

**A MEMORIAL DISCOURSE ON THE
OCCASION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE CONCORD FEMALE
CHARITABLE SOCIETY DELIVERED IN THE
NORTH CHURCH. CONCORD, N. H. ON
SUNDAY EVENING, JANUARY 26, 1862**

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A Memorial Discourse on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Concord Female charitable society delivered in the north church. Concord, N. H. On Sunday evening, January 26, 1862 by Nathaniel Bouton

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NATHANIEL BOUTON

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MEMORIAL DISCOURSE

ON OCCASION OF

THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

OF

The Concord Female Charitable Society,

DELIVERED IN

THE NORTH CHURCH,

CONCORD, N. H.

ON SUNDAY EVENING, JANUARY 26, 1862.

BY

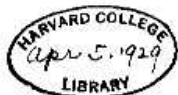
NATHANIEL BOUTON,

PASTOR.

CONCORD:

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1862.

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Lawrence Shaw Mayo

CONCORD, February 5, 1862.

REV. DR. BOUTON:

Dear Sir—At a meeting of the Directors of the CONCORD FEMALE CHARITABLE SOCIETY, held on Friday, the 4th instant, it was unanimously

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Rev. Dr. BOUTON for the very entertaining address delivered by him before the Society, on the evening of Sunday, January 26, and that a copy of the address be requested for publication.

The undersigned were designated a committee to execute the purpose of the Society; and, while discharging their pleasing trust, desire to add their personal hope that the request of the Society may be granted.

MRS. SAMUEL COFFIN,

MRS. EZRA CARTER,

MRS. HENRY MCFARLAND.

TO THE MEMBERS
OF THE
CONCORD FEMALE CHARITABLE SOCIETY

(PRESENT AND FUTURE)

This Memorial is here respectfully inscribed,

BY THE AUTHOR.

CONCORD, Feb. 11, 1862.



DISCOURSE.

MATTHEW XXVI: 13.

Verily I say unto you, wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her.

WE are assembled this evening to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Concord Female Charitable Society: an Institution whose origin, objects and results entitle it on this occasion to honorable mention, and form for it a MEMORIAL worthy to be handed down to future generations. In some points, there is a beautiful analogy between the case of the woman whose single act of affection and sacrifice for her Saviour is so highly commended, and that of this Society whose deeds we propose to rehearse and commemorate. These points of analogy will become sufficiently apparent in the course of our narrative.

In attempting to perform the pleasing though laborious work assigned me, this evening, I shall aim to gather the materials which have been accumulating through fifty years, and weave them into a history, with its various incidents, both to give interest to the details and distinctness to the whole. Most naturally we begin where the Society itself began; that is —

ITS ORIGIN.

It were easy at this time to put down the date *when*, and the place *where* this Society originated; but its origin

has itself a history worthy of note and remembrance. To appreciate it aright, we must step back fifty years in the course of time, and survey things as they then were. Observe, therefore, that at that period Concord was a respectable farming town, containing less than three thousand souls, scattered over a surface more than seven miles square; that all the territory and population were comprised in one parish, having a single pastor, whose office made it his duty to visit the poor, the sick and afflicted in the most remote districts; to attend all funerals, and to exercise a pastoral care over the whole flock. Then no alms-house and farm furnished a home for the poor; but those who were so unfortunate as to be of that class, and whom necessity compelled to ask aid of the town, were bid off annually, at the lowest rate that economy, not to say parsimony, could afford.* Hence there were many cases where want pressed hard; but the sufferers chose such a lot rather than be cast on the cold charity of the lowest bidder! We will not stop here to descant on the difference between public and private charity: enough, that the one is a necessary gratuity, required, indeed, by beneficent law; the other, a spontaneous gift, prompted by a kind heart. One, cold and thankless; the other, warm and grateful both to the giver and the recipient.

We have alluded to the pastor as looking after the poor and sick of his flock. Let us accompany him in one of his rides on horseback to a remote district of the town. Starting from home on a cold morning in December, 1811, he passes through the West Parish village, and, by a round-a-bout road through what is called "the Borough," at the distance of seven miles, he dismounts at the door of an humble dwelling some twenty rods east of Horse-hill bridge. The man is an old soldier of the Revolution; †

* The valuable farm and alms-house where the city poor are now supported was established in 1827.

† Jonathan Urann, who deceased in 1840, aged 80 years.

his wife, a deranged woman who used to spend her insane violence in *whaling* the sides of their house with a huge stick. Entering, he finds want, sickness and suffering sadly blended. His heart is touched with pity; he talks and prays with them. Returning at evening to his own comfortable home, the first sentence from his lips expresses the thoughts and wishes of his heart: "*They are very poor, and an effort must be made for their relief.*" But what kind of effort? Who should furnish the relief? At this period, please bear in mind, there was here no charitable society for the relief of the poor. With the exception of the Cent Institution, formed* among a few godly women to aid the New-Hampshire Missionary Society, there was no charitable organization of any kind in the town. What kind of effort, then, should be made to relieve this case of extreme poverty? A call was at once made on a few families, and articles of provision and clothing furnished, which were sent by the hands of the pastor, on his next visit, to this destitute family. This was the beginning.

THE SOCIETY ORGANIZED.

Let us now transfer ourselves from the house of the pastor to that of a distinguished civilian, a gentleman of high position in society, of accomplished manners, liberal views, comparative opulence, and generous christian philanthropy. At the residence of the Hon. THOMAS W. THOMPSON, on the spot where the Pleasant Street Baptist Church is now erected, was gathered, near the close of the month of December, a small social party, such as in former days often added to the pleasure and improvement of Concord society.† "We were greatly obliged," said Mr. Thompson to the wife of the pastor, "for the opportunity recently afforded of assisting the distressed. When similar ones should occur, I would be glad to make the

* Formed by the agency of Mrs. Elizabeth McFarland, in 1804.

† Mr. Thompson afterward moved, and died in the ancient Dea. George Abbot house on Fayette street.