

THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

To the Board of Missions

OUR UNITED OFFERING MISSIONARY AND HER WORK AT PENNICK

By Deaconess Alexander

EIGHT years ago the Good Shepherd Mission School began its work among the Negro children of Pennick, Ga. It opened with twenty-four pupils; now nearly one hundred are enrolled, with a large average attendance.

The school aims to give the boys and girls higher ideals of living, and to make them good citizens, by developing their moral and Christian character, and teaching them how to do things with their hands, as well as to learn the contents of text-books. The work is growing day by day, and is now entirely too much for one person, as a teacher.

The names of 141 baptized persons, nearly all of them children, are now on the mission lists, and of these I am the sponsor for nearly every one. Of these many children, through hard struggle and prayer, five are at St. Paul's School, Lawrenceville, Va., where they pay a part of their expenses by their work.

My life in the mission is a busy one. There are times for weeks when I have not an hour to call mine. Some days, leaving home in the morning, I go to the school-house, and, after finishing the teaching for the day, I take one of the children with me for company, guide or protection, and walk nine or ten miles, visiting the people, before reaching home in the evening. It is not a strange thing for me to go on foot over bad roads and through swamps where are deep places sometimes only passable on foot logs. Many of these roads have fifty yards and more of logs. Here we will get poles about ten feet long to help us steady ourselves until we get over.

Many times I find the sick person is suffering for want of attention, as much

as for the need of medicine. Then there are places where I am obliged to go a second time before I am allowed to render any service. When such persons recover the family tell what good the Church has done, and at the visitation of the bishop they will be out at service. Through these children many parents visit the church.

There are many children, large and small, who walk daily for miles to attend the school. They will be in time for devotions every morning. Just to hear them respond in the Litany on Wednesday and Friday mornings, and to see and hear them find and read the Psalter for the day, will bring tears to the eyes.

On Thanksgiving Day you see the children coming with their little parcels for offerings. The contents are sweet potatoes, rice, hominy, meal, flour, peas, turnips, syrup, meat, matches and bread. After the service for the day, they go away very happy, some of them waiting to help carry the offerings to the sick, aged and invalids.

Once I took a class of ten to Brunswick, fifteen miles from Pennick, to meet the bishop for confirmation, defraying the expenses of nine of the class one way, and finding a place for all to sleep that night. We walked seven miles to the next station, Sterling, in order to buy the tickets. The next morning we did



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the very same thing, rode a part of the way, then got off and walked the seven miles again. Another time when the class was smaller, I hired a wagon and took the children to Brunswick. This was before the bishop ever visited Pennick.

There are leaders and preachers in the place who tell the people of so many "evil" things: "Once in Christ you can never get out." "After going into the water and receiving immersion your soul can-

not go to hell; you will lie on your back and suffer, but to heaven you must go."

In this "Black Belt" the only light is that of the Cross. The Lord's Prayer is very seldom said, and then far from perfectly. The Apostles' Creed is not heard save in the church, and the Ten Commandments are known to be in the Bible, but we are often told the Old Testament is altogether done away with since the coming of our Lord and Saviour.