

**FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY,  
LOWELL, MASS., MAY  
9TH AND 11TH, 1879**

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Fortieth anniversary, Lowell, Mass., May 9th and 11th, 1879 by Various

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**VARIOUS**

**FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY,  
LOWELL, MASS., MAY  
9TH AND 11TH, 1879**



John Street Congregational Church.



FORTIETH



ANNIVERSARY



Lowell, Mass.,

May 9 and 11, and June 8, 1879.

Vox Populi Print: Huse, Goodwin & Co., 130 Central Street, Lowell.



REV. S. W. HANKS.



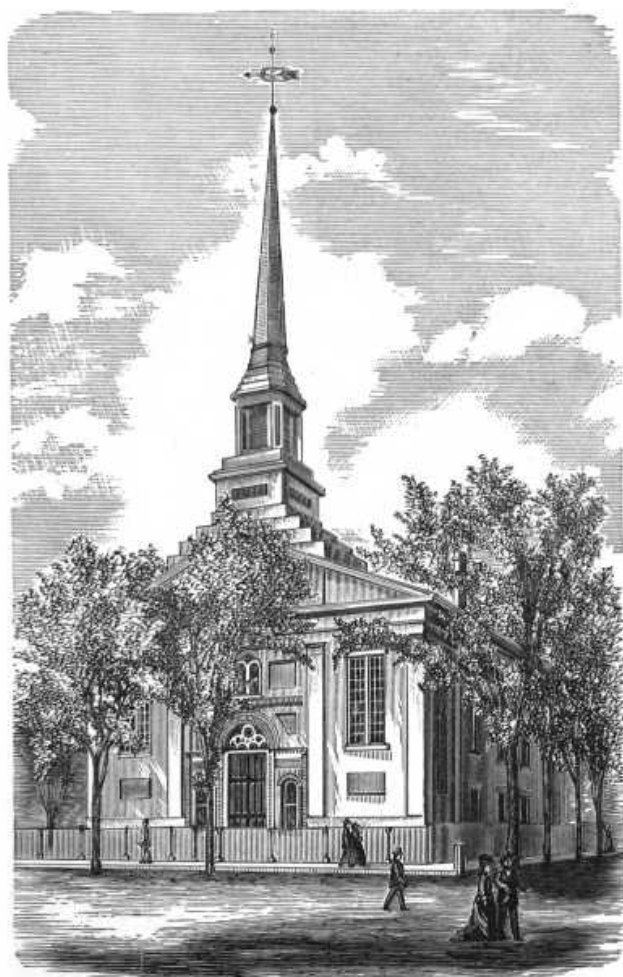
REV. J. W. BACKUS.



REV. E. B. FOSTER, D. D.



REV. JOSEPH B. SEARBY.



JOHN STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,  
LOWELL, MASS.

JOHN STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

*— — long, church*

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# FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

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LOWELL, MASS.,

May 9th and 11th, 1879.

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LOWELL, MASS. :

VOX POPULI PRINT: HUSE, GOODWIN & CO., 130 CENTRAL ST.

1878.

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LOWELL, May 12, 1879.

REV. J. B. SEABURY:

*Respected and Dear Sir*—We believe it to be the unanimous wish of the John Street Congregational Church and Parish, that the historical discourse, preached by you on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of that church, last Sunday morning, should be preserved in a permanent and accessible form. We therefore take great pleasure in soliciting from you, on behalf of ourselves and many besides, the manuscript of your sermon for publication. If consonant with your many pressing duties, we would also request that you would edit and prepare for the press an account of so much of the other commemorative services as, in your judgment, will be valuable for present and future use—especially reproducing the addresses of our venerated pastor *emeritus*, Rev. Dr. E. B. Foster, and the Superintendent of our Sunday School, Hon. George Stevens. In acceding to this invitation, you will not only confer upon us a personal favor, but likewise, we feel certain, will perform a genuine service to the cause of Christianity in our city.

