

Chapter XXX
 Mount St Vincent
 St Joseph's Military Hospital

Central Park Ground

Resolution of Common Council — The
 services of Mother Jerome and the Sisters of
 Charity accepted — Our sick and wounded
 soldiers — E. M. Stanton on the Sisters' services —
 The Chaplains of Mount St Vincent — Dr.
 Mc Glynn's address as Chaplain

Death and improving obituaries of Sister M.
 Prudentia Parady — The benefactors of
 the establishment — Thanksgiving day at
 the Hospital — Feeling letters to the Sisters —
 The fruits of the good Sisters' labor — Mount
 St Vincent of to day —

In a New York daily of May 17, 1862, we
 find the following preamble and resolutions
 as having been proposed in the Committee

On National Affairs: Whereas, this Com-
 mon Council has learned with sentiments of
 profound admiration and gratitude, of the
 tender, voluntarily made by Mother Jerome,
 Superioress of the Mount Saint Vincent
 Academy at Fort Hill, of the invaluable ser-
 vices of herself and the Sisters of Charity in
 the Community under her charge, in taking
 care and ministering to the wants of our sick
 and wounded soldiers; and whereas, in the
 tender of the services of the Sisters of Charity
 of the Community, this Common Council
 also thanks Mother Jerome for the suggestion
 which resulted in obtaining from the Com-
 missioners of the Central Park, the large,
 elegant, airy and commodious building for-
 merly owned and occupied by the Sisters of
 Charity as a Seminary, eligibly located on
 Harlem Heights, as a hospital and home for
 sick and wounded soldiers. We are confi-
 dent that the wisdom and foresight which
 prompted the suggestion, with the active
 benevolence, Christian sympathy and chari-
 table motives, which actuated the Mother
 Superioress in making the voluntary tender
 of the services of the Sisters of the Commu-
 nity, combined with their proverbial kind-
 ness, docility, meekness and perseverance in
 the work of caring for the afflicted, will be
 regarded as an earnest of the great good that
 will result to those of our soldiers who shall
 have lost their health, or been wounded while
 engaged in seconding the efforts of the Gene-
 ral Government to suppress the present re-
 bellion against its authority, be it, therefore,
 Resolved, That this Common Council speak-
 ing in behalf of the gallant volunteers from
 this city, their families and friends, and in
 fact, on behalf of the citizens of our city gen-
 erally, gratefully accepts the voluntary offer
 of the services of Mother Jerome, and the
 Sisters of Charity under her charge, to nurse
 and care for the sick and wounded volun-
 teers from this city; and we earnestly hope
 that the offer will be as gratefully accepted
 by the military authorities having cognizance
 of the matter; and be it further,
 Resolved, That the thanks of this Common
 Council are due, and we hereby tender them to
 the Commissioners of the Central Park, for
 placing at the disposal of the proper authori-
 ties, pursuant to the suggestion of Mother
 Jerome, the buildings in the Central Park
 so admirably fitted for hospital purposes, and
 heretofore known as Mount St. Vincent.

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Chapter XXXI
Mount St Vincent
St Joseph's Military Hospital

Central Park Ground

Resolution of Common Council — The
 Services of Mother Jerome and the Sisters of
 Charity accepted — Our best and kindest
 wishes — E. M. Stanton on the Sisters' services
 — The Chaplains of Mount St Vincent — Dr
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Death and improving blagues of Sister M.
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 The Hospital — Fading letters to the Sisters —
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 St Vincent of today

Central Park Grounds
In a New York daily of May 17, 1862, we find the following preamble and resolutions as having been proposed in the Committee

on National Affairs: Whereas, this Common Council has learned with sentiments of profound admiration and gratitude, of the tender, voluntarily made by Mother Jerome, Superioress of the Mount Saint Vincent Academy at Font Hill, of the invaluable services of herself and the Sisters of Charity in the Community under her charge, in taking care and ministering to the wants of our sick and wounded soldiers; and whereas, in the tender of the services of the Sisters of Charity of the Community, this Common Council also thanks Mother Jerome for the suggestion which resulted in obtaining from the Commissioners of the Central Park, the large, elegant, airy and commodious building formerly owned and occupied by the Sisters of Charity as a Seminary, eligibly located on Harlem Heights, as a hospital and home for sick and wounded soldiers. We are confident that the wisdom and foresight which prompted the suggestion, with the active benevolence, Christian sympathy and charitable motives, which actuated the Mother Superioress in making the voluntary tender of the services of the Sisters of the Community, combined with their proverbial kindness, docility, meekness and perseverance in the work of caring for the afflicted, will be regarded as an earnest of the great good that will result to those of our soldiers who shall have lost their health, or been wounded while engaged in seconding the efforts of the General Government to suppress the present rebellion against its authority; be it, therefore,

