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THE BEQUEST OF  
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1918

HISTORICAL DISCOURSE

DELIVERED IN

ST. MARK'S CHURCH,

WARREN, R. I.,

*Sunday Evening, November 10, 1878.*

BEING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORGANIZATION  
OF THE PARISH.

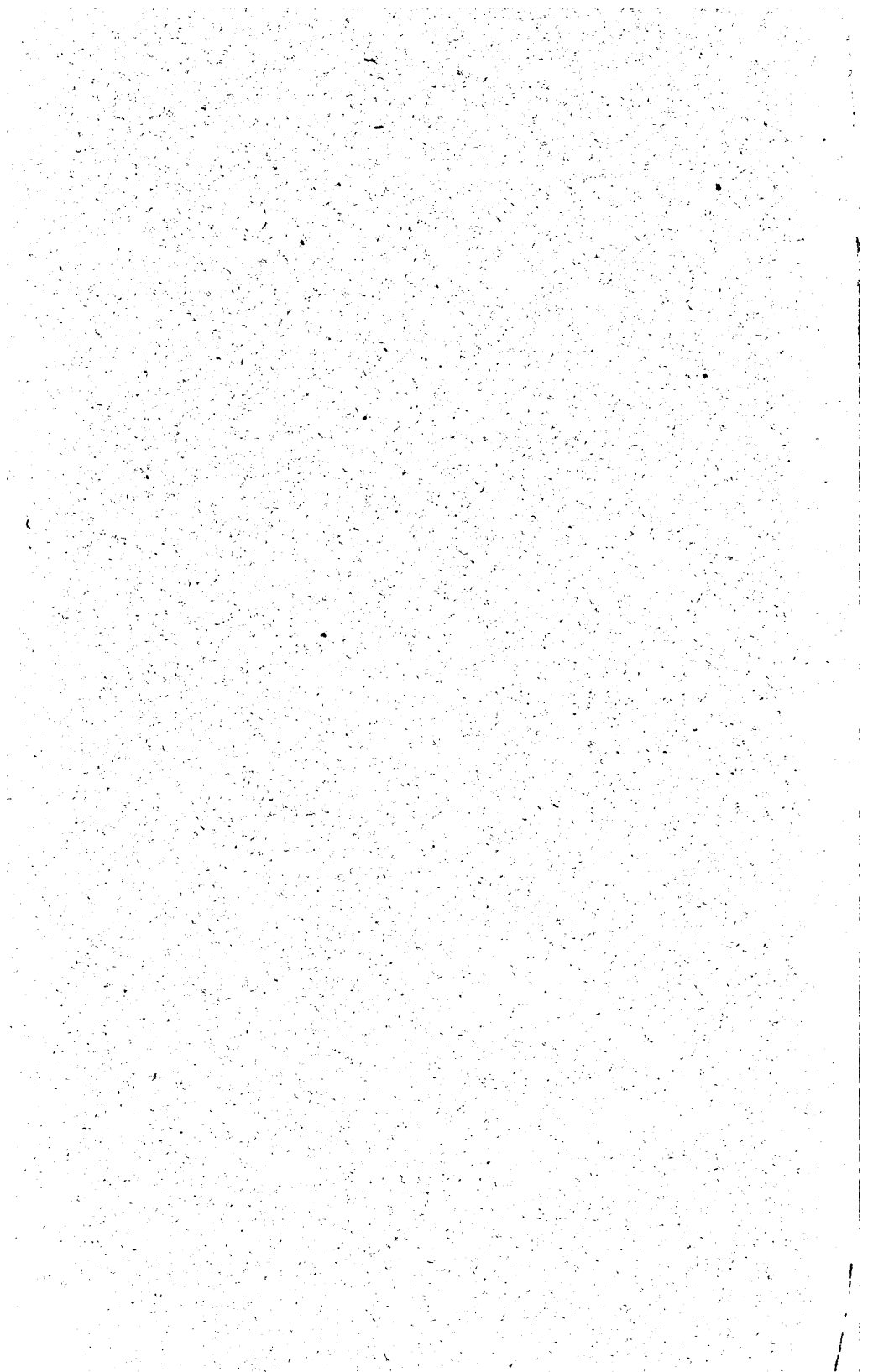
BY THE

REV. W. N. ACKLEY, RECTOR.

*Published by Request.*



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ORDER OF SERVICE.



Hymn 281 : - - - - - Tune, Mear.

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Sentences, General Confession, Absolution, Lord's Prayer, Versicles.

Proper Psalms : - - - - - 84 and 122.

Lesson : - - - - - Ephesians iv., 1-16.

Creed, Collect for the day, Prayer for the Church Militant, Prayer of  
St. Chrysostom.

Hymn 409 : - - - - - Tune, Denmark.

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SERMON.

Hymn 424 : - - - - - Tune, Coronation.

Address by the Rev. George L. Locke, Rector of St. Michael's Church, Bristol.

Hymn 277 : - - - - - Tune, Old Hundred.

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Collects and Benediction.

## SERMON.



COLOSSIANS II., 19: "From which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God."

I. CORINTHIANS III., 8: "Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one."

THE story of fifty years measured against the history of the great world seems brief and insignificant enough, if we view it from the distant standpoint of the indifferent student of the past. Events which give a distinctive character to only a single locality or mark the career of any one generation, may be lost from view amid that tangled web of fact and fancy which we call the history of the past. The eye that looks out over the great ocean, noting only the grandeur of its vastness, sees not the friendly wave over which the proud barque bears securely its freight of precious lives to gladden the hearts in many a home. The genial tide that laves and cools the shores of some quiet bay, is lost to the mind struggling after conceptions of only immensity and depth. Our hearts best become touched with the facts of history when we draw near to the scene of action, and seek to feel the very throbs of the life we are studying. Those events in which we or those near and dear to us have had "a great part" will always enkindle the liveliest interest. The heart lingers fondly over the story of those we love.



There is no more hallowed spot on earth than the family home where loving kindred mingle in mutual offices of tenderness, or hold counsel about the fireside over each one's momentous destiny, infusing heart and energy into the otherwise dull routine of life. And next to the tie of kindred there is no closer bond than that which links together the Master's children into a common brotherhood, whose centre of sacred association is the home of the parish church. As we gather here from day to day to honor our Lord with a united worship, we miss from our ranks those other forms, once bowed within these courts in attitude of reverence, now removed forever from our sight and silent in the hush of death. They have gone from us but they have not, we trust, ceased to be a power. Beloved still in the closer circles where they moved, they are no less honored, we must hope, for their works' sake in the Church of God. We need just such days of commemoration as this to bring into more vivid reality the characters of those who have gone before and help us to a keener perception of the work they achieved. These days of joyful remembrance are finger-posts along the road, not merely showing the way already passed, but much more pointing to the labors still left for us to perform.

Fifty years ago to-night, not far from the present hour, a little band of citizens met in Warren and organized St. Mark's Parish. Your minds are urging me, I am sure, to linger no longer over preliminary words, but rather to hasten on to our parish story of the last half century. And I would desire in the outset, to give expression to my appreciation of the important aid rendered me by a committee of the Vestry, who, at the cost of no little labor, have collated from the records of the corporation such items as they have thought of special interest and importance. Very many of these facts speak for themselves and need no comment,

and if they seem to be presented in a rather statistical form, it will be owing to the necessity for brevity at every point where so much material must claim a place. You will doubtless pardon me, if this discourse shall transgress somewhat the generally prescribed limits of a sermon, seeing that for a long time in the future you will be granted immunity from a similar infliction. Many of the items brought into this record may seem in themselves unimportant to the outside world; but I can fancy that many Christian souls now far away would listen to them with untiring interest, as exhibiting the life of their fathers in the Church; just as the apparently trivial events in any family life are more precious to the members of the loving household than the most thrilling story in the world's great history. In this narrative the events will follow each other as rapidly as possible and be presented in their chronological order.

