

# The Lookout



**NEW BUILDING**  
Now being erected

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

## AN APPEAL

**W**E 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?

Subscriptions, payable any time during 1912, should be sent to Edmund L. Baylies, Chairman Building Committee, 54 Wall Street, City.

# 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.

MARCH, 1912

No. 11

## Bread Upon the Waters

There is a particularly trite, but none the less wise, comment which is frequently made to the effect that you never can tell how far the written word will reach, what message it will convey to some remote person or just what sympathetic chord it will touch in some seemingly unresponsive man or woman. In illustration of this we publish a letter received from Switzerland the other day:

"Basel, Switzerland.

"DEAR SIR—I just read in *Harper's Magazine* of December, 1910, the portion of 'Youngsters of the Seven Seas' by Norman Duncan, and liked it immensely.

"Though not a sea-youngster myself, being on the contrary a 'pater familias' between 40 and 50, I like the sea and the youngsters, especially those fresh, clean-cut and decent boys from old England where I lived fifteen years myself. I wish my sonnie of six years could once roam abroad as they do—your youngsters! and find on his path such a good old mentor and friend as you are reputed to be. God bless you and your work amongst them. Continue to tell your lads to be and grow up brave good fellows and men; there are never too many such in this world.

"Now, I send you herein enclosed three greenbacks of one dollar each. Give with that little money, please, a bit of a tea and crumpets (if there are any of the latter in your part) to a party of your youngsters in remembrance of old Eng-

land and of an unknown friend. You have my permanent address at the top and if ever one of your young friends should come across this town (not by water, likely, though we have the Rhine) I shall be glad to shake hands with him.

"If you want to do me a pleasure only send me an illustrated card of your Institute, if you have any, or a few stamps off the numerous letters you no doubt receive from all parts of the world from your young friends.

"Once more, God bless you and three cheers for your 'Sea Youngsters!'

"My friendship,

"Yours very sincerely,

"—————"

## Savings Department Problem

The man behind the desk in the Savings Department transmitted \$40.00 for a seaman to his wife in Glasgow and asked that it be acknowledged. The lady replies in a somewhat ungracious fashion, but one is strongly tempted to sympathize with her attitude. She says:

"Just a note to say I received the £8 all right, but I must say I was very disappointed at my husband for not sending me more. How does he expect me to keep a home above my head and keep three children off that?

"I am sending a stamped addressed envelope and I wonder if you would send me back his address if you know it or let me know if he is away back on the same boat. An early reply will much oblige,  
Mrs. —————"

### A. B. of "Essex"

A former seaman, young and very ambitious, attended a Jesuit College in England for a little time and then feeling a disinclination to enter the priesthood came to America to complete his education. After a little while in New York he decided to take up the law as a profession and made application to one of the best Law Schools. He was admitted on the strength of his graduating from a university—he said he was an A. B. of "Essex." He finished two years very satisfactorily, passing all his examinations and maintaining the standard demanded by the school. A few days ago, however, the Dean sent for him. He said:

"Mr. ———, I have been looking over your entrance papers and I am puzzled about this 'Essex' University. Just where in England is 'Essex'?"

"Why," replied the law student very frankly, "The 'Essex' was a ship. I simply stated that I was an A. B. of the 'Essex,' and so I was."

This remarkable tale came to the Institute through the Legal Aid Society, to whom the man has applied for professional work.

It was felt that we would be particularly interested because the man had been a sailor and surely everything that makes for development and self-realization in seamen is of paramount importance to this Institute.

### A Greek and a Cab Driver

John Fahos is a Greek seaman and when about two weeks ago he wished to secure a ship for England he applied to the Shipping Department of the Institute. He was advised to transfer his luggage to the "Breakwater," our little hotel at 19 Atlantic avenue, Brooklyn, where he could also stay while

waiting to secure a berth. So he went over to 399 West street, where his things were, and got a cab at the Christopher Street Ferry. He made an arrangement with a man who stated that he was the boss of the cab drivers to have the luggage taken to Brooklyn for \$2.00, which he paid in advance, and was then driven to No. 1 State street to pick up a piece of baggage that had been stored at this station. As soon as Fahos got out of the cab the driver threw his trunk into the street and drove off. Fahos was shrewd enough, however, to have secured the number, 660, which appeared on the lamps and also on one or two other places.

He brought his complaint to the Superintendent, who took up the matter with the Legal Aid Society and the Bureau of Licenses. The Greek is an intelligent man and he is anxious that the cab driver's license be taken from him.

