



LADIES'

ASSOCIATION OF CHARITY,

OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL.

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF

HIS GRACE THE LORD ARCHBISHOP.

THE

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

President:

VERY REV. J. CURTIS, S. J.

Vice-President:

REV. DR. COOPER.

ıírector:

REV. T. M'NAMARA.

Bublin:

WILLIAM POWELL, 68, THOMAS-STREET.

1852.

To be had at the Office of the Association, 20, Lower Dorset-street, of J. Duffy, 7, Wellington-quay, G. Bellew, 79, Grafton-st., & W. Powell, 68, Thomas-st.

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FIRST REPORT

OF THE

LADIES' ASSOCIATION OF CHARITY

OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL,

Attached to the Metropolitan Parish of Dublin, and instituted for the Spiritual and Temporal Relief of the Sick Poor

The period fixed by the rules of this Association for the election of new office-bearers has arrived. The out-going office-bearers have, therefore, deemed it right, on resigning into the hands of the Association the trusts confided to them, to prepare the following Report, which they respectfully submit to the Members, Active and Honorary, as also to the other Benefactors of this Institute of Charity. Before entering upon what may be considered the more special matter of this Report, we deem it due to Benefactors, (this being our First Report), to give some account of the origin and progress of the Association, as also of its objects and form of management, as well as the spirit which animates it.

ITS ORIGIN AND PROGRESS.

The Association of Charity for the Spiritual and Temporal Relief of the Sick Poor, owes its origin to St. Vincent de Paul, and was amongst the first of the great works of that great Benefactor of mankind. Upon a certain occasion, as he was about preaching to a congregation of which he had temporary charge, he was informed of a family in the parish, some members of which were sick and in great distress, and he was requested to say a word in their behalf to the charity of the audience.

Grace accompanied his words, and such was the effect produced by his appeal, that several of the congregation immediately sent relief in various kinds to the distressed family. Vincent himself, going out to visit the family, observed the amount of relief they had received, and thinking for a moment, he said within himself, "This is great charity, but ill regulated, this poor family have too much to-day, and to-morrow or next day, they will be in as great distress as before." The idea of their falling back into the state of destitution from which they had been relieved, clung to his mind, and thinking upon the case of this poor family, he was led by the inspiration of Heaven to devise an Association of Ladies for the permanent relief, spiritual and temporal, of the sick poor of the parish.

The Almighty espoused the good work, and gave it his bless-It soon commenced to spread from parish to parish, and St. Vincent, witnessing the fruits of it in the relief of the poor objects for which it was instituted, endeavoured, by himself and the Missionaries of his Congregation, to propagate and extend And what makes this Institute particularly interesting in its origin, it became the occasion, in process of time, of the institution of the society of the Sisters of Charity The two In stitutes on the Continent have never ceased to love each other in the charity of a common parent, and have mutually aided each other in working out the ends and purposes for which they were respectively founded. They have survived the wreck and ruin of many public disorders and revolutions, and they abide to this day, fruitful in works of charity and beneficence, attesting that St. Vincent of Paul was raised up by the Almighty to be a wonder-worker of charity, not only for the time of his mortal life, but for unborn and distant generations.

OBJECT OF THE ASSOCIATION

The chief object of the Association, as its designation indicates, is the Temporal and Spiritual Relief of the Sick Poor Sickness is accounted the greatest of our temporal ills. It embitters all enjoyment, but sickness to the poor fills up the cup of their misery they are without attendance, nourishment, and

Often it is the earning portion of the family that is care. struck down, and then to what straits is the entire family re-To provide a resource for such misery, well became the benevolent heart of St. Vincent de Paul, in the project of this Association. But, more to be pitied still are the spiritual wants of the poor in their sickness. Though, as a class, they are the Elect of God, how many, alas amongst them, have forfeited this happy privilege Owing to neglect in their youth, un happy circumstances of their position in after life, but too frequently they are ill prepared when it comes for their summons out of this life. And bereft of all comfort, consolation, and relief, how great are the temptations which beset their passage To console, therefore, these children of afflicinto eternity tion, to lift up their souls with resignation and hope, to Him "who chastiseth whom he loveth," to instruct them, and prepare them for the last ministrations of religion, in a word, to do for them all that human charity can accomplish to procure them a happy entrance into eternity, are purposes preciously These, again, were the blessed purdear to Christian charity poses St. Vincent had in view for the institution of this good work, and are likewise the purposes to which all the Associates humbly aspire, under his holy patronage.

FORMS OF MANAGEMENT

The management of the Association is confided to a Superior, two Assistants, one of whom acts as Treasurer, and a Secretary The Members are of two classes, Active and Honorary The first apply themselves, as directed by rule, to the active functions of the Institute, the latter aid it by contributing to its funds. As a preliminary condition, the Members must have the consent of those to whom they are subject in their families, and afterwards are received by applying to the Superior, who, with her Assistants, exercises due discretion in reference to all candidates. They are afterwards announced at the next monthly meeting of the Members, and are then admitted to share in the mentorious works of the Association. The visiting of the sick is regulated by rotation, according to the order of the register,

and the duties are so distributed, that each Member's turn for visiting reverts but once in the month. Thus, the charitable functions of the Members scarcely at all interfere with their domestic occupations, or the duties they owe their families. Each Member, on her visits to the poor, takes with her a companion, the choice of whom is allowed to herself, either in or out of the Association.

SPIRIT OF THE ASSOCIATION

St. Vincent de Paul was far from regarding charity in the light of philanthropy only, or mere human benevolence, he considered it, and practised it, as a Christian virtue, he con sidered his neighbour in God, and loved him for God. poor, in particular, he regarded as the special objects of chari-Them he looked upon as the representatable consideration. tives of Jesus Christ, according to the express words of this Divine Model of charity. "Amen, as long as you did it to one of these, my least brethren, you did it unto me."—MATT. xxv. This spirit he sought to impart to all who shared with him in his works of charity Speaking of the poor, he used to say, "When viewed according to nature, their circumstances and condition are both offensive and repulsive, but turn the medal, and you will find reflected in them the heavenly features and divine beauty of Him 'who when he was rich, became poor for us. " He would, therefore, have the members of this Association consider, that in going to visit the sick poor, they are going to visit not them, but Jesus Christ in them, that in ministering consolation and relief to the sick poor, they are doing so not to them, but to Jesus Christ in them; and that on retiring from the sick-bed of their poor fellow-creature, they are to treasure the consoling thought, that the charity they have bestowed upon them is already accepted and registered for reward hereafter, as if it were bestowed upon Himself. order to impart this spirit of heaven-born charity to the Members of this Association, St. Vincent appointed certain practices of piety and devotion, which should be so many supernatural links, binding the Members together into a spiritual sisterhood.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ASSOCIATION INTO THIS COUNTRY

This Association was first introduced into this country, and established in Kingstown, in the year 1843, upon the occasion of a Mission by the Priests of the Congregation of St. Vincent de Paul. It received the cordial sanction and approbation of our late venerated Archbishop, who, amongst his other eminent qualities, was ever most zealous in promoting every good work having for its object the alleviation of human misery, and the promotion of charity.

