

thereby permanently insuring them a home and all that the name signifies.

Flower Mission is a voluntary association of ladies, organized in 1878, by the late lamented Miss Jennie Casseday, for the purpose of carrying
 Flower Mission. flowers to those sick, poor or in prison. In late years it extended its work to the distribution of alms, and observes the birthday of Miss Casseday as a memorial day, on which to distribute flowers, visiting the prisons and hospitals and those who are shut in by sickness. Branches of the society have been formed in many of the cities and towns in the United States.

The Jennie "Casseday Rest Cottage" (incorporated) conducts a country home, at which young lady clerks and employes are invited to spend a vacation of two weeks in the summer, paying nominal board, or no board where they are unable to pay anything.

Among other undenominational institutions may be mentioned the Children's Free Hospital on Chestnut near Floyd, the Home for the Friendless, the Cook Benevolent Institution, Old Ladies' Home, the Masonic Widows' and Orphans' Home and Infirmary of Kentucky, the Woman's Christian Association Boarding House, Newsboys' Home, Kindergarten Home, Colored Orphans' Home and the Jennie Casseday Free Infirmary.

In addition to these are the Free Dispensary Louisville Medical College, Dispensary of the University School of Medicine, of the Hospital College of Medicine, of the Kentucky School of Medicine, and of the College of Dentistry.

Nearly every church organization has its own relief society to look after its own poor. In addition to this the several denominations have their orphanages, homes, etc. Among those in the city may be mentioned the "Church Home and Infirmary," Home of the Innocents, Norton Memorial Infirmary, Orphanage of the Good Shepherd, Episcopal Orphan Asylum, the Louisville Baptist Orphans' Home, the German Baptist Orphans' Home, the German Protestant Orphan Asylum, the Presbyterian Orphans' Home, the Methodist Orphans' Home, the Christian Church Widows' and Orphans' Home, the St. James Old Folks' Home (colored), Sts. Mary and Elizabeth Hospital, St. Joseph's Infirmary, Sisters of the Good Shepherd, St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum, St. Ann's Maternity Hospital, St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum, Home for the Aged Poor, and Sacred Heart Home.

Who could have prophesied to that little band of

faithful women that their small beginning, made eight years ago, with the training of the little children of our city, would grow to the increased proportions of the work of the Louisville Free Kindergarten Association of to-day! From a group of five or six children who gathered once a week under the care of one earnest woman, it has grown to the care of about seven hundred children every school day of the week, the eleven free kindergartens being situated in the needy locality of the city.

The first steps toward the Louisville Free Kindergarten Association grew out of a small band of children, from three to six years of age, who attended the weekly meetings of the Holcombe Mission

Free Kindergarten Association.* To children of this age the needle and thread of the industrial school was too difficult a problem, and yet they persisted in regular attendance every Saturday morning. The problem of meeting the needs of these children, too young for the regular industrial school work, aroused an interest in and investigation of the kindergarten idea. Through the kindness of a friend in Utica, N. Y., sufficient kindergarten material was donated to supply the needs of this little class of waifs, who were kindly cared for and directed in their work by Miss Mary L. Graham, who truly made the work a labor of love. If such interest and results could be obtained with the children meeting for one hour a week, what might not be the outgrowth of the training received daily in kindergarten? For two long winters they were perplexed to know what to do with the wee ones of the neighborhood. The kindergarten suggested itself as the best means of reaching them. Being conscious, however, of the necessary expense, they dared not mention it to a Board of Directors, who had already a financial burden as great as they could bear. After due consideration and investigation of the kindergarten idea, the directors said: "Open your kindergartens if you think you can meet the expense. Kindergartens are expensive, but they cost less than almshouses, prisons and lawyers' fees. Shall we withhold our money that our loved children and grandchildren may live in a city less full of ignorance, crime and wretchedness? We must convince our good citizens that the kindergarten is an economic plan for the prevention of crime and a powerful agent in education and reform." So impressed were Mrs. J. R. Clark and Miss Mary L. Graham with this thought that, with the sanction

*Written by Miss Patty S. Hill.

of the Holcombe Mission Board, through their personal effort and sacrifice, they secured funds sufficient to employ a trained kindergartner, Miss Susan Tewitt, of Cincinnati, being called as principal of the first free kindergarten in Louisville, which was opened February 1, 1887. It is a fact known only to the few that this free kindergarten fund was started by a subscription of two hundred dollars, the price of the seal skin cloak which one good woman voluntarily resigned.

