

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

**The View** 

**From The** 

Bluff

September 2017

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY



# Moments In Ministry The Academy of Our Lady of Mercy

### -1830

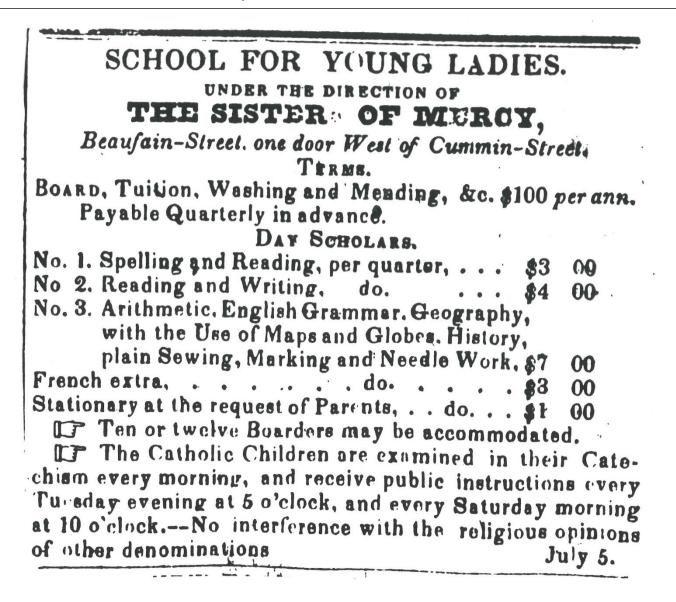
In January 1830, one month after Bishop John England established the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, they opened a school in a small rented house at 11 Friend Street (now Legare Street), near the old wooden Cathedral. Sr. M. Teresa Barry and Sr. M. Augustine Burke, then novices, were assigned to teach the six pupils who constituted the entire student body.

### 1831

Bishop England rented a larger house for the Community on Friend Street, opposite the old Cathedral, which served as Convent, Academy and girls' orphanage. Besides day students, a few boarding pupils were accepted in the Academy.



While Bishop England was in Europe Father Andrew Byrne, Ecclesiastical Superior, rented a larger house for the OLMs on Beaufain Street one door west of Cummin Street. Sr. Benedicta Datty, OLM Mother Superior, also served as Directress of the Academy.



### -1835

Sr. Veronica Cagney was appointed First Mistress of the Academy.

### -1841

On February 16, 1841 the OLMs and 24 boarders moved from Beaufain Street into a new four story brick Convent on Queen Street which also housed the Academy and girls' orphanage.



Bishop Ignatius Reynolds, second Bishop of Charleston, encouraged the OLMs to broaden the Academy curriculum to include French, music and other studies likely to attract young ladies from higher social classes. Painting, drawing, needlework, embroidery and dancing were added. Parents selected the subjects they wished their children to study.

### -1859

The OLMs rented a large house in Summerville, SC, for a summer school for Academy students whose parents or guardians so desired.

### -1861

The Academy students and teachers made a flag for the Irish Volunteers in SC, and one for the Irish Volunteers for the War in Virginia.

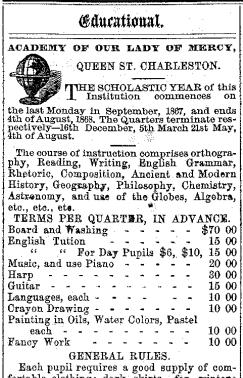
### -1863

In September during the bombardment of Charleston, Sr. M. Joseph Kent, some Sisters, boarders and orphans moved inland to Sumter, SC, where they opened a school which became St. Joseph's Academy after the War. Those who remained in Charleston moved to the upper part of the City where they opened a Day School.

### -1866

The Charleston City Directory lists the OLM Academy at 32 and 34 Rutledge Avenue, Mr. Tunno's houses. However, OLM records note that the Academy was reopened on Queen Street in September 1866.