Speaking of the contemplated good work, His Grace said, "We are happy to hail your Institute of Charity as a further work of St. Vincent, which, beginning with you, will, we trust, extend by your good example amongst the faithful of other parishes, and secure extensive and lasting blessings for the humble objects of your zeal, in whom our Divine Saviour is himself pleased to be represented. Recommending you, then, dearly beloved children in Christ, to the intercession of St. Vincent, we unite our fervent supplications, praying that the Lord may direct your hearts in the charity of God, and the patience of Christ. Amen."

The blessed fruits of the Association, where it first began, and in other places where it has been since established, are sufficiently well known, and need not be recited by us.

ORIGIN OF THIS BRANCH OF THE ASSOCIATION AND ITS PROGRESS.

The friends of charity and the poor long desired the introduction of the Association into this Metropolis. It was, however, reserved for the last year to realise these good wishes. The approbation of the Archbishop having been obtained, a preliminary meeting of Ladies was convened, on the 6th of June, 1851, in the Church of St. Francis Xavier, Upper Gardiner-street, in pursuance of notices addressed to persons deemed favourable to the project. The Very Rev J. Curtis, S. J., Rev. A. Kyan, S.J., Rev. H. Rorke, S.J.; Rev. T. M'Namara; Rev. J. Gaffney, S.J., and Rev. W Irwin, favoured the meeting with

their presence. The Very Rev John Curtis, presiding, explained the object of the meeting, after which, the Rev Alexander Kyan read the Rules of the Association, the Rev Thomas M'Namara following, commented upon them.

Before the meeting separated, the Ladies volunteering to be Active Members, gave in their names, and an adjourned meeting was fixed for June 24th, to elect office-bearers. ing was attended by the Rev T M'Namara, and the Rev A. Kyan, S.J, by whom the elections were conducted, and the good work regularly installed Afterwards, the Members met from month to month, to receive the monthly reports of the Association, and such instruction as might be necessary for their direction. And here we beg to record our earnest grati tude, and that of our Associates in this good work, to the Very Rev John Curtis, S. J., who, notwithstanding his numerous and important duties, contrived to find time to assist at our meetings, and encouraged and animated us in our humble en deavours, by his edifying and impressive instructions. We owe a similar debt of gratitude to the Rev Dr Cooper, who favoured several of our meetings with his presence, cheering us on by his animating addresses, and directing us by his wise counsels.

Like many good works, our project had its difficulties to en counter and obstacles to surmount in the commencement. Many, whose opinions were entitled to respectful consideration, had their misgivings about its success. These things happened, however, in order that the Almighty might stamp the work as his own, and under his Divine blessing it has continued to progress and prosper. We began with nineteen. Our number went on increasing from meeting to meeting, and at present the Association reckons fifty-four Active Members.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF THE INSTITUTE

The means to supply funds to the Association, presented at first much embarrassment. This embarrassment was, however, soon removed, by the bounty of an all-rich Providence, who regards every work of charity as an instrumentality of his own beneficence. We soon learned a lesson, every day rendered

more plain, that those who would do charity, need only to wish it earnestly, and place themselves in the hands of God for the purpose. He "who openeth his hand, and filleth every living thing with benediction," never fails to furnish the necessary supplies. The friends of charity, also, looking to the objects of the Association, and the government by which it is regulated, felt that they could not give effect to their charity better than by placing their offerings in our hands. Our funds are derived from the following resources, viz.:—

First, The contributions of the Active Members at their monthly meetings.

Secondly, The subscriptions of Honorary Members, who pay yearly, half-yearly, or quarterly

Thirdly, Collections made by Members and Friends of the Institute.

Fourthly, Casual contributions.

VISITING OF THE SICK POOR.

The Poor, who are the objects of the Institute, hailed with thanksgiving to the Almighty, such a resource in their favour As the Members entered the courts and alleys, where the poor are to be found, joy was on every countenance, and words of welcome burst forth from every mouth, the sick felt as if half their illness had left them and the consideration of persons above them in life, coming to them by the impulse of spontaneous charity, gave a special efficacy to the efforts of the Members in ministering to their wants and necessities. The following sketch, furnished to us by a Member, will not be found un interesting:—

"Early in the month of March, we received a sick call from a Clergyman of an adjoining parish, to attend upon a young lad, aged nineteen, residing at * * * * * * We found him in the last stage of consumption, and his family, consisting of a father, mother, and two brothers, in great distress. He was dying, apparently, in most resigned dispositions, when a lamentable occurrence disturbed, more than a little, his latter days it was this.—His younger brother met with some accident

in the street, and was brought by his father to the hospital; in a few days he was better, said he was almost well, but as the doctor had ordered medicine and a few hot baths for him, he would remain till his father's next visit to the hospital, and then return home. Two days after this visit was paid, and his afflicted parent learned, to his inexpressible grief, that his son was no more, having been found dead in the bath, and poisoned through mistake. Whether this happened by having a lotion administered in place of a draught, is not known. Great, in deed, was the trial for the dying boy, when the corpse of his brother was brought into that wretched room. He found it hard to be resigned to die, but grace was given to him to bear all. He expressed great anxiety to see a Clergyman again however, he was not so fortunate, for, previous to his arrival, he had rendered his soul into the hands of his Creator time before, he had received the last Sacraments. The Visitors were with him when he died.

"A few days after that sad scene, we entered that abode of poverty, the father and mother were seated near a few embers, another child, now struck by sickness, lay on a little straw in a corner, no earthly comfort was there, the entire furniture of that room consisted of two stools!—no chair, no table, nothing that could convenience them. The father, a most intelligent person, filled with the deepest grief for his children, which he laboured to suppress, said to us, 'My sixth child is now dead, and I can repeat with Job, 'The Lord hath given, and the Lord hath taken away blessed be the name of the Lord.' And now my seventh child lies sick. We told him to go soon to the Sacraments, and that there he would receive the consolation he required. It was the first Sunday of the month, and to our great consolation we learned that, on that morning, in the depth of his sorrow, he had been, as was his custom, at holy Com munion, in his parish chapel. His eye was inflamed, we will account for it in his own words. 'I was sitting at the fire, thinking of poor Joseph, and I felt greatly inclined to cry, but as I had made a resolution never to cry for the death of any of my children, I resisted it. Suddenly I felt a rush of water to

my head, my eye burst, a few tears trickled down my cheek, which became slightly blistered, and now I cannot well bear the light. We asked him why he would not cry: he answered, 'Ah, I wished, and made the resolution, to practise that much self-denial!' Believing this exertion to be bad for him, we expressed the same.