The Rev. George W. Hathaway, first Rector of this parish, informs us in his private records, that, "at several different times the project of building an Episcopal Church in Warren had been thought of but deferred." "In the year 1812," says the Rev. John Bristed, "the Rev. Mr. Henshaw\* (afterwards Bishop of this Diocese) preached several times at Warren with great acceptance, and was requested by its inhabitants to settle among them and build up a church; but Bishop Griswold thought the attempt premature, and nothing was done." I am informed that Mr. Henshaw held a number of his services in the Methodist Church. The reason why the project was abandoned was probably because "the business of the place had received a severe shock by the long embargo that had kept their vessels rotting at the wharves,"

\* The Rev. Mr. Henshaw must have officiated at this time as lay reader, as he was not ordained Deacon until June 13, 1813, when he was "precisely" twenty-one years old. He studied in Bristol with Bishop Griswold, and is reported to have had singular success as lay reader in many places.

and because of the war with England which led the citizens "to apprehend still more awful calamities." In 1824 the Rev. Mr. Bristed had an interview "with some of the principal inhabitants of Warren, and proposed to them to have the service of the church performed there, to which they assented." But he was called to Vermont and no farther steps were taken at that time.

"In the year 1828," says Mr. Bristed, "Bishop Griswold asked me if I was willing to undertake the erection of a church in Warren, to which I replied in the affirmative, provided he would preach the first sermon, which he did." The Rev. Mr. Bristed was at this time assistant minister of St. Michael's Church, Bristol, of which parish he afterwards became Rector. His letter of acceptance of the rectorship of that parish reveals the interesting fact that he was strongly moved to accept the position of assistant minister in Bristol by the opportunity thus afforded of beginning the work in Warren, so deeply was he impressed with the importance of the field.

November 4th, in the same year, a preliminary meeting of gentlemen was held at the house of Mr. Freeborn Sisson, looking to the organization of a parish. They adjourned to meet at the same place November 10th, at 6 o'clock, P. M. This house is still standing on the west side of Main street, two doors north of Washington, and on the corner of Main and Jefferson streets. The meetings were probably held in the south front room. On the 10th, the meeting was held, pursuant to adjournment, and the Rev. Mr. Bristed was present and read the following communication :

BRISTOL, November 3d, 1828.

If the people of Warren will exert themselves to raise funds towards defraying the expenses of erecting a Protestant Episcopal Church in their town; the undersigned will, if his life be preserved, early in the ensuing spring undertake to solicit subscriptions for the above purpose among his friends in the cities

of New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore; he will proceed under the written recommendation and sanction of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Griswold, and if his success equal his efforts two years since, when begging for the Rev. B. B. Smith's church in Middlebury, Vermont, he will be able to raise a thousand dollars for the people of Warren towards the building of a new church. The undersigned is also willing, under the auspices and approbation of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Griswold, to minister to the people of Warren, until they can suit themselves in settling a clergyman as their pastor.

(Signed,)

JOHN BRISTED.

The following communication from the Rt. Rev. Alexander V. Griswold, D. D., Bishop of the Eastern Diocese, was also read :

BRISTOL, R. I., November 3d, A. D. 1828.

I, the undersigned, do hereby declare my very cordial approbation of the plan and efforts as above proposed, to build an Episcopal Church in the town of Warren, being fully convinced that if successful it will be of great benefit to the people there, and to the Church and to religion generally. Without aid from the pious and liberal in other places it will not be reasonably in their power to erect such a house as will probably be needful to accommodate those who will attend worship in it. They who shall generously contribute something to aid them may be assured that it will be a charity well bestowed and which we believe God will bless.

(Signed,)

ALEXANDER V. GRISWOLD,

Bishop of the Eastern Diocese.

After full deliberation it was unanimously voted to organize a parish and build a church edifice. The following named gentlemen were elected officers :

*Wardens :*

George Pearse,

George Monroc.

*Vestrymen :*

Freeborn Sisson,

Seth Peck,

William Carr,

John Pearse,

William Collins,

Amasa Humphrey,

John Stockford,

Charles Wheaton,

Nathaniel Phillips,

John R. Wheaton,

William Turner.

*Secretary:* Charles Wheaton. *Treasurer:* William Carr.

William Collins, Seth Peck and William Carr were appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions.

Not one of the above named gentlemen survives.

At the same meeting authority was given for the purchase of the lot on which the church was to be erected, being the lot on which the church now stands. This lot, with the building upon it, was owned in shares by a corporation, who held the property for school purposes. The parish effected the purchase by buying up the shares from the several stockholders.

A Parish Charter was granted by the General Assembly, January 17th, 1829. Mr. Ephraim W. Burr, of San Francisco, is the only corporator mentioned in the charter, now living.

Regular services were first held in Cole's Hall, in what is still called Cole's Hotel, on Main street, the Rev. Mr. Bristed officiating once a week for eighteen months.

On the 12th of January, 1829, it was voted, "that the Church be called St. Mark's Church."

The Rev. Mr. Bristed succeeded in collecting in various towns and cities the sum of \$830.00 towards building the church and also secured "a quarto Prayer Book for the Desk and other Prayer Books for distribution." Mr. Bristed exhibited not a little shrewdness in his methods of obtaining funds, sometimes indulging in what has been deftly termed "holy guile." In New York he presented his appeal to a former law partner, who was a Jew. For the sake of old acquaintance the Jew gave him \$5.00. He then begged him to place his name on the subscription list. "There," says Mr. Bristed, "now I will use that name to ply the Christians with!"

March 9th, 1829, a letter was submitted from Mr. Russell

Warren, architect, of Providence, with plan of the proposed church, which plan was adopted. The dimensions of the church were to be *sixty-two* by *forty-two* feet, with *sixty* pews on the lower floor, a gallery in the east end, and a portico in front, with entablature supported by four Doric pillars.

The records of November 14, 1829, contain copies of the letter of the Rt. Rev. A. V. Griswold, D. D., on the occasion of his change of residence from Bristol to Salem, Mass., and of his reply.

Of the *twelve* Vestrymen elected at the Easter meeting held April 12, 1830, the only one now surviving is Mr. George Wheaton. On April 17th of this year, the Rev. George W. Hathaway was invited to the Rectorship for one year, which invitation was accepted. The salary was fixed at \$400.00, of which the parish was to raise \$200.00 and the Rev. Mr. Bristed \$200.00.

The first Baptisms after the organization of the parish were those of Mrs. Shubael Kennicutt and Miss Martha Brown. These Baptisms took place in Cole's Hall, on Sunday, July 11, 1830, during evening service. Only a few weeks since we were called upon to convey Miss Brown to her last resting place on earth, after a long life of patient, devoted, unostentatious Christian living. Though for many years deprived of the privilege of attending upon the services of the church, she never failed to take the keenest interest in everything appertaining to the well-being of the parish, and her faithful Christian course was quite in keeping with the singular privilege of having her period of discipleship coincident with almost the whole first half century of our parish life. Mrs. Kennicutt (*nee* Lydia Gardner Brown) was descended from John Brown, of Barrington, of whom the records say: "He was a rigid Episcopalian, and bequeathed a large portion of his property to his son Jeremiah on account of his attachment to the

church." Mr. Shubael Kennicutt was grandson of Mr. John Kennicutt, of Swansea, who represented the sturdy type of character so common in the olden time, and who is said to have been a "firm Episcopalian." The records speak of him and his family as follows: "His usual practice was to catechise his children every Sunday morning and then prepare for church. They attended St. Michael's, Bristol, distant six miles. His daughters rode on horseback and the sons walked on foot."

The only communicant of the Church in Warren at the time St. Mark's Parish was organized, was Mr. George Monroe, who had been baptized and confirmed in St. Michael's, Bristol, and was still a communicant of that parish. He was elected Junior Warden, and through his whole life was a most exemplary Christian and valued helper in the parish. Mr. George Pearse and wife, of Swansea, were also communicants of St. Michael's, Bristol. He most cordially cast in his lot with St. Mark's Church, and became the first Senior Warden.

