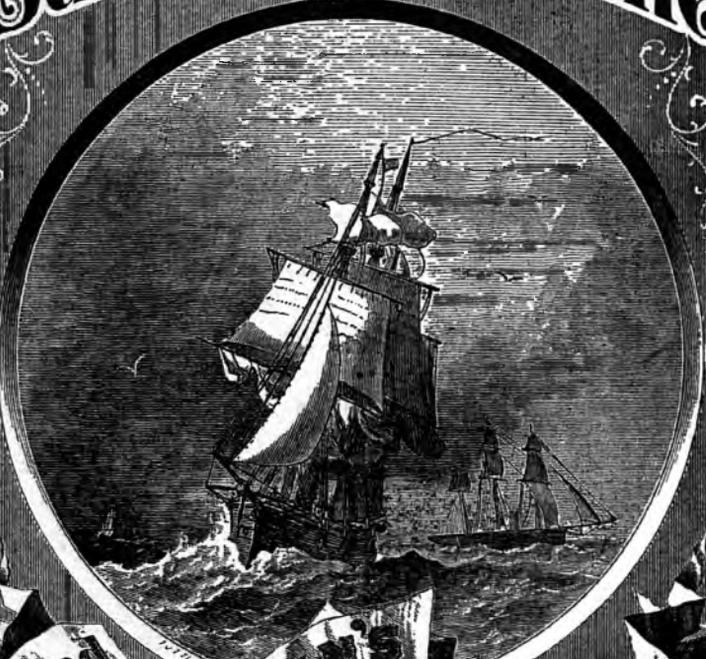


The 110th Annual Report

1938

The

Sailors' Magazine



and SEAMEN'S FRIEND

AMERICAN SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY.

72 WALL ST. NEW YORK.

VOL. CX
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THE DIVISION SERGEANT

New Haven, Conn.

The American Seamen's Friend Society

ROOM 911, 72 WALL STREET, NEW YORK

Organized May 5, 1828.

Incorporated April 22, 1833.

OFFICERS

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WILLIAM M. KINGSLEY, Vice-President

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* Deceased.

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The
American Seamen's
Friend Society

ORGANIZED MAY 5, 1828
INCORPORATED APRIL 22, 1833

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH
ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH 31st, 1938

72 WALL STREET
NEW YORK



REV. GEORGE SIDNEY WEBSTER, D.D.
Secretary, 1914-1937

One Hundred and Tenth Annual Report

THE Acting Secretary presents herewith the One hundred and tenth Annual Report of the American Seamen's Friend Society for the year ending March 31, 1938, with grateful appreciation of the continued interest of our many loyal friends who have so generously supported our work for the welfare and uplift of the men of the sea. The work of the Society, Affiliated and Cooperating Societies, is outlined briefly in the following pages of this Report.

The One Hundred and Ninth Anniversary Service was held on Sunday evening, May 9, 1937, in the West End Collegiate Church, New York City. The Pastor, Rev. Edgar Franklin Romig, D.D., preached the sermon.

On September 30, 1937 Secretary Webster presented a copy of the Scriptures to each of the thirty-seven graduates who had completed a two years' course in the Deck and Engineering Departments of the New York State Merchant Marine Academy. This service was inaugurated by Dr. Webster fourteen years ago. The Society has transferred this service to the New York Bible Society under the direction of Rev. Millard L. Robinson, Ph.D., its secretary.

The Society sustained a severe loss in the passing away of Rev. George Sidney Webster, D.D., on October 27, 1937 in the eighty-fifth year of his age. He served the American Seamen's Friend Society as Secretary for twenty-three years. Dr. Webster will long be remembered by his many friends and seamen the world over for his genial personality and his noble Christian character.

The benevolent work of the Society was continued throughout the year. The large number of shipwrecked, destitute and unemployed seamen who applied at the office, 72 Wall Street, New York, were courteously met and all active worthy seamen with proper credentials were helped to lodging, clothing, transportation, or in other ways suited to their needs.

