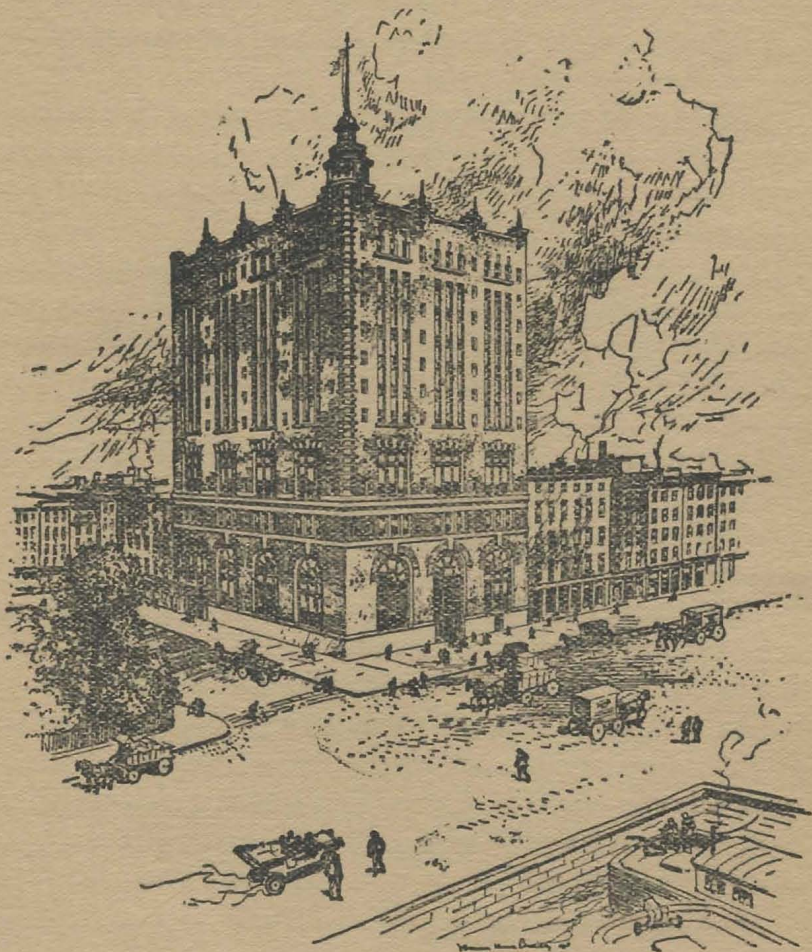

THE LOOKOUT



Proposed New Building

THE SEAMEN'S CHURCH INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK
ONE STATE STREET

AN APPEAL

WE HAVE begun to build our new home—a twelve-story, fireproof structure that will be a model of its kind for all the world.

We have begun to build, although a portion of the money required has not yet been subscribed. The success of our work demands it. We believe it to be our duty to our subscribers.

To gather up the residue of a large fund like this would be an arduous task were the circumstances less favorable. Subscriptions to this fund have been accompanied almost invariably by a very genuine interest in the success of the undertaking and a pride in its future. A very pleasant and confidential relation seems to exist, and where the supporters of a society have its welfare so genuinely at heart, it is incredible that the work of gathering up the remnant should be unduly difficult.

We appeal, therefore, to the supporters of the Institute to continue their activities and generousities until the entire fund is completed. We appeal to those who have not contributed to join us in making this great work an unprecedented success.

Will you not aid us by bringing this work to the notice of your friends—personal contact is always helpful—in order that we may proceed with the building, assured that the money will be on hand to pay for it when it is finished?

A description of our specific needs will be found in the June issue.

THE LOOKOUT

Published by the Seamen's Church Institute of New York
RT. REV. DAVID H. GREER, D.D., LL.D., President FRANK T. WARBURTON, Secretary-Treasurer
OFFICE, ONE STATE STREET, NEW YORK

VOL. II.

OCTOBER, 1911

No. 6

Progress of the Building

From a large stack of carefully-planned and minutely-discussed blue-prints to twelve stories of stone and masonry, complete in every particular and ready for occupancy seems a very long step. That, however, is the way of all big undertakings—they are made up of steps. Just now the new building is on its second one. The Foundation Company is sinking the caissons and the actual business of excavating is about to begin.

