1899

Annual Report of "FRIENDS IN COUNCIL" January 1899-January 1900.

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Ourselves upon the threshold, once again we find,
Of a new and unexplored cycle of time
And, as is our custom, we call up for review
The year just past the more earnestly to renew
Our efforts, and the more earnestly to tread
The unknown paths that lie just ahead.
Assured that failures and successes
Anchored deep in the heart
Are, slowly but surely, perfecting life's chart.
And so from the "Friends in Council" I bring a greeting
Full of hope and good cheer to this annual meeting,
For the past year has surely been one for rejoicing
Altho' not meriting our unlimited endorsing.

One year ago, as you may recall,
Was reported financially, the best of all.
On financial agitation we seemed to thrive
And to money getting seemed more alive.
To-night we rejoice that not all of success is financial
That other blessings there are quite as substantial.
While in the past from others we have gleaned
This year our credit is redeemed
By our personal offerings far in excess
and who would say that in giving we have not been blest.
Even now if we read the signs aright
A larger harvest for the coming year is in sight.

Our funds have been variously distributed
Help to the needy and pleasure to the sick have contributed;
Our social life has been mostly confined
To gatherings in the parlors where we have dined
Sumptuously and with great good cheer
As many can testify who are now here.
And yet of extravagance accused we cannot be
For in excess of expense has been our supper fee;
Our supper once over, our attention we have turned
To the home and foreign fields, and have learned
Of the Grievous Turkish yoke
Of the sorrow and suffering Christless oppression must ever provoke;
Of noble men and women whose self-sacrificing love
Has brought Christ down from above
Of the wonderful ministries of healing
That have touched the springs of feeling
In many a weary sick soul
And pointed him to the heavenly goal.

One social evening at the home of a hospitable friend we have spent
To which invited guests their presence kindly lent
All assured the host and hostess in grateful tone
Of a pleasant evening upon starting home.
Of course, it was a bit of etiquette
You may say, and yet
It was more; there was that in the tone
That was ample assurance alone
That our entertainers had not labored in vain
To lend to the occasion a joyful strain.

The first of the year there came an appeal
From our sister society, did the "Friends in Council " feel
Like lending a hand of a Thursday night
At making a missionary program spicy and bright?
Always ready to assist when we can
We at once fell in with the plan
The subject assigned us was full indeed
Of all that one might reasonably need
To give to the evening a thrilling effect
Ifmdeveloped according to the original project.
Twas the Past and the present of the aborigines
The scope of the subject one readily sees.
But before degenerating quite to the barbaric state
And before the war-whoop was quite up to date
Our pastor, perhaps fearing sericus results
Came to us to consult
The advisibility of a present rejection
Of the subject, a collection
For the foreign land
Being close at hand.
Nothing loth, we readily agreed
Glad from our ponderous contract to be freed.

Added to our number this
Four welcome names appear
But from our roll, there disappears
A valued name that had graced it for years
Miss Carrie Noyes ' departure I have a double cause to regret
For were she but with us yet
Mine would not be the task
Your patient hearing for this report to ask.
But enough of the past with its lessons well learned
We trust with fresh hope and courage to the future we have turned.

Females		2	
Deaths, Males		2	
Males	129	Females	235
Removed	5	Removed	2
	124		233
Added	10	Added	18
	134		251

Ch. expenditure	$5631.82
" "	1012.00
Ladies Repairs	159.22
" Additional	72.00
S. S. Expenses	18.30
Woman's Mission. Soc	18.99
Y. P. S. C. E. Expense	52.65
Friends in Council	24.00
	$6988.98

Foreign Missions.

Ch. Coll	$73.14
Woman's Miss. Soc.	39.63
Y. P. S. C. E. Miss Moulton	25.00
Friends in Council	40.05
	$177.82

Home Missions

Ch. Coll.	$78.50
Womans Miss.	78.01
	$156.51

Duluth, Minn., Jan'y 16th, 1899.

To the Members and Society of Pilgrim Congregational Church:

The Board of Trustees of the church, by their chairman, present the following Report for the year ending January 17, 1899.

It is inevitable that the annual report of a Board of Trustees of any church society shall deal largely, if not exclusively with the finances of the society, whether there be a Finance Committee of the church or not, and during almost the entire year last past the trustees have constituted the sole finance committee.