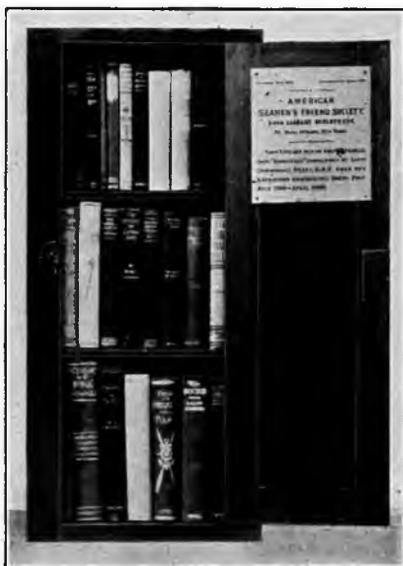
Grateful thanks are given to the New York Bible Society for generous gifts of Bibles, to the steamship companies who have contributed from their concert collections, to the publishing houses who have furnished books at reduced rates for the loan libraries, to the members and chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution for generous contributions of money and books for loan libraries, and to all friends of the Society who have given clothing, reading matter and money.

Loan Libraries

72 WALL STREET, NEW YORK

WILLIAM ELLING, Librarian WALTER E. MESSENGER, Ship Visitor

Another year of service has been added to the record of the library work of this Society; it has been one of great activity. More



libraries were sent to sea than in the previous year. For the year ending March 31, 1938, three hundred and seventy-five loan libraries were placed on vessels sailing out of the port of New York; seventy-eight were new and two hundred and ninety-seven were refitted and reshipped just as good as new. The total number of volumes in these libraries was 15,000, available during the year to 46,630 seamen. Each library contained books of Adventure, Biography, Fiction, History, Mystery, Philosophy, Science, Religion and Worship. In addition our Ship Visitor distributed

14,160 copies of assorted magazines and other good literature to seamen on outgoing vessels for their use at sea. He also gave a number of comfort bags, socks, wristlets and other knitted woolen articles to worthy, needy seamen who were very grateful for these useful gifts.

The total number of libraries sent to sea since March 1859 is 32,908, of which 14,034 were new and 18,874 reshipped. The books in these libraries have been a source of enjoyment and help to thousands of seamen on vessels sailing on all the oceans of the world.

That this library service has been most successful and has proved a valuable aid in the uplifting of the character of seamen is evidenced by the many letters received by the Society from sea captains and sailors telling of the benefits derived from reading the books. These

letters are very interesting and encouraging. From the many received during the year we print a few.

The yeoman of the steamship *President Roosevelt* writes: "The officers and crew wish to thank you for your excellent library and valuable magazines. While at sea we miss a lot of important news of the day, but this need is wonderfully supplied by such timely magazines as *Time*, *To-day*, *Collier's*, *Saturday Evening Post*, etc. Also the articles in the *Reader's Digest*, *Atlantic Monthly*, the *National Geographic Magazine* are very much appreciated."

The third officer of the motor ship *Ward* writes: "We have just completed a four months' trip to the Far East, and along with us we had one of the loan libraries which your Society provides ships for the use of the crew at sea. Concerning the interest with which the books are received by the members of the crew, I think it would be best that I give my own observations. I notice that the books of fiction are the first to be taken, then the detective stories, followed by the books of adventure and travel; historical and technical books are read by young sailors; sea fiction is most widely read, especially if the book is by a well known author. As for books of religious character I'm afraid I was responsible for hogging them for myself. For the first time in my life I commenced reading the Bible and surprised myself by getting about a third of the way through it. There is a lot to what I read that I never realized before. Hoping that this letter may be of some help in the selection of books for seamen in general whose taste are I might add just the same and as varied as any other human being."

We might quote many others but these are sufficient to encourage the friends of this work to believe that the books have been of great benefit to seamen and are highly appreciated by them.

