

Rev. Anna Oliver's Church.

This generation is eminently history making. Probably a century hence, Methodists will look with a special interest on the church which first had a woman for pastor. Willoughby Avenue church is unique in its features and atmosphere. Evidently the pastor has the church well in hand, as a pastor should, and stamps her individuality upon every department. Matters seem to be managed with that high conscientiousness, that fine tact and wisdom, that fresh, earnest, progressive spirit, which some of us have come to recognize as essentially womanly, and expect to see wherever women are legitimately set in places of power, because in the uprising of the women of this century, it is the best who are coming to the front.

One of the most striking principles which this people believe in, and which they are prominently forward in, in God, and deference to Him as regards the support of the church. While they are strictly economical and very energetic in all lawful efforts toward money getting they do not believe in church fairs, festivals, oyster suppers, necktie socials, leap year entertainments, charades, tableaux, cantatas, wax works, or any other of the numerous projects gotten up by churches in order to meet their expenses and which turn the Lord's sanctuary into a play house, an eating saloon, or a house of merchandise. They believe that if the Lord finds a church useful to him he will send it support, and that the general legitimate method of raising money is to ask the people to give it in return for the profit they derive from the church services.

While the church discards frivolities and those projects which minister to frivolity, it does not disregard the claims of education and enlightenment, as elements which make for righteousness. Therefore they have a reading room, studies in history, spelling, lectures, concerts, etc. These are free to the public, and are for the benefit of the public, not to aid in the finances of the church. The missionary basket seems to be quite a feature. This is an arrangement by which the cake and pin-cushion making talent is utilized without resorting to fairs. Such donated articles are either bought at once by parties needing them, or are deposited for sale at the regular price at Ackley's fancy store. Persons needing fancy or useful articles, such as can be furnished by their 'Faith and Work Society,' can send orders for anything they wish to the 'Missionary Basket.' By this arrangement people are not asked to buy articles they do not need, and the workers do not make useless articles.

Materially, this church is in good condition—church, chapel, and land. Their seating capacity is one thousand. The cost of construction was \$47,500. The eight lots on which the buildings stand are valued at from \$1,000 to \$2,000 each; the furniture is worth \$16,000. On this property is one mortgage of \$13,000. There is no other mortgage, claim, or debt of any sort, whatever—interest, insurance, gas, sexton, pastor, are all paid up. All bills are settled monthly, \$2250 per year would cover the entire expenses of the church. Two building lots in New York city have been presented to the church, but not yet sold. The society were told, at the beginning of their career, that no church could succeed financially on their principles, and were given one year to die; but, in reviewing their spiritual and financial condition at the completion of the second year, the committee said, aptly enough, 'We wish all the churches in Brooklyn and throughout the land were both almost and altogether such as we are, except this bond.'

We notice, further, as worthy of imitation, that there are no rented pews in this church—that there is a temperance pledge always upon the

altar table, and more than one hundred signatures have been received during the year. Scarcely a week has passed without one or more conversions, the year round, and about one hundred have been added to the church. The pastor keeps constantly and clearly before the people the privilege and duty of entire consecration to God, and purity of heart and life. The little annual message she has issued to them refers to many high points of moral and spiritual life—such as strict Sabbath-keeping, not going in debt, giving the Lord his tenths, blameless home life, zeal in Christian work, etc. There are eight women and ten men in the official board. Miss Oliver has a regular day 'at home' for members to call, and the warmest attachment seems to exist between the people, and her whom they seem proud to call 'our pastor.'

It has recently been stated that Miss Oliver was about to leave the Methodist Episcopal Church and go to the Methodist Protestant for ordination. There is not the slightest foundation for the rumor. Miss Oliver is loyal to her chosen denomination, and says she does not all despair of ordination within its fold.—Mrs. Mary L. Griffith.

Presidential Office.

How the Routine Work of the Office is Performed.