## THE GAZETTE.



Each pupil requires a good supply of comfortable clothing; dark skirts, for winter; black silk or alpaca aprons; silver cup, spoons, and fork, marked; combs and brushes; one pair blankets; two pair sheats and pillow cases.

No undue influence used on the religious principles of the pupils; but to insure regularity all conform to the general rules of the institution.

The correspondence of pupils is subject to the inspection of the Superioress of the Academy; but by no means restricted as regards parents or guardians. For Terms apply to

MOTHER TERESA, Superioress.

### 1870

In March the OLMs bought the Alston Mansion (now known as the Russell House) on Meeting Street. Shortly thereafter the Academy moved from Queen Street to the new location where it remained for the next 30 years.





Worked by Elizabeth Malone at the Academy of the Sisters of Our Łady of Mercy. Charleston S. Carolina.



Needlework done by students of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy

### -1876

The Academy closed the Boarding Department for financial reasons. For the next seven years the Academy accepted day students only.

### -1886

Following the earthquake which struck Charleston on August 31, 1886, the Academy was closed until repairs to the building were completed. It reopened on November 3, 1886.

Mrs. Elizabeth O'Neill Verner, Charleston's well-known artist and author, was an eleven year old pupil at the Academy in 1893. Many years later she shared her memories of her student days in an interview published in a Charleston newspaper.

# *narleston* Artist Donates Etching

By DORIS MEADOWCROFT A Special Writer Elizabeth O'Neill r, Charleston's well-Mrs. Verner, Charleston's well-known artist and author, has just given to the museum col-lection of the Nathaniel Russell House an etching which highlights an important era in the history of the buttee

when highlights an important era in the history of the house. The etching shows the Meeting Street facade of the Russell House with one of the Sisters whose Order conducted a school in the building for hearly forty years (1870 to 1968) standing by the front entrance. This etching is at-tributed to Charles Henry White of Boston and New York, etcher and illustrator. It is signed "White" and dated "07".

"O": This etching has been treasured, by Mrs. Verner because so many happy memories of her childhood are centered, around the school which the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy conducted in the Russell House. Sitting in ... studio on Tradd Street, she often looks back to 1893 when she was an eleven-year-old pupil in this .elementary 'school. Mrs. Verner says the girls

Mrs. Verner says the girls used the side door under the staircase as their entrance staircase as their entrance and always went up the free-flying staircase to classes on the second and third floors, not the rear stairs - Classes, were conducted on all three floors and a recess the girls played in the yard. The grounds in front of the house. were not used by the pupils and were kept landscaped. She also remembers that the also remembers that the Sisters lived at the Orphanage House on Queen Street (now demolished) and used Mr. demolished) and used Mr Russell's former town mansion for their classrooms. town

THE MAJORITY of her classes were in the oval room on the second floor, where she distinctly remembers the mirror windows on the north wall as they are today. They were taken down at one period and stored in, the attic, to-be replaced by 'Historic Charleston Foundation when they took possession of the house. THE MAJORITY of her

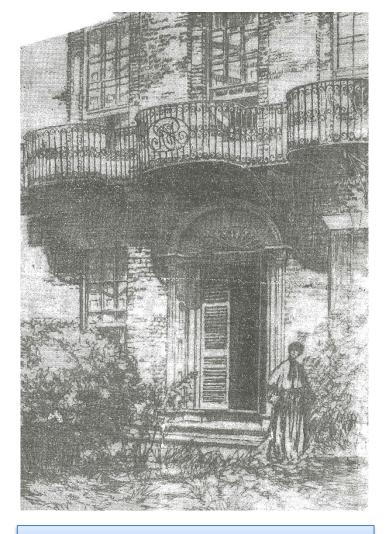
they took possession of the house. Mrs. Verner speaks most affectionately of her teacher, Sister Celestine, who se grandlather had been a pro-fessor at Dublin University, and who "knew more about poetry and the classics than anyone I have ever known, and taught them with en-thusiasm", Lessons in deport-ment were stressed: how to stand up and speak out before the class. With a twinkle in her eye, Mrs. Verner tells of the "problem leiters" set for the class, such as writing a letter of sympathy to a mother-in-law who was hearti-ly detested.