MISS MARY G. JACKSON, Chairman, Sub-Committee The American Seamen's Friend Society, has endeavored to bring before the Daughters of the American Revolution the real purposes of the loan libraries that are placed aboard American ships for the use of the crews at sea.

During the past year Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution representing Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania have sent seven loan libraries to sea. These libraries were given as loving tributes in honor of members

of renowned service, and also as living memorials to members who have braved the storms of life and steered their ship safely to port.



The reshipments of libraries previously given have been many and details of the voyages have been forwarded to the respective Chapters who donated them. Books contributed to refill the shelves of these libraries amounted to 2,089 and 5,841 assorted magazines were received and distributed on board ships.

We are happy that patriotic organizations can visualize the needs of these loan libraries for the seamen during their lonely hours at sea. With the confusion and chaos

that exists among the crews today, it is befitting that good libraries, bereft of the vile literature that litters the waterfront, are provided for these indispensable men of the sea.

The Daughters of the American Revolution are rendering a valuable service in sending these libraries to sea through the American Seamen's Friend Society, and the appreciation of the seamen is evidenced by their letters of testimony written from far-away ports and their daily requests for more libraries.

The earnest hope is that the Daughters of the American Revolution and other patriotic organizations will continue to be sea-minded. Will you assist this old Society to grant the requests of the seamen for more libraries? The demand is greater than the resources.

When the Stars and Stripes are waving over foreign shores and home is a long way off, think of the seaman who can go to his library and select a good book to elevate his mind that is lonesome and perturbed. He will know that somewhere there is some one who has faith in him by providing "Silent Friends" to converse with him on his long voyages.

Affiliated and Cooperating Societies

SEAMEN'S HOUSE, 550 WEST 20TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY

J. C. CLARK,
Executive Secretary

REV. JAMES C. HEALEY, Ph.D.,
Chaplain

Seamen's House operated by the Young Men's Christian Association of New York City, is conveniently located on the west water front in the heart of the shipping district. The front door is never locked; it is a haven of safety to sailors who want to avoid the downward pull of the people and places that would take their money and debauch them. Eleven hundred boys from the ships are attracted to Seamen's House each month. They welcome the opportunity to play the various games with their shipmates and with boys from other nations. These friendly contacts, appreciated and enjoyed, create good will, tolerance and understanding. Chaplain Healey conducts religious services several times each week; he also interviews many seamen about their personal problems. Men usually leave his office with a smile and the feeling that they have talked with an understanding friend.



The work for the year 1937 at Seamen's House and Annex, 507 West Street, is summed up in the following statistics:

Lodgings (including relief beds).....	201,622
Pieces of baggage handled.....	26,727
Sales at Lunch Counter and Restaurant..	446,985
Patronized Barber, Tailor and Laundry...	24,131
Attended 137 religious services.....	2,291
Attended lectures in classes.....	1,791
Individual seamen received relief.....	2,472
Books and magazines distributed.....	9,563
Attended entertainments, movies, athletic events, concerts, lectures.....	66,992
Attendance in Apprentices' Room.....	14,133
Money deposited for seamen.....	\$173,251

MASSACHUSETTS—GLOUCESTER**FISHERMEN'S INSTITUTE****REV. GEORGE E. RUSSELL, Chaplain**

Chaplain Russell gives the following report: The year 1937 has added one more to the many years of splendid service the Gloucester Fishermen's Institute has rendered our fishermen.



The fisherman is engaged in a strenuous calling. The game of billiards is an ideal form of recreation, giving him an opportunity to match his skill with a friendly competitor.

Some fishermen enjoy reading, a form of recreation that satisfies a real need in a man's life. Books, magazines and newspapers, offering a wide variety of reading, are given to the Institute by friends, who help support a service that the fishermen appreciate.