Resolved, That this Common Council speaking in behalf of the gallant volunteers from this city, their families and friends, and, in fact, on behalf of the citizens of our city generally, gratefully accepts the voluntary offer of the services of Mother Jerome, and the Sisters of Charity under her charge, to nurse and care for the sick and wounded volunteers from this city; and we earnestly hope that the offer will be as gratefully accepted by the military authorities having cognizance of the matter; and be it further,

Resolved, That the thanks of this Common Council are due, and we hereby tender them to the Commissioners of the Central Park for placing at the disposal of the proper authorities, pursuant to the suggestion of Mother Jerome, the buildings in the Central Park, so admirably fitted for hospital purposes, and heretofore known as Mount St. Vincent.

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Later, the following appeared under the heading, "Our Sick and Wounded Soldiers."—A preliminary meeting, or rather interview, took place yesterday morning, at the Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum in Prince Street, between the Very Rev. Wm. Starrs on behalf of the Sisters of Charity; Alderman Farley and Councilman Orton on behalf of the Common Council, and Colonel Bliss on behalf of the U.S. Government, in order to consult on the arrangements to be made in regard to the charge of sick and wounded volunteers returning from the seat of war. The buildings formerly known as the Mount St. Vincent Academy, within the limits of the Central Park, will, we understand be prepared within one or two weeks at the farthest, by which time it is thought that the wounded and sick will begin to arrive. Alderman Farley, Councilman Orton and Colonel Bliss have been most assiduous in their efforts to forward the humane task with which they have been entrusted, and are evidently determined that nothing shall be wanting on their part to render the services of the zealous and devoted Sisters in every way successful.

The following are copies of letters written by Edwards Pierrepont, Esq. to the Secretary of War and of the response thereto on the subject.

16 WALL STREET, N. Y. July 10

Sept. 9th, 1862.

Hon. E. M. STANTON, Secy of War.

The Commissioners of the Central Park of this city have given a very large building for the reception of wounded soldiers. This building was formerly a Catholic School of high order. The point is this: We want the nurses of this Hospital to be the Sisters of Charity—the most faithful nurses in the world. Their tenderness, their knowledge and religious convictions of duty render them by far the best nurses around the sick bed which have ever been found upon earth. All that is asked is that they be permitted to be nurses under the direction of the War Department and its Physicians. Alderman Farley of this city will take this letter. I beg you to consider this matter and to do what is possible.

* These words are interlined in the original.

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and you will truly oblige your numerous friends and especially,

Your friend ever truly,

EDWARD PIERREPONT

SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Sept. 10, 1862

SIR: The Commissioners of the Central Park having given a large building lately occupied as a Catholic school for hospital purposes, and having requested of the Secretary of War, through Edwards Pierrepont, that Sisters of Charity should be employed therein, the following copy of the Surgeon General's endorsement, on Mr. Pierrepont's letter, is sent for your information and guidance in the matter.

The building will be very gladly received and fitted up as a hospital. The Medical Director at New York will be at once instructed to receive it. No one can bear fuller or more willing testimony to the capability and devotion of the Sisters of Charity than myself. Several hundreds are now on duty as nurses under my charge. Those referred to within will also be accepted thankfully.

You will, therefore, take such steps in connection with the Quartermaster's Department as may be necessary to carry out the wishes of the Commissioners in regard to the building and of the Sisters of Charity.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES R. SMITH

Surgeon U. S. A.

Surgeon Chas. McDougall, U. S. A.

Medical Director, 110 Grand St., N. Y.