"Many and many a lesson of virtue could we have learned in that room. The wife's maternal affection made her very anxious about her son's soul her grief was violent. 'Oh!' she again and again exclaimed, 'in God's mercy I trust, and I hope his soul is safe. We tried to say a word of comfort, to pour the balm of consolation into that afflicted heart. We told her that on the last Monday of the month we would have Mass said for the repose of his soul. The scene that followed we can hardly attempt to describe she shricked with delight, threw herself on her knees, and invoked the most beautiful blessings from Heaven upon us. Then rising, she said, 'Just before you came in, my husband and I were speaking of poor Joseph, and we were saying, that if ever God raised us again in the world, we would do without eating or drinking for three days, that we might get Mass said for his soul. Then, remembering her other lost one, she drew nearer, and said, 'Ah sure you won't forget in the Mass poor Michael, the murdered boy?' We told the father we would seek for employment for him, that we could not promise that we should succeed, but would do our best. His face became convulsed with emotion, and he answered, 'It is pleasing even to hope; rest assured, ladies, that if you succeed in getting it, I will never prove myself unworthy of the interest you have shown.

"He was well instructed and educated, had been at school near R * * * *, had a farm of his own, was overseer under the Board of Works over 500 men, resolved to go to America, gave up his farm, came to Dublin two years since, and was struck down by sickness. At the time we saw him, he was in a wretched state for want of clothes,—covered with rags. The Association sent him a suit of clothes, hat, coat, vest, shoes, &c. &c., all donations of charitable individuals to the Society [And here we

would remind the friends of charity, how acceptable and useful every species of old clothing is, and how gratefully all such will be received for the poor at the office of the Association, 20, Lower Dorset-street].

"After some days, this poor man became seriously ill. We asked Doctor M'Donnell, of 7, Gt. Denmark-street, whose kindness we have to acknowledge on many occasions, to visit him. We have been credibly informed, that he owes his life to the medical care got through the Association. Food, fuel, straw, clothing, and some bed covering, have gone to that family from the Society What would have become of them but for it? And if the prayer of the humble pierceth the clouds, surely the prayer of these poor afflicted creatures will penetrate even to the very heart of the Divinity, and draw therefrom for all engaged in this great work of charity, graces, great, unhoped for, inexpressible!

"At our parting, the poor woman exclaimed, 'May the gates of heaven be opened at your death to receive you we were without hope, and you brought it to us, we were in death, and you brought us life.

"The blessings of the poor must fructify Oh let us hope that ere long there will not be a Catholic family in Dublin who cannot have the happiness of thinking that one, at least, of its number is an Active Member of this Association, and thus engaged in the blessed service of the poor of the Lord Jesus; and by this happy servitude, have good reason to hope that they will be the means of bringing into their own families the beautiful and abundant benedictions of his suffering children."

The Members of the Association soon experienced a hidden delight in their humble avocations doing good they found to bring with it its reward even in this world. But in proportion to the miseries which they had to relieve, and the good, therefore, they had to effect, they found their reward enhanced in the consolation they derived from their duties. Many consider their day for visiting the Sick Poor too slow in its return. Some, who had hesitated about joining the Institute, were at a loss to ac-

count for their misgivings, and all were animated with a love, earnest and persevering, for the good work, and would wish that others would taste its sweetness, in order that they might be induced to extend and propagate it.

During the past year the Members made 3591 visits to the Sick Poor, and relieved 217 Families.

ATTENDANCE ON THE DYING.

We contrived to pay special attention to the Sick Poor as we saw them approach their departure out of this world. We endeavoured to prepare them for the worthy reception of the last consolations of religion this duty has been to us in every degree edifying and consoling. In no one instance did we notice anything approaching to obduracy or impenitence, on the contrary, we were uniformly consoled with the lively faith, the earnest hope, the patient resignation of these favourities of Heaven. How we often wished the benefactors of the Institute could hear the sentiments of gratitude they expressed with their dying breath, and the benedictions they invoked upon those at whose hands they experienced such comfort and relief

One of our Members has given us the following edifying details.

"A sick call, from a Clergyman of St. Michan's parish, summoned us to attend at the death bed of a young man named * * * * * , aged twenty-one, a printer by trade, and almost the only support of his widowed mother and her large family. When the Associates began to visit him, about three months previous to his death, he was most desirous to recover, and confidently looked forward to regaining his health. God had, however, other designs upon this his favoured child. His complaint, which was decline, rapidly increased, and during Lent it was manifest our Divine Lord was fast taking him to himself. As his weakness increased, his soul gained strength, and each day he expressed to the Visitors, after their short instruction, the peace and resignation which hourly grew greater within him.

"On Good Friday, at three o clock, they told him, that his

merciful Saviour, who at that hour died on the cross for his salvation, was about to summon him from this world, and that his soul would soon they trusted, join the celestial choirs in adoring and praising God in an eternity of bliss.

"One regret alone he expressed. 'My poor mother what will become of her? I was her only support on earth, and when I am gone, whom will she look to? His mother, who was present, knelt down beside him, saying, 'My child, think what the Blessed Mother of God suffered on this day, when she stood by the cross of her agonising Son, think of the sword of sorrow which pierced her blessed heart, and when the God of glory allowed his Mother to suffer so much, you must rejoice to see your poor mother afflicted. I give you, my darling child, from the very bottom of my heart to that good God, who gave you to me, sure he knows what is best, and he and his blessed Mother will not forget me. The dying boy now answered, 'I leave you, mother, in their care, they will protect you, don't fret for me in heaven I can do more for you than ever I could do on earth.