Trusting that you will respond favorably to these requests, we subscribe ourselves

Yours, in cordial fraternity,

JEFFERSON BANCROFT.  
GEORGE M. ELLIOTT.  
WM. H. ANDERSON.  
JAMES GIBSON.  
JOHN S. COLBY.  
WM. F. ENG.  
E. B. ADAMS.  
WM. MOREY.  
J. J. JUDKINS.  
J. C. WING.  
R. L. READ.  
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CHAS. W. BROWN.  
SAMUEL N. WOOD.  
JOSIAH GATES.  
A. B. KITTEDGE.  
ABNER KITTEDGE.  
J. L. SARGENT.  
DAVID TENNEY KIMBALL.  
JOHN TRIPP.  
GEO. C. OSGOOD.

LOWELL, May 28, 1879.

MY DEAR FRIENDS:

With a heart-felt desire to secure for our recent anniversary the most tangible and permanent fruits, and in most grateful recognition of your kindness, I take pleasure in submitting to your disposal the manuscript copies of the Historical Discourse and Addresses solicited. May the perusal of these pages serve to perpetuate the good results already gained, by strengthening the ties of our Christian fellowship, by quickening us to cherish more deeply the memory of the honored dead, and by fitting us the better for the labors of the future.

Most sincerely yours,

J. B. SEABURY.

Messrs. JEFFERSON BANCROFT,  
GEORGE M. ELLIOTT,  
And Others.



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## ANNIVERSARY SERVICES.

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THE opening exercises of our Fortieth Anniversary were held in the vestry on Friday evening, May 9, 1879. This being the evening for our weekly prayer-meeting, it was thought wise and fitting not to deviate from our custom. The words suggested as appropriate to the occasion were these: "One is your Master, even Christ, and all ye are brethren." In the flush of many memories, the brethren feelingly spoke of the crowding associations of the past, the changing aspect of earthly scenes and the abiding nature of divine truth, the unity of all Christians in the faith of Christ and His ultimate triumph through the church. Thoughts of this character were expressed by Revs. S. W. Hanks of Cambridge, J. W. Backus of Rockville, Conn., D. L. Furber, D. D., of Newton Centre, and Hon. Joseph White of Williamstown. At the close of the meeting, more than an hour passed socially. A large number of the present and some of the earlier, members of the church were in attendance, and contributed to the interest of the occasion. Letters were read from Revs. A. P. Foster of Jersey City, N. J., and F. B. Doe of Ripon, Wis., Mr. Judah Crosby of Montclair, N. J., and Mr. Jehiel Todd of Worcester, all of them former members of the church. Remarks of an informal character were made by Mr. C. C. Chase of Lowell, and Rev. Dr. Furber.

The more formal exercises of commemoration were reserved for the Sunday following, May 11th. The pulpit and table in front were tastefully adorned with flowers. Bordering the arch back of the pulpit was a strip of evergreen, and above the key-stone were the figures "40" in evergreen. At 10½ o'clock the usual Sabbath morning services were held; an historical discourse was delivered by the pastor. The introductory exercises were by the former pastors of the church. At 2½ p. m. occurred the anniversary of the Sabbath School. The Superintendent, George Stevens, Esq., conducted the exercises. He gave brief historical sketches of those superintendents who had passed away, read a letter from one who was unavoidably absent, Mr. Ezra B. Adams, and introduced the other superintendents now living, Nathan Allen, M. D., and Mr. Robert L. Read, both of whom made addresses. Rev. S. W. Hanks and Mr. Charles G. Chase of Brookline, Mass., spoke upon the early history of the church and Sabbath school. In the evening, at 7 o'clock, anniversary addresses were delivered by Rev. E. B. Foster, D. D., pastor *emeritus*, Rev. J. W. Backus, Hon. Joseph White and Rev. D. L. Furber, D. D. The last-named gentleman read a selection of scripture from the volume used by the church on the first Sabbath of its public worship, forty years ago. Rev. Mr. Hanks was expecting to deliver an address, but, owing to the lateness of the hour, gave way to the last speaker. These four anniversary gatherings comprised an aggregate of more than ten hours of happy and quickening reminiscence. Letters were read from Rev. W. I. Budington, D. D., of Brooklyn, N. Y., and Rev. C. D. Barrows of Lowell. After brief remarks and prayer by the pastor, a hymn was sung, and the pastor *emeritus* pronounced the benediction.