The band of Sisters selected for the work and placed under the care of Sister M. O'Reilly, were for months impatiently awaiting the completion of the necessary Government arrangements which would enable them to enter on their sacred functions. Adverse circumstances prevented the realization of their wishes before the Feast of the Guardian Angels, October 2, 1862. For some months after their establishment the Sisters were subjected to every possible inconvenience and annoyance, but they bore all with cheerfulness and exerted their utmost to serve the gallant suffering soldiers. Dr. Hamilton was for a few months in charge, but after a short time the Government appointed John W. S. Gales, M. D., of the U. S. Army, Surgeon in charge. Under his wise administration the hospital flourished, and the Sisters were able to do what good which they wished. The late Most Rev. Archbishop Hughes was deeply interested in the work. On Thanksgiving Day he visited all the yards of the hospital and spoke with paternal interest to the patients. Rev. Father Kalder was the first Chaplain appointed by him. The Rev. and excellent Father was but a short time at the hospital. He was succeeded by the Rev. Dr. McGlynn, whose amiable presence was very dear to the soldiers. His gentlemanly manners, his unobtrusive ways, his close and earnest attention to each and every one of his duties, his unwillingness to force the subject of religion on any one, his paternal, peaceful manner by the death-beds of such as sought his care, impressed all in the different wards, and the most profound respect was shown him on every occasion.

In accordance to His general order the following was received

Surgeon General's Office

Washington City, D.C. Sept 11th 1862

Sir - The Surgeon General directs that the Sisters of Charity be selected for females nurses in the General Hospital corner of Lexington Avenue and 5th Street, in New York. The Commission for hospital purposes. The letter enclosing the Surgeon's order you will please refer to for hospital arrangements.

By order of the Surgeon General

J. Edgar Charles

James R. Smith

McDougall, N. Y. A.

Surgeon U. S. A.

Medical Director

110 Grand St. N. Y.

Gouley

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During the three years of the existence of the hospital not more than one or two died unassisted by him. The Sisters had the consolation of seeing that the dying soldiers not only deeply appreciated his and their kind services, but that they had learned to love the religion they professed, and to whose promptings those poor sufferers knew well they were indebted for the impartial care lavished upon them. The wards were twenty in number, some of them very large; one was about one hundred feet by eighty with lofty ceilings. This beautiful and spacious ward had been in former times the Sisters' Chapel, and the All-Seeing-Eye on the stained glass window at the gable end, was at once an encouragement to the Sisters and a consolation to the suffering. I need not dwell upon the pleasure and holy delight experienced by the Sisters in being called back to the cradle of their religious life, to perform golden deeds of charity within precincts already so hallowed in their eyes. I cannot forbear making a quotation from the early records of the Community in 1847 concerning this spot and its surroundings, whose location is thus described: "The property is situated on an eminence overlooking Harlem; Astoria, Manhattanville; and Yorkville, and it is marked on all State maps as 'McGowan's Pass.' The place is of some historic repute, as the main building was occupied, for a time, as Washington's Headquarters. The Franklin stove, which fell into the possession

of the Sisters, on the purchase of the edifice, is said to have been in the General's parlor. The premises had been held by the Sisters as the seat of their Central or Mother House until 1856, when it was purchased from them by the Central Park Commissioners. The gentlemen of this commission had shown them every consideration in the transfer of the title, and when the question arose in May, 1862, about occupying the then vacant building as a U. S. Artillery Hospital, Mr. Andrew ~~of that Commission~~ made the supervision of the Sisters of Charity a condition of its being thus used.

In May, 1864, a young member of the hospital corps of Sisters died of disease contracted and developed during her service to the soldiers. All of the poor cripples, sharers of her cares, and those of her Sisters that were able, attended her Requiem Mass. The choir from Mount St. Vincent sang. The doctor and other officers of the Government were also in attendance; military honors were paid to her as the funeral cortege passed out. Dr. McGlynn preached a beautiful discourse on this occasion. His sermons, simple, unornamented, but ~~with~~ with instruction and that unction which accompanies explanations of the Word of God when the interest of immortal souls is at heart, were always very effective.

4 St. James

St. James

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The following notice of this Sister is taken from the *New York Herald*:

"On Monday, May 30, a High Mass of Requiem was offered in the Chapel of St. Joseph's United States Military Hospital, Central Park, for the repose of the soul of Sister M. Prudentia Bradley, one of that devoted band of Sisters which has been in constant attendance on the poor, wounded soldiers since October, 1862. We learned that deceased was in the bloom of life and health when she entered upon her self-sacrificing duties, filled with a noble emulation to be in every deed a ministering angel near the pillow of the suffering and dying. Her services were, no doubt, duly appreciated, since the gentlemen of the medical staff were present, and the chapel was crowded with soldiers. It was affecting to see the latter in their disabled state coming in to pay this last sad tribute of respect to departed worth. The services were conducted by Rev. Dr. McGlynn, the amiable and highly-gifted chaplain of the hospital, assisted by Rev. J. B. Biretta, of Poughkeepsie. The mass was sung with peculiar feeling by the Sisters. The reverend doctor made some very appropriate remarks. He believed that all present were very deeply impressed, since so unusual a degree of interest had been manifested on the occasion. Deaths had occurred at the hospital before, yet he had never seen so large a number collected around the bier of a companion. It was evident a peculiar halo rested around the form of the deceased, who was in life a member of the Community of the Sisters of Charity, one of those religious bodies or corporations which had risen in the Church of God, as a necessary consequence, to fully carry out the views of the Saviour of men. The deceased has been then, one of those privileged beings who are called to give themselves unreservedly to God, having been chosen to serve Him in a stricter sense than Christians in general, for, although all are bound to observe the commandments of God and His Church, all are not called to the more perfect life to which the three distinct engagements of religious persons bind them, engagements which this Sister had renewed and ratified on her death-bed, and had seemed, judging from her youthfulness and fervor, so well fitted to exemplify in a much longer life of usefulness. But Providence, he said, had had in view some wise end in thus calling her away, and no doubt it was to give him and them a lesson. This good Sister had made no such excuses in the service of God as were read in the Gospel were given by men of the world wedded to earthly interests, and they might hope her soul was reaping the reward of its generous devotedness. Her career had been brief, it is true; yet Holy Scripture teaches us that honorable old age and gray hairs are not to be counted by length of years, in a spiritual sense; for a godless life is old age, and the soul that is made perfect in a short space has fulfilled a long time before God. He added that she had in a manner consumed herself in their service for the love of God, having been filled, not only with a desire to relieve suffering, which is simply philanthropic, but nobler motives than mingled with her views a divine element. She had served the sick and dying through love of God and to please God alone; for they should know that these Sisters of Charity consecrate all their actions to God by prayer, rising in the morning before the generality of persons have left their places of repose to meditate on the Divine Goodness. They have their other hours of prayer, too, and even while serving others, they strive to keep united to God by contemplation, &c., &c.

At the conclusion of the services the remains were carried out to the hearse, the soldiers being filed off on both sides of the walk. The Sisters sang the psalm 'Miserere' as the procession passed out to the carriages. We understand that the remains were conveyed to Cavalry for interment.

War

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In May, 1864, Sister Ulrica, who had devoted herself heart and soul to the interests of this Hospital, was sent by her superiors to lay another foundation of a good work, and Sister M. Rosina Whitman was named her successor. About this time the eminent and estimable Dr. Gauley was removed to another field of professional labor. Dr. Clements was his worthy successor. He continued in charge until, within a few months of the closing of the Hospital. In Dr. Gauley's term of office, this Hospital had been reported, by Government Inspectors, as the best appointed and managed of the U. S. Military Hospitals, and Dr. Clements gave it as high a tone. Dr. Milham Jr. succeeded him in January of the year in which the Hospital finished its mission in behalf of poor suffering humanity. He was possessed of the desirable qualities of his predecessors, as surgeon and gentlemanly director of the Hospital.

The Sisters deem it but just to have the names of Mrs. Charles M. Connelly, Kelly, Johnson, Martin and Logan, recorded as lady benefactors, untiring in their provision of delicacies, &c. &c., for the poor suffering soldiers. There are, no doubt, other names deserving of a like mention, which, however, cannot now be recalled, but He who forgets not even a cup of cold water given in His name, bears them in His eternal memory. Another Military Hospital had been ceded to the Sisters of Charity, in Fifty-first Street, by the Government, but owing to some chicanery of one or two self-interested individuals, the Sisters never took possession of it, although the official documents of authorization were held by them, as appears by the following:

SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON D. C., Sept. 11, 1862.
Sir—The Surgeon General directs that the Sisters of Charity be selected for female nurses in the General Hospital, corner of Lexington Avenue and Fifty-first Street, and

Wightman

Dr. Phelps, Leats, Shady
on Anna Hernandez of the Maine
Staff, deserve particular notice
for their for their skill and
unwearied attention to the patients

Mrs. Mrs. Mrs. Mrs. Hagnet and
Mrs. Chancery.

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the building given by the Central Park Commissioners, for Hospital purposes. The latter building, the Surgeon directs, you will immediately organize for a Hospital. By order of the Surgeon General.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JAMES B. SMITH, Surgeon, U. S. A.
Surgeon CHARLES McDONNELL, U. S. A.
Medical Director, 110 Grand Street N. Y.

