

THE GREETING

OF

ST. MARY'S HALL,

NEW JERSEY,

TO ALL HER

Friends and Daughters.

BURLINGTON, N. J., June 25, 1874.

The Register of St. Mary's Hall, for the thirty-seventh year, has just been published. A copy of it goes to the same address as this circular note, which we are sending to Graduates, and former Pupils and Patrons; to Clergymen whose interest in the Institution has been proved long since; and to other known friends of the Hall. Its object is to acknowledge the friendship and the interest which we highly prize, and to quicken a sympathy which we are unwilling to lose or have lessened.

We would speak to you of our past and present prosperity, which we know you rejoice in; and of our desire for still increasing usefulness, in effecting which we ask your co-operation.

He who gave a wise Master-builder to be the Founder of this nursery for the Church, has been pleased to bless the labours of those who have been charged, since, with maintaining and enlarging that first foundation.

The Pupil of twenty years ago will see with pleasure that several honoured names, familiar to her then, still stand on the roll of Instructors; and all will be gratified to learn that that roll includes a larger number of our own Graduates at present, than at any former time; while many of them have been called to fill the highest positions in Diocesan and other Church Schools, recently established.

The present average attendance is considerably above that of the past twenty years; and the average number of the graduating class for the last ten years has been *twenty-three*, as against *fifteen*, in all the preceding period. Meantime, the original standard of scholarship has been carefully kept up. Text books have been changed only when a change would be a manifest improvement; the course of study being as ample, and the methods as thorough as ever; while the facilities for imparting instruction have in many ways been greatly increased—as by the construction of better rooms; the addition of first-class chemical and philosophical apparatus; the acquisition, by gift, of a fine cabinet of shells, and by purchase, of many new and superior pianos; and the enlarging of the course of Art-study, that now includes drawing in crayon and pastel, copying from models and casts, and drawing and painting from Nature.

In 1868 a noble building was erected south of the Chapel, containing School-room, Recreation-room, Library, Dining-hall, and six Dormitories.

Last year the Chapel was repaired and improved, the walls coloured, the roof decorated, dormer windows introduced for ventilation, and gas standards substituted for the pendent lights. The Trustees contemplate further extensive improvement in the buildings, as the means are obtained; the intention being to complete, eventually, an entire Quadrangle, in the style of the wing put up in 1868, and to remove all the wooden and other inferior structures. A portion of this work will probably be undertaken very soon.

And now, let us tell our friends how they may co-operate with us, to increase our usefulness.

1. With our present ample room and appliances of all kinds, and a corps of efficient and earnest teachers, we are able to receive a larger number of pupils, and so to do still more in the work of Christian Education, than formerly. Let this be understood, and stated, every where; and the attention of Parents be turned, in still larger measure, towards St. Mary's Hall. Let them know that here can be found a secure home, parental watchfulness, all healthful influences, sound and thorough instruction, the godly nurture of the Church, the simplicity and quietness that best befit the school-life time of Girls.

2. St. Mary's Hall has peculiar advantages as a training school for Teachers. To the extent of its ability, it has always been ready to receive at low rates, or gratuitously, those of limited means, who wished to be prepared for teaching. It could do much more in the same way, if Rectors or Vestries would co-operate, by sending to us their own candidates for Parish school teachers, they furnishing a reasonable quota of the tuition fees; or, if Churchmen would found Scholarships, or contribute towards a fund for educating future school teachers at reduced prices.

3. The work of enlarging and rebuilding the Hall, however pressing its importance, must necessarily be a slow one, if it is to be wholly carried on, as heretofore, only with the very moderate earnings of the school. The Friends of Church Education, who have a mind to help us in this way, would be cordially welcomed as fellow-workers.

There may be contributions to the general Building Fund. There may be special portions assumed, as monuments to those who give, or

memorials of some whom they love: an Astronomical Observatory, or its Apparatus: an Art Gallery: a Museum: a Gymnasium: a Normal Hall, for the residence of those especially under training to be teachers: a Cloister, of architectural beauty, to be the attractive, sheltered walk of the students in hours of recreation. Gifts such as these, (and the less costly, but equally valuable gifts of Books, Pictures, Cabinets and the like,) are by no means rare in other lands; and even in our own country they begin to be frequent.

It would seem, then, to be no vain expectation, that the Alma Mater of so many gifted Churchwomen, and the Helping Sister of not a few Bishops and Churches, will in due time receive rich material tokens of the love and confidence of those who rightly appreciate her past history, and who would make her, increasingly, a blessing to our land and Church. So, St. Mary's Hall "shall bring forth more fruit in her age," diffusing the blessing of godly and good learning, and advancing true religion, as we daily pray.

W. H. ODENHEIMER,

Bishop of New Jersey, and President of St. Mary's Hall.

ELVIN K. SMITH, *Principal.*

N. M. STANLEY, *Vice Principal.*