

For the Glory of God
and the Welfare of Seamen.



No. 4.

Michaelmas, 1906.

JOTTINGS FROM OUR LOG

THE VICTORIA MISSIONS TO SEAMEN

(being the Victorian Seamen's Mission and the
Melbourne Missions to Seamen amalgamated).

Patron :

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The Honourable Sir Reginald Talbot, K.C.B.

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THE MISSION has suffered great loss in the deaths of Mr. W. J. Mountain and Mr. W. H. C. Darvall. The latter was secretary of the old Victorian Seamen's Mission for many years, and was one of the prime movers in the amalgamation of that society with the London Mission. The present Mission, therefore, owes as much to Mr. Darvall's zeal and energy as the old Mission did. We pray God to raise us up a new secretary, who will carry on the work in a spirit of self-denying energy. In this prayer we are sure the OTHER AUSTRALASIAN STATIONS at Sydney, Newcastle, and Wellington will join. We are one in purpose and one in operation.

When our new boat is afloat and doing her work, she will be the 29th vessel flying the blue flag of the Missions to Seamen. This is the Jubilee Year of "the Missions to Seamen," and it will be a cause of great thankfulness to God if Melbourne can take its part in the celebration of that Jubilee by launching a motor boat and laying the foundation-stone of the new Mission Buildings.

The chief event of the past quarter has been the laying down of the MISSION MOTOR BOAT, the most generous gift of an anonymous donor. She is being built by Messrs. Blunt, at Geelong, and is being engined by Messrs. Tarrant and Co., of Melbourne. Captain Press and Captain Strickland have kindly acted as advisers, and Mr. C. W. Maclean (Inspector of Ports and Harbours) is kindly giving his services as honorary consulting engineer. We hope shortly to be able to announce the date of the launching, which will take place at Geelong, and which will be followed by a service of "dedication," conducted by the Archbishop, on the River Yarra, at Melbourne. The Committee feel that in the possession of a motor boat the work of the Mission will be very greatly furthered, and they earnestly call upon all friends of the Mission, both ashore and afloat, to assist them financially in maintaining the boat, and generally to relieve them of anxiety in the matter of funds. Already collecting cards have been taken by coasting steamers and other ships.

Services are held on SUNDAY MORNINGS, whenever practicable, on board ship in the Bay. For this purpose, as a rule, only a sailing boat is at present available, and as there is generally either a flat calm or else half-a-gale of wind, this mode of progression is not satisfactory, to say the least.

Services have been held during the quarter on board the ships "Manx King," "Dovenby," "Glenlui," "Marion Woodside," and "Ainsdale," with the kind consent of the captains.

The plans are being prepared for the first section of the NEW MISSION BUILDINGS on the Australian Wharf, and tenders are being called for. As we go to press, we do not know the exact cost of this first portion of the scheme; but unless more money is received, there will be delay even in getting the barest minimum of an Institute. What a pity it is that we cannot get sufficient money to complete the scheme at once. If only the noble example already set by some fifty or so shipowners, merchants, and others was followed by others upon whom the claims of the sailor are just as strong, the money would soon be in the bank.

The EXISTING INSTITUTES at Port Melbourne and Williamstown carry on their daily and nightly work as usual. Mr. R. Reid has given a Bagatelle Board to the Port Melbourne Institute, which will be a great acquisition. The Williamstown local Committee have decided to purchase a Bagatelle Board and other games for the Williamstown Rest with the money raised by Miss Mitchell's Concert. A Billiard Table is greatly needed for the Port Melbourne Institute.

The Williamstown Rest, owing to its somewhat decayed condition, has been exercising the minds of the Committee. It is hoped, however, that means of the co-operation of Williamstown residents—who have done much for sailors in the past—a suitable building will be provided and maintained. Sailors may be quite sure that they will always find a "Rest" in which to spend their evenings at Williamstown.

The LADIES' HARBOUR LIGHTS GUILD has made a good start, and the "woollies" and "ditty bags" are much appreciated as presents by the men of the sea, who contend in games of skill for these prizes at the Social Evenings. The forecastle book-bags are in great demand. A constant supply of magazines and other literature is required for sending away to sea with outgoing ships. We like to give a good bundle to every ship.

Our BEST THANKS are accorded to the following (among a number of anonymous donors), who have sent magazines, &c.:—The Misses Breaks, Mr. C. T. Martin, Rev. W. Fielder, Miss Jessie Were, Miss Hope, Miss A. Young, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Green, Mr. Davis, Mr. Ward, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Hird, Mr. Morrow, Mr. Janson, Miss Ormerod, Social Centre (Armada), Miss G. W. Kinsman, Oakley Hall, Mr. Tucker, Mrs. E. P. Thomas, Mrs. Derham, Mrs. Freeman, Mrs. Ipsen, Y.P.C.E. (Kensington), Mrs. Newlands, Rev. G. A. Crawford, Exchange, Miss Pritchie, Miss Davis, Mr. Dempster, Mr. E. C. Rigby, Mrs. Jackson, Athenæum, Mrs. Russ, Mrs. Pinches, Mrs. Harrison Lee, Madame Albertin Gay. Also to the following for book-bags, woollies, &c.:—Mrs. Crocker, Miss Purcell, Miss Jessie M'Glashan, Miss J. M. Were, Mrs. O'Sullivan, St. John's Ladies' Guild (Camberwell), St. Stephen's Guild (Richmond), Mrs. Newland, Miss Wilson, Miss Kelsall (typewritten "Ladies' Work for Sailors").

To Fleet-Engineer Breaks and Mr. C. A. Holmes for games of "Bobs," and Mr. R. Reid for a Bagatelle Board.

The Admiral, Sir Wilmot Fawkes, and Lady Fawkes have been showing great interest in the Mission, and we hope to be able to announce that the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of H.M. Fleet have succeeded in arranging some entertainment of a naval character to help our funds.

All Sea-going Men are cordially invited to use the Institutes for Reading, Smoking, or Writing Letters. Special Evenings are arranged as under:—

PORT MELBOURNE, Seamen's Institute—

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| Sunday | - | Service, 7 p.m. |
| Monday | - | Concert, 8 p.m. |
| Wednesday | - | Service, 8 p.m. |
| Friday | - | Social, 8 p.m. |

WILLIAMSTOWN, Sailors' Rest—

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|----------|---|-----------------|
| Tuesday | - | Concert, 8 p.m. |
| Thursday | - | Social, 8 p.m. |

AUSTRALIAN WHARF, The Sailors' Home—

(Temporarily, by permission of the Committee.)

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| Thursday | - | Service, 7.30 p.m.; Concert or Social, 8 p.m. |
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