"From that day his thoughts and heart became more and more absorbed in God. On Easter Sunday he went again to Confession and received the Holy Communion. On that day he made one request, viz., to have Mass offered for him before he died we promised that on the next morning this holy desire should be gratified. His poor mother fell on her knees, expressing in a flood of tears her gratitude, her heart, she said, was filled with joy, and nothing this world could offer bore any comparison to the blessing of having the holy Sacrifice offered for her child. 'God for ever bless you, he exclaimed. 'Now I die happy whilst life remains I shall not fail to pray for you, and when in heaven, then, oh then, I won't forget you. resignation and confidence in God increased each hour, a thought of fear never appeared to cross his mind. On one occasion he told the Visitors that during life he never liked to read the books, 'Think well on it, or 'Hell opened to Christians;' for, he said, 'I never liked to be afraid of God, and now I wish to meet my Saviour without fearing him. I desire to love and serve God, not to avoid hell or gain heaven, but for his own sake alone.'

"No complaint or murmur ever escaped his lips, and when asked if he was suffering, he replied, looking at his crucifix, 'Oh no; for what are my pains compared to those my Saviour bore for me?' He frequently expressed the most tender devotion to the ever Blessed Virgin Mary, who, he said, had always watched over and preserved him. 'Is it not merciful in God, he once exclaimed, 'to take me to himself thus early, lest, if my life were prolonged, I might offend him more? Seeing his eyes become quite fixed a few hours before his happy death, we asked him if his sight was dim. Hear his answer 'Dim, quite dim; but my heart feels as if it penetrates the skies, and that the blessedness that awaits me, is now unfolded to my view ' He asked us the hour, as is the custom with many on the very brink of eternity We told it him, and added, that we supposed the day appeared long to him. He said it did, but the nights much longer, as he never slept, but that then he pleased himself with the thought that our Lord was watching near his bed and smiling upon him, and his Blessed Mother waiting there to receive him; numbers of holy Angels hovering around, wishing to take him with them, but through love were rejoicing to see him suffer more, that he might be the nearer to them in heaven. The Visitor for the dying then recommended him to offer his life to God as a sacrifice of love. 'Oh yes, he exclaimed, 'I offer my life with all my heart and soul to God, and accept death, not alone because he sends it, but because I wish to die for love of Him. who died on a cross for love of me. We left with him a crucifix with a plenary indulgence for the hour of death, and a moment before he expired, he kissed it again and again, his head fell back, and without a struggle his happy soul winged its flight to God; we trust, to that weight of glory, that torrent of delights, that sumptuous profusion of endless joy, purchased for him by the blood of his Saviour.

"We entered that poor room the morning after the decease, and we found it profitable to contemplate the calm and placid features of the departed. During life he invariably approached the sacraments of Confession and Communion every fortnight. He lived well, and he died well Everything was neat and

clean around. The zeal of the Visitor had provided for all. The indulgenced crucifix was suspended from his neck by a blue satin ribbon, and near this was placed a *lily*, emblematic of the purity of that soul which had gone to its reward.

"One of his sisters was, up to this time, in the service of a Protestant clergyman. Since then, a zealous Member has procured her an excellent situation in a good Catholic family. In her former service, her religion was a source of trial."

The pen of another Member has furnished us with the two following animating sketches.

"It would be difficult to pass over the aged widow * * * * In Greek-street. The family were steeped in poverty, the old woman lay upon the floor on a little straw, of this world's goods they had none; but they shared, and loved mutually to exchange acts of generosity and kindness. The feeling they evinced for each other, cast a glow of happiness over their dreary abode, a ray of such brightness, as only penetrates into the homes of the virtuous.

"The old woman had fainted in the street, and was carried like a child in the arms, and laid upon her straw The Priest was immediately sent for, danger not being imminent, time was given her to prepare for the Sacraments. The family came from the country, they were one among the many who have been swept away out of their little holdings, into the back lanes of the city. The widow was not so fluent in English as in her native Irish, still she understood enough to listen with pleasure to the Ladies, who came daily to prepare her to approach the Sacraments, and teach her how to answer all essential questions in a clear and distinct manner. Sufficient relief was bestowed to enable the sufferer to dismiss all present care from her mind, and fix her thoughts upon eternity alone. The prospect of a future life had ever been familiar to her, she loved to contemplate the distant regions beyond the tomb. In the midst of her suffering, she used to burst out into acts of thanksgiving. 'The Lord is so good He is taking satisfaction out of me. Glory be to God! Praised be His blessed name He is taking it out of me here.

"At the end of about a fortnight, she received all the last Sacraments. She daily grew weaker, but remained conscious to the last. In their extreme poverty, the poor woman had parted with her rosary A few pence given by one of the Visitors to buy a drink, was laid out in the purchase of a pair of beads, which she lovingly clasped in her dying hands, deriving consolation from the very touch of this emblem Her gratitude to the Ladies of St. Vincent was un bounded. 'As you have clothed me here, so may you be clothed in glory hereafter, did she exclaim. The Associates who entered the room on the day of the widow's departure from this world, were greeted by the lamentations of the affectionate daughter of the deceased, who, in the howl peculiar to the country, was giving immoderate vent to her grief. At one word from our Associate, the loud wail was hushed, and the sobs were stopped, and the afflicted woman knelt, her own babe beside her, by the corpse, and united with the Ladies in the prayers they offered for the repose of the departed soul. The corpse was levely to look upon. The calm and tranquil features reminded one, that death has no sting for the faithful child of God."

Seldom, perhaps, were the Associates more necessary than at the pillow of * * * * * *

"A hard-working girl, the chief support of a family in comparative comfort, was suddenly struck with sickness. Accustomed, hitherto, to rude health, the idea of death was a stranger to her mind. The Visitor, who perceived the sufferer's danger, saw no time was to be lost, and spoke to her as is usual by the couch of a patient in danger. Long absent from the Sacraments, preparation for confession appeared a labour too irksome to think of at present. 'I am too ill to turn my mind to it, said the dying girl. The mother's voice reechoed the daughter's sentiment. The Visitor said to her, 'You wish to be reconciled to God? you are sincerely sorry for ever having offended him?' 'O yes!' gasped the sufferer, scarcely able to draw breath. The Associate now said, 'It would be well to lose no time in

seeking to wash your soul in the blood of Christ. His precious blood, applied by the sacrament of Penance, will blot out your sins, and prepare your soul to appear in His presence. You know how to begin your preparation. Invoke the assistance of the blessed Mother of God. 'O yes!' she said, 'when I am well, it shall be the first thing I will do. Not now, I cannot.' relations, confident of the girl's recovery, agreed in desiring confession delayed, saying, 'She is not able for it. The Visitor, to whom the girls approaching death seemed certain, was awestruck. Argument was useless, so, calling upon the Blessed Virgin, she sat down, took out pen and ınk, and gave them to understand she could not leave until they had promised to take the sick-call she had written, to the Priest. On the following day the poor girl made her confession, and had the happiness of receiving the Holy Viaticum and Extreme-Unction. The day Her mother poured upon the Members after, she was a corpse the most beautiful blessings, for having, by their zealous perseverance, been the means of having her daughter receive the last Sacraments previously to her death."