IT'S ODD HOW THINGS turn out. Mrs. Verner was chastised for drawing designs along the edges of her arithmetic papers. She was

told sternly: "This is a class in arithmetic, not design." Now those decorated papers would be of great interest to her many admirers. It is an each of far away and long ago to hear Mrs. Venner say with pride in her voice: "We were faught manners. Each of us had to leave a classroom walk ing back wards, walking backwards, CURTSEYING to the teacher

until we reached the door." The Nathaniel Russell House, 51 Meeting Street, was purchased by Historic Charleston Foundation in March 1955 and is now the Baundrice bedfungther Foundation headquarters, open daily as: a house museum. The hours are Monday to Saturday 10 to 1 and 2 to 5 p.m. and Sundays 2-5 p.m. Admission \$1.





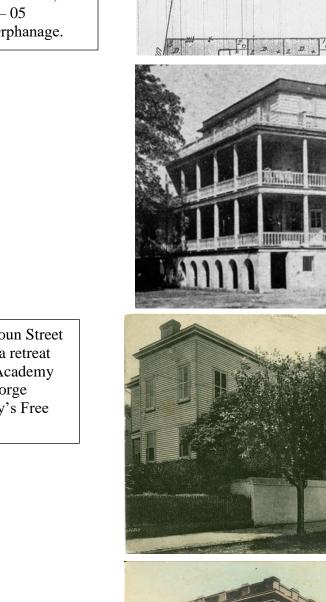
Etching donated by Mrs. Verner

### 1901

When the Queen Street property became the City Orphan Asylum, housing both boys and girls, the Russell House became the OLM Motherhouse, and, the Academy was moved to 203 - 05Calhoun, which had been the Boys' Orphanage.



Mrs. Fortune Ryan purchased the Calhoun Street property from the Diocese to establish a retreat house for laywomen. As a result, the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy moved to 54 George Street, the building vacated by St. Mary's Free School which closed on June 5, 1906.



# ACADEMY OF OUR LADY OF MERCY. nacle of the Bles

In December 1909 the OLM Community moved into their newly built Motherhouse located at 68 Legare Street. Officially known as the Convent of Our Lady of Mercy, the building also housed the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy from 1909 to 1930.

Miss Iona McAlister and Miss Mary Trainer, students at the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, were among eleven prize winners in an essay contest sponsored by the The Catholic Standard & Times of Philadelphia and open to all Catholic High Schools and Academies in the USA.

### -1929

The Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy celebrated the Community's Centennial on December 8, 1929. On this occasion the Alumnae Association of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy gave the Community a pair of silver vases for use on the altar and a bronze tablet with the following inscription: "To the memory of the Co-Foundresses Mother Mary Joseph O'Gorman, Mother Mary Martha O'Gorman and Mother Mary Teresa Barry the guiding spirit of the Community for many years Erected by the Alumnae and Parent Auxiliary of the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy". On Monday morning, December 9<sup>th</sup>, a Mass was celebrated in the Convent for the Alumnae of the Academy. That evening a reception for the members was held in the Cathedral Hall. On Tuesday evening An Historical Pageant was presented at the Academy of Music. Students from all the Catholic Schools in the City, including the Academy, participated.

### -1930

OLM Council Minutes for May 7, 1930 state the following: "Owing to the demand for teachers for the parochial schools, the Council found it necessary to close the Academy of Our Lady of Mercy." On June 13<sup>th</sup> the Academy graduated its last class. Bishop Walsh presided at the Commencement and presented diplomas to the seven members of the senior class. A play, "The Day We Graduate", was presented by the graduating class the evening before Commencement.



