

**HISTORICAL DISCOURSE
DELIVERED IN ST. MARK'S
CHURCH, WARREN, R.I.: SUNDAY
EVENING, NOVEMBER 10, 1878**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649261413

Historical Discourse Delivered in St. Mark's Church, Warren, R.I.: Sunday Evening, November 10, 1878 by W. N. Ackley

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

W. N. ACKLEY

**HISTORICAL DISCOURSE
DELIVERED IN ST. MARK'S
CHURCH, WARREN, R.I.: SUNDAY
EVENING, NOVEMBER 10, 1878**

HISTORICAL DISCOURSE

DELIVERED IN

ST. MARK'S CHURCH,

WARREN, R. I.,

Sunday Evening, November 10, 1878,

BEING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE PARISH.

BY THE

REV. W. N. ACKLEY, RECTOR.

Published by Request.



PROVIDENCE:
PROVIDENCE PRESS COMPANY, PRINTERS.
1879.

W 14403, 10, 21

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
FROM
THE BEQUEST OF
EVERT JANSEN WENDELL
1818

ORDER OF SERVICE.



Hymn 281: - - - - - Tune, Mear.

Sentences, General Confession, Absolution, Lord's Prayer, Versicles.

Proper Psalms: - - - - - 84 and 122.

Lesson: - - - - - Ephesians iv., 1-16.

Creed, Collect for the day, Prayer for the Church Militant, Prayer of
St. Chrysostom.

Hymn 409: - - - - - Tune, Denmark.

SERMON.

Hymn 424: - - - - - Tune, Coronation.

Address by the Rev. George L. Locke, Rector of St. Michael's Church, Bristol.

Hymn 277: - - - - - Tune, Old Hundred.

Collects and Benediction.

SERMON.



COLOSSIANS II., 19: "From which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God."

I. CORINTHIANS III., 8: "Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one."

THE story of fifty years measured against the history of the great world seems brief and insignificant enough, if we view it from the distant standpoint of the indifferent student of the past. Events which give a distinctive character to only a single locality or mark the career of any one generation, may be lost from view amid that tangled web of fact and fancy which we call the history of the past. The eye that looks out over the great ocean, noting only the grandeur of its vastness, sees not the friendly wave over which the proud barque bears securely its freight of precious lives to gladden the hearts in many a home. The genial tide that laves and cools the shores of some quiet bay, is lost to the mind struggling after conceptions of only immensity and depth. Our hearts best become touched with the facts of history when we draw near to the scene of action, and seek to feel the very throbs of the life we are studying. Those events in which we or those near and dear to us have had "a great part" will always enkindle the liveliest interest. The heart lingers fondly over the story of those we love.

There is no more hallowed spot on earth than the family home where loving kindred mingle in mutual offices of tenderness, or hold counsel about the fireside over each one's momentous destiny, infusing heart and energy into the otherwise dull routine of life. And next to the tie of kindred there is no closer bond than that which links together the Master's children into a common brotherhood, whose centre of sacred association is the home of the parish church. As we gather here from day to day to honor our Lord with a united worship, we miss from our ranks those other forms, once bowed within these courts in attitude of reverence, now removed forever from our sight and silent in the hush of death. They have gone from us but they have not, we trust, ceased to be a power. Beloved still in the closer circles where they moved, they are no less honored, we must hope, for their works' sake in the Church of God. We need just such days of commemoration as this to bring into more vivid reality the characters of those who have gone before and help us to a keener perception of the work they achieved. These days of joyful remembrance are finger-posts along the road, not merely showing the way already passed, but much more pointing to the labors still left for us to perform.

Fifty years ago to-night, not far from the present hour, a little band of citizens met in Warren and organized St. Mark's Parish. Your minds are urging me, I am sure, to linger no longer over preliminary words, but rather to hasten on to our parish story of the last half century. And I would desire in the outset, to give expression to my appreciation of the important aid rendered me by a committee of the Vestry, who, at the cost of no little labor, have collated from the records of the corporation such items as they have thought of special interest and importance. Very many of these facts speak for themselves and need no comment,

and if they seem to be presented in a rather statistical form, it will be owing to the necessity for brevity at every point where so much material must claim a place. You will doubtless pardon me, if this discourse shall transgress somewhat the generally prescribed limits of a sermon, seeing that for a long time in the future you will be granted immunity from a similar infliction. Many of the items brought into this record may seem in themselves unimportant to the outside world; but I can fancy that many Christian souls now far away would listen to them with untiring interest, as exhibiting the life of their fathers in the Church; just as the apparently trivial events in any family life are more precious to the members of the loving household than the most thrilling story in the world's great history. In this narrative the events will follow each other as rapidly as possible and be presented in their chronological order.