For entertainment the men enjoy moving pictures on Thursday and Sunday evenings through the fall and winter months. These are well attended by the men, the total attendance for the season being over four thousand. On Sunday a devotional service precedes the pictures. The radio is another means of entertainment that is on throughout the day, the men listening in as they desire.

On the side of practical service the Institute offers accommodations and conveniences that the fishermen use to the fullest extent. As soon as he lands in port the fisherman comes to the Institute where he gets his mail; during the year 3324 letters were received by the men. After taking a bath, clean and fresh from the shower, he calls for writing paper and envelope which he receives without charge, and pens a letter to the folks at home; approximately 4,000 letters were written in the twelve-month period. After writing his letter the fisherman is free to play a game of billiards or checkers, enjoy some reading, or sit with friends and swap experiences of the last trip. He may have money, returns from the fishing trip, that he would like to leave with the chaplain for safe keeping. Accordingly he is given a receipt and gets his money the next day, week or month, as he wants it. As clean, attractive rooms with all conveniences are

obtainable at a moderate rate at the Institute, he rents one for the night or the period of his stay ashore. When he leaves for the fishing trip he checks his clothes with full confidence that they will be well-cared for until his return. At the counter where tobacco, candy and tonics are sold, most of the business of the Institute is carried on. Here the fishermen make their inquiries and information is given. Letters are received by the chaplain from wives and mothers inquiring about fishermen who have neglected to keep in touch with the folks at home. These receive prompt attention and relatives are informed of the conditions.

LOUISIANA—NEW ORLEANS

SEAMEN'S BETHEL

CAPTAIN WILLIAM LAMB

Captain William Lamb, Superintendent of the Seamen's Bethel of the New Orleans and Mississippi Valley Seamen's Friend Society, reports as follows: The year 1937 brought to a close the seventy-seventh year of the work of the Seamen's Bethel and the tenth year of my work as Superintendent. In a period covering over three quarters of a century one would naturally expect great changes and some improvement in bettering the conditions of living but I doubt if any one could possibly have visualized the tremendous changes of far-reaching significance that have taken place in the last decade. The ultimate outcome of the changes in the new Maritime Laws affecting seamen is hard to predict. However in welfare work among seamen the fundamental needs remain very much the same; religious services, wholesome entertainment, recreational facilities and a good clean bed form the cardinal points of the Bethel's compass. Reviewing the work of the past year under these four headings we find the fifty-two Sunday evening services had an attendance of 2,018 seamen, the Gospel message was presented in a simple and convincing manner and the singing of the old familiar hymns may mean more to seamen



than we may ever know. That the twenty-three weekly entertainments sponsored by the Woman's Auxiliary were appreciated is proven by the attendance of 2,423 seamen of different nationalities. Whatever the nationality they all enjoyed the evening's recreation. A day by day count shows that 6,645 men availed themselves of the facilities offered in the Reading and Recreational Rooms, the pool tables were well patronized by many visiting seamen, 617 letters were written and 395 were received by seamen; 5,386 free meals, 4,651 free beds and 95 needy seamen were furnished with clothing; employment was found for 55 unemployed seamen, 728 sick seamen were visited in the hospitals; 21 were sent to hospitals and 43 convalescent seamen received from the hospitals; 170 visits to ships were made; 4,960 bundles of magazines were placed on board ship; 3,003 personal contacts were made. During the year 13,625 seamen visited the Seamen's Bethel.

TEXAS—GALVESTON

ADOUÉ SEAMEN'S BETHEL MR. J. R. SARNER, Executive Manager

Mr. J. R. Sarnar, Executive Manager, reports for the year ending February 28, 1938: The past year has been one of real accomplishment; there has been an increase in all the activities at the Bethel; more seamen attended the religious services and a larger number of tracts and religious periodicals was distributed on board ship and more Bibles were given to seamen who requested them than in the preceding year. Daily visits were made to ships in port, seamen in hospitals were cheered and comforted by our visits, convalescent seamen were received from hospitals; free lodgings, free meals and necessary clothing were given to needy seamen. It is estimated that one out of every nine



seamen visiting the Bethel are in need of some kind of relief. Many sailors took advantage of the facilities offered in our large Recreation Hall. The game tables were used constantly; the books and magazine were enjoyed by many seamen who appreciated the opportunity to pass away the dull hours while they were waiting for a chance to go to sea again.