The work grew in proportion until it demanded a training class department, furnishing opportunity both for the training of young women in this work, and, through them, providing for the care and instruction of larger numbers of children, with no additional expense. Determining to secure the best instruction for both children and teachers Mrs. Clark and Miss Graham investigated the kindergarten work of other cities, and secured the services of Miss Anna E. Bryan, a Louisville girl who had distinguished herself by the quality and originality of her work in the Chicago Free Kindergarten Association. As a result of this a training class was opened in September, 1887, with an enrollment of six young ladies from representative families of Louisville. A few weeks later the Louisville Free Kindergarten Association was organized, with both departments under its charge.

At this organization Mrs. J. R. Clark, Mrs. John A. Carter, Miss Mary L. Graham, Mrs. A. C. Bowser, Mrs. Lunsford P. Yandell, Mrs. W. N. Little and Mrs. Albert S. Willis were elected prominent officers, all of whom have continued their faithful services to the association, even to the present date.

In February, 1888, a call for a second kindergarten had to be met in the Home of the Innocents, with Miss Emily P. Beeler as principal for the first five months, Miss Eva Magruder of Virginia, one of Louisville's first graduates, taking charge in the fall.

The people of Louisville, seeing the benefits of the training to the children of the poorer classes in the free kindergartens, requested that the same training might be provided for their own children in private kindergarten. Through mistake the private kindergarten was advertised in Miss Bryan's name, which necessitated her leaving the free work in the mornings in charge of Miss Miner, of Chicago, who was called to take this place temporarily, Miss Bryan having charge of the private kindergarten in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, corner of Second and Oak streets.

In the following September Miss Bryan resumed her work with the children in the mornings at the Holcombe Mission in connection with the training class in the afternoon. On the graduation of the first class in February, 1889, two more free kindergartens were opened under the care of the association: the Sunbeam Kindergarten, at Twenty-second and Walnut, Miss Finie M. Burton, principal, and the German Free Kindergarten, Clay and Market, Miss Patty S. Hill, principal, until the following fall, when the position was taken by Miss Helen Heick.

In September, 1889, many new kindergartens were opened. Among them were the Stuart Robinson Free Kindergarten, at Sixth and Myrtle streets, Miss Mary D. Hill, principal; the Knox Colored Kindergarten, at Twelfth and Madison, Miss Emily P. Beeler, principal; the Tobacco Exchange Kindergarten, at Eleventh and Market streets, Miss Celeste Semonin, principal; New Albany Free Kindergarten, Ninth and Oak streets, Miss Anna E. Moore, principal. The superintendence of these kindergartens, together with a growing training department, demanding Miss Bryan's entire time, she was forced to give up work with the children at the parent kindergarten, Miss Patty S. Hill being called to fill her position as principal of that school.

In June of 1890 the work had grown from one kindergarten to seven, from the care of one hundred to three hundred and fifty children, and the normal class from six to twenty young ladies. The Louisville work becoming so well known and recognized throughout the country, the many letters of inquiry and general correspondence necessitated the employment of an assistant for Miss Bryan, Miss Catharine Montz taking charge of the correspondence and manual training.

This year records the opening of the Temple Free Kindergarten, at Sixth and Broadway, with Miss Anna E. Moore as principal, her sister, Miss Edith Moore, having succeeded her as principal of the New Albany Kindergarten. This school was moved to a more needy locality at Preston and Jefferson, with Miss Gertrude Flexner as principal.

The children in the southern suburbs of the city were reached by the opening of the Third Street Kindergarten, in the Third Avenue Baptist Church, Third and B streets, with Miss Elizabeth Fulton as principal. This movement was much needed and has been attended with success.

