

THE UNITED OFFERING

A Letter to the Woman
Who Does Not Know



The Almsbasin which bears the United
Offering of the Woman's Auxiliary

THE UNITED OFFERING

S. S. LÜTZOW, INDIAN OCEAN,

September 1, 1908.

MY DEAR FRIEND:

Do you mean to tell me that you do not know what the United Offering of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Board of Missions is? It seems as though every woman in the Church must know about it by this time; but if you do not, I will try to enlighten you. And will you tell the next one you meet who does not know?

Ought I to begin with the United Offering or with the Woman's Auxiliary? If you are ignorant of the one, perhaps you know very little about the other. The Auxiliary is an association of Churchwomen, in all our Dioceses and our Missionary Districts at home and abroad, bound together for the purpose of helping the Board of Missions. Every year we send boxes and money into the Mission field, but every third year we make an additional gift which we have been gathering during the three years, over and above our annual offerings. Some of us use mite chests which are sent out for this special purpose from the Church Missions House in New York; others make a gift for it each year or half year. There are Treasurers in many of the Dioceses and Parishes whose entire work it is to increase knowledge of and interest in the United Offering, and to enlist a larger number of givers and larger gifts.

We never think that any one should be excused, but rather that this should be an offering of thanksgiving in which every Churchwoman should feel it a privilege to share.

So we try to interest every one in it, rich and poor alike, the women of our strongest city parishes; working women in our city Missions; solitary women living on plantations, ranches or farms; the women who, for one reason or another, live exiled from their native land, in our congregations on the continent of Europe; the handful of Christian women crowded in among the millions of China; the women in the hill country of Japan, or in the native villages that border Liberian towns, who have just learned that God is good to them and that they have the power of passing on to others the knowledge that He is good.

For three years we keep at this work of trying to reach one woman after another throughout the Church and getting her to share in this united gift, and at the end of each third year the sums that have thus been saved and set apart, with the interest that has accumulated upon them, are brought together and offered.



Old Mrs. Good Thunder says, "I am old now and like a child, and I want to belong to every good work in Birch Coolie."

The occasion is that of the great Triennial Service of the Woman's Auxiliary, and this takes place during the first week of each third October at the place where the General Convention of the Church has just opened. It is a beautiful thing to realize that the women who fill the church for this Service have come from so many places far and near; for it is a time when women from Alaska to Brazil, from Cuba to Honolulu, may be present; and those who are there represent the thousands and tens of thousands who cannot come to bring their gifts.

The gift for each Diocese is placed in an envelope bearing the name of the Diocese, and laid on the beautiful gold alms-basin which is used for this special Service, and so presented, together with that other treasure of body, soul and spirit, which in the Holy Communion is offered a loving sacrifice anew. It was not always so. There was a time when the Auxiliary met in this Service without any thought of a United Offering, and I love to think it was the suggestion of one member which brought about this happy change. It gives the hope that again and again the Auxiliary may advance to better things, if only some one who sees an opportunity makes it known, and it is seized and entered upon, and not passed by and lost.

But you are asking how many times this United Offering has been made, how much has been given, and in what ways it has been used. I will add a table to this letter that will answer these questions, simply explaining that at each Triennial the Diocesan Officers of the Auxiliary resolve upon the purpose to which the next United Offering shall be devoted, and the resolution adopted by them is printed and sent out to the whole Auxiliary.

The next Offering will be made in October, 1910, when the General Convention is to meet in Cincinnati. Already

thousands and tens of thousands of women are preparing for it. Will you not join their number? Does not the thought how fine it would be if every one of our women should share in it make you feel as though you must do your part toward making this possible? And if you want other incentives, perhaps the purpose of our gift will be one.

This is the Resolution which was adopted in Richmond in 1907:

Resolved:— That the United Offering of 1910 be given to the Board of Missions for woman's work in the Mission field; including the training, sending and support of women workers; also the care of such workers when sick and disabled; but that a sum not exceeding \$15,000 be devoted to a building or buildings, approved by the Board of Missions on the recommendation of the General Secretary and the Secretary of the Woman's Auxiliary.