It is but just to state, that the idea of establishing the Central Park Hospital and placing it under charge of the Sisters, is due to Mr. Charles Devlin. He took a deep interest in it during its existence, and materially assisted it. Mr. Anthony Ellis gave his valuable services to the work; Mr. Charles Connolly, Mrs. Connolly and Mrs. Daniel Devlin, also took great interest in it and collected several hundred dollars for the soldiers, among their friends.

The following account of Thanksgiving Day at the Hospital is taken from a New York paper:

"The wounded soldiers in this institution were provided by the Sisters in charge, and by their friends throughout this city and vicinity, with the means of enjoying themselves on Thanksgiving Day. A splendid dinner, consisting of the choicest viands and delicacies, was prepared at the Old Mount, to which the soldiers and their friends sat down about one o'clock. The feast was heartily enjoyed, and after the physical man was satisfied, addresses were made by the Rev. Chaplain of the Hospital, Capt. Tully, Hon. Abraham Wakeman and others. Full justice was done to the edifying benevolence of the Sisters of Charity, here and everywhere, and also to the excellent ladies who had aided in furnishing the banquet. Various toasts were given complimentary to the soldiers, the ladies of the institution, the lady and gentlemen contributors, and the interesting Orphan Band in attendance from the Catholic Asylum on Fifth avenue. The dinner was presided over by Dr. Hamilton, the admirable surgeon of the institution, whose lady was also in attendance on the soldiers. The hospital is conducted in a manner most creditable to Sister Ulrica and her assistant Sisters and other assistants."

St. Joseph's Military Hospital is now an institution of the past. It was closed in 1865. Its old inmates however do not forget the kind Sisters who ministered to their wants with such devoted care. Happy in their homes and in the bosom of their families they bless the good Sisters who cared and cheered them in their hours of sickness and affliction. Even the roughest and most depraved of the patients softened beneath their gentle influence and learned a lesson of charity, humility and patience, that trust has made them better men and better members of society. Though the Sisters have received several grateful letters from their former patients, we take one as a specimen, written by a German, who had been fearfully wounded on the battle-field by a shot through the lower jaw. When he came to the Hospital, he could take no nourishment except in liquid form through a tube inserted in his throat while in a recumbent posture. Hence for nearly three years he was literally fed by one of the Sisters. By the skill and address of Dr. Gayley an artificial jaw was adjusted for him, by means of which he was able to masticate certain food and his speech seemed more natural.

*"were softened by
we trust that they
which has made them ever since better
men and worthier members of society*

or

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HAMBURG, March 14th, 1868.
SISTER OF CHARITY, ULRICA, Mount St.
Vincent.

My Dear Sister:—I thank you much for your kind letter. It was for me the most grateful surprise to receive your greetings across the ocean, and your praying wishes for my wife and child's welfare. May Heaven realize them!

My wife sends her hearty greeting and gratitude to you and all the Sisters, who kept me alive for her. My little John is a source of pleasure to me; he is a sweet child, at least he appears so to me.

I trust this letter will find you and your Sisters in perfect health and happiness. Give them all my respectful greeting, but a special handshaking to Mother Jerome, Sister Mary Teresa, and you, Sister Ulrice. Although it is an outsider who offers this tribute of affection to Sisters of an Order, it will, nevertheless, find the sanction of a high and holy God, who suffered death, not only for a creed, but for all, yea, for his enemies. Your charity was the mother of my gratitude. I hear with regret of the loss of a letter which you wrote me. I never received any since you me bade "good-bye," in 1866, in which you answered me, offering me your assistance. Although sorry for the loss of anything you enclosed, I feel myself under the same obligations as if I had received it. Not the result, but the motive of the act, decided its worth. My hearty thanks for it.

How are Dr. Gealey and poor Dr. Clements? I should like very much to have the

photographs of these two gentlemen—I owe them a heavy debt. At first I felt inclined to find fault with Dr. Gealey, but I owe him much in every respect, and am sensible of it. Please to tell him so, and beg him to give me his photograph as a personal favor. There are so many inquiries about this operation that I should be glad and proud for this and for my own sake, to have this remembrance of him. As for Dr. Clements, it was my intention to go and nurse him in his mental darkness, but was only prevented by receiving intelligence from my beloved wife. O! how I do pray that he may be well and happy long before this time. If so, or if his sickness has intelligent moments, please tell him how deeply and honestly I sympathize with him, and how gratefully I feel indebted to him for all his kindness shown to me. Please to give Father McGlynn my grateful respects. How is that proud little orphan girl? Tell her to be good.