It is a busy corner at Coenties slip and South street these days. Groups of idlers lounging against the railing of the little park across the street accentuate the activity about the derricks and huge black boilers. The long green boom of the derrick swings out. Dangling from it is a pole, about twenty-five feet long. The damp earth is still clinging to it and it has that age-stained look which comes to wood that has been imbedded in the ground. It is one of the piles that was driven some fifty or sixty years ago. It is being uprooted after half a century of honest service to make way for a newer and better method of foundation-laying. The march of progress cannot be impeded.

The removal of those piles which were driven in vertically is not difficult. While one stands watching, the long boom swings out regularly and each time there is suspended from it a moist, brown log. But when the men find the poles run-

ning horizontally they will have to hack them out in little bits. That will be the labor of the men in the caissons and it will be these men who will lay the new foundation.

A description of this new foundation appeared in the last LOOKOUT. To keep out the river a solid wall of concrete five and a half feet thick will extend downward about thirty-five feet until rock is reached. Thus the floor of the sub-cellar will be rock and its walls and ceiling concrete. This work will take from three to four months.

But by the first of the year The Foundation Company expects to have finished. Then its signs will be replaced by those of the builder; the derricks will be replaced by cranes for handling the heavy steel beams, and little by little the skeleton framework will shape itself. Those who are vitally interested in the work on the new building will hail with joy the first phantom-like form, which is to grow and become tangible evidence that the thing for which everyone has worked and hoped for is actually in existence.

Aside from the utilitarian value of the site of the building there is much that is picturesque in the immediate neighborhood. At the piers on South street fruit steamers are constantly unloading. "Concettina di Giorgio" is the name of one, bearing a South American flag. Huge carts are leaving her pier filled with mammoth bunches of green bananas. There is a breath of the

tropics in the odor from the load of pine-apples that passes. Nearer the "new building" are little knots of seamen looking on with eager interest in striking contrast to their usual apathetic glances. One of them who sat on a pile of rope at a safe distance from the huge black boiler took his pipe from his mouth and gesticulated with it.

"This is going to be a fine place when it's done," he assured his companion, whose face the sun and wind had colored a rich mahogany.

"Oh, yes," assented the other; "I've heard it's to be a sort of hotel for us sailors."

Savings Department

A CHAT WITH THE MAN BEHIND THE
DESK

Perhaps the dingy books which record the deposits of seamen would not appeal to one at once as being glowing pages of romance, as having pathetic little tales of struggle to save money for a new home—a home to be presided over by a new bride. But just the other day we heard the last installment of a romantic serial which has been running for a long time.

A young Scotchman has been depositing money in our Savings Department for several years—just small sums at a time, but who can tell at what personal sacrifice? How many pipes of tobacco and little comforts were willingly foregone in order that the money might accumulate against that day when there should be enough to establish a little home! There was a girl in Scotland who was waiting for that day, patiently, perhaps, or maybe with a very human sort of impatience.

Anyhow, the Scotch seaman continued to bring us his money and every time he

saw the figure added to his account he would cross off the days on the calendar which separated him from the fulfillment of his hopes. Then he got a regular position on one of the U. S. Harbor boats at a good salary. A great many days could be crossed off now. He worked hard and about two weeks ago he came to us and drew out his savings. He was ready to send for the girl. She was to come over; they were to be married and the home established. With his present salary he can maintain a comfortable little menage, and he is very happy.

Cases of this sort coming in the midst of so much dry-as-dust routine and ordinary round of business affairs inspire us with fresh belief in our work.

AN EVIDENCE OF FAITH

Only the other morning a German, who gave his age as 52 years, entered the Savings Department office and going up to the desk asked if he could leave a few "dollars money". He stated that he had never had any use for banks before—that he had been afraid to trust them. But he had heard from various seamen who call us friends that he could be absolutely sure of us. So he had come in with his modest request. Of course we told him that he could leave his money and explained about our system of receipts, withdrawals, etc. He commenced to empty his pockets, producing several time-worn receptacles for hoarding money. He laid them all upon the desk and the money was counted. There were \$900, nearly all in \$20 gold pieces.

It was a significant evidence of faith that this man who had obviously been carrying the earnings of many voyages about on his person should suddenly determine to entrust it to our keeping.