The Parkland Free Kindergarten was organized a short while after this, under Miss Anna E. Henn,

principal; later Miss Zerelda Huckeby became principal.

In September, 1893, Miss Bryan desiring a year of recreation and study, the association granted her a leave of absence. Miss Patty S. Hill was called upon to give up her morning work with the children to take charge of the training department and to superintend the work done in all of the free kindergartens, her position as principal of the parent free kindergarten being filled by Mrs. E. G. Graves.

Throughout the history of the association, in addition to raising funds for their running expenses, the ladies had been slowly accumulating a fund, hoping the time might come when they would see fit to purchase their own building. In May, 1894, the association saw fit to take this step, purchasing the beautiful property on the southwest corner of Floyd and Walnut streets. The building was sufficiently large to justify them in opening three departments, the free kindergarten for the children, the normal training department and the boarding department for those young ladies from a distance, who had sought Louisville kindergarten training. The boarding and manual training departments were superintended by Mrs. Elizabeth S. De Bruler.

During this year the Third Street Kindergarten was moved to "The Point," where it was supported by Calvary Episcopal Church, with Miss Elizabeth Fulton as principal. In September, 1895, the association took under its care three new kindergartens, the Masonic Home Free Kindergarten, Miss Elizabeth Beers, principal; the Merchants and Bankers' Free Kindergarten, at Bullitt and River, Miss Elizabeth Akin, principal; and the Mary Belknap Free Kindergarten, in the Charity Organization Building, Miss Angelyn Benton, principal.

Eight years of determination and effort on the part of every one associated with the work have resulted to-day in giving the Louisville Free Kindergarten Association a national reputation for originality in thought and method. Although it is situated in the South, educators from North, East, South and West have seen fit to apply to our Louisville Association for teachers to fill positions of honor and responsibility, both throughout our own country and abroad.

Every year finds in the Louisville Free Kindergarten Training School full graduates of prominent training schools of other large cities, who have come to gain the secret of the original quality of the Louisville free kindergartens.

A prominent educator from the North wrote late-

ly: "I know of no place where the principles of Froebel are worked out so thoroughly, originally and in detail as in the Louisville kindergarten." An educator from across the water, after a thorough investigation of the kindergartens here, as well as in other cities, said at the end of her visit: "I have found in Louisville what I want, and I shall be glad to take back to my school not only your select, as I first thought when I came, but any graduate of the Louisville Free Kindergarten Training School whom you will recommend."

When the International and Cotton States Exposition was to be held in Atlanta, Ga., in the fall of 1895, the Educational Committee, desirous of showing the South what had been done in an educational line, decided to have a model kindergarten and model school in connection with the Exposition. The kindergarten was awarded to the Louisville Free Kindergarten Association, with a good salary, over other competitors who offered their services free for the advertisement of working in the Fair. This is considered to have been a wonderful opportunity for Louisville to show to the South what kindergarten methods can accomplish. Mrs. Mary D. Hill was principal of the Exposition kindergarten, and has done much excellent work.

The Louisville Free Kindergarten Association to-day has under its care ten large free kindergartens, as follows:

Parent Kindergarten, 240 East Walnut, Mrs. E. G. Graves, principal.

Sunbeam Kindergarten, Twenty-second and Walnut, Miss Margaret Young, principal.

German Kindergarten, Clay and Market, Miss Helen Heick, principal.

Knox Colored Kindergarten, Twelfth and Madison, Miss Emily P. Beeler, principal.

Stuart Robinson Kindergarten, Seventh and Weissinger avenue, Miss Liebe F. Jones, principal.

Tobacco Exchange Kindergarten, Twelfth and Market, Miss Mary D. Hill, principal.

Temple Free Kindergarten, Preston and Jefferson, Mrs. Jean S. Redelsheimer, principal.

Masonic Home Free Kindergarten, Masonic Home, Miss Elizabeth Beers, principal.

Merchants and Bankers' Kindergarten, Bullitt and River, Miss Elizabeth Akin, principal.