Also, that to our united gifts there shall be added our united and earnest prayers, that God will put it into the hearts of many faithful women to give themselves to the work of the Master, in the Mission field.

If you will only use this prayer, will it not make you ask where our women are now working; where more of them are needed; what sort should they be; where can they be found and how fitted for their task?

We look forward to some happy day when not every Diocese alone but every Parish shall have its Missionary aspirant, training, perhaps in one of the Church and Deaconess Training Schools, perhaps in some Church Institution under Deaconesses or Sisters, perhaps at home in Parish work under the guidance of the Parish Priest, maybe with the help of some such system, untried as yet by us but known in England, of a Missionary Training School by Post.

The thought that our United Offering is to be one not of money only but of prayers and lives as well, dignifies it, does it not? Who knows but one of our very own may be

a part of this next gift, and then how unutterably sacred it will become! Where may she go? Where will any of those new Missionaries go? Where have those already gone who are as a treasure given to bless, that in the giving brings blessings a hundredfold to those who give?

It would take many letters to give you an adequate idea of this, and instead of trying to answer your questions, I am going to make a suggestion. If you do not need it yourself, pass it on to the next woman to whom you are going to tell the story of the United Offering, not in these



The Shanghai Branch of the Auxiliary on their way from Church.

words only but more fully as its meaning opens before you, as you think of it and pray. We have our Missionary magazine, *THE SPIRIT OF MISSIONS*. It is full of news from the Mission field, and of pictures which tell the story almost as clearly as the printed page. Get the magazine from the Church Missions House, and read it, month by month. Every time you read in its pages of woman's work, or see in its pictures the places where women live, the schools in which they teach, the hospitals where they nurse, the helpless, the ignorant, the evil, to whom they minister, think— "It is these women, or such as these, these works of mercy, these people in dire need, that the United Offering is gathered and dispensed to help."

I have written on shipboard in the midst of the Indian Ocean. On our ship are Germans, Danes, Englishmen, Americans, Spanish, Portuguese, French, and East Indians, Chinese, Japanese, and I know not what races besides. Under a Captain whose honor and pride it is to bring us safely, we are bound each for his desired haven. It is a little picture, is it not? of that Ark, Christ's Church, into which all peoples of the earth are to be gathered, and under whose Great Captain the safe Haven may be sure. And in that ingathering of the peoples we may help, and our United Offering is one means among many, and a sign also of our thankfulness that God has given us the power.

You will share in it, will you not?

Yours very sincerely,

JULIA C. EMERY, *Secretary*.

TABLE OF THE UNITED OFFERINGS

1886	\$82.71	
1889	\$2,188.64	One half used to build the first Church in the Alaska Mission, at Anvik; one half to send a new Missionary—Miss Lovell—to Japan.
1892	\$20,353.16	Added to the Enrolment Fund.
1895	\$56,198.35	For the Endowment of the Episcopate in a Missionary District. To this was added the Offering of 1892, and the interest on the whole provides the Salary of the Missionary Bishop of Alaska.
1898	\$82,742.87	For the Training and Support of Women Missionaries.
1901	\$107,027.83	Divided into equal parts among the Missionary Bishops at Home and Abroad, with one part for the Work among Colored People.
1904	\$150,000.00	} For the Training, Sending out, and Support of Women Missionaries.
1907	\$224,251.55	
1910	?	

Of the Offering of 1907, \$10,000.00 was devoted to the erection of a Mission building in Sendai, in the District of Tokyo.

At this time, September, 1908, one hundred and four Missionaries in the Domestic Field and sixty in the Foreign Field are supported by the United Offering.

Copies of this Leaflet (U. O. No. 3, the United Offering Resolution and Prayer, and United Offering boxes,) can be had from the Secretary of the Woman's Auxiliary, Church Missions House, 281 Fourth Avenue, New York.