

**ST. ANN'S CHURCH, (BROOKLYN,
NEW YORK) FROM THE YEAR
1784 TO THE YEAR 1845, WITH A
MEMORIAL OF THE SUNDAY
SCHOOLS**

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St. Ann's church, (Brooklyn, New York) from the year 1784 to the year 1845, with a memorial of the Sunday schools by Various

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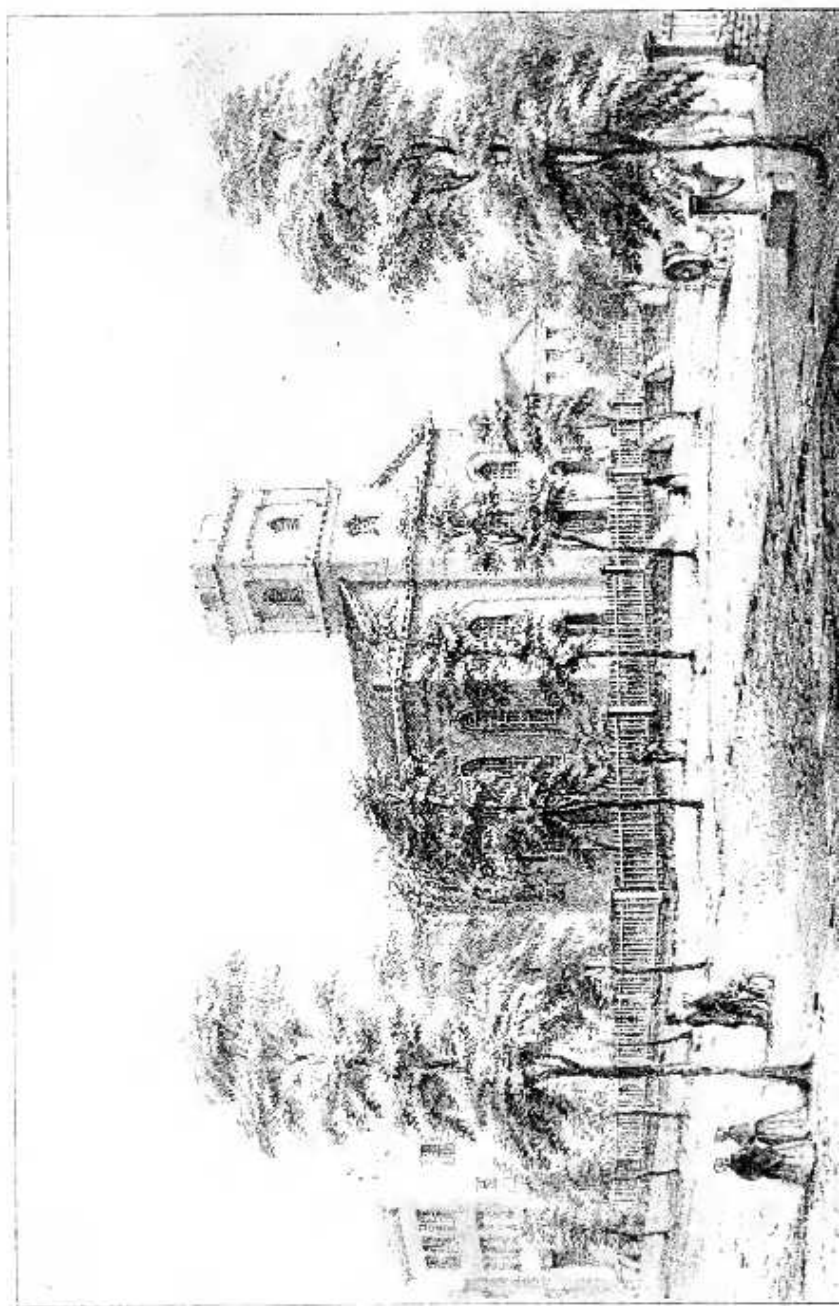
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ST. ANN'S CHURCH,

(Brooklyn, New York,)

FROM THE YEAR 1784 TO THE YEAR 1845.

WITH

A MEMORIAL OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS,

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

AN APPENDIX,

CONTAINING A BRIEF NOTICE OF THE OTHER EPISCOPAL CHURCHES
IN BROOKLYN.

BY A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER.

BROOKLYN:

F. G. FISH, 41 FRONT STREET

1845.

Entered according to the act of Congress, in the year 1846, by F. G. Fish, in the
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PREFACE.