ONE-DOLLAR BILLS ONLY

Singapore was the homeland of the clear-eyed brown-skinned Indian who came up to the desk the other night just at the closing hour, carrying an apparently heavy satchel. He said he would like to make a deposit, so the man behind the desk waited patiently for him to open his bag and deliver the contents. They were all little rolls of \$1.00 bills, ten in each roll. It seemed to the weary receiver as if these would never end. Each roll was wrapped about with an elastic band and each one had to be unwrapped; every bill had to be smoothed out and counted. When he was finished there were \$850.00. Mr. Man from Singapore took his receipt and went away quite happily, probably meaning to start another little roll of dollar bills and lay in a new supply of rubber bands.

ARABS AND ENGLISH GOLD

We have referred in a previous issue of THE LOOKOUT to the number of Arabs whose names are on our books. A glance at their odd, cramped little signatures brings to your mind a picture of a swarthy-skinned man with darting black eyes, a little shifty perhaps, and what the tales of adventure call "a pair of villainous-looking black mustachios". They do not trust us too far. As we have said before, they insist upon having English gold and when they give it to us it is with the strict injunction to keep it *just as it is* until they call for it. Last week an Arab went home and five of his countrymen came in and drew out from 5 to 20 pounds in gold for him to carry home to their families. The Arab, for all his moral obliquity, shows a good deal of faithfulness to his wife and children—or as is usually the case—wives. He may not send money home

with any marked degree of regularity but when he does send it, it is a generous sum.

A DISCOURAGING CASE

In contrast to this is the case of an English seaman who for six years has been sending money to his wife and children through our office. Recently letters have been coming from the wife in which she states that she has received nothing from her husband since November, 1910. Before that he would send amounts of from \$12.50 to \$50.00. In her last letter she appeals to the department to help her. She sets forth pathetically that there are three children who have not seen their father in six years, and that she is obliged to support them, earning only a few shillings a day and working from 8 o'clock in the morning until 8 o'clock at night. She says that her husband continues to write her and she knows he is on a good ship. He is a fireman and receives probably \$30.00 a month.

It is difficult to know just how to reply to this poor woman. The husband has ceased to come to see us and even if we got in touch with him our chances of persuading him to send money to his wife are very slender. He is not ignorant of her need, since he writes and receives letters, imploring him to help her and his children. It is the old, but none the less tragic, story of drunkenness. We do not despair of reaching this type of man, however. There have been so many desperate cases of men that have come within the sphere of our influence and been aided to new ideals of self-respect and honor. And when our new building is completed and we have larger opportunities we believe that our success with men of this sort will be increased a thousandfold.

THE LOOKOUT

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Church Institute of New York at
One State Street

Subscription Price - - One Dollar a Year

NOTE—Address all communications to
ARCHIBALD R. MANSFIELD, Superintendent

To the Readers of The Lookout

This is to be a message from the Institute to its supporters, friends and acquaintances—the readers of THE LOOKOUT.

In the future, THE LOOKOUT is to be devoted more largely to stories about the many departments of the Institute's work. The directors feel that the contributors to the work should know each month just what is being done, what needs to be done, and what is going to be done. It is essential that you should know the details connected with the various branches of this work. The Institute wants you to feel that it does not mean to exploit the seaman as a curiosity or as a romantic figure or as a peculiarly tragic figure. It wants you to feel that the interest of the workers at No. 1 State street, at the North River Station, and at the Breakwater is in the man as a human being—just an ordinary human with needs and desires and hopes and fears. And it is because the Institute believes this so strongly that it is most anxious to impress upon its supporters the need for increasing the activities.

When we say "increase" we come directly to the thing which lies nearest all our thought of the future of this Institute. That, of course, is the new building. You are all aware that the foundation is being laid and that the building is well under way; but you

are also aware that there is over \$200,000 yet to be raised. Many of you have given most generously. A great many of you give a yearly sum to our Ways and Means Department and we believe you realize that without your help this work could not continue at all. But this is such a big thing to us, the new building with its opportunity for needed expansion, for better facilities, for increased efficiency, and we want it to be a big thing to every one interested in the Institute. And so we ask if there are any who feel that they can add to what has been originally subscribed to this splendid project, or, that being impossible, if they will just use their influence to interest their friends and acquaintances. If the subscribers to the Institute are thoroughly convinced of the tremendous power for good that the Institute possesses, there will be no difficulty in convincing others. The language of sincerity is so very simple.

