

**THE HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FOUNDING OF THE FIRST
CHURCH, BURLINGTON, VT.:
FEBRUARY TWENTY-THIRD TO
TWENTY-SIXTH, 1905**

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The Hundredth Anniversary of the Founding of the First Church, Burlington, Vt.: February
Twenty-Third to Twenty-Sixth, 1905 by Various

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VARIOUS

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THE CHURCH AS ENLARGED, 1905

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OF THE FOUNDING

OF

THE FIRST CHURCH
BURLINGTON, VT.

February Twenty-third to Twenty-sixth
1905

Published by the Church
October, 1905

US 12328.40

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By exchange

INTRODUCTORY

This book holds such memories of the First Church Centenary as are capable of being recorded in printer's ink. Here is an outline of the three days' programme, the historical address and other historical matter pertinent to the time, and other addresses and memorabilia. Here is also a group of pictures of significance, the whole constituting a summary of the life of the Church for its first century, of real and enduring value.

The pity of it all is that the things which most swayed the men and women who took part in the fine services of that memorial time are not here recorded and will not submit themselves to any such record. Those who read this book in other years will be fortunate if at best some stirring of the spirit follows the turning of its pages as one evokes some subtle, ghost of fragrance from the petals of long sundered flowers.

The observance was the outcome of long and eager preparation. More than two years before the time to keep it the matter was canvassed by the Church, committees were appointed and other preparatory steps taken. Still later, the Church with rare courage and generosity undertook extensive alterations of the old familiar red-brick church. That work was in a degree typical. The inheritance of the past was unchanged save as it might be projected, enriched and augmented. The prophecy of the old lines found their fulfilment in ampler proportion and statelier form. That was all.

Meanwhile the committee of preparation worked out detail by detail the completed order, sent its invitations from sea to sea summoning the children to their mother's knee, and asked the generously yielded cooperation of wise and strong denominational leaders. The Church approved the perfected plans, and the dates to be kept came at last.

It is impossible to speak of those days in detail other than the detail given here; and quite as impossible to carry a really adequate impression of the whole movement. It was after all only the doings of one parish—not great as parishes go—thanking God for a hundred years. And a hundred years is no long time. But

nevertheless for a little the Church became a holy place. The great permanent qualities of life had the right of way. Gratitude, love, recollection, hope, joy and sorrow, renewals of fellowship, poignant yearning, met to constitute a mounting tide upon which the events of the whole commemoration were nobly and tenderly borne. The press of the city gave full and sympathetic reports. The people of the other churches were interested attendants and the people of the parish put by their ordinary occupations and followed the doings session by session. Every spoken word was nobly commensurate to the occasion, every department of the church's life found its historian. The dedicatory service Sunday morning led the congregation to the summits of the mountains of joy; the afternoon sacrament gathered them in gratitude and humility about the table of the Lord; and the Sunday evening meeting led them to forget themselves in the larger denominational vision, and so left them. And over it all from day to day brooded a mid-winter peace. The God of the clouds and winds withheld his creatures while his children walked in light.

Out of it all the Church emerged with a renewed consciousness, historical, corporate and spiritual. From that day until now the tide of spiritual life in the Church has been deeper and more constant, the loyalty of the people to the kingdom more stable, and their joy and pride in their inheritance more evident.

THE FIRST CHURCH STUDY,

October 11, 1905.

SKETCH OF THE CELEBRATION

In anticipation of its Centennial celebration The First Church of Burlington appointed January 28, 1904, a *Centenary Committee* to arrange the details of the commemoration and to carry them into effect. This committee consisted of the following persons: Rev. G. G. Atkins (Pastor), W. J. Van Patten (Chairman), Prof. J. E. Goodrich, Harris H. Walker (Secretary), Clarence L. Smith, Mrs. E. H. Powell, Mrs. H. A. P. Torrey, Mrs. C. L. Woodbury, Mrs. C. M. Smith, Miss Jennie Stacy.

The Sub-Committees appointed were as follows:*

Invitation: J. E. Goodrich, Mrs. E. H. Powell, Miss Jennie Stacy.

Entertainment: Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Howard, C. P. Smith, Reed Powell, Mrs. E. M. Styles, Miss Anna Johnson (Chairman).

Social: Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Peck, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Beach, W. H. Wood (Chairman), Mrs. S. M. Platt, Mrs. C. L. Woodbury.

Music: Rev. G. G. Atkins, Mrs. Wm. J. Van Patten, C. L. Woodbury, Franklin Riker, J. D. Bartley.

Decoration: W. G. Reynolds, Miss Harriet Wright, Miss Gertrude Powell, Mrs. E. H. Walker, Miss Lucy Torrey, Mrs. E. P. Woodbury, George L. Pease, Fred M. Gould, Fred B. Wright.

Finance: W. B. Howe, F. W. Perry, C. S. Van Patten.

Printing: Wm. J. Van Patten, J. E. Goodrich, N. K. Brown.

The letter which follows, with an outline of the proposed exercises, was sent to every former member of the church and to every absent member, whose address could be ascertained:

Dearly Beloved:—

THE FIRST CHURCH IN BURLINGTON purposes to celebrate the completion of its first hundred years on Thursday, the twenty-third of February next, and desires to welcome as large a gathering of its membership as can be secured. The public exercises arranged for are shown on the leaf annexed, among them the rededication of the enlarged church edifice, the Moderator of the National Council preaching the sermon.

*This list of Committees is copied from the Church calendar. Some changes were subsequently made.

THE FIRST CHURCH

The Church extends a most cordial invitation to all whose names have ever been on its roll to return and help to keep the feast, and make this occasion at once a profitable retrospect and a glad reunion. This letter is sent to every living (former) member of the church whose address can be ascertained. The Church and Society desire to consider as their guests all who can accept this invitation.

Each person who finds his name written below will please regard this as a personal request and mail his answer as soon as possible to the Chairman of the Committee, that the address of his host may be sent him in good time. If distance, occupation or circumstances which you can not control shall make it impossible for you to attend will you not send us a word of greeting, reminiscence and cheer, and help us in a great loyalty of evident love to recall the past and meet the future.

With the cordial salutations of the Church,

Yours in the hopes of the Gospel:

G. GLENN ATKINS, Pastor.

WM. H. WOOD, Clerk.

WM. J. VAN PATTEN,

Chairman Centenary Committee.

JOHN E. GOODRICH,

MRS. E. H. POWELL,

MISS JENNIE STACY,

Committee of Invitation.

Burlington, Vermont, January 27, 1905.

To.....

The Churches specially invited were the following:

All the churches of the City; also, the University of Vermont.

All the Congregational churches of Chittenden county: viz. those of Charlotte, Colchester, Essex, Essex Junction, Hinesburg, Jericho, Jericho Center, Milton, Richmond, Winooski.

Also, the Congregational churches of the following towns: Bennington (First and Second), Brattleboro, Middlebury, Montpelier, Rutland, Saint Johnsbury (North and South).

Also, the Western Vermont Congregational Club.

CONDENSED PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23.

3:30 P. M. Prayer by the Rev. Frank D. Penney of the Baptist Church.

Address of Welcome by the Pastor of the Church.

Address before the Western Vermont Congregational

Club on "The Mission of the Spirit," by the Rev. H.

F. Dewey, D. D., of Brooklyn, N. Y.

Prayer and Benediction by the Rev. Lucius F. Reed

of Montpelier.