ST. ANN'S was for more than forty years the only Episcopal Church in Brooklyn; and of the Churches of the same Communion that have since arisen within our borders, her members have been the chief founders, or have greatly assisted in the organization. Three of her eleven Rectors have been made Bishops over important Dioceses. She has long been "as a city set on a hill" as to privileges. A goodly company have confessed within her fold "the faith of Christ crucified," and some who made this confession half a century ago are still spared to kneel at her altars and enjoy her ministrations. The instruction which her Sunday Schools provide, evinces her care for the young; and her comparatively liberal contributions to Missionary and kindred objects have caused "very excellent things to be spoken of her."

A knowledge of these circumstances led to the supposition that there might be some points in the history of this Church which, if wrought into a connected narrative, would be of interest to those who had at any time belonged to the parish. With a view to an attempt of the kind, application was made to the Rector, about two years since, to ascertain what materials the records of the Church would supply. These were found on investigation much less complete than was hoped,—affording but little that could be used beyond a list of communicants, and that very defective, or altogether wanting, in the period preceding the year 1800. It was presumed, however, that much of the deficiency of *official* data might be made up from other sources, and especially by individual recollections, and it was therefore determined to prosecute the undertaking,—with little forethought, perhaps, as

to the difficulties of such a course ; for it is certain that none can fully know or appreciate them, who have not been engaged in similar labor. The result will be found in the following pages.

To those who may think that facts and incidents are omitted which should have been inserted, and that some things appear which might better have been left out, it may suffice to say, that all has been gathered which could well be, under the circumstances, and as to the want of any discrimination in the admission of irrelevant matters, the opinions will be as various, probably, as the feelings and tastes of the readers.

The great desire has been to present a Memorial of the **SUNDAY SCHOOLS**—their establishment, progress, and results—in order to excite a warmer and more general interest and sympathy in their behalf. They are emphatically the nurseries of the Church, and hold a relation to the young next in importance to that of the family and the of Pastor,—in some instances, circumstances may give them even higher interest. If they were looked upon with greater favor by the congregation, and oftener visited, and personally aided, the “good they do” might be abundantly increased.

But there are it is hoped many things concerning the Church, also, which her members will be glad to see here collected, and embodied for preservation. They will look back to their “day of small things,” and be thankful for their present enlarged borders and measure of prosperity. Beholding as in a mirror their unsurpassed privileges, they will be reminded of their great and increased responsibilities. The long list of communicants will recall past friendships and associations, and lead, perhaps, to a more earnest “reaching forth to the things which are before!”

If such shall be the effect of this unpretending volume (for pretensions of every sort are disclaimed, as regards both the undersigned and his subject);—if it shall tend in any degree to make the Schools better appreciated, the Church more loved, and its surrounding Missionary field more diligently cultivated; if it shall draw its members into a kindlier and closer fellowship, and excite a stronger sympathy for those who “sit in darkness,” the purpose and aim of the undertaking will be fully answered.

The undersigned has to acknowledge his obligations to several

of the congregation for the favor with which they looked upon his inquiries, and the aid they afforded; and also to some at a distance, for information and valuable hints. One gentleman, especially, who gave a clue by which an important fact was ascertained, deserves mention, as well for the promptness with which he answered a letter of inquiry, as that he has since been removed from earthly scenes. The allusion is to Judge SHERMAN, of Connecticut, whose letter will be found at page 14.

It may be stated as some excuse for any defect in the arrangement or execution of the work, that a considerable portion of the materials has been collected since the printing was commenced. Method or symmetry was thus in a good measure precluded.

But, such as it is, the book is humbly and prayerfully submitted to the members and friends of St. Ann's.

F. G. FISH.

After most of the sheets were printed, they were submitted to the venerable and respected Rector of St. George's, who kindly sent the following note in acknowledgment:

Dear Sir,—I have read with much pleasure your Memorial of St. Ann's Church, Brooklyn. To the congregation, the past annals of their interesting establishment, and especially of its Sunday Schools, will no doubt prove very acceptable, and the gradual growth which both have experienced be a cause of gratitude to the Author and Giver of every good and perfect gift. The correctness of the general history of our Church is much promoted by accurate details of its several departments, and every contribution such as yours thrown into the general stock of materials, is promotive of this end.

Hoping that our beloved brother, its present incumbent, may long be favored to continue his useful labors, and the prosperity of his present charge be continually increasing under the blessing of the Great Head of the Church, I am, very truly yours,

JAMES MILNOR.

St. George's Rectory, N. Y., Feb. 22, 1845.

MR. F. G. FISH.

☞ If the perusal of these pages shall recall any facts or incidents, which have been passed over, calculated to illustrate or throw light upon the history of this Church, their communication to the subscriber, or to the Rector for him, will be considered as a favor.

F. G. F.