During the past year the Associates have to record thirty-two deaths amongst the poor under their care.

MEANS FOR IMPROVING THE SPIRIT OF THE INSTITUTE.

With a view to improve still more the spirit of the Institute, and to instruct still better the Members in the performance of its works, we cherished the hope of engaging a Reverend and earnest friend of the Association to give us conferences upon This hope we continue still to our duties at stated times. cherish, and from the realisation of it, we augur great and lasting good to our Association, also, we expect a Manual, ex pressly designed and composed for the use of the Members, which, we trust, with the Divine blessing, will greatly aid them in instructing and consoling the sick poor The Members, moreover, are instructed by the rules, to recommend to the Almighty, by constant prayer, the interests of the Association, they likewise unite in prayer for the spiritual and temporal welfare of each other, and when assisting at the holy Sacrifice of the Mass, as also when they receive the God of charity in the Holy Communion, they offer, with their other pious intentions, these great acts of religion, to obtain the graces they stand in need of, in order to discharge the duties of their institute in a manner conducive to the greater honour and glory of God, the spiritual and temporal welfare of the Sick Poor, and the sanctification of their own souls. (See Rule 27)

The holy Sacrifice of the Mass is also offered on the first Monday of the month, at eight o clock, for the spiritual and temporal welfare of the Subscribers and Members, and for the Sick Poor visited by them. And for the same intention, on the 8th of December, feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and on the 19th of July, feast of St. Vincent de Paul, which days are specially celebrated by the Association. On the last Monday of the month, the holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered for the repose of the souls of the deceased Members, and for the Parents and Relations of Subscribers to this Association, and for the deceased Poor who had been visited by the Associates.

ACCESSARY OR ACCIDENTAL WORKS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Though the relief, spiritual and temporal, of the Sick Poor, is the especial purpose of this Association, it is always ready to lend a friendly hand to any other good work. Care, however, is taken, that any additional work shall be regarded by the Members as accessary or accidental. Also, so far as any of them will take a part in it, their own individual zeal is to be their motive, as they are not bound to it by the engagements of their membership in this Association. So far from contracting our charity by this principle of conduct, we feel, on the contrary, that we open a wider range for its exercise.

The visiting of the poor is felt to be an attractive work of charity, consequently, by proposing it alone as of obligation to the Members, the Institute invites a larger number to join its ranks, and as the Members thus attracted become multiplied, an increased amount of voluntary zeal shall always be found for good works

which, though outside the sphere of the Association, deserve the zeal of charitably disposed persons. Also, by confining the obligations of the Institute within the rules designed for the single object which it proposes to itself, the correlative duties of authority and submission are better understood and more simply carried out. Whereas, on the contrary, if the Institute were open to have every good work, which might spring up from time to time, imposed upon the Members, many would be deterred from joining a body, the engagements of which should be so undefined, and the management of which, also, should be liable to so much embarrassment and complication.

It was in accordance with these views, that the Association charged itself, at an early period of its existence, with the instruction of the ignorant, and with the concern of resisting the efforts of Proselytism, carried on through means of Anti Catholic schools These two works have yielded results highly satisfactory On Tuesdays and Thursdays there has been a considerable attendance of adults in the Church of St. Francis Xavier, Upper Gardiner-street, to receive catechetical instructions, and to be disposed for the worthy reception of the Sacra-They have been attended to by Members volunteering their services for that good work. Likewise, we were called upon to undertake the instruction of children for their first Communion, in the parish schools of St. Michans; and Mem bers were found to undertake this meritorious task, to the great satisfaction of the Clergymen concerned, and benefit of the poor children.

In the arrangements we made, with a view to check the efforts of Proselytism, we divided into districts the portion of the city over which our concern extends. To each district we appointed two Members, to find out the children therein going to proselytising schools. We sought to induce the parents to remove them, and to send them to Catholic schools. We, moreover, kept a register of their names, with notes of the schools to which they were sent. We occasionally visited these schools, in order to see the attendance of the children, and we sought to secure their permanent attendance, by pro-

mises of clothes, which we distributed at Christmas and Easter Our endeavours in this department realised discoveries of a fearfully extended and active organisation for the perversion of the children of the Catholic poor

The following, from the pen of the Lady-Superintendent of the Educational and Anti-Proselytising Department, deserves attention:—

"We have elsewhere mentioned, that the children of the poor had excited deep sympathy It soon became our duty to examine into the cause of so great a number frequenting Protestant schools. Here our path was beset with difficulty. Persons were found to question the fact, and even to deny the existence of so many proselytising schools. Those parents who acknowledged sending their children to Protestant schools, excused themselves by saying, 'Nearly all the children there are Some of the parents were ignorant of the pernicious system of such schools, they did not clearly discern the difference between private Protestant and the National Schools, and in many instances were persuaded that, as they said, 'the children's religion was not meddled with. To ascertain if the children were principally Catholic, as the poor people asserted, we sought, and often obtained, admittance into the Protestant schools, which cover, as the snares of the fowler, the face of Alike in the streets and by-lanes, in respectable looking buildings, bearing their date of erection in legible characters, and in back rooms and decaying houses, is the work of proselytism stealthily carried on. Into the schools in Lower Rutland-street we vainly sought admittance. We witnessed, however, outside the place, quite sufficient to establish the fact, of the chief part of the school being baptized Catholics. children whom the Ladies of St. Vincent observed leaving the school were generally Catholic, the mistresses tried to prevent us speaking to the children; one they seized by the waist, and carried away from us into the school house, another they dragged away by the arm. The mistress told the Ladies, none should be allowed to leave while they remained in the street.