There is one other thing. This magazine, which is the official organ of this Society, is neither very large nor very thick, but a great deal of time and earnest thought go into its preparation each month. Are there any who have the time to offer suggestions? You are busy men and women with manifold claims upon your attention, but if you could spare a few moments occasionally for constructive criticism or comment, the Institute would appreciate it. We are all working together for a large ideal. Letters of encouragement help tremendously.

Philip Ruprecht Memorial

Members of the Produce Exchange and of the Maritime Exchange, who were friends of the late Philip Ruprecht, have subscribed \$2,000 in order that the Offi-

cers' Reading Room in the new building should be a memorial to him.

Mr. Ruprecht was for many years at the head of the foreign department of the Standard Oil Co. in this city.

Memorial Rooms

There are still eight of the large rooms in the new building which have not been taken. We publish a list of them below. Beside the Chapel, four other rooms have been reserved for those who wish to contribute large sums to the new building and have their gifts permanently memorialized, or who wish to memorialize friends and relatives by taking these rooms in their name. The remaining rooms are as follows:

SHIPPING BUREAU—\$2,000

(About 35 feet square)

Employment was secured for 3,126 seamen, free of charge to them, through this department last year.

DINING ROOM—\$3,000

(About 30 x 46 feet in size)

Where good meals will be served at reasonable prices to the seamen lodging in the Institute.

OFFICERS' DINING ROOM—\$1,000

(18 feet long; 32 feet wide)

To maintain discipline at sea separate accommodations must be provided for the officers and seamen in the Institute.

SAVINGS DEPARTMENT—\$1,500

The seamen deposit their savings with us to the extent of \$120,000 annually.

GAME ROOM—\$5,000

(About 54 x 60 feet)

Away from home, the men of the sea are dependent upon such recreation as they can find; if not here, in some less elevating place.

OFFICERS' GAME ROOM—\$2,000

(About 106 x 21 feet)

The seaman has scant opportunity for amusement except when on land.

AUDITORIUM—\$5,000

(About 50 x 70 feet)

Where entertainments will be held. When not needed for other purposes, it will be used as a gymnasium.

MAIN STAIRCASE—\$3,500

(Running from basement to 4th floor)

It introduces the seaman to the Institute and to the hospitality of the port.

Memorial Bed Rooms

There are three hundred and fifty bedrooms which have not been reserved as yet. The cost of building and furnishing these rooms has been estimated at \$100 each. This offers a splendid opportunity to anyone wishing to give a moderate sum in memory of relatives or friends interested in the sea and sailors' problems. Each room may be inscribed with the name of the donor or of the persons he wishes to memorialize.

**Report of the Shipping Department
SEPTEMBER, 1911**

1 State Street			
<i>Name of Vessel</i>	<i>Men Shipped</i>	<i>Destination</i>	
S. S. Clement	47	Brazil	
S. S. Javary	10	Peru	
S. S. Justin	7	Brazil	
S. S. Polycarp	5	Brazil	
S. S. Byron	13	Brazil	
S. S. Terence	7	Manchester	
S. S. Voltaire	37	River Plate	
S. S. Rossetti	—	Manchester	
S. S. Aros Castle	26	South Africa	
S. S. Royal Prince	21	South Africa	
S. S. Orange Prince	19	River Plate	
S. S. Siamese Prince	2	River Plate	
S. S. Scottish Prince	20	Brazil	
S. S. Newton Hall	13	China and Japan	
S. S. Craster Hall	20	Chili and Peru	
Tex. Co.'s barges	2	Coast	
S. S. Anglo Mexican	1	Australia	
Towboats	3	Harbour	
Schooner	1	Coast	
Temporary work	101	On shipboard, etc.	
From 341 West St.	26	Sent to various positions	
Total	381		

From the "Boys" at Sea

Probably nothing shows as clearly and convincingly that the Seamen's Church Institute is accomplishing practical results as do the letters sent back to the Institute from the "boys" at sea. This is particularly true of the younger "boys"—the apprentices, who come to the Institute's rooms in large numbers constantly. Most of them are in that vigorous and wonderful age—from 14 to 22; and they are chiefly British lads, from tramp steamers and freighters, who have but a few days ashore and then a long time on ship in which to look back and remember. Their letters speak for themselves. Here is one postmarked Singapore. It says:

"Many thanks for yours to hand at Aden. I can tell you it made me wish I were in New York again. It brought back pleasant Sundays spent at State street. So far this voyage we have had a pretty miserable time in port—nothing but night work. At sea we have had two speeds—dead slow and stop. I wish she would wake up. I do wish this voyage was over—I am getting tired of it."