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diers, now well or convalescent, blessed their benefactors, and sought their respective homes. But the good Sisters, at this time,

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Jadmiration, or be stinty in lauding such general excellence. But where the least proficiency might be

expected, it was manifest, and in a remarka-ble degree, in the three French classes which made their debut. The articulation was dis-

We support the product of the articulation was distinct, and the prounciation, which is the criticiton of the language, was unusually pure. Hod you not seen the young ladies, and the bright little girls, you might fancy you heard a prounciation, with which many in Charleston have been familiar in Paris. Though it may seem amiss to particularize among competitors of such general excellence, still it is but justice to mention among the young fadies, Miss Flaxm, Miss THOMPSON; and among the little girls, Miss THOMPSON; and, among the little girls, Miss Charam, Miss BARRET, Miss FLATM, Miss FURT, Miss FLATAM, Miss FURT, The anice I am told, of Rev. Pather Chochar. I heard her name mentioned as "a brilliant little creature." and a lore sees of the new of the lore sees of the new of the lore sees of the new of the lore of the

and Durrs or Rev. Father Choonars. Wittle creature." The there are so many brilliants here, of noccessity outited, in the higher and lower chooses, that those who are named must look sharp to hold their places, else those who are only a very little behind may courtesy and pass them\_at the next examination. The dove have so pass them-at the next exterimination. And now, Messrs Editors, please excuse an intruder on your columns, and should the above have any interest for yourself or your readers you will treble its value by calling on Mother Transa, at the "Acadamy of Our Lady Mercy, and obtain from her the "Order of Distribution of Honors," and publish if

ong with the foregoing. DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, CHARLESTON, S. C., August 2, 1867.

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Academy of Our Lady of Marcy, Chanasaros, S. C., Augunt 2, 1867. The Tirst Class of Christian Doctrine--First Honor awarded, M. Atimar; Exequo, M. Chasal and M. Cay, Second Honor, M. McMasal and M. Cay, Second Honor, M. Mahan, A. Benny, R. Figure, W. Yglesias. The Honor awarded, L. Drake, A. Pechan, A. Bodding: Second Honor, M. Mahan, A. Kenny, R. Figure, W. Yglesias. The McMasa of The Gussita. McMasal Maide by J. Peler. Manager Maide by J. Peler. McMasal Maide by J. Peler. McMasal Maide by J. Peler. Manager Maide by J. Peler. Manager Maide by J. Peler. Manager Maide by J. Peler. McMasal Maide by J. Peler. Manager Maide by J. Peler. McMasal Maide

The Fine Fine Field of Second Res. Transford Field of Heart, M. Pender, C. Walch, E. Furlong, E. Price, M. Denko, et al. 2016.
The Division of Third (Less=First Honor awarded, L. O'Neill; Exsque, S. Duffy.
The Second Class of Orthography and Reading—First Honor awarded, M. Aimsr; Exsque, R. Russ; Second Honor, E. Hart, B. Bartet, J. Baleor, B. Roctrait, S. Barret, S. Black, J. Pelser, B. Owers, M. Lebby, L. Whaley, S. Thompson.
The Second Monor, E. Hand, K. Exsque, R. Powers, M. Lebby, L. Whaley, S. Thompson.
The Second Honor, E. Hand, K. Exsque, R. Powers, M. Lebby, L. Whaley, S. Thompson.
Therstrumental Music by Miss Duffy.
The Second Honor, A. Hand, K. Kasque, A. Roddin.
They and Class of Pourth Class - First Honor awarded, S. Duffy; Hawayue, G. Welch; Second Honor, A. Black, Exsque, R. Rowiers, I. McGormick, M. Lebby, L. Whaley, S. Thompson.
Therstrumental Music by Miss Duffy.
The Gorth Class of Articuta, E. Rowier, J. To Gorth, Class of Articuta, Second Honor, S. Black, Exsque, A. Roddin.
The dynamic J. Durke, B. Honor awarded, J. Pelser, B. Honor, J. Power, B. Communa, Scienci, B. None, J. Second Honor, J. Power, B. Communa, Scienci, S. Thompson.
There and J. Power, B. Honor awarded, J. There and J. Power, M. Honor, M. Huder, Kasque, C. Willer, Stragen, C. Thanston, Sciencin Honor, J. Durke, B. Communa, Scienci, S. Thompson, S. Communa, Scienci, S. Thompson, J. Commiss, A. Y. Kang, J. Company, J. C. Stragen, J. Communa, J. Theore, J. Commiss, A. Y. Kang, J. Kang, K. Kang,

