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## St. MARY'S HOSPITAL A HISTORIC SPOT

### THE WAR GOVERNOR'S HOME FOR MANY YEARS

There are times when, free from daily cares, and the hold on material things is not too firm, thoughts unbidden arise that link the present with the long ago. Convalescence is conducive to such reveries. This has lately been the writer's lot, and these are some of the thoughts awakened by the surroundings.

The primeval oaks that stand as sentinels on this historic ground, and have battled with the storms for centuries, are reminders of the struggles of the early pioneers. The clearing of ground, the construction of log buildings were some of the hardships with which the ancient oak was associated. The woodman spared only a few of these majestic trees; and like the early settler they are scarce, too scarce it seems to us.

In 1845, James T. Lewis, a young lawyer, came to Columbus, and built his home on these grounds. This building now forms the nucleus of St. Mary's Hospital. It was considered, by way of contrast, an aristocratic one in its day. In architecture, it resembles the Parthenon, but, like the model of old, is fast crumbling and must be restored before time makes inroads too deep.

Mr. Lewis was one of the men needed to make a state. His opportunity was golden, and his star was ever above the horizon. He became, successively, County Judge, Secretary of State, Lieutenant Governor, and Governor. Many of his confreres, equal or greater in ability, were left to work in humbler spheres. Conditions of birth, environment, and education are the dominant elements that make character. These in Governor Lewis's life were auspicious, and his name is recorded in the Hall of Fame.

The Columbus Hospital was founded, in 1907, by Dr. Bernhard F. Bellack and Mrs. Catherine Chadbourn. The doctor gave much of his time and energy to the furtherance of this humane project. His

extensive practice, and his keen sympathy for suffering humanity, incited him to plan and to work for a long felt need. There is no one closer to the people than the physician. He knows them in their helplessness, he sacrifices himself to allay their suffering. "To do good is a part of his religion, and the world is his country." No enterprise can be developed without capital. Mrs. Chadbourn generously financed the institution, and her munificent gift is a blessing she kindly bestowed, and the plaudits of the community are due to her.

The successors to the Columbus Hospital are the "Sisters of the Divine Savior." The present regime began July, 1913. The name of the order inspires humility and reverence. Who can contemplate it without acknowledging the sincerity of those who represent it? These refined, religious women are of German birth, but, in their works of mercy, they know no distinction of race or creed. They came across the sea, to a strange land, to fulfill the mission to which they felt called. They came on an errand of mercy, and, without the allurements of worldly recompense; they renounced the fondest endearment that heart and mind can know. They forever bade adieu to father, mother and to their choicest friends, to bear the burdens and afflictions of others. It is but natural to love our human treasures, though fleeting they are. These pious sisters are looking away from earth to eternity for their reward and perfect happiness. All cannot be devotees of religion, like they are. The diversity of our natures requires a diversity of callings; the controlling emotion largely determines them.

No danger, death, or disease, deters these heroic women from doing their duty. They are on the battlefield, among the lepers, and in every place where suffering exists. What mother would deny homage to the brave sister who, amid shot and shell, binds the wounds of her stricken son? She gives him a drink, she wipes the damp from his brow, and, with her gentle soothing ways, she comforts him.

Many soldiers bear testimony of high-

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est regard for their kindly acts and great efficiency. The late Col. Harvey M. Brown paid a glowing tribute to the Sisters of Mercy who attended him as he lay sick and wounded. The motive of the patriot is not questioned; he lays his offering on the altar of his country, and we praise him. Patriotism and religion are akin. One is devotion to country, the other to God. The Jesuit Missionary would give his most sacred possession, his life, to bring his fellowmen to their Creator.

Why in this enlightened time must defensive arguments be made in behalf of these chaste and holy women? Who are their calumniators? They may be placed in two classes: In the first, are the ignorant, who will not be convinced of the right when the reading is plain. A careful analysis will dispel prejudice, but they refuse to depart from their petrified convictions. In the second, are those who know the truth, but their tendencies are vicious: they have stepped aside from the path of righteousness, and judge others from their own standpoint.

A vicious press and biased minds are busy evolving literature calculated to smirch the character of the sisters. It is thrown as a firebrand into neighborhoods; it sets the neighbors at variance, and destroys the friendship of school children. Is this peace? Is it good will? Is this to "love thy neighbor as thyself?" We have been shown how to live aright. Are the precepts followed? Would it not be well to form one's judgment in these matters, from those near by, of those among whom he lives? Take the Columbus Catholic Congregation as a type. Is there more vice in this congregation than in other congregations, in this community, or among those of no congregation? Do you find any form of criminality among Catholics that is peculiar to them alone, that is not found among others? Do you see practiced here any of those unmentionable things that this vile literature tells you is occurring far away? Are you horrified or scandalized by anything you know of the Sisters of the Divine Savior at St. Mary's Hospital at Columbus? Why not judge the Sisters of Mercy

elsewhere by those in our midst? Human frailties are the same everywhere. Search here and see if vice is prevalent. "Distance lends enchantment," to the accusations.

The virtues of Catholics are ignored, but their sins are gathered from the remotest corners of the world, and over long periods of time, and paraded before the public. Nor is this all. Many and dire false accusations, of a kind hard to disprove, are constantly being manufactured and spread.

It is well to be fair, to champion the right, and let the spirit of charity unite us.

To each of the good Sisters at St. Mary's Hospital, I would say, for your untiring devotion to the suffering patient, and your earnest solicitude for his recovery, there will be many "stars in your crown."

ALICE LOWTH