The discouraging feature about this and similar cases is that now when all the evidence is complete and we are in a position to press the complaint, the Greek seaman has sailed away on a ship for England. This is one of the things we constantly have to contend with, the difficulty of keeping witnesses long enough for the law to be enforced.

### The Husband

This letter needs no comment:

"Liverpool, England.

"I hope you will excuse me for taking the liberty of writing to you, but I have been told that you may be able to help me. I should be so glad if you could; my husband, John Bird, stopped out in New York two and one-half years ago and I have had no word from him in all that time, but I have been told that he frequents the Bethal, so should be so grateful if you could find out for me and

deliver enclosed note. He is near six foot and 29 years of age and he has the first joint of the middle finger of the left hand missing. The reason I am trying to find him now is that my health is not what it should be, and when I tell you I have three little girls to work for and not a friend in the world you will understand the struggle I have, and I think it only right that he should help to keep them. I had one baby born that he has never seen and I have to leave them with strangers while I go out to work to keep them.

My husband was all right while he left the drink alone and he was so easily led, but I am sure if I could get in touch with him I could persuade him to think of his little ones. He may be under the name of "Burns." Anyway, I should be deeply grateful if I could trespass on your kindness to do this for me. I remain, Sincerely,  
Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_."

**Shipping Department**

MONTH ENDING FEBRUARY 29, 1912

1 State Street.

NAME OF VESSEL	MEN SHIPPED	DESTINATION
S. S. Tennyson	14	Brazil
S. S. Tremont	1	River Plate
S. S. Cervantes	—	Manchester
S. S. Vasari	34	River Plate
S. S. Titian	1	Manchester
S. S. Christopher	25	Brazil
S. S. Aiadan	—	Brazil
S. S. Cuthbert	—	Brazil
S. S. Louisiana	5	Coast
S. S. Florida	2	Coast
Barge Caddo	1	Coast
Barge Harry Morse	4	Coast
S. S. Texas	3	Coast
Barge City of San Antonio	4	Coast
Barge Caddo	1	Coast
S. S. Siamese Prince	18	River Plate
S. S. Indian Prince	17	Brazil
S. S. Charlton Hall	25	West Coast of South America
Various Towboats and Lighters	18	
	173	
Temporary Work	37	In Port
Temporary Work	1	341 West St.
Total	211	

**Comfort Bags**

So many requests have come in answer to the paragraphs about comfort bags that we are appending the directions.

Comfort bags may be made of any strong cotton material such as cretonne, ticking, denim, etc. Dark colors are preferable. They should be about 9 by 12 inches in size, with a tape drawstring at the top. We are glad to have them both filled and unfilled. The following is the list of the contents:

1. Spool White Sewing Cotton No. 16.
2. Spool Black Linen Thread, No. 25.
3. Ball or Card Black, Brown or White Darning Cotton.
4. Six large Sewing Needles.
5. Three medium Darning Needles.
6. Square of Flannel, 3 by 5, for Needle-book.
7. Small Bag or String of Assorted Buttons.
8. Half-paper of Pins.
9. Half-dozen Safety Pins, medium.
10. Strawberry Emery Bag.
11. Small Piece Beeswax or Paraffine.
12. Large, open-top Steel Thimble.
13. Box or bottle of Vaseline.
14. Court Plaster or Reel of Adhesive Plaster.
15. Muslin Roller Bandage, two inches wide.
16. Piece of Tape, half-inch wide.
17. Pair Shoe Strings, one yard long.
18. Comb.

**Clothing**

We have constant calls upon us for men's partly worn clothing of all kinds and especially shirts and underwear. Shoes, even if much worn, will be useful to men whose feet are literally "on the ground."

## THE LOOKOUT

Published every month by the Seamen's  
Church Institute of New York at  
One State Street

*Subscription Price - - One Dollar a Year*

NOTE—Address all communications to

ARCHIBALD R. MANSFIELD, Superintendent

### Upward and Onward!

The work of erecting the steel skeleton is progressing rapidly; the columns are now being set for the second and third floors and the riveting gangs are following as close behind the derricks as possible, "driving home" the white hot steel rivets.

Barring delays due to conditions beyond our control, the flag should be flying proudly over the completed framework by the middle of April. And in the meantime the floor arches and the masonry walls should be well under way. There is a very pretty tradition rigidly adhered to by steel workers. When the last piece of steel is set and the men acknowledge their task to be finished, they fly the American flag from the top of this completing steel rod. It's a significant little custom and somehow appropriate for there should be a bit of patriotic sentiment connected with the fine glory of achievement.