among the genlier sex, was not dead, but slopt. The good Sisters of our." Lady of Moroy" accomodated themselves to the events that have lately harrassed the nation: they ex-changed the more surresable duties of the academy for the toils of the hospital; instead of the smilles of young ladies, they became familiar with the wonds and the means of wounded solities. Like the good Samaritan, they enquired not whether the sufferers were from the North or the South; whether the pu from the North or the South; whether they were Jaw or Gentile, Christian or Infidel, Catholic or Protestant, They were indeed, "Sisters of Mercy" to all. They treated all alike, as brothers, and without distincton. When peace succeeded war, the hospitals in due time were closed. The wounded sol-

homes. But the good Sisters, as the time, had no home to exter-their convent was a ruin, shattered by shells and cannon bals runnough the timoly consideration of General result in the simulation of the simulation result in the simulation of the simulation good Sisters are again under their own roof. But alsel their ruined schools are still un-huit. In this erivation they were compolled

put aiss their runned solools are still th-built. In this privation, they were compelled to turn their convent into a temporary Acad-emy, and their chaesescoms, though insuffi-tient, resound again with the recitation of pupile-and their progress in music and song.

Bot alsa's their ruined schools are sill un-built. In this privation, they were compelled to turn their convent into a temporary Acad-eny, and their class-rooms, though insuffi-tion, resound again with the recitation going. Last Friday, August 2d, was to teachers and pupils a memorable day. It was the close of the Academic year-the pay-day of talent and studies. The large pay-for of the convert mass dec as a salle, in which all the young ladies were scated. It was, howerer, a can's for awarded, J. Peiter; Exequo, E. Black; E. ladies were scated. It was, howerer, a can's for awarded, J. Peiter; Bargeto, L. Drake, M., ladies were scated. It was, howerer, a can't find floor, A. Forth Honor, for regret, that the parents and the public or the urinee on wineseensscates and therefore could not be inviced to wineseensscates and therefore could not the invice on wineseensscates and therefore sided and distributed the premiums, was the only geniloman present, and was surprised at user, and stoic the man who could withhold

Continued on Eighth Page

Academy of OUR LADY OF MERCY. Awarded Mils Dora Deverceno Cato 1. Som 32 Class.

CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE.