On Thursday, July 15th, 1830, the church was consecrated to the worship of Almighty God by Bishop Griswold. Besides the Rector, the following clergymen were present:

The Rev. Stephen H. Tyng, Rector of St. Paul's Church, Philadelphia.

The Rev. Nathan B. Crocker, D. D., Rector of St. John's Church, Providence.

The Rev. Samuel B. Shaw, D. D., Rector of Christ Church, Guilford, Vt.

The Rev. Salmon Wheaton, D. D., Rector of Trinity Church, Newport.

The Rev. John Bristed, D. D., Rector of St. Michael's Church, Bristol.

The Rev. John West, D. D., Rector of St. Thomas' Church, Taunton.

The Rev. Charles H. Alden, of Bristol.

The Rev. Richard Peck, of Connecticut.

The Rev. Benjamin B. Smith, D. D., Rector of Grace Church, Philadelphia.

This last named clergyman is now the venerable presiding Bishop of the American Church.

The Rev. Mr. Tyng read the Morning Service, and the Rev. Dr. Crocker the Sentence of Consecration. The Sermon was preached by Bishop Griswold, from II. Samuel xxiv., 24: "And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt-offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshing-floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver."

In the afternoon the Rev. Mr. Hathaway was admitted to the Holy Order of Priests, and the Rev. Silas A. Crane to the Holy Order of Deacons. The Evening Service was read by the Rev. Dr. Crocker, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. West, of Taunton. Confirmation was administered for the first time in the church. The following persons were the candidates: Mrs. Alice M. P. Hathaway, wife of the Rector, Mrs. Shubael (Lydia Gardner) Kennicutt, Miss Martha Brown, Miss Eliza D. Nimmo.

The Holy Communion was also administered, about eighty persons partaking thereof. The music was rendered very acceptably by the choir of St. Thomas' Church, Taunton.

On the 17th of July the pews were offered at auction, and *thirty-eight* of the whole number (*fifty-eight*) were sold, very generally at a premium over the appraisal of from five cents to \$12.50.

An organ was purchased soon after at a cost of about \$650.00.

The total estimated cost of the church was about \$4,100.00.

During the summer a Sunday-school was organized under the superintendence of Mr. Seth Peck. About fifty scholars were gathered.



The first marriage in the parish was solemnized by the Rector on November 25, the parties being Mr. Hiram W. Barney, of North Providence, and Miss Elizabeth Smith, of Warren.

The first funeral service in the parish was performed by the Rector, January 14, 1831, over John Bristed Pearse, infant son of Mr. John Pearse, Senior Warden.

April 16th, the Rev. Mr. Hathaway received and accepted an invitation to continue as Rector another year. The Convention Report for this year shows twelve communicants.

The first marriage in the church was solemnized Sept. 20th by the Rector, the parties being Mr. Ephraim W. Burr and Miss Abby M. Child. Mr. Burr, as stated above, is the only surviving member of the corporation as originally chartered by the Legislature.

On November 19th, a bell was purchased, weighing about 1000 pounds.

Gov. Collins having presented to the corporation a pew in each of the Baptist and Methodist churches and St. Michael's Church, Bristol, they were at this time ordered to be sold.

April 5th, 1832, the Rev. Mr. Hathaway was chosen Rector for another year. The By-Laws of the Corporation were adopted on the 7th of May following, and at the same meeting a resolution of thanks to the ladies was passed for their gift of two tablets containing the Ten Commandments. These tablets, which were at first placed in the church, are now in the chapel. In September of this year a committee was appointed to build a fence, the cost of which was about \$328.00 *Twenty* communicants and a Sunday School of *eighty-nine* (teachers and scholars) are reported this year.

April 18th, 1833, twelve persons were confirmed by Bishop Griswold. In the autumn of this year a bell weighing 1519

pounds was placed in the tower to replace the old one which had broken. "During the autumn and winter of 1833 and 1834, the evening services were held in the chamber over Sylvester Child's jewelry shop fitted for the purpose." This building at that time stood on Main street, one door north of Cole's Hotel, but was afterwards removed to another part of the town.

In February, 1834, a committee was appointed to finish a room in the basement of the church, which was done at a cost of about \$300.00. March 4th, twenty persons were confirmed by Bishop Griswold. On the 8th of April, it was voted to enlarge the church by the addition of twenty-four pews at the west end. A projection of ten feet was added for a vestry room in place of the old smaller one. A new pulpit was also made, "with reading desk in front, they being both in one in the former arrangement." The communion table stood in front of the desk and all were within the chancel rail. The pulpit was placed against the west wall of the church, where is now the chancel arch. "The gallery was also lowered and much enlarged by being brought forward."

On the 11th of June thirty-one persons were confirmed by Bishop Griswold.

The new pews were offered at auction September 22, when almost all of them were disposed of at nearly double the prices secured at the first sale of pews. The total cost of the addition and alterations was about \$2,400.00. A new set of lamps was procured at a cost of about \$200.00.

In September, nine persons were confirmed by Bishop Griswold.

The records thus show the very remarkable number of *sixty* confirmations for the year just past, by far the largest number ever confirmed in one year in this parish. The Rector, in his

private records, speaks of the deep religious interest manifest in the parish at this time. This year he reports to the Convention seventy-eight communicants.

In the spring of 1835, Bishop Griswold confirmed a class of twenty-three persons.

April 20th, the Rev. Mr. Hathaway was invited to continue Rector at a salary of \$600.00.

The Convention Report of this year gives the number of communicants at one hundred and twelve, and one hundred and fifty-seven (teachers and scholars) in the Sunday School.

In its early days this parish evinced a most laudable disposition to make ample provision for the temporal necessities of its spiritual guide and head; for we read in the records, that on April 4th, 1836, they voted to invite the Rev. Mr. Hathaway to continue as Rector at a salary of \$600.00, and that \$50.00 be added "if necessary."

His successors have found, I am sure, that the spirit of that hour has descended to those who have joined in the deliberations of the parish since that time. For the first four years Mr. Hathaway was annually re-elected Rector; then the invitation was extended three years. After that he was invited to continue on indefinitely.

April 21st, Bishop Griswold confirmed a class of sixteen persons.

In November, a new organ, built by E. and G. G. Hook of Boston, costing about \$1,700.00, was placed in the church, and the old organ was sold to the Rev. J. M. Brown, of Woonsocket, for \$340.00.

March 17, 1837, Bishop Griswold confirmed seventeen persons. He confirmed a class of four persons the following year.

April 1, 1839, steps were taken to found a Parish Library.

On December 21st of this year a new *bell*, weighing 1950 pounds, was placed in the tower, the old one having broken. Either a strange fatality must have haunted the bells of this church, or the good sextons must have displayed a singular energy in the ringing of them.

Bishop Griswold confirmed seven persons in March, 1840. December 21, the Rev. Mr. Hathaway preached a historical discourse for the last decade. The Convention Report this year gives one hundred and fourteen communicants and one hundred and seventy in the Sunday School.

In 1841, Bishop Griswold confirmed at his first visitation fifteen persons, and ten at his second visitation. The ladies this year furnished new chandeliers for the church.

Bishop Griswold confirmed fifteen persons in 1842.

"On Sunday, January 1, 1843, the church was discovered to be on fire in the northwest corner shortly after service in the afternoon, but was soon extinguished. The loss, amounting to about \$190.00, was paid by the insurance company."

On the 17th of February, in this year, the Rector, Wardens, and Vestry passed suitable resolutions upon the death of Bishop Griswold, which occurred at Boston on the 15th instant. At the request of the Wardens and Vestry the Rev. Mr. Hathaway delivered a memorial sermon upon the death of the Bishop.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Mrs. Abigail Wheaton, April 8, 1844, for the gift of a Bible and Prayer Book for the church. These are the books still in use. Eight persons were confirmed this year by Bishop Henshaw.