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As for myself, I am doing well, considering circumstances. My health is feeble and will never improve I fear, but I have an object to live and work for, and my determination to do my duty vanquishes the feeling of discouragement that sometimes arises from my bodily weakness. I work very hard, but I have a loving wife and child, whose smiles cheer me after my day's toil. My only serious drawback is my having to commence business without any capital, which is a hindrance to me at every step, and often painfully embarrasses me. But my will must make the way, and if I but remain well, in a few years I will overcome all, I hope. I have rented a nice little cottage half a mile from the city, and everything around me looks cheerful—there is no tinsel work and fire-fauz, but it is neat, plain and comfortable, and if you or any of the Sisters should ever cross the Atlantic (and, certainly, none of your Sisterhood would pass by), you will like it I trust.

Sister Mary Teresa has not yet written. What is the reason? I would be content with a few lines, if she has not time to write more. Dear Sister Teresa, I esteem her so much. Often while I am sitting and thinking it all over, there is hardly one word or act that does not pass in review on the mental eye. It is for me a *fata morgana*, and in every picture, true, honest, indefatigable Sister Teresa keeps the foreground, and after that, come to mind every little incident, and Sisters Columba, Genevino, Ann Scholastica, Perpetua, and at length there are so many around me that I feel quite at home once more until that Methodist preacher, with his sugar-sweet face, and arms full of tracts, enters, and then I feel bitter for a moment.

Poor little "Louy," how is she? Why are you no longer in New Haven? What has become of the St. Joseph's Hospital? Was there ever a picture taken of it? Is the Cathedral on Fifth Avenue still going up, or is it already finished?

Adieu, my good Sister Ulrica. I shall not fail to inform you from time to time, how I am getting along, and remember that a letter from you will at all times be a welcome guest, from dear America. Sister Rosina was kind to me. Remember me to her.

God bless you, my dear Sister, and all your Sisters, and pray for me that He may bless me too.

With the most respectful friendship, I am very gratefully your obedient servant,

John Schaffler.

This poor soldier styles this country, "his dear America," but alas, after having bled for it, he has to go home to Germany, in the steerage of the vessel, weak and feeble as he was; the letter enclosing thirty dollars to him, as a donation from persons whom Sister Ulrica had interested in him, never reached him.

This letter is only one proof out of the many that could be adduced of the soldiers' gratitude to the Sisters of Charity.

* Dr. Clements had brain fever, but is now alive, quite established in health.

* "Louy" was the name of his ring dove.

It was a white dove.

It was a white dove.

It was a white dove.

It was a white dove.

It was a white dove.

It was a white dove.

It was a white dove.

Wightman

John Schaffler, private Co. B.
1st New York Mounted Rifles

He was wounded at Indian Town, N. C. in July 1863.

In conclusion, we give the following
extract from a letter written from
one of the patients.

Mother M^r. Jerome.

Reverend Mother - It is time that
I should write and return you, and
all the Sisters, thanks for their great
and unmeasured kindness to me.

I found the Hospital in every respect,
all that the most comfortable home
could be. The Drs, particularly Drs
Gouley and Clements, gave me, not
only the full benefit of their surgical
skill, but in every respect treated me
as a gentleman, age, even as a friend.

As I was to a certain extent a
free thinker, when I went to the Hospital,
I had strong prejudices against the
principles of the Catholic Sisters of
Charity; but, the maternal care and
self-sacrifices evinced by these Sisters,
their attention, relieving, as far as they could,
my sufferings, their tenderness and anxiety
in soothing my unskilled mind and
dispelling the dark shadows of insanity that
filled me with despair, removed all my
prejudices and made me look back to
them with love and gratitude.

* This poor mad meddled suicide, but her mind
was now relieved from such gloomy thoughts by the Sisters.

As long as I live I shall be a most grateful
and determined champion of those good,
unfathomable sisters against thoughtless, empty
fanatics, who try to cover their indolence
and want of good works by wise and
show, distributing tracts and singing
hymns, but would turn away, in disgust,
if called upon to do the least tedious
of the works performed by the Sisters of
Charity.

My Mother, wife or Sisters
could have done no more for me
I cannot give sufficient proof of my
appreciation of the thousand acts of kindness,
by which the modest Sister — whom
my sufferings and soothed my weary mind

The Chaplain Father Glynn was also unceasingly
kind and attentive to me.