The Rev. George W. Hathaway, first Rector of this parish, informs us in his private records, that, "at several different times the project of building an Episcopal Church in Warren had been thought of but deferred." "In the year 1812," says the Rev. John Bristed, "the Rev. Mr. Henshaw* (afterwards Bishop of this Diocese) preached several times at Warren with great acceptance, and was requested by its inhabitants to settle among them and build up a church; but Bishop Griswold thought the attempt premature, and nothing was done." I am informed that Mr. Henshaw held a number of his services in the Methodist Church. The reason why the project was abandoned was probably because "the business of the place had received a severe shock by the long embargo that had kept their vessels rotting at the wharves,"

* The Rev. Mr. Henshaw must have officiated at this time as lay reader, as he was not ordained Deacon until June 13, 1813, when he was "precisely" twenty-one years old. He studied in Bristol with Bishop Griswold, and is reported to have had singular success as lay reader in many places.

and because of the war with England which led the citizens "to apprehend still more awful calamities." In 1824 the Rev. Mr. Bristed had an interview "with some of the principal inhabitants of Warren, and proposed to them to have the service of the church performed there, to which they assented." But he was called to Vermont and no farther steps were taken at that time.

"In the year 1828," says Mr. Bristed, "Bishop Griswold asked me if I was willing to undertake the erection of a church in Warren, to which I replied in the affirmative, provided he would preach the first sermon, which he did." The Rev. Mr. Bristed was at this time assistant minister of St. Michael's Church, Bristol, of which parish he afterwards became Rector. His letter of acceptance of the rectorship of that parish reveals the interesting fact that he was strongly moved to accept the position of assistant minister in Bristol by the opportunity thus afforded of beginning the work in Warren, so deeply was he impressed with the importance of the field.

November 4th, in the same year, a preliminary meeting of gentlemen was held at the house of Mr. Freeborn Sisson, looking to the organization of a parish. They adjourned to meet at the same place November 10th, at 6 o'clock, P. M. This house is still standing on the west side of Main street, two doors north of Washington, and on the corner of Main and Jefferson streets. The meetings were probably held in the south front room. On the 10th, the meeting was held, pursuant to adjournment, and the Rev. Mr. Bristed was present and read the following communication :

BRISTOL, November 3d, 1828.

If the people of Warren will exert themselves to raise funds towards defraying the expenses of erecting a Protestant Episcopal Church in their town; the undersigned will, if his life be preserved, early in the ensuing spring undertake to solicit subscriptions for the above purpose among his friends in the cities

of New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore; he will proceed under the written recommendation and sanction of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Griswold, and if his success equal his efforts two years since, when begging for the Rev. B. B. Smith's church in Middlebury, Vermont, he will be able to raise a thousand dollars for the people of Warren towards the building of a new church. The undersigned is also willing, under the auspices and approbation of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Griswold, to minister to the people of Warren, until they can suit themselves in settling a clergyman as their pastor.

(Signed,)

JOHN BRISTED.

The following communication from the Rt. Rev. Alexander V. Griswold, D. D., Bishop of the Eastern Diocese, was also read :

Bristol, R. I., November 3d, A. D. 1828.

I, the undersigned, do hereby declare my very cordial approbation of the plan and efforts as above proposed, to build an Episcopal Church in the town of Warren, being fully convinced that if successful it will be of great benefit to the people there, and to the Church and to religion generally. Without aid from the pious and liberal in other places it will not be reasonably in their power to erect such a house as will probably be useful to accommodate those who will attend worship in it. They who shall generously contribute something to aid them may be assured that it will be a charity well bestowed and which we believe God will bless.

(Signed,)

ALEXANDER V. GRISWOLD,

Bishop of the Eastern Diocese.

After full deliberation it was unanimously voted to organize a parish and build a church edifice. The following-named gentlemen were elected officers :

Wardens :

George Pearce,

George Monroc.

Vestrymen :

Freeborn Sisson,

Seth Peck,

William Carr,

John Pearce,

William Collins,

Amasa Humphrey,

John Stockford,

Charles Wheaton,

Nathaniel Phillips,

John R. Wheaton,

William Turner.