March 24, 1845, it was voted to establish a Parochial School, and the Rector, Wardens and Vestry were authorized to carry the resolution into effect. The committee appointed to secure a location reported April 28th, that they had purchased the estate on

the south-east corner of Broad and Lyndon streets. Rules and regulations were adopted for the management of the school. A subsequent report stated that the school had been established and Mr. Henry N. Pierce (now Bishop of Arkansas) had been appointed principal. There was an average attendance of about fifty scholars.

Six persons were confirmed this year by Bishop Henshaw. The Rector reports 150 communicants. The number in the Sunday school is not given in the Convention returns for this year; but in 1843 the number given is 142, and 117 for 1847.

During the summer the church was painted and frescoed.

At a meeting of the corporation held April 5, 1847, Mr. Charles W. Wooster was appointed principal of the parish school, Mr. Peirce having resigned. The committee reported the school in a flourishing condition, with an average attendance of about sixty scholars. April 24, 1848, the same committee expressed their approbation of the management of the school and reported that about one hundred scholars had been in attendance during the year past, with an average attendance of about sixty. A similar report was made in 1849.

Six persons were confirmed by Bishop Henshaw in 1848 and three in 1849.

The Convention Report for 1850 gives one hundred and twenty seven communicants and one hundred and sixteen in the Sunday school.

On the 21st of April, 1851, the Rev. Mr. Hathaway sent in his resignation as Rector, to take effect on the first of July, ensuing. April 28th, the resignation was accepted and a committee appointed to "engage a successor."

May 25th Bishop Henshaw confirmed a class of fourteen persons.

At a special meeting held June 26th, a series of resolutions

were passed expressive of the feelings of the Church in consequence of the resignation of the Rector. Mr. Hathaway afterwards became Rector of Christ Church, Lonsdale, in this Diocese.

We all, I am sure, desire to linger a moment at this point over the fragrant memory of him, who for more than *twenty-one years* ministered here in the things of God; and, for the handful of souls with whom he began his Rectorship, left a strong and substantial parish. When he entered upon his work in this vicinity he came to a community quite unfamiliar with the tenets and methods of the Church of which we are members, and where only the most untiring labor and devotion mingled with the largest wisdom could bring the success of growth. He brought to his work the loving spirit of a true missionary zeal, which was not then so marked a feature of the Church as it is to-day. Here he labored on for more than a score of years, seeing the youth before him maturing into manhood and womanhood and taking their places as workers in the Church. It was most fitting that he should finally rest in a community with whose interests of every sort he was so long identified. His remains were at first interred at Dighton, Mass., but were several years since removed to this place, and now rest in the South Cemetery, in accordance with his oft-repeated wish. The burial lot was donated by the Masonic body of this town, of which he was so long an honored member. An appropriate monument has been placed upon the lot by his many friends both here and elsewhere, who thus delight to testify to their deep regard for the memory of one whose sympathies and interest extended to all with whom he came in contact, both within and beyond the limits of his own field of labor. His most significant monument is his work and the high place he holds in the enduring esteem of those who still feel the effect of his influence, and gladly do honor to his character and memory. From

more than one in this community have I heard of his tender regard for childhood; his words of cheer and welcome to the lonely mariner just landed on these shores from the wild sea, and bidden to make the Church a place of soothing rest; his quick sympathy with both the joys and griefs of those to whom he ministered, as well as his rare power to throw the light and cheer of Christian consolation upon the dark shadows of desolated homes. Whatever success has marked the labors of those who have followed him, in this hour of congratulation we cannot but hold in most grateful remembrance *him*, who, as a man of wise methods won a place for the Church in the confidence of this community; as a Christian pastor, knit to him the hearts of those to whom he ministered; and, as a faithful laborer, laid solid foundations on which others might build. Mr. Hathaway left the parish with about one hundred and forty communicants and about one hundred and twenty in the Sunday-school.

It is a gratification to be able to announce that a suitable stained window is ere long to be erected to his memory in this church, where he loved so well to minister and with which he was so long identified.

On the 30th of December, 1851, the Rev. John Kelley was elected to succeed Mr. Hathaway in the Rectorship at a salary of \$800.00, and entered upon his duties the following Easter.

In the spring of 1852, the parish gladly accepted the offer of the ladies to plant trees and a hedge on the church lot.

At a special meeting of the Wardens and Vestry, held July 30th of this year, appropriate resolutions were passed relative to the death of Bishop Henshaw.

October 25th, it was voted that a chapel be erected on the church lot.

Six persons were confirmed in 1853 by Bishop Burgess, of

Maine. The Convention Report for the year states that \$1,200.00 had been contributed towards the chapel and furniture.

On the 12th of April, 1855, action was taken looking towards the founding of a Rector's Library. The committee appointed to take action in the matter reported that \$217.00 had been subscribed and that one hundred and twenty-three volumes of standard works had been purchased. This library has been of great value to the Rector, and those to whom was committed the duty of purchasing the books showed excellent judgment in their selection.

The Rector's salary was raised at this time to \$1,000.00.

In May the Charter was amended by the General Assembly, so as to authorize assessments for repairs and insurance on church property.

September 27th, the Wardens and Vestry passed appropriate resolutions relative to the death of Mr. John R. Wheaton, who had served the parish in the capacity of Senior Warden for the long term of *twenty-three* years. Mr. Wheaton was the second Senior Warden, and, by his wisdom in affairs as well as his loyal spirit of devotion to the best interests of the parish, proved himself a most valuable officer in the church, as he was a trusted and respected citizen in the community.

The first assessment on the pews of *one per cent.* was ordered on the 19th of November.

The Report for this year gives eight confirmations by Bishop ~~Clerk~~, one hundred and thirty-five communicants, and one hundred and fourteen in the Sunday-school.

Mr. Haile Collins was elected Senior Warden, March 26, 1856, and Mr. George Lewis Cooke, Junior Warden. Mr. Cooke was the second Junior Warden, succeeding Mr. George Monroe, who had held the office for *twenty-eight* consecutive years. Mr. Mon-



roe afterwards served one year more in the same capacity, making a total service of *twenty-nine* years. An officer at all times so zealous and efficient, dating his term of service from the very beginning of the parish when he himself was the only communicant in town, deserves at our hands a grateful appreciation of his untiring devotion to the best interests of the church as well as his humble and upright course as a Christian disciple.

On the 19th of May in this year Mr. Daniel L. Turner was elected Secretary. At the same meeting the resignation of the Rev. Mr. Kelley, to take effect September 30th, was received and accepted.

August 17th, an invitation to the Rectorship was extended to the Rev. Mr. Burroughs, of Boston, who declined. The Rev. William H. Mills was elected October 26th, but he also declined. The Rev. Eaton W. Maxcy was next called to the Rectorship, which position he accepted, and entered upon his duties January 1, 1857.

At a Corporation meeting held April 13, 1857, the Rector's salary was fixed at \$900.00. At the same time the offer of the ladies to put a new fence in front of the church was accepted. The Committee on the Rector's Library reported additions, making the whole number of volumes *two hundred*. Other useful works have since been added from time to time.

May 9, 1858, Bishop Clark confirmed thirty-eight persons. With the one exception which occurred during Mr. Hathaway's Rectorship, this is the largest number of confirmations in any one Conventional year. Four persons were confirmed in October.

One person was confirmed in 1859 and two in 1860. The Report for 1860 gives one hundred and twenty-nine communicants, and ninety-five in the Sunday-school.

February 19, 1861, the Rev. Mr. Maxcy, handed in his resig-

nation, to take effect at Easter. In the April following, the Rev. Mark Antony DeWolf Howe, D. D., of Philadelphia, (the present Bishop of Central Pennsylvania), was invited to the Rectorship, but declined.

At this time an assessment on the pews was ordered. In May, two persons were confirmed.