We began the year with a list of annual expenditures to be made about as follows:

Pastor's salary	$2000.00	
Janitor's "	395.00	
Music	800.00	
Insurance	187.00	
Fuel	200.00	
Light and water	180.00	
Pastor's vacation supply	80.00	
Interest on mortgage	900.00	$4742.00

This was perhaps not our exact estimate, but is such an estimate as I am now able to make from data now at hand. I believe that insurance was estimated at $140.00, whereas our actual expense for insurance per year is about $93.50; other items may also vary.

Taking this as approximately correct, and leaving certain incidental repairmbills to be taken care of from the proceeds of rentals of the church building, it was necessary to raise the pledges and weekly offerings to about $91.20 per week to meet our annual bills, including interest. We found that pledges actually amounted to about $61.67 per week, in force at the beginning of the year, which would give us a total of $3206.84 per annum from that source. Add to this

an estimated weekly collection on Sunday mornings and evenings of $7.50 per week, or $390.00, we would still be short of the amount needed by about $1150.00 per annum, and if the ladies raised $250 of this, the shortage would be the exact amount of our interest coupons.

An interesting conditions of affairs for presentation to any board, truly; and the question of meeting this deficit has been very constantly before your board, and has also been presented by it to the church on several occasions, with uniform results.

Whether it be that the society has come to believe so thoroughly in its own ability always to emerge successfully from any hole, no matter how deep; whether the people are content in the belief that there wull always be found a few people ready to put their hands in their pockets and make good all deficits; whatever may be true, the Board of Trustees has found itself utterly unable by any means that it could devise, or that has been suggested to it, to raise the weekly pledges more than a dollar or two above the amount that it found in force at the beginning of the year. As often as the interest coupon has fallen due, it has been necessary for somebody to circulate a subscription paper and make good the amount, the ladies making up the remaining $250.00 shortage.

Your board will have to bring back to you at the end of the year, entirely unsolved, except as your recently appointed Finance Committee has been able to do somsthing toward that end, but it is respectfully suggested that each recurring circulation of these semi-annual subscription calls among the few whose names

are generally found upon them makes it just so much harder for the few to make the necessary sacrifices; and that there seems no good reason why a church should be conducted on such unbusinesslike principles, more than any other corporation. We believe that one of two things should be done; either we should pledge in advance an amount sufficient to meet the current expense account as at present existing, or we should cut that account to meet the amount pledged.

Can we cut expenses? We have just called a new pastor, making him an offer of $2000.00 per annum; and if he accepts, we manifestly cannot cut there. We cannot cut janitor's salary, insurance, fuel, light abd water, vacation supply or interest account; and the only remaining item is music, to meet which $800 per year has always seemed to every music committee all too little. The other alternative is an increase in pledges.

Moreover, we are bound to this increase for we have called Mr. Milne on the distinct understanding that his pre-requisite is to be complied with, that current expenses for the year be fully pledged in advance. What he means by this is fully apparent from a letter written by him to the chairman of your Board of Trustees, from which I quote:

"You and I understand one another in regard to my insisting upon the pledges sufficient for the usual annual expenditure, interest included. Part of the problem of the church is financial. There is not much prospect of a successful attack upon the principal of the debt unless the annual expenses are provided for by the regular contributions. That accomplished, the smallest amount accumulated by special effort is clear gain towards the reduction of the principal. I am glad to hear that the amount needed is so nearly in sight that the trustees can guarantee the entire sum."

It is entirely obvious from the foregoing, especially from the words, "unless the annual expenses are provided for by the

regular contributions," that Mr. Milne contemplates their provision from pledges and weekly offerings, which are the only "regular contributions" and not in any part from donations made by the ladies' socieities, which would be largely the result of those "special efforts" on which he relies for reduction of principal. It is equally obvious, therefore, that we must either at once raise our pledges to an amount which with weekly offerings will aggregate about $91.00 or we must write or wire Mr. Milne the exact status.

I beg to state here that this last statement is my own and not made by any authority of the Board of Trustees, though I cannot think neither they or the church will differ from me in this expression of opinion.

We are informed that the pledges have now been increased to about $73.00 and if we add to this the weekly voluntary offerings, it will leave us still about $10.00 short of the necessary $91.00. Of this the ladies have agreed to guarantee $300.00, as we are told; but this comes up neither to the spirit nor the letter of Mr. Milne's very reasonable requirement.