### "Down to the Sea in Ships"

Away down at the bottom of every heart there exists a certain fear of the sea. Most of us are timid enough to feel relieved when the steamer has outridden the storms, passed the fog lying along the coast and come through the channels of the harbor into port.

The average person, too, is glad to leave the cramped quarters of the ship and the isolation that is restfully attractive for a few days.

Life on the ocean as a tourist is often rather trying, then what about the men who work in stoke-holes, live in narrow fore-castle quarters and journey back and forth, week after week, or for months at a time?

When their shift is ended they cannot step out of doors and put their feet upon the green grass or wander along alluring city streets. They have no reading room in which to lounge, no family life and associations, no entertainment of a public or domestic character.

To work and to sleep is their lot, through storm and fog. And what respite from dreary monotony have they when they come ashore at the journey's end—strangers in a strange city? What relaxation except the cheap and often vile resorts? Where will they find wholesome influences, a friend, a helping hand, a sympathetic voice and a square deal?

Where will the healthy, husky worker find it?

Where will the sick or disabled, the "down-and-outers" find an arm to help them up again?

Does not the seaman, shut off from the associations of home and companionship, need the friendship and the fellowship of the Institute?

And isn't it worth a great deal to him to know that the Institute expresses the sympathy and interest of many friends whose names will appear on tablets in the new building and on the doors of the bedrooms? He will not come in personal contact with them, it is true, but he will not forget them.

A sailor, tired and lonely, comes ashore and to the Institute. He goes to his room. There he reads upon the door:

Given by \_\_\_\_\_,

In Memory of Captain \_\_\_\_\_,  
who was lost at sea, etc., or

Given by Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_,

In Memory of Her Son,

or In Memoriam: A Little Child.

He does not need to ask who ——— is; he carries with him the memory of a man or woman who has cared enough for some one to give a room in that person's memory. There's a kind and sympathetic heart which memorialized its affection by giving a room for the seaman's use.

Then the sailor knows he has a friend he has never seen—somewhere.

And it does not matter where.

### Suggested Memorials or Gifts to New Institute

**Exterior Lamp and Tablet** at main entrance on Coenties Slip. This lamp will be large, of a simple decorative form to mark entrance at night. The tablet will probably bear name of the Institute and have a moulded frame. \$600.00.

**Flagpole**, with socket, above the entrance, also set of colors consisting of National Flag and the Institute private flag. \$250.00.

**Panel** with Biblical or Allegorical subject, memorializing all sailors lost at sea, also heavy wooden door with wrought-iron hinges, to be placed at entrance from Chapel to the street; the door and panel comprise the filling between the jambs. \$500.00.

**Cornerstone** of granite, bearing date and seal of Society, the latter to be modeled and carved, together with metal box for documents. \$500.00.

**Lantern and Iron Gallery** at top of Tower. \$7,500.00.

**Chapel Furniture**—Altar, Lectern, Organ, Font, Altar Rail and Pulpit may be used as memorials. The estimated cost of these has not been determined as yet.

There are drawings of all items mentioned excepting Chapel furniture and

these can be shown at any time upon application at No. 1 State street.

### Large Rooms Not Reserved

Two large rooms and the main staircase have not been yet taken. It is a splendid opportunity for those wishing to contribute large sums to the new building to have their gifts permanently memorialized. Others may wish to memorialize friends or relatives by taking these rooms in their names. The remaining rooms are as follows:

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.

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.

MAIN STAIRCASE—\$3,500.

(Running from basement to 4th floor)

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

### Large Rooms Taken

Nine of the large rooms in the new building, in addition to the Chapel, have been reserved. They are:

SITTING ROOM—\$10,000.

(About 35 x 86 feet, with mezzanine floor)

Taken by Mr. Lisenard Stewart.

APPRENTICE ROOM—\$2,000.

(About 26 x 46 feet)

Taken by the Seamen's Benefit Society.

OFFICERS' DINING ROOM—\$1,000.

(18 feet long, 32 feet wide)

Taken by Hon. George Peabody Wetmore.

PUBLIC READING ROOM—\$2,000.

(104 x 20 feet)

Taken anonymously.

AUDITORIUM—\$5,000.

(About 50 x 70 feet)

Taken anonymously. Donor to be announced later.

SHIPPING BUREAU—\$2,000.

(About 35 feet square)

Taken by James N. Jarvie.

SAVINGS DEPARTMENT—\$1,500.

Taken by James W. Cromwell, "In Memory of Samuel H. Seaman."

READING ROOM—\$5,000.

(About 54 x 60 feet)

Taken by Messrs. Wheaton B. Kunhardt, Henry R. Kunhardt and Mrs. E. Walpole Warren. *In Memoriam, Henry Rudolph Kunhardt.*

OFFICERS' READING AND GAME ROOM—\$2,000.