August 4th, the Rev. A. B. Flanders was invited to the Rectorship, but declined. The Rev. John Milton Peck was then invited to take temporary charge of the parish, and in September he was asked to assume the position of Rector till Easter, 1862, at a salary of \$700.00 per annum, which invitation was accepted. The following spring Mr. Peck accepted an invitation to continue in the Rectorship.

At a meeting of the Corporation, held April 21, 1862, an assessment upon the pews was authorized. At the same time a communication was received stating that a lot had been purchased by subscription, to which it was proposed to remove the chapel. This is the lot on which the chapel now stands.

One person was confirmed by Bishop Clark at his visitation in May. The ladies at this time presented to the church an elegant silk gown.

On February 14, 1863, the Rector, Wardens and Vestry passed suitable resolutions upon the decease of Mr. Haile Collins, who had served with much efficiency and acceptance as Senior Warden for *seven years*. April 13th, Mr. George Wheaton was elected Senior Warden, and Mr. George Monroe, Junior Warden. April 20th, the Corporation accepted the resignation of the Rev. Mr. Peck, to take effect on the third Sunday in July. The removal of the chapel to the new lot was at the same time authorized upon the receipt of a deed of the lot to the Corporation. A thorough repair of both church and chapel was also ordered and

an assessment voted to meet the expense. In the June following it was voted to limit the assessment to 25 per cent. On October 5th, the Rev. Simon Greenleaf Fuller, of Connecticut, was invited to the Rectorship, but declined. November 12th, the Rev. William C. Mills was elected Rector at a salary of \$1,000.00. He took charge of the parish on the first Sunday in the January following.

During the year the ladies purchased gas-fixtures for the church.

One person was confirmed by Bishop Clark.

January 12, 1864, an assessment was ordered to supply a deficiency in the previous assessments, but this vote was rescinded February 2nd. March 28th, George Lewis Cooke was elected Senior Warden, and William H. Turner, Junior Warden.

Eight persons were confirmed this year.

On the 17th of April, 1865, appropriate resolutions were passed by the Corporation on the occasion of the assassination of President Lincoln.

In May two persons were confirmed.

A communication was received from the Rector August 7th, presenting to the Corporation in behalf of the donors the house and lot on Washington street, which had been purchased of the heirs of the late Martin L. Salisbury for the sum of \$3,500.00. The gift was gratefully accepted, and it was ordered that the communication be entered upon the records together with the names of the donors. It was also voted that the Rectory be held for the use of the Rector for the time being, and that \$100.00 be fixed as the rental, for the purpose of keeping it insured and in proper repair. The thanks of the corporation were tendered to the Rev. Mr. Mills for his action in securing the house.

The report this year gives one hundred and four communicants and one hundred and eighteen in the Sunday-school.

In April, 1866, Miss Harriet H. Gaudelet generously presented to the corporation the sum of \$45.00 (the amount subscribed and tendered to her for her services as organist), to be applied to the Rectory account. Resolutions of thanks were passed for this gift. Five persons were confirmed in May. On the 15th of October, the resignation of the Rev. Mr. Mills, to take effect November 16th, was accepted.

January 28, 1867, the Rev. Leander C. Manchester, of Providence, was invited to the Rectorship at a salary of \$1,000.00, and accepted the position. April 2d, a vote of thanks was tendered to the widow of the late Rev. Mr. Hathaway for the surplice worn by her late husband, and which she had presented in token of her regard for St. Mark's Church. April 21st, seventeen persons were confirmed by Bishop Randall, and in May three were confirmed by Bishop Clark. About this time the late Lewis E. Simonds, captain in the United States Navy, presented his pew, No. 68, to the church.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. John R. Wheaton on the 9th of May, 1868, for his gift of two beautiful and appropriate walnut alms-basins. July 13th, a vote of thanks was tendered to the widow of the late Rev. Mr. Hathaway, for the gift of the private records kept by her late husband as Rector of St. Mark's Church. These records were kept in the most careful manner and contain much valuable information relative to the early history of the parish and some of the families that took an active part in its organization. The walnut pulpit, now standing in the church, was at this time presented to the parish through the efforts of some of the ladies. On the 13th of December, the Wardens and Vestry passed a vote of thanks for the present chancel window, which was nearly ready for presentation, and which had been purchased by the subscriptions of a few parish-

ioners. The report for this year curiously gives one hundred and twenty-four communicants and one hundred and twenty-four in the Sunday-school.

In January, 1869, walnut panelling was placed in the chancel, having been purchased with money donated by a number of persons for that purpose. The records for the year show five confirmations, one hundred and thirty-three communicants, and one hundred and thirty-one in the Sunday-school.

In August, 1870, it was voted to build an iron fence on the north and south sides of the church lot; also to make repairs and paint the church. Towards the close of the year an assessment of *eighteen per cent.* was ordered to meet the cost of the above named repairs.

Appropriate resolutions were passed August 25th, relative to the death of Mr. William H. Turner, who had served as Junior Warden seven years, and who, by his upright Christian course had won the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. His death was a serious loss to the parish.

The report for the year gives five confirmations, one hundred and thirty-four communicants, and one hundred and nineteen in the Sunday-school.

On the 10th of April, 1871, Mr. Luther Cole was elected Junior Warden, and the Rector's salary was raised to \$1,200.00.

April 16th, the Wardens and Vestry passed suitable resolutions upon the decease of their associate, Mr. George Monroe, first Junior Warden of the parish. As before mentioned, he was the only *communicant* of the church in Warren at the time St. Mark's parish was organized.

October 30th, the corporation authorized the purchase of the premises in the rear of the Rectory, formerly occupied by the late Mr. George H. Rounds. This property had been secured by

certain persons for the benefit of the church, and the amount of purchase money was to be raised by subscription. This purchase added very materially to the beauty and convenience of the Rectory grounds.

There are reported this year three confirmations, one hundred and thirty-four communicants, and one hundred and twelve in the Sunday-school.

The report for 1872 gives three confirmations, one hundred and twenty-eight communicants, and one hundred and eight in the Sunday-school.

At a meeting of the Corporation held August 4th, 1873, the resignation of the Rev. Mr. Manchester, to take effect September 30th, was accepted. At the same time it was voted to repair and enlarge the organ. The salary of the Rector was fixed at \$1,100.00. The vote taken at the time the Rectory was purchased, requiring an annual rental of \$100.00 from the Rector, for the use of the house, was rescinded. This change, by which the Rector was no longer to pay rent, left the salary practically where it was in 1871. September 23d, four persons were confirmed.

The present incumbent was elected to the Rectorship October 6th, and entered upon his duties on the 14th of December following.

An assessment of *ten per cent.* was ordered to meet the cost of the above named repairs. During the interregnum in the Rectorship the Rectory was put in thorough repair at a cost of about \$300.00.

This year there were reported one hundred and twenty-two communicants and one hundred and six in the Sunday-school.

June 15, 1874, permission was granted to Mrs. Abbot, widow of the late Walter Abbot, Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy, to place a stained window in the church in memory

of her late husband. At a subsequent meeting a vote of thanks was tendered to Mrs. Abbot for the rich and beautiful gift. There can scarcely be found a more suitable method than this of manifesting devotion to the memory of friends departed; and it is to be hoped that the good example thus set before us in this first memorial of the kind in this church will be followed, till all the available spaces shall speak to us of those beloved and faithful ones who have passed on before us from this militant sphere to the larger and brighter world.

July 6th, Mr. George H. Brown was elected Junior Warden by the Vestry duly empowered. The annual report for the year gives six confirmations, one hundred and thirty-one communicants and one hundred and thirty in the Sunday-school.

Permission was granted, March 29, 1875, to place a memorial window in the church to the late Rt. Rev. George M. Randall, D. D., Bishop of Colorado. April 28th, appropriate resolutions were passed by the Wardens and Vestry on the occasion of the decease of Mr. George H. Brown, Junior Warden, who for many years of earnest and devoted service had signally exemplified the character of the faithful Christian layman. One, whose thoughts were so constantly given to the well-being of the Church, could not be stricken from our ranks without leaving with us all the keenest sense of the loss sustained, even though the integrity and devotion of the life long continue to hold a large place in our grateful thoughts.