Another letter from this same lad says in one paragraph that, having completed his four years, he is to go home to England at the end of his present voyage. He adds:

"They told my father to send them ten pounds to pay my passage home. I told Dad not to send the money, as I would either get a cheap passage or work it."

There is a refreshing little glimpse of the Far East in this letter from a boy of twenty. He is describing his trip through the native village in Shanghai:

S. S. ———, Kobe, Japan.

"One very peculiar custom of the

Chinese is to bury their dead wherever the deceased expressed a wish to lie, and the ever-wily Chink who doesn't believe in wasting anything evidently often thinks of where he would be the most benefit—post mortem. Anyhow, that is the impression it gives one as the graves are dotted all about their paddy (rice) fields and vegetable gardens. Some are even in the middle of the path through the village, etc.

"The books you gave us have been most heartily appreciated. Everyone wishes to be remembered. Will see you at Christmas time."

One of the old boys who is now first mate on one of the large tramp steamers gives a most amusing account of his travels and says:

"When is the new Institute going to be opened? Have you started upon it yet? I should like so much to be there when it is opened."

Here is an enthusiastic tribute:

S. S. ———, Cardiff, England.

"I often look back on the happy evenings I spent at the Mission (Institute). Number One State was the best place I ever struck in my travels and now that I have been around our own coast a little I can still say that it is the best place I have struck."

A Baggage Check

Not long ago a seaman who had been coming to this Institute for several years died in a hospital in Finland. His wife was notified by the authorities and when she went to claim his luggage she found only a few personal belongings. Tucked in one side of his shabby pocketbook, however, was a small, rather dingy, check issued by the baggage department of the Seamen's Church Institute. And so the other morning a letter headed

"Jyraskyla, Salmeta", was received by the Superintendent. The check was enclosed with the request that the Institute sell the baggage for which it called and transmit to the widow the value.

Requests of this sort are not infrequent and quite often it happens that there will be a large box or bag filled with clothing and the various things a seaman picks up in his wanderings, which are easily negotiable. The man in charge of the baggage room took the worn little check and went to seek the package with the corresponding number. There was only a small paper parcel of no value whatever. It will be, perhaps, a tragic disappointment to the woman waiting patiently in Finland. But sailors' wives have had to learn to bear disappointments.

A Kindly Act

If it be a fact that the average sailor is an improvident spendthrift, it is equally true that he exhibits an impulsive generosity whenever there is illness or death among his fellow seamen.

Last month an English seaman of the S. S. Indian Prince became very ill in a South American port. A member of the crew thoughtfully wrote to the man's wife, and later, when he died, this same kind-hearted comrade wrote again, conveying the news as gently as he could. Then the ship came to New York and the crew was paid off in the British Consul's office. As soon as they received their money one of them pulled off his cap and took up a collection. When it was counted it was found that there were three pounds, one shilling. This they gave to the Institute's Savings Department to transmit to the widow in England; it was done immediately and upon its receipt the woman asked the Chaplain of the Seamen's Institute at South

Shields to express her gratitude to the crew of the Indian Prince and to this Institute for transmitting the money.

This is but one instance, taken from the many that come to our attention, of the genuine kind-heartedness and thoughtfulness displayed by seamen.

An Explanation

While so much of our interest is centered in the new building and the building committee is naturally most anxious to raise the balance of the sum needed to complete the enterprise, it must be remembered that the work of the Institute is not suspended, while awaiting its new quarters, but is continuing and increasing in volume. The business at the Breakwater, 19 Atlantic avenue, Brooklyn, the North River Station, 341 West street, and the Battery Station, 1 State street, is going on every day. And it requires money for current expenses—for actual cost of living. That is what the Ways and Means Department was organized for—to provide for the necessary expenditures which an Institute of this sort must entail.

