

**TWENTY YEARS IN THE SEVENTH
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
NEW-YORK CITY: TWO
SERMONS, DELIVERED JULY 1ST,
1855, PP. 3-65**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649323128

Twenty Years in the Seventh Presbyterian Church, New-York City: Two Sermons, Delivered July 1st, 1855, pp. 3-65 by Edwin F. Hatfield

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

EDWIN F. HATFIELD

**TWENTY YEARS IN THE SEVENTH
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
NEW-YORK CITY: TWO
SERMONS, DELIVERED JULY 1ST,
1855, PP. 3-65**

TWENTY YEARS

IN THE

Seventh Presbyterian Church,

NEW-YORK CITY:

TWO SERMONS, DELIVERED JULY 1ST, 1855,

EDWIN F. HATFIELD, D.D.

NEW-YORK:

PRINTED BY JOHN A. GRAY, 95 & 97 CLIFF STREET.

1855.

TWENTY YEARS
OF
PASTORAL SERVICE.

CHAPTER I.

"**THEN** said they among the heathen, 'The Lord hath done great things for them.' The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad."—Ps. 126 : 2, 3.

THE child of God has continual occasion to admire the wonders of divine grace. From the hour of his conversion to the moment of his emancipation from the body, the grace of God displays itself in all that befalls him. The riches of that grace he can never exhaust, its depths he can never explore. His deliverance from the thralldom of sin and death; his translation from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of

God's dear Son ; his adoption into the household of faith ; his introduction into the fellowship of the Father and of his Son Jesus Christ ; and the sweet consciousness of "the peace of God which passeth all understanding ;" all seem to him, as he awakes from the slumbers of iniquity to a sense of the wonderful grace of which he is made so happy a subject, more like a dream or a lovely vision than an actual experience. With the Hebrew exiles, when restored to the land of their fathers, the blest land of promise, he can say : "When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing : then said they among the heathen, The Lord hath done great things for them. The Lord hath done great things for us ; whereof we are glad."

In the early spring of 1824, the youthful son of an humble tradesman, in an adjacent State, engaged in the service of a merchant in his native town, received, from a schoolmate in the city of New-York, an intimation of a similar situation there that could be secured by a timely application. He came to the city a poor and almost friendless

youth, the recipient of the inconsiderable sum of fifty dollars a year in addition to his board, for his services as a merchant's clerk. At the expiration of the third year of his residence in the city, having been mercifully and marvelously delivered from the ten thousand snares that are there set for the feet of the unwary youth, he was admitted into the fellowship of the Central Presbyterian Church of the City of New-York, and encouraged to seek an entrance into the ministry of the Gospel. Nearly five years more were passed in preparation; and, at the commencement of the ninth year of his separation from the home of his youth, he was solemnly set apart to the sacred office. Three years more were passed in a laborious ministry, mostly in the far West, greatly to his advantage in that most intricate and difficult science, the knowledge of man. An afflictive providence led him once more to visit the scenes of his early youth, when, unexpectedly, he was solicited to become the pastor of a large and flourishing church in the city of his former clerkship. Tremblingly alive to the responsibilities of the position, and shrinking with constitutional sensitiveness from

the public gaze, he yielded, in reliance upon the Divine arm, to the importunities of his brethren, and accepted their call.

Twenty years have now expired since he entered into those solemn relations, and preached his first sermon to the people, who had so cordially and unanimously chosen him to be their pastor. This day he commences the twenty-first year of continuous service in these same relations, a wonder to many, but most of all a wonder to himself. Looking back over the whole period of thirty-one years and more, to the day of his landing on this island a poor, obscure, and friendless boy, among the busy thousands that filled these streets, and contrasting with that deep sense of loneliness that then oppressed him the deeper sense of conspicuousness and notoriety by which he is now so frequently overpowered, he cannot but think and speak of the wonders of that grace which has brought him to this hour. Nothing could have been further from his thoughts, in that early day, than the position of responsibility that he is now called to occupy. The dealings of Divine Providence with him and his, so strange and so un-

looked for, seem more like a dream than a reality, "the grace appears so great." If the world are constrained to say of him and his people, "The Lord hath done great things for them," he and his people are fully prepared to respond, and, with hearts overflowing with gratitude, to exclaim: "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad."

The occasion calls for a devout recognition of the hand of God, my brethren, in the eventful history of this congregation for the last twenty years. I propose, therefore, to "call to remembrance the former days," and to "stir up your pure minds," by a rehearsal of some of the great things which the Lord hath done for us during the period of my ministry among you. It will deepen, I trust, our sense of the fluctuating and transitory nature of these earthly things, to glance at the changes which have in the mean time come upon our city, our neighborhood, our congregation, our households, and ourselves; it will serve to humble us all in view of the little that we have done for God, in comparison with the much that he has done for us; and to quicken us to a renewed conse-