On the 12th of July, Mr. Alfred B. Gardner was elected Junior Warden. September 27th, the thorough painting and frescoing of the church interior was ordered.

There are reported this year seven confirmations, one hundred and thirty-eight communicants, and one hundred and forty-one in the Sunday-school.

The committee on painting the church made a report January 3, 1876, showing a subscription amounting to \$836.95 and an expenditure of \$776.53. A vote of thanks was tendered to them for their valuable services in superintending the work of decoration; also to Miss Patience Cole for her very marked success in obtaining subscriptions; and to the ladies of the Parish League for a beautiful carpet presented by them to the church.

The beautiful and tasteful changes and decorations made at that time left the church edifice in the very cheerful and attractive condition in which we now find it. April 23d, a vote of thanks was tendered to Mrs. Walter Abbot for her Easter gift of a rich and beautiful white altar cloth. At the same time a vote was taken expressive of the thanks of the Corporation to the donors and those persons who had been instrumental in procuring the very appropriate memorial window to the late Bishop Randall, which was placed in the church just previous to the Easter festival. The martial spirit typified in the central figure of this window is a fitting emblem of that dauntless courage which stood in awe of no danger and no privation in the path of duty; while the gentle Shepherd is a touching reminder of that tender sensibility towards the Master's little ones, which was always a leading feature in his noble character. And not to-day alone, but also ever in the future, as we note the purpose of this memorial, may it preach to us of the unswerving purpose, the tireless energy blended with the most sensitive sympathy in every loftiest character, and which adorn the life of the humblest Christian no less than the more conspicuous career of the chief Pastor in the Church of God. We may well rejoice that one, whom not only we, but the Church delights to honor, shall thus speak to us through the coming years from these walls of Christian chivalry and unflagging toils in the Master's service.



There are reported this year one hundred and thirty-seven communicants and one hundred and thirty-nine in the Sunday-school.

On the 2d of July, 1877, an assessment was ordered to defray the expense of needed repairs. August 19th, permission was given to Miss Mary P. Carr to place a stained window in the church in memory of Mrs. Hannah Gibbs and Mrs. Ruth B. DeWolf. This window, which was completed and put in place a few months ago, contributes very greatly to the ornamentation of the church interior, and, as well in the peculiar fitness of the Scripture scenes portrayed, as in the exquisite beauty of the workmanship, is a most suitable expression of those Christian characters in whose memory it has been erected.

On the 10th of September, permission was given to the ladies of the Parish League to place in the chancel a memorial window in honor of the first Rector, the Rev. George W. Hathaway. This vote interposed the condition that the ladies should remove the present chancel window to some one of the vacant spaces in the church, enlarge it, and cause it to conform to the general plan of the other memorial windows.

Thirteen persons were this year confirmed by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Niles, of New Hampshire. The report gives one hundred and forty-nine communicants and one hundred and fifty in the Sunday-school.

March 3d, 1878, four persons were confirmed by the Bishop of the Diocese, and June 7th, seventeen persons, making twenty-one confirmations for the last Conventional year. The number of communicants now on the list is one hundred and sixty-four, the largest number since the organization of the parish. The Sunday-school numbers also one hundred and sixty-four, the largest number, according to the records, since the formation of the parish, with the one exception of 1840, when the report to Convention gives one hundred and seventy.

In a community like our own, however, figures do not tell the full story of parish growth. Very many are reared among us who would otherwise swell our ranks, but go from our midst at an early day to the cities or the broad West. And hence, though the records show but meagre gain at home, the actual influence exerted by such a parish is felt in various quarters of the Church at large. We might show a prouder record to-night, could we have with us now all those who have grown among us into the estate of a Christian manhood and womanhood and form still a part of the Lord's militant Church on earth. But in the law of the Divine economy every member ministers to the strength of the whole body, and what is our local loss is the gain of the Church in other quarters.

We must not forget that written records by no means show us all that has been done for the well-being of the parish, either in gifts or work. Among the many gifts of which no note has been made in the foregoing recital, we may mention the *marble font*, donated many years ago by the ladies of the parish, and now standing in the chapel; a black walnut *lectern*, the gift of the late Mr. George H. Brown; the *chancel rail*, purchased by several members of the church; two rich silver *alms basins* for the Communion Service, the gift of Mr. George Lewis Cooke; a set of crimson *book-marks*, presented by Mrs. Daniel L. Turner and Miss Susan Mason; a set of white *book-marks*, from Mrs. J. O. Waterman and Miss Susan Mason; a rich crimson *altar cloth*, presented by Mrs. Homer E. Sargent, of Chicago, a former communicant of this parish. The Rector also gratefully rejoices to-day to celebrate this anniversary in a fresh, new *surplice*, secured through the generous labors and influence of some of the ladies of the parish. Very liberal donations in money have been made from time to time towards beautifying the church, and

more especially for decorating the chancel. Prominent among the donors, and worthy of special mention for his great liberality, is Mr. Henry J. Steere. This gentleman also secured to the church the chaste and elegant *font* now before us, by his liberal subscription to the fund raised by the Sunday-school for that purpose. His munificence and keen interest in the well-being of the parish deserve and receive a most grateful recognition at our hands.

It may be proper to mention here that the Charter of the Corporation authorizes no taxation upon the pews for any purposes except insurance and repairs, so that whatever has been added to enhance the beauty or convenience of the church property, has been secured by *voluntary* contributions. The entire expense incurred for the salaries of the Rector, sexton and organist has always been met by voluntary subscriptions and offerings in the church. The promptness, therefore, with which provision is made to meet these necessities, becomes an index of the generosity of the congregation and of their conscientious devotion to the interests of the Church. It gives me great pleasure to put on record here the cheering fact that St. Mark's Parish enjoys a very enviable reputation in this regard, which we feel confident she will ever maintain.

I should be ungracious as well as derelict in duty did I neglect to invite your attention to the very important aid rendered in every good work by the ladies of the parish from its very inception to the present day. The Ladies' Sewing Society, dating its organization from almost the beginning of the parish, and still as formerly making a most liberal annual contribution towards the Mission work of the Diocese; the Brotherhood, performing a similar office in behalf of the Foreign and Domestic Mission fields; the Parish League, established for local and general charitable

and Church work; *all* are important factors among the working forces of the parish, and could ill be spared, so long as we desire true prosperity at home, and have a generous regard for the needs of the Church at large. There are many marks of their labor right around us, and the requirements of the Master's work in the great field of the world have always awakened the deep interest of many zealous Christian women in this congregation. The ladies of the parish have always been prominent and earnest in devising and executing plans for the beautifying and the proper care of the church edifice, thus rendering it more in harmony with the dignity of the solemn offices in which we here engage. St. Mark's congregation have always responded cheerfully and liberally, in proportion to their means, to appeals for offerings in aid of the different branches of the Church's work.

The Committee of the Vestry have kindly furnished me with a list of the officers of this parish since its organization, together with some other interesting facts, which I will now present.