Charleston, S. C., : : : Aug. 2nd, 1807

1867



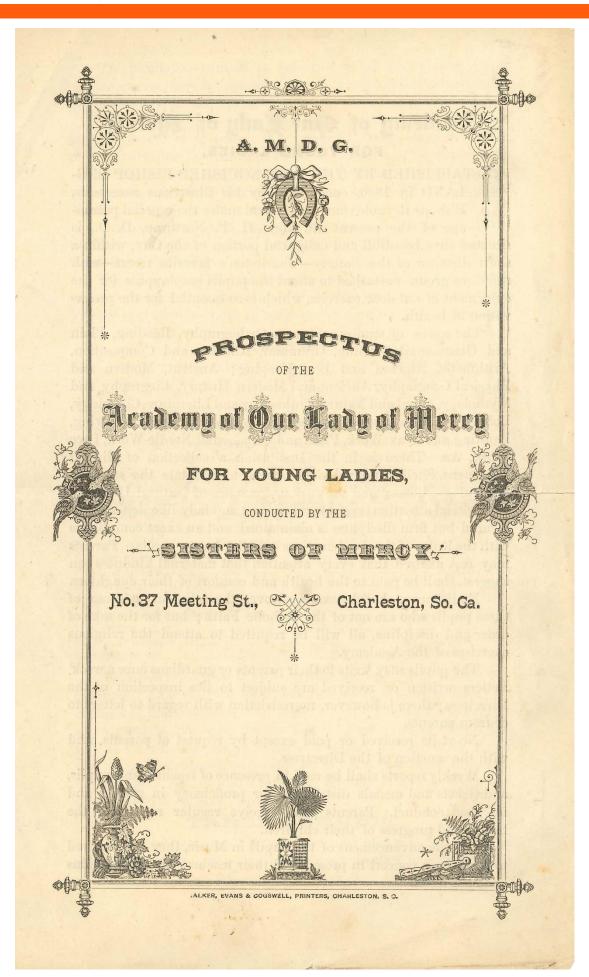




1916, Legare Street, OLM Sisters and Students of the Academy of OLM Left side: Sister Alexis McCreen, Sister Aloysius McGrory, Sister Annunciata Hogan

### **Center: Sister Carmel Carter**

Right side: Standing, Sisters de Sales D'Antonio, Inside, Sister Martha Croghan, Outside, Sister Marcellina Frayne.



# Academy of Our Lady of Mercy, for young ladies,

STABLISHED BY THE DISTINGUISHED BISHOP ENG-LAND in 1830, encouraged by his illustrious successors, Bishops Reynolds and Lynch, and under the especial patronage of the present Rt. Rev. H. P. Northrop, D. D., is situated in a beautiful and delightful portion of the City, within a short distance of the Battery—Charleston's favorite resort—with sufficient grounds attached to afford the pupils ample space for the enjoyment of out-door exercise, which is so essential for the preservation of health.

The course of studies embraces Orthography, Reading, Plain and Ornamental Writing, Grammar, Rhetoric and Composition, Arithmetic, Algebra and Book-Keeping; Ancient, Modern and Physical Geography, Ancient and Modern History, Biography and Mythology, Moral and Natural Philosophy and Literature, Chemistry, Botany and Mineralogy, Instrumental and Vocal Music, Drawing, Painting and Wax Work, Plain and Ornamental Needle-Work, Lace Work, &c. There is in the Institution a collection of Mineral Specimens, Shells and valuable Charts, to facilitate the study of Mineralogy, Botany and the various branches of Natural History.

Special attention is paid to refinement and lady-like deportment. A mild but firm discipline is maintained, and an exact compliance with the Rules of the Academy is required from the pupils. Parents may rest assured that every attention that maternal kindness can suggest, shall be paid to the health and comfort of their daughters.

No influence shall be exercised over the religious opinions of those pupils who are not of the Catholic Faith; but for the sake of order and discipline, all will be required to attend the religious exercises of the Academy.

The pupils may write to their parents or guardians once a week. Letters written or received are subject to the inspection of the Directress; there is however, no restriction with regard to letters to or from parents.

No visits received or paid except by request of parents, and with the sanction of the Directress.

Weekly reports shall be read in presence of teachers and pupils, and tickets and medals distributed for proficiency in studies and for good conduct. Parents shall receive regular reports of the health and progress of their children.

For the advancement of the pupils in Music, they are required to perform in concert in presence of their teachers and companions at stated times. The pupils are trained to habits of order and industry, and receive instructions in domestic economy. They are also taught plain sewing and fancy work.

The Scholastic year commences the first of September, and ends the last week in June. It is divided into two sessions of five months each; the first commences on the the first of September, the second on the first of February. The Commencement Exercises, which take place towards the end of June, terminate the Scholastic Year.

Graduates who have passed creditably through the Course of Studies, receive a gold medal for proficiency in studies, and a crown for exemplary conduct.

Pupils are received at any time during the Scholastic Year, and are charged from the date of their entrance, but it will tend greatly to their advantage to enter at the opening of the Scholastic term.