What a Consoling Minister and Luncheon of
gladness was he to me in those dark
hours of fearful suffering, when the
present and the future were shrouded in
darkness and despair. He sat by
my bedside, gently soothed and advised
me, never attempting to proselytize me, but
by his simple words of touching tenderness,
he revived hope in my heart and
saved my soul from the dark abyss.
Every true shall be known by its
good works — Mercy, Charity

True Christian zeal to feed the hungry,
 clothe the naked, and console the afflicted,
 have produced good fruit, and have
 turned many a sinful, erring man,
 from the paths that lead to destruction
 and eternal ruin, to the joyous road
 that leads to peace and happiness
 here and eternal blessings hereafter.

God bless ye, dear Sisters! and please
 accept the thanks and gratitude of

L. M.

In conclusion

Ten years have passed over since the good
 Sisters ministered so kindly and tenderly
 to the poor sick and wounded entrusted
 to their care. God blessed their work,
 and the prayers of the grateful thousands, whom
 they relieved seemed to ascend to heaven, like
 grateful incense and to bring down upon
 them and their glorious mission, blessings
 innumerable. What God has done for
 them, and what they are doing still to
 assist and relieve suffering humanity,
 may be inferred from the following sketch
 of their home, their mission, & their

labors, lately published in
your paper. A good act
good fruit, great indeed,
their works and their power

THE CRADLE OF CHARITY.

The fashionable and favorite charity of New York is unquestionably the Foundling Asylum of the Sisters of Charity. It is one which has enjoyed the most unbounded popularity among all classes of society from its commencement, and one which has exerted a deeper and more extended influence upon the tone of our city than any other. It has taken the reproach of infanticide almost entirely away from our population, rescuing from a cruel death, by murder, at the hand of a parent, or through the instrumentality of a baby farmer, over 3,000 helpless children within the last three years.

The caption of this article asks, "Who are the Sisters of Charity?" The answer to this question is to be found in the numberless religious, educational and protective establishments in which they have labored, not only in Europe, but also in America. They have in their charitable zeal solved the great problem of the best means of putting a stop to infanticide, by relieving unfortunate parents of the responsibility of supporting their illegitimate offspring, as well as by taking charge of the infants of those too poor to rear them.

This is only one of their numerous missions of God-like charity, but it is the one that concerns us now in connection with the Asylum of Mount St. Vincent.

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The expense of taking care of and supporting this number of children is enormous. There are twelve Sisters of Charity in the house, and sixty nurses, beside 1,000 nurses outside, for most of the children are put out to nurse, the house in Washington square accommodating only about 150. Those outside nurses are under the incessant surveillance and superintendence, by visiting, of the Sisters and certain ladies, members of the Foundling Aid Association. It costs \$11,000 per month to pay these nurses, purchase provisions, food, and clothing for the children, and pay the house rent. That, at least, is the present rate of expenditure. Where the money comes from is a puzzle. The city pays to the asylum about \$1.60 per week

for each child. It takes no labored arithmetical calculation or mathematical problem to see that \$2,500 extra must be raised every month. The Ladies Foundling Aid Society and donations from various sources supply this balance, for as yet there is no fund especially belonging to the institution. It is true that the Legislature has given a square of ground in the upper part of the city, valued at \$100,000, on which the buildings of the new asylum are being erected; and besides have appropriated \$100,000, more for that purpose. But that is the building fund, and the support of the institution must be drawn from other sources.

The current expenses of the house for the first year amounted to \$44,848.83. The second year to \$67,798.39, and the third year to over \$100,000. All this money is supplied in the manner above mentioned.

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Its members were ladies of the most fashionable, elegant and aristocratic circles of our metropolitan society. Mrs. Paul Thebaud, was elected the President of this body, and Mrs. Terence Donnelly, Vice-President. The efforts of these two ladies in their respective positions are beyond all praise. No inclemency of weather, no flagging interest on the part of others, ever keep them from the asylum on the regular meeting days, and there is serious work for all who attend these meetings. On these ladies and their associates devolves the work of cutting out and making the clothing for 1,300 or more babies; besides devising the ways and means to purchase the materials for the garments, the shoes, stockings, and all the various wants of babyhood. And the little ones are well, comfortably and prettily clothed. The entire burden of the support and management of the fiscal affairs of the establishment devolves on them. Constituting an advisory and assisting council for the Sister Superior, they with her receive and disburse all the money that is necessary for house rent, nurse hire, food and clothing for all the various inmates and attaches of this expensive establishment.

A VISIT TO THE INSTITUTION.