The routine office work of the White House constantly increases. The early Presidents were not even allowed a private secretary by law. They had to pay for all clerical assistance out of their salary. Afterward one secretary was provided for; then assistant was added. From Administration to Administration the working force grew by the addition of clerks or the detail of army officers, until what is practically a Bureau of Appointments has grown up. Including the private secretary, there are now seven persons attached to this Bureau, and their positions are no sinecures. Often they are busy until late at night, bringing up the day's work. If they allow it to get behind it is next to impossible to deal with it satisfactorily. Perhaps a description of the current office duties of the President's personal staff may interest some readers. An enormous mail is received every day. The pile of letters is deposited by the desk of the private secretary, Mr. Brown, and he and Mr. Headly, the executive clerk, open and classify them. Of course it is impossible for the President to read all the letters addressed to him. If he should undertake the job he would have little for anything else. But it is important that he should be able to select from the mass such letters as he wants to read. So there is a system of briefing the correspondence, letter by letter, on broad sheets of paper, and making a sort of unbound volume of the sheets of each day. By glancing over these abstracts the President can see in a few moments what letters are requiring his attention among the hundreds that daily arrive. Such of the letters as are applications for office, and more than nine-tenths are of this class, are each put in a long envelope, which has a printed form on its back for endorsement, with name, date, office applied for and remarks. Most of these letters are distributed each day to the several departments and go upon their files. There are, however, several files in the White House—one of official letters, to which the President may wish to refer, another of applications and recommendations in cases pending for his decision, one of personal letters, and one, which would furnish curious reading to students of human nature, called the eccentric file. An hour spent in looking over the contents of this file would make the least misanthropic man believe that half the world had gone crazy, or cause him to apply to America the bitter remark of Carlyle, who said that England was

inhabited by 30,000,000 of people, principally fools.

I must not forget to mention in connection with the office-work of the White House, the fact that there is a post similar to that of an exchange reader in a daily newspaper office. This place is filled by Mr. Morton, who served under President Hayes. He goes through two or three hundred papers a day, cuts out everything he thinks the President ought to read, arranges his clippings in topical scrap-books and takes the books in once a day for the President's inspection. By this system a President can, if he gives sufficient time to the matter, keep almost as well posted on public opinion as the chief editor of a great daily. In length of service the oldest member of the White House staff is W. L. Crook, the executive agent and disbursing clerk, who dates back to the end of President Lincoln's administration, but there is among the servants of the house a man who was appointed by President Fillmore, he is the fireman and his name is Herbert; and the principal door-keeper, Mr. Loeffer, was put in his place by President Grant in 1869.

The exchange reader does his work behind a big screen in the general reception room. The private secretary, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Headly, have a room to themselves, with two bay windows looking out on the Potomac and the Virginia hills, and a door leading to the President's room. Adjoining is a small room, where Mr. Pruden, the assistant private secretary keeps, with the aid of two clerks, the records of appointments and removals in formidable leather bound volumes, like the ledgers, in a counting house. Besides the staff of secretaries and clerks there is what might be called an official staff of servants, who are appointed by the President and whose salaries are provided for by Congress in the annual appropriations. It consists of a steward, door-keeper, four assistant door-keepers, a messenger, four assistant messengers, two of whom are mounted, a watchman and a fireman. There is also a telegraph operator detailed from the Signal Service Corps. The other servants of the household, such as the coachman, the cooks and the waiters, are paid by the President. The repairs and general good order of the house, its furniture and its conservatory and grounds are attended to by the Commissioner of Public Buildings and Grounds.—N. Y. Tribune.

WINDOW VEGETABLE GARDENS. — A farmer's wife writing to the Country Gentleman says: "There are various vegetables which can be started in windows, so as to hasten their growth and give them for use a month or six weeks earlier than if seeds are put into cold ground early in May. Lettuce, tomatoes and peppers, especially, can be started with little trouble, and will not be affected by transplanting. It is a real luxury to have something green to eat early in the season. The appetite craves it, and it is essential to health. A large quantity of seeds can be accommodated in the kitchen windows, either by putting up brackets, or by hanging shelves to set them on. I find that cabbages started in the house and grown to four or five inches high, then transplanted to the garden, will get ahead of the worms that have made such ravages among this vegetable for a few years past. Also vines, such as melons and cucumbers, can be planted in the house in pasteboard boxes, and get a nice start, so that they come on some weeks earlier than if planted in the garden. Some farmers have commenced using hot-beds, but when April finds two feet of snow covering the ground and burying up the hot beds, it looks discouraging, to say the least. For several years I have tried starting vegetables in the kitchen window, and have made it a success, and have enjoyed my garden luxuries some weeks in advance of my neighbors."

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