(About 25 x 50 feet)

Taken by members of the Produce and Maritime Exchanges as a memorial to the late Philip Ruprecht.

### **\$100 Will Furnish a Bedroom**

In the revised plans it is found that there will be exactly 390 of the small bedrooms. Of these, 203 have been taken, leaving a balance of 187 to be reserved. \$100 will build and furnish a bedroom. And past experience has proved that during a year one hundred men may each occupy one of these rooms. For *one hundred dollars* one hundred men may come under the Institute's influence and receive, in some measure surely, that cheerful sense of welcome and comfort which the word "home" implies.

### **Large Bedrooms at \$250**

As the plans for the interior of the new building take final shape it is found that there will be 51 large outside rooms for the use of the officers who come to the Institute; the better class of seamen, the stewards, expert engineers and boat-swains; and the members of the Institute staff.

Already two officers' rooms have been taken in memory of famous old sea captains.

### **\$375 Realized at Fair**

There was a very successful fair held for the benefit of the Institute, at the home of Mrs. S. Howland Russell, on Monday, February 19. The fair was arranged by the members of the Junior Auxiliary of the Church of the Epiphany.

This organization was formed December 11, 1911, as a successor to two former societies of the church, one the Junior Auxiliary to the Seamen's Church Institute, which had been in existence for three years but had not been active during the last year, and a former Junior Auxiliary, which was changed into the Probationers of the G. F. S. It was decided to keep the simple name of the Junior Auxiliary, although the special interest of the society was to be in the seamen.

The officers of the society are Miss Elizabeth Russell, President; Miss Frances Wendell, Secretary, and Miss Edith Sloan, Treasurer. Mrs. H. H. Anderson, President of the Woman's Auxiliary; Mrs. J. T. Mason and Miss Kate Riggs are directresses.

The Rector of the Church of the Epiphany asked the Junior Auxiliary to assume the responsibility of the \$500 pledged for the Chapel in the new Institute and \$375 was raised at the recent fair.



### An Exchange of Identity

When George Robertson, seaman, was discharged from the House of Relief in New York he was still very ill, suffering from the effects of frost bite. He was totally unable to do any work and desired to be admitted to the U. S. Marine Hospital, Stapleton. Upon making application, however, he found himself unable to meet the conditions. His pitiable state so stirred the sympathies of one of his friends that he allowed him to use his papers. Thus he gained admission about the middle of January this year, and ten days later he died still under the name and in possession of the papers of his friend, C. A. Corrigan. The matter was brought to the Institute as both the seamen have been coming to us for several years and Corrigan has been making an effort to have his papers, which were loaned to Robertson, returned to him at No. 1 State street.

Among Robertson's effects which came into the possession of the Institute were letters from his wife and children up in Nova Scotia. They have been waiting patiently for his return, not suspecting that he was ill, doubtless through his wish to spare them worry, and not being notified of his death until nearly six weeks after it occurred. There was a little grocery store up there in Nova Scotia and the wife's letters gave homely and pathetic details about trade, the price of apples and the like. The father had wanted to go home at Christmas but a very practical though affectionate letter had come from the son asking him to wait because it would be expensive all out of proportion to the length of the visit.

Meanwhile, Mr. Corrigan's relatives had been notified of his death by the Hospital, and like Mark Twain on one his-

toric occasion, he is kept busy assuring his friends that the "report of his death was greatly exaggerated."

---

### The Request Courteous

There is a charming simplicity about this very human little note which was presented to our Chaplain the other day and if there is a bit of ambiguity in the reference to their temperate habits, it all goes to prove that the writer's motives were most sincere, and devoid of literary pretensions.

"If you will please let me see Mr. Mansfield I would be very pleased. We have at last a ship—the *Baltic*, White Star Line. The Second Steward, Mr. Newman told us to bring our clothes down to-night. Now all my clothes we have sold to keep ourself. We do not drink, so it is pritty hard to get along. However, we can go on the *Baltic* if we have clothes. Hoping you can help us out.

"Yours truly,

"\_\_\_\_\_, seaman,

"\_\_\_\_\_, seaman."

---

### A Proof of Confidence

A money order came in the other day from a seaman in Boston and accompanying it was the following terse note:

"Dear Sir—Will you kindly take this amount of money, *i. e.*, \$10.00, and hold it until you see or here from me (Mr.) James Brown, sender and receiver of amount, and oblige,

"JAMES BROWN."