Some of the ladies were present when the reporter made the second visit, and it was evident that the tide of fashionable benevolence was destined to take the direction of the Foundling Asylum. On the door was a plate on which was inscribed, "Foundling Asylum," and in the hall a little white box on a tall pedestal, on which in black letters was written, "Foundling Asylum Bank. One hundred per cent. interest, payable in Heaven." A little slip in the top of the box invited the deposit of pennies, dimes or dollars. On this occasion, while the reporter was awaiting the opening of the door, two girls, with babies in their arms entered the vestibule. Their faces were marred with the traces of recent tears, and they had evidently come to leave their babies as foundlings in the basket of the asylum. The reporter and visitors made way for them, and then a most touching scene transpired. The poor young creatures would put their babies in the basket, which had been placed in the vestibule, side by side, and then try to take a parting kiss. (One of them, sobbing bitterly, cried, in a voice choking with grief, "Oh my baby! How can I give you up?" and she clasped the little creature to her bosom and started off with it in her arms. Soon she returned, however, and putting the baby in the basket, rang the bell. The portress opened the door. But the poor mother seized the child and started off again, but only to return and repeat the trying scene. This was continued until every Sister, visitor and nurse in the house was attracted to the hall, and stood weeping in sympathy with the poor mother. Finally the child was left. These were two poor girls. They may have been married women, for virtuous poverty in this great city is frequently obliged to abandon the support of its children to this and other institutions. Abject, wretched, diseased vice brings its offspring here also, but not these alone.

WHERE THE BABIES COME FROM. The costly attire frequently seen upon a newly-arrived baby that came in the night before at midnight's murky hour, tells the story of where it came from. Its dainty limbs and rich laces and embroideries look strange amid the neat and pretty dresses of its companions. Such babies frequently have a fancy name, such as "Our little Allie," or "Fannie," or "Charlie," or "Harry," written on a card and attached to their dresses. Sometimes a costly earring of curious workmanship will be suspended to the child's neck, and a note pinned upon the dress requesting that the trinket may be preserved, and when the match is presented in after years they will permit the child to be restored to its wretched mother. Sometimes a broken jewel, the half of a ring, or torn letter, or scrap of cloth of peculiar pattern will be enclosed in a note, with a similar request. These mementos are religiously preserved by the Sisters, locked up in the great safe; but nothing of this kind ever makes any difference in the care bestowed upon the child. The baby brought by a poor trembling girl of fifteen, who can only afford a yard of unhemmed muslin in which to wrap her "sister's baby" to bring it to the Sisters, receives as much care and the same attentions as are given to the little dainty midnight foundling.

From week to week the reporter visited the asylum for more than a year, and patiently watched the wonderful progress of affairs. It was a very remarkable fact, that the first donation made to the asylum was by a Protestant lady, Mrs. R. B. Connolly. She afterward collected from among her personal friends and acquaintances over \$20,000, and says that she never could have succeeded in raising that amount, had it not been for the public interest excited in favor of the institution, mainly owing to the reports which appeared in the New York Sun. From week to week this interest deepened and grew, until the matter was taken in hand by the Legislature and placed under the control of the city, and now the New York Foundling Asylum is enrolled among the regular city charities. It is indeed a noble institution, but we must not forget the instrumentality of the Sisters of Charity in the matter. These same Sisters are not, as many suppose, an old European institution, engrafted on this country. They are a purely American society, a new order in the Church of Rome, born on American soil, and offspring of an American mother.

NOTE

236 450
431 448

labors, lately published in
your paper. If good actors
good fruits, great indeed,
their works and their power

THE CRADLE OF CHARITY.

The fashionable and favorite charity of New York is unquestionably the Foundling Asylum of the Sisters of Charity. It is one which has enjoyed the most unbounded popularity among all classes of society from its commencement, and one which has exerted a deeper and more extended influence upon the tone of our city than any other. It has taken the reproach of infanticide almost entirely away from our population, rescuing from a cruel death, by murder, at the hand of a parent, or through the instrumentality of a baby farmer, over 3,000 helpless children within the last three years.

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They are disciplined as disciplined as a regiment of soldiers. At every one of the four novitiate houses on the Hudson, just below Yonkers, is their Mother House, where their novices are received and trained for the work they are to do in the world. Here the postulants must spend at least six months of their two-year novitiate, learning the habits of self-abnegation necessary for a sister, for theirs is not an easy life. They must be trained to rise at 4 o'clock every morning and retire at 8 in the evening; to assist at mass every morning before breakfasting; to be employed every hour in the day as directed by their rules, either in work, prayers, contemplation

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