I respectfully suggest, then, in conclusion that we proceed at this annual meeting to increase our pledges in the amount of $10.00 and that we do not leave the church until this is accomplished. A Council was called for the 16th of this month, in Columbus, Ohio, to act on Mr. Milne's resignation of the pulpit of Plymouth Church, and a very determined effort is being made to retain him there. Let him not be called to Pilgrim Church of Duluth and accept that call, leaving a people who are ready and anxious to do more for him financially than we have offered,

only to come here and find that we have not done even what we offered in the implication of our call.

Respectfully submitted,

WM. C. WHITE,

Chairman Board of Trustees.

List of Officers.

President	L. Ella Roe
Vice-President	Miss Bates
Secretary	Miss Williams
Treasurer	Miss Dean

Financial Report.

Balance on hand	$8.68
Received in pledges	48.75
" from suppers	19.88
" " dues	4.50

DISBURSEMENTS/

W. B. M. I.		$40.05
For suppers		15.77
For social		7.28
For flowers		1.00
For church		10.00
To balance		7.71
	$81.81	$81.81

L. Ella Roe.

STATEMENT OF TREASURER OF LADIES' UNION.

Total receipts for 1897	$649.09
" " " 1898	446.39
A decrease of	$202.70
Pledge to Church Treasur.	$400.00

Having fulfilled our pledge and all expenses paid, we have a balance in treasury of $11.85.

Amelia Ericson, Treas.

A. M. A. 1899.

Ch. Collection	$70.72
Ladies Union Clothing	28.00
" Indian girl	10.00
Y. P. S. C. E. Alaska	5.00
J. Kimball	5.00
	$118.72

S. S. & Pub. Soc.

Coll.	$20.11

Ch. Bldg.

Coll.	$18.61

Other Benevolences.

W. Ames	$500.00
C. Gilbert	1000.00
J. Kimabll	15.00
Ladies Union, Y. M. C. A.	30.00
Chapman, Y. M. C. A.	50.00
	$1595.00

Home expenditures	$6988.98
Foreign Missions	177.82
Home "	156.51
A. M. A.	118.72
S. S. & Pub. Soc.	20.11
Ch. Bldg.	18.61
Other	1595.00
	$8075.95

S. S. Members	250.00
Av. Att.	180. 0
Families	200. 0
Church members	364
Added 1899	28
Removed letter	5
Death	2

Church had Y. Boh 1899	364
Male members	129
Female	235

Rec'd 1899 Conf.	16
" Letter	12
" Males	10
" Females	18

Dismissed by letter	5
Males	3

1899.

The Ladies' Union has held, this year, sixteen meetings, with an average attendance of fourteen. Two socials were held in the spring and an entertainment under auspices of the Home Consumers' League with supper in connection with it.

In June it was voted to pledge $400 toward the church expenses. A farewell reception was held for Mr. and Mrs. Patton in the church parlors and the ladies had a receiption for Mrs. Patton at the home of Mrs. Weiss.

Five suppers were given during the year, The Annual Supper, one to delegates in June, one to the Home Consumers League, The Harvest Home Supper and the supper or restaurant at the Christmas sale.

The meetings during the summer were suspended, but a barrel of clothes was made and sent to Hannah Wash, the Indian girl. The success of the Christmas sale under Mrs. Woodbridge's efficient direction testifies to her ability and that of her assistants. I believe the amount raised is as much or more than we ever raised. As seen by the Treasurer's report our success financially is not so great as in other years. This may be explained by the confused state of affairs in the church incident to being without a pastor, and also by incapacity of the president.

Respectfully submitted.

Clara Ames,

President.

Secretary's Report of Ladies' Union. 1899.

The Ladies Union has held sixteen meetings during the past year with an average attendance of fourteen. Two socials were held in the spring and an entertainment under the Home Consumers' League with supper in connection with it.

In June it was voted to pledge $400 toward the church expenses. A farewell reception was given Mr. & Mrs. Patten in August. Four suppers given during the year:

To delegates in June.

Home Consumers League

Harvest Home supper

Christmas sale supper.

No meetings held through July, August and September.

There was some work done for Hannah Wash, but it was while I was away during the summer, and I don't know just how much was done.

Sincerely,

Carrie E. Cant.