He knew the Institute, and that was sufficient guarantee for the safety of his earnings. When he comes in he will go to the man behind the desk in the savings department and either claim the ten dollars or get a receipt for it.

## North River Station Notes

### CONFIRMATION SERVICE.

On the occasion of the visit of the Bishop Suffragan, the Rt. Rev. Charles S. Burch, D.D., nine persons were confirmed at the Church of the Holy Comforter. They were the lay-assistant and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Barlow, the wife of one of the *Adriatic* stewards, a steward from the *Olympic*, also a fireman from the same ship and several men who have served on the coast boats. After the service several men said to the Chaplain: "I would have liked to have been among the number, but I did not dare."

### GRATITUDE SINCERELY EXPRESSED.

We quote from a letter recently received from Liverpool—a joint letter from four quartermasters appointed as bearers at the burial of a sailor who was killed by a fall on shipboard at the hour of sailing of one of the big ships. After the burial the Chaplain invited the four seamen to a nearby restaurant for lunch. The day was intensely cold and the invitation was accepted gratefully. Here is an excerpt from the quaint epistle which resulted:

"S. S.,

"Liverpool, England.

"REVEREND SIR—We write you a few lines to thank you for the way you treated us during our sad interment of the late ———, of the S. S. ———. We feel that it is our duty to do so. We enjoyed ourselves immensely afterward, but we are pleased to say that it was all your doings. One thing certain—we all four of us never had a good square meal for the trip except the one you gave us.

"We are leaving Liverpool for New York shortly and we shall come to visit you at the Institute immediately.

"Your Four Friends."

## Sewing Classes in Aid of Seamen

The Entertainment Committee of the Colonial Dames of America have organized a Lenten sewing class for the benefit of the Seamen's Institute, the meetings to be held on Wednesday mornings from 11 to 1. At the first one, February 28, at the home of Mrs. J. Muhlenberg Bailey, Mr. Mansfield spoke on the work of the Institute. The second meeting was held at the home of Mrs. David H. Greer. There will be three others—March 13, at Mrs. Lewis L. Delafield's; March 20, at Miss Beekman's, and on March 27, at the home of Miss Byrd, 69 Park avenue.

The Seamen's Benefit Society has also arranged a sewing class, of which Miss Augusta de Peyster is the chairman. The first meeting was held at the home of Miss Cornelia Beekman.

---

## The Sympathetic Word

An appeal that was sent out by our Ways and Means Department elicited a response which is peculiarly significant. Letters of this sort are not very frequent and we appreciate them tremendously.

"MY DEAR MR. WARBURTON—You are undoubtedly doing a splendid work; your letter appeals to me, and although I am merely a clerk in an insurance office and can not do much to help, it gives me pleasure to send herewith my cheque for \$5.00.

"I have often wished to do something to help these good chaps. Sailors seem to be particularly ingenuous and honest, and an easy prey, no doubt, as you say to the many evils and "Sharks." That is a side I have never seen but I have often seen men treating sailors to drinks, just to hear them talk; and once drunk, they are apt to get into all kinds of trouble.

# REPORT FOR JANUARY

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS FOR JANUARY

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

JANUARY, 1912

### *Savings Department*

January 1, cash on hand.....\$15,307.27  
 Deposits..... 12,008.59

\$27,315.86

Payments, (\$5,821.60 transmitted). 10,663.81

February 1, balance.....\$16,652.05

### *Shipping Department*

Number of vessels shipped by Seamen's  
 Church Institute..... 13  
 Number of men provided with employment  
 in port..... 94  
 Number of men shipped.....217  
 Total (number of men).....311

### *Reading Room*

Total attendance.....22,144  
 Letters written and received..... 3,684  
 Packages reading given..... 1,007

### *Relief Department*

Assisted.....335  
 Sent to Legal Aid Society..... 49  
 Hospital visits..... 16  
 Visits to ships in port..... 91

### *Religious and Social Departments*

Number of services ..... 13  
 Attendance total.....567  
 Communion services..... 2

### *Institute Boat "Sentinel"*

Trips made..... 34  
 Visits to vessels..... 63  
 Men transported.....102  
 Pieces baggage transported.....209

## BUILDING COMMITTEE

EDMUND L. BAYLIES, *Chairman*

HERBERT BARBER

CHARLES W. BOWRING

HENRY L. HOBART

BENJAMIN R. C. LOW

A. T. MAHAN

HENRY LEWIS MORRIS

JOHN SEELY WARD

---

IRENE K. LANE, *Secretary*

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ROBERT S. BREWSTER

CLEVELAND H. DODGE

FRANCIS LYNDE STETSON

WM. DOUGLAS SLOANE