There have been *five* Senior Wardens, as follows :

George Pearse,	from 1828 to 1832,	4 years.
John R. Wheaton,	“ 1832 “ 1855,	23½ “
Haile Collins,	“ 1856 “ 1863,	7 “
George Wheaton,	“ 1863 “ 1864,	1 “
George Lewis Cooke,	“ 1864, present incumbent,	14½ “

There have been *six* Junior Wardens, as follows :

George Munro,	from 1828 to 1856,	28 years.
George Munro,	“ 1863 “ 1864,	1 “
George Lewis Cooke,	“ 1856 “ 1863,	7 “
William H. Turner, Sr.,	“ 1864 “ 1871,	7 “
Luther Cole, Jr.,	“ 1871 “ 1874,	3 “
George H. Brown,	“ 1874 “ 1875,	1 “
Alfred B. Gardner,	“ 1875, present incumbent,	3 “

There have been *three* Secretaries or Parish Clerks, as follows :

Charles Wheaton,	from 1828 to 1856,	28 years.
George Lewis Cooke,	“ 1856, part of year,	$\frac{1}{2}$ “
Daniel L. Turner,	“ 1856, present incumbent,	21 $\frac{1}{2}$ “

There have been *seven* Treasurers, as follows :

William Carr,	from 1828 to 1835,	7 years.
Seth Peck,	“ 1835 “ 1836,	1 “
George Wheaton,	“ 1836 “ 1849,	13 “
John Troop Child,	“ 1849 “ 1860,	11 “
John Troop Child,	“ 1863 “ 1866,	3 “
George Lewis Cooke,	“ 1860 “ 1863,	3 “
Daniel L. Turner,	“ 1866 “ 1875,	9 “
Lawton I. Ware,	“ 1875, present incumbent,	3 “

The number of Vestrymen is *fifty*, as follows :

Freeborn Sisson,	from 1828 to 1843, inclusive,	16 years.
William Carr,	“ 1828 “ 1845,	“ 18 “
William Collins,	“ 1828 “ 1836,	“ 9 “
John Stockford,	“ 1828 “ 1832,	“ 5 “
Nathaniel Phillips	“ 1828 “ 1832,	“ 5 “
William Turner,	“ 1828 “ 1843,	“ 16 “
Seth Peck,	“ 1828 “ 1854,	“ 27 “
John Pearce,	“ 1828 “ 1843,	“ 16 “
Amasa Humphreys,	“ 1828 “ 1829,	“ 2 “
Amasa Humphreys,	1832,	1 “
Charles Wheaton,	“ 1828 “ 1855,	“ 28 “
John R. Wheaton,	“ 1828 “ 1831,	“ 4 “
John Trott,	“ 1830 “ 1836,	“ 7 “
George Wheaton,	“ 1830 “ 1855,	“ 26 “
George Wheaton,	1862,	1 “

George Wheaton,	from 1864 to 1878, inclusive,	15	years.
George Pearse,	“ 1832 “ 1835,	4	“
Benjamin Eddy,	1832,	1	“
Benjamin Eddy,	“ 1837 “ 1845,	9	“
Suchet Mauran,	1832,	1	“
Suchet Mauran,	“ 1837 “ 1851,	15	“
Barnard Smith,	1832,	1	“
Paschal Allen,	1832,	1	“
James Coffin,	1832,	1	“
James Coffin,	“ 1842 “ 1854,	13	“
Miller Barney,	1832,	1	“
Samuel Barton,	1832,	1	“
Samuel Blake,	1832,	1	“
William Slade,	1832,	1	“
Benjamin Bosworth,	1832,	1	“
Nathan M. Wheaton,	1832,	1	“
Hail Collins,	1832,	1	“
Hail Collins,	“ 1837 “ 1855,	19	“
Allen Hoar,	“ 1836 “ 1837,	2	“
John Troop Child,	1832,	1	“
John Troop Child,	“ 1836 “ 1859,	24	“
John Troop Child,	“ 1863 “ 1865,	3	“
Sterry Martin,	“ 1837 “ 1855,	19	“
George G. Hazard,	“ 1841 “ 1854,	14	“
George G. Hazard,	“ 1860 “ 1861,	2	“
Luther Cole, 2d,	“ 1844 “ 1855,	12	“
John Pearce, Jr.,	“ 1844 “ 1854,	11	“
William H. Turner, Sr.,	“ 1844 “ 1854,	11	“
William H. Turner, Sr.,	“ 1856 “ 1863,	8	“
James Gardner,	“ 1844 “ 1862,	19	“
James Gardner,	1864,	1	“

George W. Carr,	from 1846 to 1855, inclusive,	10	years.
Charles T. Child,	“ 1851 “ 1862, “	12	“
Charles T. Child,	1864,	1	“
George Lewis Cooke,	1855,	1	“
Allen M. Brown,	1863,	1	“
Daniel L. Turner,	“ 1864,	15	“
George Munro,	“ 1865 “ 1870, “	6	“
Elbridge G. Wheaton,	“ 1865 “ 1867, “	3	“
William Haile,	“ 1866,	13	“
Luther Cole, Jr.,	“ 1867 “ 1870, “	4	“
Luther Cole, Jr.,	“ 1874,	5	“
George H. Brown,	“ 1868 “ 1873, “	6	“
Henry W. Eddy,	“ 1869,	10	“
Alfred B. Gardner,	“ 1871 “ 1875, “	5	“
Lawton I. Ware,	“ 1871,	8	“
William H. Turner, Jr.,	“ 1872 “ 1875, “	4	“
John Waterman,	“ 1876,	3	“
Charles H. Handy,	“ 1876,	3	“

There have been *seven* Rectors, as follows :

The Rev. George W. Hathaway,	from 1830 to 1851,	21	years.
“ John Kelley,	“ 1852 “ 1856,	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	“
“ Eaton W. Maxcy, Jr.,	“ 1857 “ 1861,	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	“
“ John Milton Peck,	“ 1861 “ 1863,	2	“
“ William C. Mills,	“ 1864 “ 1866,	3	“
“ Leander C. Manchester,	“ 1867 “ 1873,	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	“
“ William N. Ackley,	“ 1873, present incumbent,		
		5	years.

The Rev. John Bristed, Rector of St. Michael's Church, Bristol, officiated once on every Sunday for 18 months in 1828, 1829 and 1830.

The following persons from St. Mark's Church have entered the Ministry, viz. :

The Rev. Charles E. Bennett.

“ “ James Mulchahay, D. D.

“ “ J. M. Clayton Eddy.

“ Rt. Rev. George M. Randall, D. D., late missionary Bishop of Colorado.

The Rev. John Milton Peck.

“ “ William H. Collins.

“ “ Walter H. Moore,

“ “ Charles R. Talbot.

Charles E. Moore, A. B., is a candidate for Holy Orders.

The total number of Baptisms is	534.
“ “ “ “ Confirmations is	385.
“ “ “ “ Communicants is	489.
“ “ “ “ Marriages is	202.
“ “ “ “ Burials is	565.

Not a few of the above named officers have become veterans in their respective positions. Mr. Charles Wheaton served as Parish Clerk for the long period of *twenty-eight* years. Mr. Daniel L. Turner, the present incumbent in that position, has served *twenty-one* years. Mr. Haile Collins acted as Vestryman *twenty* years, and as Senior Warden *seven* years. Mr. James Gardner held the office of Vestryman *twenty* years. Mr. John Troop Child served on the Vestry *twenty-eight* years, and as Treasurer for *fourteen* years, rendering most efficient service in either capacity.

The one who has held a single office for the longest time in the history of the parish is still present to celebrate this anniversary with us. Mr. George Wheaton has held the position of Vestry-



man for the remarkable period of *forty-two* years. May the hour be slow to approach when we shall no longer be able to count him among our numbers; and may a loving Providence soften the touch of time upon him, that he may long be preserved to share in the deliberations of those who legislate in the interests of the parish and to fill the accustomed place to which we shall ever and gladly welcome him in the house of God.

There are doubtless multitudes of other events well worthy to have their story narrated here to-night, many names fresh enough always in your memories and deserving of honor at our hands. If in this poor and imperfect rehearsal, I shall seem to have withheld honor from those to whom it would be accorded in your hearts, I must beg you to believe that my error is one of ignorance, and is not due to any grudging desire to forget any one of the scores of faithful Christian disciples, whose influence is alive among us at this moment. I fain would speak out of a larger knowledge, not of the written records only, but much more of those *lives* which have adorned the history of this parish in years ago.