Summary of the year's work:

Religious services held.....	14
Attendance of seamen.....	384
Bibles given to seamen.....	51
Tracts and other periodicals distributed....	1,500
Books and magazines placed on ships.....	12,119
Seamen sent to hospital.....	62
Seamen visited in hospital.....	410
Seamen received from hospital.....	161
Free lodgings given to seamen.....	3,789
Free meals given to seamen.....	907
Clothing given to seamen.....	232
Employment found for seamen.....	123
Mail received and delivered for seamen....	3,023
Letters written by seamen.....	3,620
Letters written for seamen.....	56
Inquiries for missing seamen.....	65
Missing seamen found.....	17
Baggage handled for seamen.....	1,135
Money deposited and withdrawn by seamen..	\$2,188
Total attendance.....	42,080

CANADA—TORONTO

UPPER CANADA TRACT SOCIETY

GEORGE SPEEDIE, Secretary

Mr. George M. Speedie reports: Seventy years ago the Upper Canada Tract Society assumed the responsibility of carrying on a welfare and missionary work among sailors on the Great Lakes and at present maintains three Sailors' Institutes, one at Port Arthur at the head of the Lakes being the most important. At this Institute during the past eight years 80,000 beds and 38,700 meals have been supplied, in addition 20,000 magazines and thousands of testaments, gospels and other items were distributed to sailors. Active welfare and missionary work is also carried on through the Institutes at Kingston and Toronto. On the Welland Canal a mission is maintained and during the past season 451 vessels visited and large quantities of magazines, books, testaments, gospel and kit bags were distributed. Libraries were also sent to lighthouses on the Pacific Coast, the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence waterways.

SOUTH AMERICA—RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

SEAMEN'S CENTER

REV. H. C. TUCKER, D.D.

Rev. Dr. Hugh C. Tucker reports: For the year ending December 31, 1937 we have been greatly hindered in many ways during the year, but in spite of all, our officers have done their best to make out of the Institute a real home for seamen. There were 6,900 beds furnished and 11,141 meals supplied to needy seamen. There were 45 visits to ships, 37 to hospitals and eight to prisons; 2,805 papers and portions of Scriptures were distributed on board ships; 28 religious meetings were held with an attendance of 299 seamen.

We do not show in the statistics the many visits we have had of sailors, nor do we show the many happy hours spent by sailors in entertainments and the many personal interviews with the men on board ship and at the Sailors' Home.

**ARGENTINE REPUBLIC—BUENOS AIRES**

VICTORIA SAILORS' HOME

P. J. WYATT, Manager

Mr. P. J. Wyatt, Superintendent, reports for the year ending June 30, 1937 as follows: The good work goes steadily along. This year has been a little better than the preceding year and things seem to be gradually improving but still we are a long way from normal shipping conditions. There were entered at this port 934 British and 109 American making a total of 1,043 ships. During the year the Superintendent made 352 visits to ships distributing 277 bundles of literature among the crew, in addition to giving 300 packages of newspapers and magazines to seamen at the Home to take on board ship for their use at sea. He also made 44 visits to hospitals bringing comfort and cheer to sick and injured seamen and arranging for them to con-



valesce at the Home upon their discharge from the hospital; 6,231 meals and 2,120 lodgings were given to needy seamen and work was found for 69 men in the course of the year, while those sent home as Consul passengers or were able to rejoin their ships numbered 135 and 16 respectively. The religious work has been carried along the lines of previous years.