- "The friends of the infants, especially, were surprised and dissatisfied at the unusual delay in letting out the children. One child, addressing our Ladies, said, O ma'am, the children would burst the walls to get to you, if they could! By degrees, some children were let out, a few at a time, the ladies who direct these schools came also themselves into the street.
- "' What brings you here? said one of the ladies, evidently the chief directress of the school.
- "' We are looking for the Catholic children, was our reply Thereupon, a buzz of approbation ran through the crowd.
- "' What new thing is this?' asked the chief lady.—Then addressing the children, by this time pretty numerous, (all the boys were out),
 - "' You come of your own free will, she said.
 - "' We deny it, we deny it,' rejoined the juvenile crowd.
- "'You come by the free consent of your parents, continued the lady
- "'We deny it, we deny it, echoed the voices of women bearing babes in their arms.
- "Murmurs and whispers of bribes, and of 'being forced to the school, ran through the crowd.
- "'It is a charity in you to look after the children God bless you; 'More power to you!' were aspirations often repeated.
- "The lady above mentioned had obtained a cross from one of the children, to whom we had given it. Holding it out in her hand, and showing it to a lady standing near her, she cast upon this emblem of our redemption a look of ineffable contempt, and said, 'See the idols these ladies distribute among our children.
- "Something equally indicative of their noxious character, is generally found by those who watch these schools. Catholic infants will lisp out, 'I am a Protestant and the teacher remarks, 'These children have made their own selection.' Parents who thus sacrifice souls for food, raiment, and employment, are not without remorse. In one abode, familiar to the Ladies of St. Vincent, the tears chased each other down the withered cheek of the father, and he exclaimed, 'A time there was, when I

used to receive every first Friday; and now I never go, for I cannot get the absolution. He sighed deeply His children still go to the Protestants, because there is nothing else to keep them out of the poor-house.

"Sad, harrowing is the hypocrisy witnessed in adult schools. Some, indeed, listen to their teachers with stolid indifference, others seek to propitiate good will, by pious grimace. Winks and signs are given to the initiated. To the question, 'For what are they come there?' one friend teaches another to reply, 'To hear the Word.

"Into the adult school, where we penetrated, the females sit in circles, children at their feet, and very frequently infants in their arms. On talking with these unfortunate creatures in their homes, we found their dread of the poor-house so great, that for the morsel of dry bread doled out to them in the Sunday school, they pledged their immortal souls."

The results of these discoveries we embodied in a series of Reports, which, without any intention upon our part, found their way into the hands of our late Archbishop. Their startling contents failed not to excite his Grace's alarms, and though it would be a criminal presumption in us to take to ourselves any credit for measures subsequently adopted, we may legitimately derive comfort from the reflection that these measures have been extensively effective in achieving what we had in view, namely, the checking of Proselytism, by providing in creased and more convenient means of education for the children of the poor

In concluding this Report, we humbly record our sincere gratitude to the Almighty for the blessings he has vouchsafed to the efforts of this infant work of Charity. The success which it has been enabled, through the Divine bounty, already to attain, is the foundation of hopeful anticipations for the future. The career open to the Institute is most encouraging, and the field of labour unlimited. Oh that so many charitable souls who have as yet had no part in our labours, had only tasted the sweet consolation derived from serving the Poor of Christ, they

would not delay to join our ranks, and extend still more the work which, through the Divine bounty, appears destined to be fruitful in succour and blessing, for the least ones of Him who condescends to be represented in the objects engaging the consideration of this Institute of Charity

Signed on behalf of the Association,

JOHN CURTIS, S. J,

President.

Feast of Corpus Christi, Dublin, 1852.

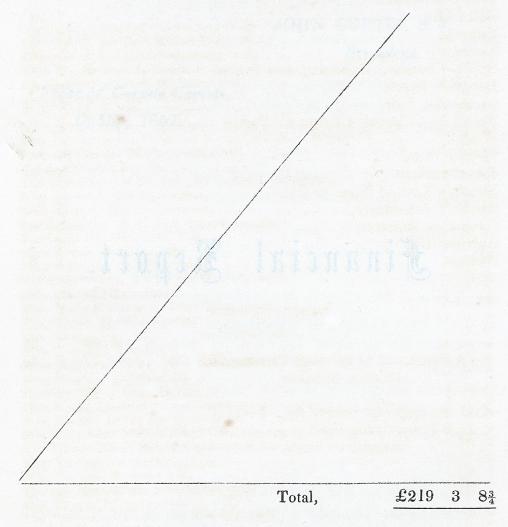
Bullion Associations of Election

Financial Report.

Ladies' Association of Charity

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d
Donations and Subscriptions,	169	6	$6\frac{1}{4}$
Cash received for specified Persons,	28	15	3
Donations and Subscriptions for Anti-Proselytising Fund	, 21	1	111



A donation of 60 yards of Calico, from Anonymous, per Rev A. Kyan, S. J

The Members return their grateful thanks to the charitable individuals who have kindly sent to their office, 20, Lower Dorsetstreet, donations of old carpeting, clothing, &c., so useful for the Poor. About 300 articles of old clothing, suited for men, women, and children's wear, have been distributed amongst them during the past year

of Saint Vincent de Paul.

EXPENI	TURE					
DAI DIL	, II O IVO			£	s.	d.
Sick Relief,				101	19	9
		Here o		2	5	0
	nds of the			5	5	6
Office Messenger,	THE TOTAL			1	7	3
Office Fire,					3	0
				6	14	0
Printing,	t Haly S.	Telle		i	3	94
Stationery, Realize Assessment Collecting and	Prayer			3	0	7
Books—Account, Collecting, and	l'ayer,	H		us, per	18	6
Donation-Boxes,	ph Soully,			rod , por	5	81
Clothes for Poor,	oon is			us, per	9	0
Basket for collecting Clothes for P	00r,				46	8
Washing	whateet.				11	6
Visiting-Bags,				ibaddA (3	0
Two Crucifixes	has Coursen				STATE	
Mending Lock of Press in Office,		97.00			1	0
Servant's Attendance,		137.9			5	0
Secretary's Receiver,					5	6
Cod-liver Oil,					4	6
Postage,		1)3-6	eribas		2	6
				£125	18	9
Dolongo o	n handa			43	7	91
Balance o	n nanus,			is. Men	Enn	4
				£169	6	61
Cash distributed to specified Per	sons. £27	0	11/2	27	0	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Balance on hands,		15	11/2	aT Red		an M
Datance on hands,		1070	108	28	15	3
Paid for clothing, books, &c.,	from	-Tour		awod ,	elle H	Mers.
		19	103			
Anti-Proselytising Fund, Balance on hands,	14		$0\frac{3}{4}$			
Dalance on hands,	L Property the	~	4	21	ilm]	111
	4.4			mel mal	Whe	.arli
	Total,			£219	3	834
	irs. O'Ferra			hers. &	orf.	mili
0 0 1	THE SICI	7 100	OR.			
DISTRIBUTED TO	THE SICI	1 10	O.L.			
lbs. oz. 8228 0	Milk	124	pints	THE THE		
Meal, 2279 12			pound			
Meat, 180 4	Cand	les,	3.			
Sugar, 598 8	Eggs	, 45	d.			
Tea, $82 5$ Butter, $69 5\frac{1}{2}$			pints. $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt.			
Butter, $69 5\frac{1}{2}$ Rice, $3 8$	Coals	, 96	bags	64 stone	es.	
1000,	Count	, ,		and and the		

Signed on behalf of the Association of Charity,

JOHN CURTIS, S. J

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

[For the sake of brevity, we only give in the following List, the names of Benefactors who have contributed Ten Shillings, or upwards, to the funds of the Association.]