Mary Belknap Kindergarten, Charity Organization Building, Miss Angelyn Benton, principal.

The Normal Department has grown to such proportions as to demand the assistance of a faculty of four.

FACULTY OF NORMAL DEPARTMENT.

Miss Patty S. Hill, training teacher, superintendent.

Miss Finie M. Burton, nurses' classes, primary Sunday school classes, manual training.

Miss Anna E. Moore, science classes, primary classes.

Miss Mildred J. Hill, vocal classes, accompaniment classes.

Louisville, Kentucky, December 5, 1895.

From almost every point of view, as one approaches the city of Louisville, the building of the Kentucky Institute for the Blind dominates the landscape. With its massive walls crowned with an airy dome and embowered in trees, it forms an object as beautiful to the eye as it is conspicuous. It is the home of the sixth institution of the kind in the United States, and was founded by a charter from the General Assembly of Kentucky, approved February 5, 1842. To those familiar with its history it stands a noble monument to those who, in founding it, builded wiser than they knew, and especially to the memories of two of the noblest citizens of Kentucky, Dr. T. S. Bell and the Hon. William F. Bullock, who assisted at its inception, and who, for over forty years, guided its management. To these men was it permitted, in some directions, to see the fruits of their labors. They lived to see the little school of five pupils, started in a rented house on Sixth street, between Walnut and Jefferson streets, firmly established in a palatial home of its own in a noble park of twenty-five acres, with a hundred pupils, with a separate department for colored blind children, and with a printing house supplying the whole country with embossed literature.

It took fifty years for the first organized movement for the education of the blind to travel across the Atlantic from the center of its origin in Paris, France. Now, State schools for the blind number thirty-eight, and nearly four thousand children are receiving instruction in them. At the close of the year 1842 the total number of blind pupils in the United States, including the ten in the Kentucky school, was two hundred and seventy-seven. The latest report of the Kentucky school shows an enrollment of one hundred and thirty, of whom twenty-five were in the colored department.

When first started the school was maintained by the citizens of Louisville alone. Many of the noble

women of the city united to hold a fair to aid in supporting the school. Dr. Samuel G. Howe, then the superintendent of the Massachusetts School for the Blind, and William Chapin, superintendent of the Ohio School, came with some of their blind pupils, and gave exhibitions before the Legislature and in the churches of Louisville. Such practical illustrations of the good results from educating the blind proved irresistible arguments with the members of the Legislature and created a deep interest in the welfare of the school.

The first superintendent was Bryce M. Patton, who held the position until 1871. He was in charge of a private school in Louisville when he was appointed, and he brought to his work rare energy, scholarship and ability. His brother, Otis Patton, blind from infancy and a graduate from the Massachusetts School for the Blind, was his assistant, and Joseph B. Smith, another graduate of the Massachusetts School for the Blind, and a graduate of Harvard College, had charge of the musical department. His scholarly attainments and his great musical abilities easily placed him among the first musicians of the city. He became organist and leader of the choir at the Unitarian Church, and during his fifteen years' connection with the School for the Blind he demonstrated the importance of his department and proved that, in the path of music, the blind musician could compete on more equal terms with his seeing competitors than in any other walk of life. A memorial of the life of this remarkable man was written by the Rev. John H. Heywood, and published by Hanna & Co., in 1859.

The school was opened on the 9th day of May, 1842, with five pupils. In January, 1843, the "Prather House," on Green street, between Third and Fourth streets, was rented. In July, 1843, a lot of ground on the south side of Broadway, between First and Second streets, one hundred and forty feet front and four hundred feet deep, was purchased, and a building, designed by J. Stirewalt, was erected and occupied in 1845. This was the home of the school until September 29, 1851, when it was destroyed by fire. The pupils were kindly sheltered by the friends of the school in the neighborhood, until the building now used for the Male High School was made ready for the pupils. Here the school remained for four years, leasing a room for the mechanical department on the east side of Seventh street, between Chestnut and Walnut.

Meanwhile efforts were promptly made for securing a better location, which resulted in the pur-

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