitute children committed to its charge. It is located in Minneapolis, and derives the greater part of its support from contributions from the different parishes in the diocese, a small income only being received in payment for the board of children, from parent or guardian. It is under the control of a Board of women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, and who have associated with them an Advisory Board for the purpose of consultation, at any time they may need assistance in matters of business, such Board consisting of seven of the clergy and five of the laity, residents of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Two-thirds of its work is that of charity. During the past twelve years there have been four hundred and two children admitted, ranging in ages from two months to fourteen years, and all children of suitable age attend public school located near the home. Our building is very small and totally inadequate for the extension of our work. Some three years since, we were very generously remembered by a large bequest from a resident of Minneapolis, who during the latter part of his life, became very much interested in the work of the Home. We received one hundred and twenty-eight acres of land, and a large sum in well vested securities, but the expense attending the settlement was very heavy, as well as the unpaid taxes, which had been accumulating during the time of litigation. The land is delightfully located, not far from

Minnehaha, and on account of its locality is at present subject to a very heavy taxation, taking for that purpose a great part of the interest received from our securities. If the property can be held until the great financial struggle becomes a thing of the past, we anticipate a large sum from the sale of part of it, reserving sufficient for the building of a new home, one commodious enough for all the little ones who may need our care.

Our little band is indeed a very happy one, and upon entering the Home, one can truly see the spirit of love pervading it, and when the little one in the nursery just begins to lisp the name of Mamma, and with that endearing term clings to the Home Mother, the feeling of an orphanage passes away, and that of a loving, happy home presents itself.

On the lot adjoining the Home, is the chapel of the Holy Innocents, where the Sunday School service is held each Sunday afternoon, followed by Evening Prayer. It is under the charge of the Rev. J. J. Faude, of Gethsemane Church, Minneapolis, who is Chaplain, and who provides a layman to officiate each Sunday. Christmas day is always a very joyful one, very generous offerings being presented by the different Churches and Sunday Schools in the diocese. On Christmas day two years since, one little girl was so overcome at receiving so many gifts that she exclaimed with a joyful heart: "I think this must be Heaven, as Auntie told me, that good children sometimes have their Heaven upon earth."

We have a little fund which was established some

five years since, called The Gracie Chapman Fund, for the purpose of supporting a bed for sick children. It was so called after a dear little girl, who upon her death-bed, gave to her mother, two fifty cent pieces (which bore the date of her birth, and were given to her by her God-Mother upon her birthday), saying: "I want you to give these towards taking care of some little sick child, who may suffer as I am now suffering." Some little time after her death the mother presented them to the President of the Sheltering Arms, and at the latter repeating the incident at one of our annual meetings, the Rev. Mr. Graham (at that time Rector of Holy Trinity, Minneapolis), purchased the two pieces of money, for ten dollars, thus establishing a fund which has been gradually increased by small offerings, and now amounts to a little more than two hundred dollars. We hope in the near future, to carry out the wishes of the little one, endowing a bed solely for sick children, and call it "The Gracie Chapman Bed."

A reception will be held at the Sheltering Arms on Tuesday, October 8th, from two to six o'clock, at which time all are most cordially invited to be present.

HELEN L. BARTON,
Secretary.