	M		#10
	£	S.	d.
Council of Ireland of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul,	5	0	0
Anonymous, per Rev Robert Haly, S.J.,	5	0	0
Anonymous, per Rev J Gaffney, S.J.,	2	10	0
N.B. V., per Rev J Curtis, S.J.,	2	0	0
Anonymous, per Rev R. Haly, S. J.,	1	10	0
Anonymous, per Mrs. Rodolph Scully,	1	0	0
Anonymous, per Miss Corbally,	1	0	0
Anonymous, per Rev H. Rorke, S. J., Mol 200000 Junio alloo u	0	10	0
Rev. Dr. Renehan, President of the College of Maynooth,	1	0	0
Rev Dr Cooper, Marlborough-street,	1	0	0
Antoine D'Abbadie, Esq.,	1	0	0
The Superioress of St. Joseph's Convent, Ranelagh,	1	0	
Miss Aylward, Gardiner-street,	i		0
	0	10	0
Miss Aylmer, Hardwicke-street,	2	0	0
Matthew Brett, Esq., Lower Gardiner-street.	i	0	o
Benjamin Lee Guinness, Esq.,	1	0	0
Miss Byrne, Gardiner-place,	1		0
Miss O'Beirne, Gardiner-street,	0	10	0
Cannock, White, & Co., per Mrs. O'Ferrall,		12	0
Mrs. Clarke, Drumcondra,			
Miss Mary M'Dermott, Fitzwilliam-street,		13	
Mrs. Ennis, Merrion-square,	1	0	0
Mrs. Ennis, do., 2nd subscription,	1	0	0
Miss Fellowes, London,		10	0
Miss Fellowes, do., 2nd subscription,	0	10	0
Mrs. Hughes, Talbot-street,	0	10	0
Kenelm Digby, Esq., Dover,	1	0	0
Mrs. Kelly, Lower Gardiner-street,	1	0	0
Mrs. Martin, Lower Gardiner-street,	1	0	0
Mrs. Lloyd and Miss D'Arcy, Gardiner-street,	-0	1,0	0
The Misses Flood, Lower Gardiner-street, page 150 and	0	10	0
Mrs. Smith, Eccles-street,	1	0	0
Mrs. Whelan, Summer hill,	1	0	0
Mr and Mrs. Reigh, Ballybough-bridge,	0	13	0
Mrs. Payne, Fitzgibbon-street,	1	0	0
Pim, Brothers, & Co., per Mrs. O'Ferrall,	0	10	0
Miss M'Kenna, Thomas-street,	1	0	0
Mrs. Henry, Blessington-street,	0	13	0
Mrs. Coppinger, Mountjoy-square, West,	1	0	0
Mrs. Henry, Blessington-street, 2nd subscription,	0	13	0
The Misses Hickson, Lower Dorset-street,	0	12	0
Mrs. M'Dermot and Family, Sinnot-place,	and the same	13	0
Mrs. A. M'Donnell, Gt. Denmark-street, half-yearly,	0	10	0
Mrs. A. M. Donnell, Gt. Denmark-Street, han-youry,	i	0	0
Mrs. Monaghan, Mountjoy square, West,	i	0	0
Mrs. Roe, Blessington street,	0	13	0
Mrs. and the Misses Savage, Sinnott-place,	0	11	1
Mrs. and Miss Spring, Mountjoy-square,	E PAGE	12	
Mrs. Hobart and Family, do.	0		0 8
Four Friends,	U	16	0

DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

TO THE

ANTI PROSELYTISING FUND.

[As in the preceding List, for the sake of brevity, we only give the names of Benefactors who have contributed Ten Shillings, or upwards.]

	£	s.	d.
Anonymous, per Very Rev J Curtis, S. J	5	0	0
Do. per do.	5	0	0
Do. per do.	3	0	0
Anonymous, per Miss Kelly, Lower Gardiner-street,	1	2	6
Thomas Kelly, Esq., Lower Gardiner-street,	1	0	0
F Coppinger, Esq., Rutland-square,	1	0	0
Thomas Kelly, Esq., Lower Gardiner-street, (2nd)	1	0	0
Doctor and Mrs. M'Donnell, 7, Gardiner's-place,	1	0	0
Mrs. Lloyd and Miss D'Arcy,	0	10	0
	18	12	6
Sundry small Donations,	2	9	51/2
Total,	£21	1	111

EXPENDITURE.

Materials for Clothing for Boys' and Girls' wear,						
(Premiums,			$10\frac{3}{4}$			
School Book,			0			
School Register books,	0	3	0			
For printing and publishing 1000 Anti-Proselytising						
Pamphlets,	0	10	0			
	t See S			6	19	$10\frac{3}{4}$
Balance on hands,				€14	2	$0\frac{3}{4}$

300 Children have received from the Ladies of St. Vincent, tickets for free admission into approved Catholic Schools.

N.B.—Subscribers are requested to examine the foregoing lists, in order to ascertain whether their Names and Subscriptions have been correctly stated. Should any error or omission have occurred, they are requested to send notice of the same to the Secretaries, at the Council-Room of the Association, 20, Lower Dorset-street.

Appendix.

The friends of the Association will be gratified to learn, that our venerated Archbishop has vouchsafed to it his valuable patronage and encouragement.

The Members felt it to be their duty to wait upon his Grace shortly after his auspicious advent to this Metropolitan Diocese, in order to commit their Institute to his protecting care, and to obtain his episcopal benediction upon its works.

Accordingly, a deputation from the body, joined by a similar deputation from the Association at Kingstown, had the honour of waiting on his Grace at his residence on the 14th of July, when the following Address was read.

TO HIS GRACE,

THE MOST REVEREND PAUL,

LORD ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN,

AND

PRIMATE OF IRELAND, &c.

DELEGATE OF THE APOSTOLIC SEE

My Lord Archbishop,

We, the directing Members of the Ladies' Association of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, established in Kingstown and Dublin, beg to approach your Grace in all humility, and with profound respect, on behalf of the Institutes with which we are connected.

We feel truly happy in assuring your Grace, that we hail with reverential welcome your Grace's accession to the throne of this Metropolitan Diocese, whilst our hearts overflow with gratitude to God, the Giver of all good gifts, for the Prelate whom his Vicar has been pleased to bestow upon us,—one so eminently possessed of those distinguished qualities which add a lustre to the high office to which your Grace has been happily appointed.