For this reason, appeals are sent out periodically from the Ways and Means Department, and if through a clerical error one of these goes to a contributor to the Building Fund, it is hoped that the recipient will understand and overlook the annoyance. A great deal of money is needed to carry on a great work, and while money is not an agreeable topic at any time, it is still less pleasant to be compelled to ask for it. The Institute must beg the indulgence of its supporters if it seems to refer with too great frequency to its finances.

There is this consoling reflection. It is anticipated that the new building will be practically on a self-supporting basis.

North River Station Notes

Through THE LOOKOUT an invitation is extended to our readers and friends to attend the Sunday services at the Church of the Holy Comfortor, the Chapel for Seamen adjoining the Institute (the North River Station) at 341 West street, corner of Houston street.

The services are at 10:30 A. M. and 8 P. M. Very few New Yorkers know of this beautiful place of worship built from a legacy left by Mr. William Henry Vanderbilt in the year 1888. Here we have a choice bit of Gothic architecture, a place of worship attractive in appointments and universally pronounced by seamen and other visitors as a church with a good "home-like" feeling and expression.

The interest in the services is growing gradually among the men along the water front, and we are hopeful this year of larger numbers. The evening service is by far the more encouraging service, and while the chapel is comfortably filled the plan this year is to comfortably crowd it. There is a very good pipe organ, a quartet choir and hearty singing.

We shall be glad at any time to show visitors the plant of the North River Station—the reading room, recreation rooms, library, and other features. The Institute is open from 10 A. M. to 10 P. M. daily, including Sundays.

On Tuesday evening, October 3rd, the first of the fall and winter concerts was given. The talent was contributed from the crews of the S.S. Adriatic and S.S. Mauretania; the concert being held in our entertainment hall over the reading room, open to all at a popular price, *i. e.*, no charge.

There are several things we would ask for in the interest of greater conveni-

ence and efficiency. First, electricity introduced into the church as the lighting facility instead of gas. This is supplied from several high chandeliers, affording poor light and an escape of considerable gas before all the jets are aflame, as these are all dependent on a single central cock. In order to have the church free from the odor of gas at the hour of service the lighting must be done a long while before.

We would like a motor for the organ which would enable more frequent practice and soon pay for itself in saving the expenses of a man to blow the organ.

We would also make an appeal for contributions to enable us to carry on a good series of entertainments and introduce some helpful lectures into the course—something fine and wholesome which the men could take away and think over with profit and interest. They do not want song and dance and monologue continuously and we hope this year some good friends will enable us to give the men something of value, additional to the accustomed amusement plan.

Contributions of partly-worn clothing, books and reading matter of various kinds will be appreciated.

Curious Names

Aside from the unpronounceable and practically unspellable Scandinavian, Russian, Indian and Arabic names which fill our books are some whose origin would be interesting. There is a man whose surname is "Shipside", another "Seaman"; another answers to the rather metallic name of "Silver", another "Gold"; while "Beer" and "Gin" have a fatal appropriateness.

REPORT FOR AUGUST

DEPARTMENT REPORTS FOR AUGUST

The following synopsis of the work done in the various departments during the month of August gives a fair idea of the workings of the Institute:

AUGUST, 1911

Savings Department

August 1, cash on hand.....	\$13,451.85
Deposits	15,135.40
	\$28,587.25
Payments (\$6,388.40 transmitted) ..	14,304.64
	\$14,282.61
September 1, balance.....	\$14,282.61

Shipping Department

Number of vessels shipped entire by Seamen's Church Institute.....	17
Number of men provided with employment in port.....	65
Number of men shipped.....	196
	—
Total (number of men).....	261

Reading Room

Total attendance	1,709
Letters written and received.....	2,767
Packages reading given.....	510
Number pieces baggage checked.....	714

Relief Department

Assisted	148
Sent to Legal Aid Society.....	52
Hospitals visited	11
Visits to ships in port.....	35

Religious and Social Departments

Number of services.....	16
Attendance total	310
Communion services	1
Weddings	1
Funerals	2

Institute Boat "Sentinel"

Trips made	26
Visits to Vessels.....	29
Men transported	105
Pieces baggage transported.....	189