

Transplanted.

The nineteenth century significance of the word plant is such that it requires not even the use of a figure to apply it to our Alumnæ Kindergarten. Perhaps the seed from which this plant sprang was a grateful realization on the part of the graduates of the College of the benefits conferred upon them by their city. It needed no second sight to discern the evils existing in this crowded, cosmopolitan town, which the educational system, so generous to them, had failed to reach. Freely they had received, freely and wisely must they give. Wisely—for who of us has forgotten the beautiful hint left to us by Miss Merington in her last presidential address: “Men who seek to rescue the barren wastes of earth from their barrenness, do not expend their energies in carrying water to the desert, but they plant and nourish trees, which in due time bring the clouds and rains of heaven to make the wilderness blossom as a rose.”

For the benefit of those who do not understand the basis on which our Kindergarten is established, as well as to recall to those interested the constant necessity for a substantial expression, in any form, of their interest, it may be well to present anew a few facts well known to many.

The Alumnæ Kindergarten was the second of its kind opened under the Free Kindergarten Association of New York, which association was started, some five years ago, for the purpose of establishing free Kindergartens in the tenement districts of New York. This work was begun immediately after an unsuccessful effort to obtain from the city the introduction of the Kindergarten into the primary departments of the public schools. To become a regular member of the Kindergarten Association an annual fee of \$3 is required, while \$100 pays for a life membership. Our Alumnæ Association is very well represented in the Free Kindergarten Association.

Kindergarten No. 2 of the Free Kindergarten Association has a right to the name “Alumnæ Kindergarten,” inasmuch as the Alumnæ has pledged itself to defray the salary of one Kindergarten. This salary is drawn from the treasury of the Free Kindergarten Association, being part of the money paid into their fund by those of our Alumnæ who belong regularly on its membership roll.

It was thus that our Kindergarten first opened, October 27, 1890; through the courtesy of the mission connected with the Church of the Epiphany, and later with Dr. John Hall's church,

the building on the northwest corner of Sixty-third street and First avenue was secured. Here for four years, warmed and nourished by the sunshine of friendly wishes and friendlier deeds, the Kindergarten grew and flourished. At first twenty-five, later fifty children was the limit, and it was always reached and more than reached. Presently a second mother was needed to assist Miss Wells. Miss Miller, and later Miss Nolen, filled the position. Wider and wider grew the circle of influence. "The ripples in rhymes the oars forsook." Each child in the Kindergarten was to Miss Wells the center of a family who must be made to feel that for them the Kindergarten existed. Older sisters of the babies must be reached; so the "Little Housekeepers" found themselves organized into a band of little workingwomen, anxious to learn how to sew, to cook, and to keep house. Older brothers must be encouraged to lend their sturdy support to their baby brothers' interests; so for them a Library Committee sprang into existence. Babies, brothers and sisters—yes, and mothers oftentimes—must be supplied with clothing; hence the Clothing Committee, with a work as vast as the needs of a tenement district. Health must be captured from woods and streams in summer, and maintained in the trying winter time; hence the Fresh Air and Medical Committees. And so, as the "new occasions" arose, they taught "new duties," and, like Longfellow's turnip, "we grew and we grew." Happy we if, like the historic turnip, our fame is sheathed in the fact that "we did no harm."

At last the time came when the queer old mission house, grown almost dear from association, could no longer afford our Kindergarten shelter and the little growth must be transplanted. Transplanted! How one dreads to disturb a young and delicate plant! So easy to bruise beyond repair the tiny, tender fibrils. But, in faith, ours was a sturdy little plant, ivy—every inch of it—and rich soil for its flourishing was not lacking. By careful inspection of the maps prepared by the various insurance companies, it was found there was an East Side district uptown which had been neglected by missions. It contained a typical New World population—Bohemians, Poles, Italians, Irish, Germans, Algerians and Americans.

A three-story brown stone house (446 East Seventy-second street) was rented and put into repair. Just previous to the week set for the opening, Miss Wells and Miss Nolen canvassed the neighborhood. Monday, October 15th, the Kindergarten opened with fifteen wide-eyed, inquisitive little tots; Tuesday, there were twenty-one; Wednesday, thirty-one appeared; Thursday, thirty-three, and by the next Tuesday the full quota of fifty children

was reached. A second Kindergarten might be opened next door and we doubt if our numbers would suffer any depletion. The neighborhood teems with possibilities in the shape of children.

ELIZABETH JARRETT.

(To be continued in our next.)

The Anniversary Reception.

No brighter day in the history of our College ever dawned than Thursday, the fourteenth of February, 1895. As the Fourth of July is to the nation, as Christmas is to the Church, so was this day to us—our festal, our holy day; a day long to be remembered in the annals of the College!

There have been birthdays and birthdays, but this was the twenty-fifth—the silver day. Nor was this the only, hardly, perhaps, the chief cause which made the day glorious in our sight. Years ago, many more than twenty-five years, an idea was born in a man's mind. From that time he struggled bravely for the realization of that idea—struggled, indeed, for he met with little encouragement at first. Yet in the end he won, as brave men must; and when at last his idea took form and shape and the Normal College began its work, he was at its head; and ever since he has held that honored place, and guided our Alma Mater wisely and well, until it has become the College that it is to-day. The wise, strong man you know, Dr. Thomas Hunter; and it was to honor him, to show its deep appreciation of his work, to tender him its heartiest congratulations on his twenty-fifth anniversary as President of the College, perhaps more than because of its love and loyalty to its Alma Mater, that the Alumnæ met together in the evening of the College's greatest day—February 14, 1895.

When we entered the building and went upstairs to the chapel, who was there that did not exclaim at the beauty of the decorations? From either gallery to the center of the arch over the platform were festoons of smilax, while the whole wall behind the platform, except the space filled by the flags we know so well, was covered with green, giving an indescribably pretty effect. In the center of the flags was hung a fine portrait of that dear and honored friend of the college, the late Mr. Wood. The painting is a gift to the College from his wife. President Hunter's desk was decorated with the lavender and white College colors, and just below it there were massed beautiful white flowers. The galleries were hung with the National and the College colors, and in the center of the rear gallery by the organ were the flags presented to the College a few years ago by the John A. Dix Post of the G. A. R.