BELGIUM—ANTWERP

MARINERS' CHURCH AND INSTITUTE

REV. STANLEY PARKER
Chaplain

Rev. J. Stanley Parker, Chaplain, reports for the Antwerp Seamen's Friend Society: At the Mariners' Church and Institute 134 Gospel and other Church Services had an attendance of 6,594; one hundred and sixty-eight entertainments were held with an attendance of 15,753; 1,789 visits were made to ships and 311 visits to sick and injured seamen in hospitals. More than 8,000 pieces of mail were handled and 10,639 seamen frequented the reading room. An outstanding event was Maritime Week. Ships from Denmark, France, Great Britain, Holland and the United States quite gay with bunting made a very pretty sight in the harbor. There was a constant stream of seamen at the Institute every day. We arranged a series of entertainments for the crews and a large number took advantage of the facilities provided for them at the Institute.



Such letters as the following are a great pleasure for us to receive. They show us that our efforts are appreciated. A recent visitor to Antwerp whom we welcomed writes: "I saw enough at Antwerp in my crawl round last week-end to appreciate the very fine work you are doing for the men of the sea. I hope, if certain things pan out as I am anxious they should, to make a very generous donation to your work before the end of the year."

JAPAN—NAGASAKI

THE NAGASAKI SEAMEN'S HOME

The Nagasaki Seamen's Home began operation in February, 1896. Since then it has been a haven of safety for the men on board naval



vessels of various nations visiting the port of Nagasaki; many of them spent their shore leave in the reading room and others found rest and comfort in the dormitories. The work was not confined only to Blue Jackets in the navies but seamen from the merchant vessels in the harbor were welcomed. Many of them availed themselves of the privileges offered at the Home. In the report to the

Electoral Board, Miss Olive Curry writes: "During the past five years the number of foreign vessels coming into this port has so decreased that the work at the Home has been greatly curtailed. However during the past year a number of merchant seamen have found shelter here and highly appreciated the hospitality of the Home. Mr. Edwin Parker who has assisted in the management of the Home for several years has moved into the Manager's quarters and therefore will be better able to carry on the work in a more efficient manner.

Mr. E. R. S. Pardon, who has served the Nagasaki Seamen's Home for more than thirty years, has retired to live in England. He carried much of the responsibility of the work for seamen and found great joy in helping them to find a friendly, wholesome atmosphere in the Home. We extend to both Mr. and Mrs. Pardon our sincere appreciation of their kindly and efficient work in behalf of seamen in the port of Nagasaki.



MEMORIAL MINUTE

TO

REVEREND GEORGE SIDNEY WEBSTER, D.D.

At the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of The American Seamen's Friend Society, held November the tenth, nineteen hundred and thirty-seven, the following Memorial Minute was unanimously adopted:

"With great sorrow and a sense of severe loss we record the death of our Secretary, the Reverend George Sidney Webster, D.D., at his home, Brooklyn, New York, after a short illness, on Wednesday, October 27, 1937.

Dr. Webster was born in Meredith, New York, July 30, 1853. He was graduated from Hamilton College in 1878 and four years later from Union Theological Seminary. He was Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at East Orange, N. J. from 1882-1890 and of the Church of the Covenant, New York from 1890-1914. He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Hamilton College in 1902. He was Chaplain-General of the Founders and Patriots of America, Secretary of Chi Alpha, a clerical club, a member of the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York and of Phi Beta Kappa, Delta Kappa Epsilon, the Sons of the Revolution and the Quill Club. He was the author of "Forty Years of Covenant Mercies," "Seamen's Manual of Worship," and "The Seamen's Friend." He compiled "The Friendly Year," and edited the Society's monthly magazine "The Sailors' Magazine and Seamen's Friend."

Dr. Webster was elected Secretary of The American Seamen's Friend Society in October, 1914. His sincere friendliness fitted him for success as an executive and his service to the Society was marked by ability and consecration. He traveled extensively, having made several voyages around the world, and personally inspected the work for seamen in many domestic and foreign ports.

