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which were organized before 1885

which were organized before 1864, showing the rapid growth of the church in this city since the conclusion of the war. The oldest church in the city is St. Patrick's organized in 1794. It is also one of the richest parishes, being in the heart of the business part of the city where almost an entire block between 9th and 10th and F and G streets is the property of the church.

The second church in age is the Holy Trinity, in Georgetown, organized in 1795. The third is St. Peter on Capitol Hill, organized in 1820, and the fourth St. Matthews in 1840. In these two parishes there has been recently erected magnificent new church buildings. St. Mary's, the German church is next in order of age having been organized in 1843, and St. Dominic's in 1849. The only other parish organized before 1840 is St. Aloysius founded in 1839.

WASHINGTON, D. C. —The Church is the hand maid of mercy and nowhere has this been shown more clearly than in this capital city, where, until within the last few years there was no institution at which the sick, the poor or the injured could be cared for, except those provided by the church. It is true that there was a Louise Home, but it was not a charitable institution and was merely built to gratify the vanity of a man.

The churches as everywhere have their parish relief for the churchless knows that "the poor ye have always with you", and provides for them. But in cities, something more than this is needed and the church always provides it, and in no city has the provision been more ample than in

Washington. Providence hospital under the charge of those devoted martyrs, the Sisters of Charity, has most commodious and well equipped

buildings situated in East Washington and is managed as all other hospitals under the charge of the sisters, so that the inmates receive the best medical attendance and the care that cannot be secured even in a well-equipped home. This is well known here that many persons with good homes when sick or injured prefer being sent to the hospital, rather than to remain in their own houses.

During the long years of its existence Providence hospital has cared for thousands of the sick and destitute not only of Washington city alone but of strangers from every part of the country, who coming here, losing their money and becoming sick have been

restored to health by the care of the
Guardian Angels of this institution.
The Hon. Samuel J. Randall, not
churchman, saw how this local act
of kindness had become a beneficence
for the whole country and had an ap-
propriation made by congress to aid
it in caring for strangers. This great-
ly aided the hospital and has been
continued as it should have been. For
some years past since A. P. Aism has
been rampant in Congress, efforts have
been made to stop all such appropri-
ations and have been in part suc-
ful, though not as to this hospital.

Besides this great hospital, the church has established here since 1860, St. Ann's Infant Orphan Asylum also under the care of the Sisters of Charity, where abandoned infants often the illegitimate and innocuous offspring of a violation of God's law are uncared for, properly nurtured and taught and as they grow older transferred to St. Joseph's Hall Orphan

Asylum, under the Sisters of the Holy Cross, or, if girls, to St. Vincent's Female Orphan Asylum, under the Sisters of Charity, and later to St. Rose's Industrial School, where they are taught reputable methods of making an honest living and the high code of morals which save them from the fate of their unfortunate mothers. Besides these outcast infants delivered to St. Ann's under the cover of night are other children, the offspring of the poor who cannot care for them, taken charge of educated and fitted for the world's battle, buttressed by the truths of religion carefully instilled from infancy through adolescence to maturity.

Besides these institutions, there is one called "The Home of the Aged" in charge of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Here the aged who cannot take longer care for themselves are cared for until they cross the River of Life to the Beyond. It is a beautiful charity. It is pleasant to see the old, feeble and poor looked after by many of them in second childhood, their body and soul cared for by the devoted sisters.

Then, there is the House of the Good Shepherd where the Magdalenes of today are received as the Divine Master received her of Jerusalem and where the Sisters of Charity bring these castaways back to the path of peace and righteousness.

not intended to convey the idea that these are all the church has in the city these are only the ones open to the general public. Each parish dispenses charity to its own poor and the strangers within its gates, and these the public knows nothing.

Having said a few words about the charities of the great city, let me say a few words about the churches.

are eighteen of these only seven