In this hasty survey we have traversed the written and traditional history that covers fifty years of parish life, and find ourselves rejoicing in the glad facts of the present hour. We seem now to be contrasting what we are to-day with what was the beginning fifty years ago. And the vision takes us back into a closer relation with the fathers, who, by a venture of faith, initiated the holy work. O, how much of any parish record is far away, beyond the reach of any preacher who would declare the story of fifty years! You, who sadly look in vain for beloved forms once so frequent and familiar here, no more to worship with us in temples made with hands, can trace a deeper story than these records of the books or tongue can tell. And yet you can-

not tell the whole. Who shall speak to us fitly of those myriads of other facts—the hearts attuned more and more to the spirit of Christ by the hallowing influences of this sacred place; the bereaved and stricken souls cheered by some glad word from the “Old, Old Story,” seeming a new Gospel in the moment of bewildering grief; the weary wanderers gathered in to the restful shelter of the Master’s fold by the guiding hand of some loving disciple; the souls uplifted, expanded, made nobler and braver for the stern warfare of life;— who shall preach to us of these things in their grandest fullness, till we too have followed our fathers in that path leading upward towards the light, and, in the realms of eternal glory, face to face with those true souls whose memory we now revere, *finish* the story — the story, never before told to the uttermost, of the parish work and the parish life! We have been reading to you to-night the records which man has written with ink in a book; the record written indelibly with the finger of God upon undying souls must be reserved to glorify the loftier and fuller jubilee of heaven.

The hour admonishes me that I must be content to leave these enticing stories, these honored names, fresher in our thoughts for this rehearsal, these memories that crowd together so thickly in your minds, to preach the lesson of the occasion and leave their sacred impress upon your hearts. And yet, in one word more, I want to point back to the two-fold text with which we started out, that we may see thrown side by side the Divine and the human elements in the Church’s life. Verily do we look reverently and trustfully to the great Master alone to cement together the body into one compact unity and to bestow that refreshing strength which enables it to increase “with the increase of God.” But none the less has the Church an identity preserved to it in the human elements of which it is composed. “He that planteth and

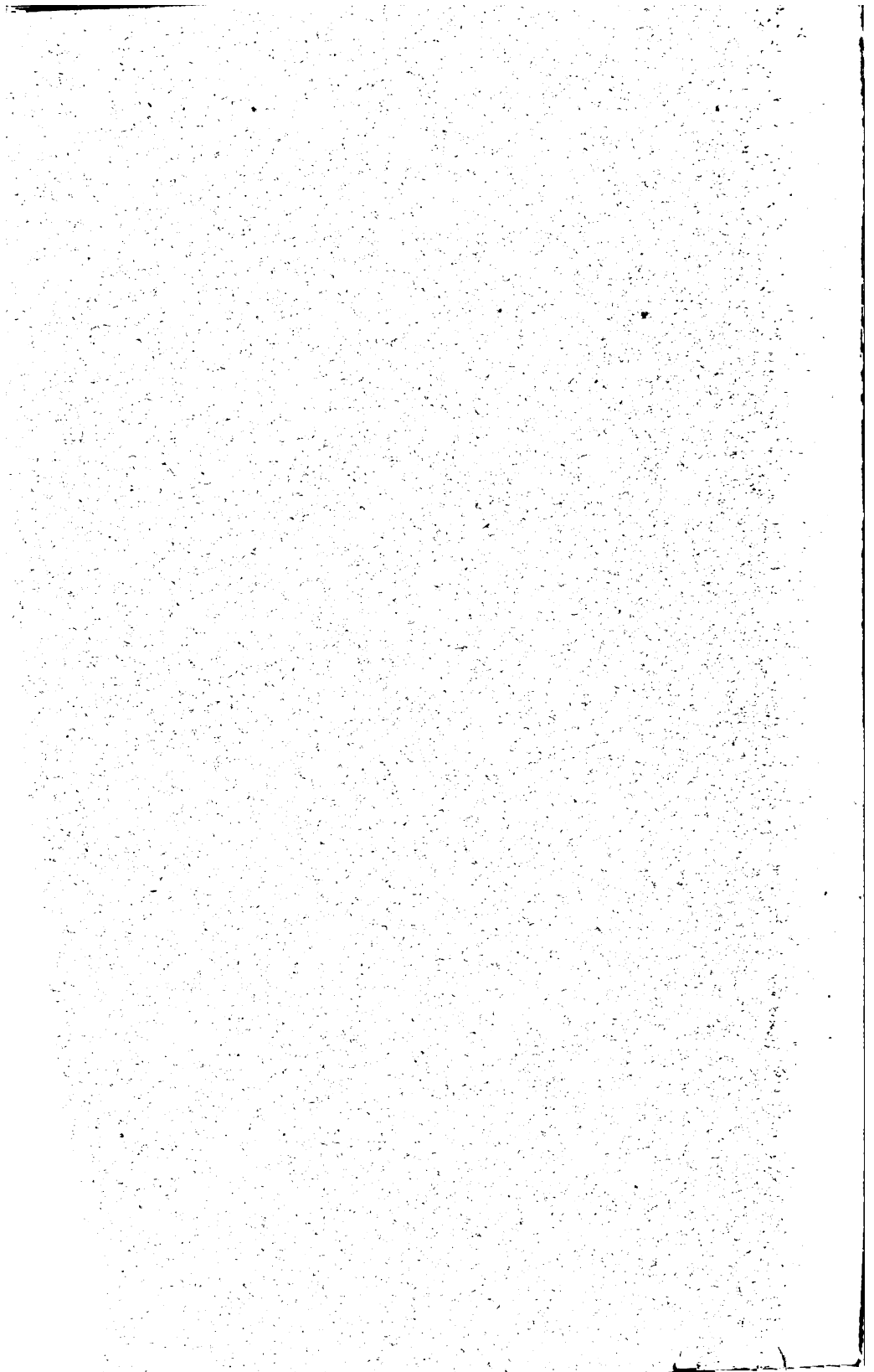
he that watereth are one." The law of the great Church of Christ touches every smallest parish. No branch is an isolated thing. No individual can ever be the whole. Human forms vanish, but the Church and the parish abide and live. Their identity is preserved. Those who have labored in the past and those who are toiling to-day are merely joining forces to perpetuate the identity of our parish, and so, of the great universal Church of God. Whether we plant the tree or furnish nutriment in its maturer years, we aid its growth. In this fact we read our preachment, the admonition to us of this glad hour. For swift time will speedily bring to a close another half century; and *here*, or perchance in statelier temple, Christian men will gather, we may trust, to rejoice over a completed century of parish life. Shall they on that joyful day read our names with pride and over them pronounce for us a beatitude, because our "works do follow" and live after us? Shall we seem to them in that distant moment to have cherished the Body of Christ, to have carried forward this holy work to the glory of the great God and the edification of the Master's kingdom upon earth? From this lofty vantage-ground of vision, whence to-night we look off over the scenes of a half century to gain a prouder conception of Christian devotion and loyalty, to breathe a wider atmosphere and to be uplifted with a livelier inspiration, we are going to descend to-morrow to the dead level of the uneventful life, the monotonous routine of the every day. We can carry with us there, or we can leave behind us, the blessed influence of this bright hour. We can let the strains of our jubilant anthems to-night be lost to our spirits almost before their echoes have died away upon the evening air; or we may suffer them, if we will, to go on in endless refrain within our souls, rousing our powers to an energy of action more worthy to honor the memory of those, whom, though unseen, we

delight to cherish in our hearts. It is indeed, and most fitly too, a moment of mutual rejoicing and congratulation. Let us not begrudge the past its lawful share in our proud remembrance. But there is too a present and a future, both our own. The inspiration drawn from these sacred memories should carry us onward by its very impetus into a new and braver courage. Gratitude and action should ever go side by side. These mutual rejoicings in which our hearts and voices so gladly join to-night should culminate in high and grave resolves; and while the thoughts are busy tracing proudly enticing records of the past, should our quickened vision go out in eager search towards that future full before us, there to find the field where lies our task, the work for our hands to do.









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Pat. Jan. 21, 1908