We, the Board of Trustees of The American Seamen's Friend Society, record our appreciation of our beloved Secretary and extend our sympathy to his family and large circle of friends, whose sense of loss will be tempered with gratitude for the triumphant completion of a lifetime of devoted and successful service to his fellowmen.

RESOLVED, THAT this Memorial Minute be entered on the records of the Society and a copy be sent to the members of his family."

The American Seamen's Friend Society**YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1938****RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS**

RECEIPTS

Balance April 1, 1937:		
Current account.....	\$8,928.93	
Permanent funds.....	1,701.61	\$10,630.54
Contributions	\$6,190.65	
Income from Investments.....	7,911.10	
Legacies (unrestricted).....	1,621.21	15,722.96
Total receipts with balance.....		\$26,353.50
Permanent Funds, Legacies and gifts....	\$12,000.00	
Investments realized.....	500.00	12,500.00
		\$38,853.50

DISBURSEMENTS

Grants to affiliated stations.....	\$ 319.78	
Shipwrecked and destitute seamen.....	599.40	
Library books and cases.....	1,279.87	
Salaries	10,200.00	
Office rent and other expenses.....	2,497.12	
Total income disbursements....	\$14,896.17	
Investment of Permanent Funds.....	10,473.25	\$25,369.42
Balance March 31, 1938:		
Current Account.....	\$ 9,755.72	
Permanent Funds.....	3,728.36	\$13,484.08

ORRIN R. JUDD,
Treasurer.

Examined and approved,
RALPH H. STEVER,
Auditor.

The American Seamen's Friend Society

AFFILIATED AND COOPERATING SOCIETIES IN HOME AND FOREIGN PORTS

Scamen's House, 550 West 20th Street, New York City, J. C. Clark, Executive Secretary, Rev. James C. Healey, Ph.D., Chaplain.

Fishermen's Institute, 8 Duncan Street, Gloucester, Mass., Rev. George E. Russell, Chaplain.

Seamen's Bethel, 2218 St. Thomas Street, New Orleans, La., Captain William Lamb, Supt.

Adoue Seamen's Bethel, Galveston, Texas, J. R. Sarnier, Executive Manager.

Upper Canada Tract Society, 406 Yonge Street, Toronto, Canada, George M. Speedie, Supt.

Salvation Army Sailors' Home, Rua Saccadura Cabral 233, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Rev. H. C. Tucker, D.D.

Victoria Sailors' Home, Independencia 20, Buenos Aires, Argentine, P. J. Wyatt, Supt.

Mariners' Institute, 21 Avenue d'Italie, Antwerp, Belgium, Rev. Stanley Parker, Chaplain.

Scamen's Home, 26 Oura, Nagasaki, Japan, E. R. S. Pardon, President.

The American Seamen's Friend Society is also associated for work in Foreign Ports with the British Sailors' Society, 680 Commercial Road, London, E. 14, England, Herbert E. Barker, General Secretary.

Contributions and legacies in support of the affiliated work, and to aid shipwrecked, destitute and unemployed seamen and to place on vessels Loan Libraries for seamen at sea (\$25.00) ARE GREATLY NEEDED.

Checks payable to THE AMERICAN SEAMEN'S FRIEND SOCIETY may be mailed to Room 911, 72 Wall St., New York, N. Y.

FORM OF BEQUEST

"I give and bequeath to The American Seamen's Friend Society, incorporated by the Legislature of New York, in the year 1833, the sum of, to be applied to the charitable uses and purposes of said Society."

Three witnesses should certify at the end of the will, over their signatures, to the following formalities, which in the formation of the will should be strictly observed.

1st. That the testator subscribed (or acknowledged the subscription of) the will in their presence. 2nd. That he, at the same time, declared to them that it was his last will and testament. 3rd. That they, the witnesses, then and there, in his presence, and at his request, and in presence of each other, signed their names thereto, as witnesses.