### <u>\_\_\_TERMS</u>

Board, including Washing and Bedding, and Tuition in the English

Branches, Music and Elementary Drawing, per Scholastic Term of

Ten Months, payable half-yearly, in advance......\$200.00 Extra Branches, the same for Day Pupils.

### ---- TERMS FOR DAY PUPILS----

Tuition in English, per Quarter of Ten Weeks, payable in advance,

						Primary Division \$ 6.	00
	"	"'	"	"	"	Intermediate Division 10.	.00
	"	"		65		Senior Division 12.	.00
	Graduating	Fee					00
							.00
	German, Spanish and Italian, at Professor's charges.						
	Drawing, and Painting in Water Colors, each						.00
	Painting on Silk or Velvet						.00
	Painting in Oils						.00
Instrumental Music and use of Piano							.50
							.50
	Lessons on Organ and use of Organ						.00
	Wax Worl	τ					.00
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	Embroider	v. &c					00
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Boarders must be provided with a good supply of comfortable clothing. One dozen Pocket-Handkerchiefs, six pairs Hose, six changes of underclothing, four Night Dresses, Towels, Soap, Brushes and all articles necessary for the Toilet. Two pairs of Shoes, One pair of Over-Shoes, one pair Light Slippers, one Dressing Gown, two warm Balmoral Underskirts for Winter, two light Balmorals for Summer. Sacque and Cloak for Winter. Parasol, Work-box, furnished with Scissors, Needles, &c.

### TABLE SERVICE.

One Silver or plated Fork, Silver or plated Goblet, one Teaspoon, one Dessert Spoon, one Knife, six Doilies, one Doily-Ring. Articles of every kind must be marked.

# Piano Recital

By

MISS CECILIA FLYNN

Pupil of the

Academy of Our Lady of Mercy

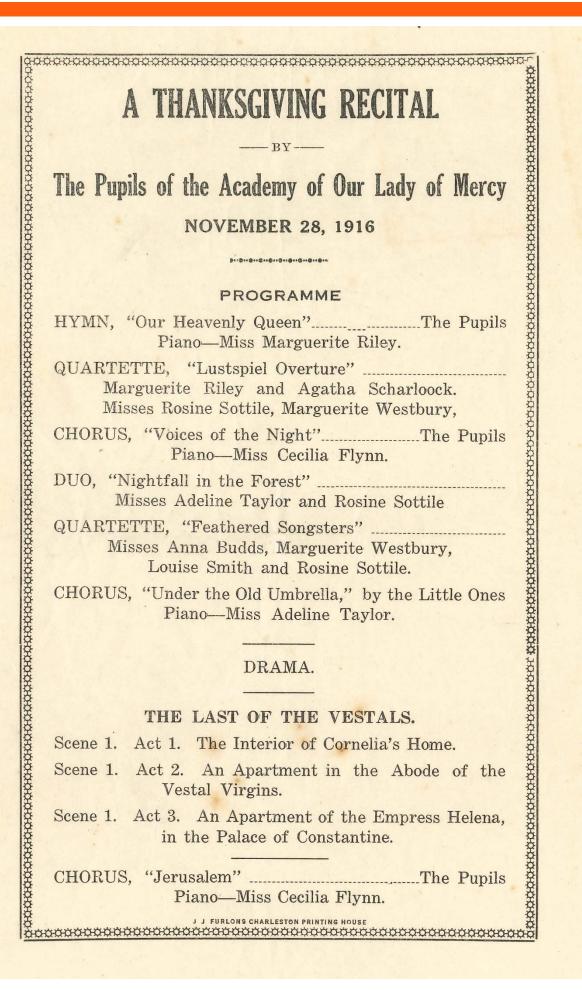
Charleston, S. C.

Friday, May Fifth, Nineteen-sixteen

Mine G'clack P. M.

SIEGLING MUSIC HALL



















OLM Sisters, Employees and Guests TOTALLY enjoyed the 2017 Solar Eclipse