Reverencing in your Grace those attributes of Divine and Ecclesiastical Institution which assert your Grace's authority over all the concerns of charity within the limits of this Diocese, we desire to commit to your Grace's hands the Institutes en trusted to our management.

Our holy Founder, St. Vincent de Paul, amongst his other eminent virtues, cherished a special respect for the ordinary ministry of the Church, and planned on that account the constitution of our Society, so as to place it in constant dependance upon the Bishops and Parochial Clergy

His discretion, nevertheless, provided that we should have, wherever it may be practicable, the advice and direction of the Rev Fathers of his Congregation, for the more special management of our concerns.

By this advantage, the various branches of the Institute are bound together in the unity of one Association, uniformity is maintained in the exercise of our functions, and (a blessing which we have particularly to value) the spirit of our holy Founder is preserved amongst us.

We have only to add, that we feel particularly happy in committing ourselves to your Grace's paternal auspices, and in continuing our labours in the service of the Poor with your Grace's benediction, which we earnestly supplicate on behalf of ourselves, our works, and, especially, the Sick Poor, who engage the solicitude of our Associations.

Signed on behalf of the Associates,

Kingstown Branch.

MARGARET I. KELLY,
MARY ANNE O'FERRALL,
FRANCES KENNEDY,
ELIZA BREEN,
ANNE MARIA GIBNEY,

Dublin Branch.

MARGARET AYLWARD,
FRANCES MURRAY,
JANE M'KENNA,
EMILY SEAVER,
AGNES MARY SCULLY

HIS GRACE'S REPLY

TO THE LADIES ASSOCIATION OF CHARITY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL.

ESTEEMED LADIES,

The address which you have presented is to me the source of the greatest pleasure and gratification. I am truly thankful to you for your kind wishes and congratulations, and for the fervent prayers which you offer for the success of my administration of this most important Diocese. Were I not overwhelmed with important business, I would attempt to give you a more lengthened answer to your valuable address, all I can do at present, is to exhort you to continue your good works, which are the cause of so much edification in this city, with renewed energy and untiring perseverance, always mindful, that whatever you do for the relief of misery, or the preservation of the faith of the little ones of the flock, Jesus Christ will receive as done to himself.

The best way to bring down the blessing of Heaven on your Association, is to follow, most strictly, the rules laid down by your holy founder, St. Vincent, and to be guided by his spirit in all your undertakings.

You cannot fail to act in accordance with that spirit, if you allow yourselves to be directed in everything by the advice and instructions of the Reverend Fathers of the Congregation of the Mission, who, by their fervent piety, their zeal, and good works, show themselves to be worthy disciples of St. Vincent.

The direction of such men will be of inestimable value to you, and it is most desirable that you should avail yourselves of their counsel in all your proceedings.

In conclusion, I beg to assure you, that I shall always feel happy to co-operate, in any way in my power, in the promotion of the objects of your Association, and whilst I beg a share in your pious prayers, I wish you every blessing, spiritual and temporal, and heartily pray that God may reward you most amply for your labours of charity and religion.

Your devoted servant in Christ,

A PAUL CULLEN,

ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN

LADIES' ASSOCIATION OF CHARITY

OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL,

FOR THE

RELIEF OF THE SICK POOR,

And the Enstruction of the Egnorant.

"I was hungry, and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me to drink; naked, and you covered me; sick, and you visited me. Amen, as long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to me."—Matt. xxv

The Ladies of this Association earnestly solicit you to contribute to its funds, that whilst they endeavour, in the exercise of the spiritual works of mercy, to instruct and console the Sick Poor, they may also be enabled, through your bounty, to relieve their corporal wants.

You are also requested to interest your charitable friends in behalf of the benevolent and merciful designs of this Association.

A contribution of *One Penny* per week suffices to entitle the Subscriber to a share in all the merits of this Society

"O soul which dwellest within fleshly, perishable walls, give whilst thou canst—give unto thyself from thy own substance, for fleeting is what thou possessest, and God offers thee a kingdom in exchange for thy works of mercy"

"Alms are compared to the dove which Noah sent from the Ark, and which returned to him in the evening with a green branch of olive, for, in the evening of our days, as death draws on, and the deluge of sorrows surrounds us, this dove will return to us, bringing confidence, peace, joy, and immortal glory"

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered on the first Monday of every Month, at Eight o'clock, in the Church of St. Francis Xavier, for the spiritual and temporal welfare of the Subscribers and Members, and for the Sick Poor visited by the Associates, also on the 19th of July, Feast of St. Vincent de Paul, and

on the 8th of December, Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On the last Monday of the month, the holy sacrifice of the Mass will be offered at the same hour, for the eternal repose of the souls of the deceased Members, as also of the Parents and Relations of the Subscribers to this Association, and for the deceased Poor who had been visited by the Associates.

This Association is composed of Active and Honorary Members. The active Members visit the sick (with a companion), each in her turn according to the order of the Register of the Society They are not required to visit in case of contagious disease.

The Honorary Members, though exempt from the charitable functions of the Society, share in the merits of them, by a contribution towards its meritorious purposes.

The Active Members only are privileged to attend the Monthly Meetings, which are held in the Presbytery of the Church of St. Francis Xavier, at Twelve o'clock, on the first Monday of every month, at which meetings the Very Rev J Curtis, S.J., presides.

To have a communion of prayers, and draw down the blessings of Almighty God on the Associates and their works of charity, all the members are earnestly recommended to say daily the Lord's Prayer, the Angelical Salutation, the Gloria Patri, and the Memorare, with the Invocation, "St. Vincent de Paul, pray for us."

Children and adults receive instructions, and are prepared for the sacraments, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from half-past Eleven to half-past Twelve o'clock, in the Church of St. Francis Xavier, Upper Gardiner-street.

Persons wishing to become Active Members, can speak upon the subject with the Superior on Tuesdays, at One o'clock, at the Council-Room of the Association, 20, Lower Dorset-street.

Subscriptions and Donations received and thankfully acknowledged by His Grace the Lord Archbishop, by the Rev Gentlemen of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Marlborough-street, of St. Francis Xavier, Upper Gardiner-street, of St. Michan's, Anne-street; and by the Members of the Association.

Dublin, Feast of the Annunciation, 1852.

Donations of old clothing, carpeting, sheets, rugs, blankets, shoes, etc. will be gratefully received at the Office of the Association, 20, Lower Dorset-street, where a box is kept to receive Subscriptions.