EMILY BENNET KING (1827-1915)
Staunch Advocate for the Urban Poor

Emily Bennet King was a wife, mother of four, friend of Sister Annette and staunch advocate for the urban poor. Despite the confining role placed upon on women at the time, Emily King was an active advocate for social change. Although women could not vote, hold office, nor own property after marriage, Emily expanded her place in society as a fearless leader and dedicated volunteer impacting the lives of elderly homeless women. She was a charter member of the Deaconess Home founded in 1896, which then merged with The Church Home in 1902 where Emily was a long-time board member. A 1939 newspaper article notes “In the early days of the home, often in the winter season when supplies were low, Mrs. King and Mrs. May, with horse and cutter would drive as far as South St. Paul to collect contributions of meat and vegetables which supplies tided the home over its most difficult days.” She inspired her daughter Fannie to continue her work supporting the elderly poor, and Fannie King remained to champion the cause as a board member for The Church Home for two decades.