

**HISTORICAL SKETCH OF
THE TWELFTH
CONGREGATIONAL
SOCIETY IN BOSTON**

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Historical Sketch of the Twelfth Congregational Society in Boston by Lewis G. Pray

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LEWIS G. PRAY

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THE TWELFTH
CONGREGATIONAL
SOCIETY IN BOSTON**



TWELFTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH. BOSTON.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

OF THE

Twelfth Congregational Society

IN BOSTON.

BY LEWIS G. PRAY.

PUBLISHED BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY.

BOSTON:

PRINTED BY JOHN WILSON AND SON,

5, WATER STREET.

1863.

TO
THE PROPRIETORS AND PARISHIONERS
OF THE LATE
Timothy Congregational Society,
AND TO
REV. SAMUEL BARRETT, D.D., AND REV. JOSEPH F. LOVERING,
ITS TWO PASTORS,
THIS HISTORICAL SKETCH
Is Respectfully and Affectionately
DEDICATED.

PREFATORY NOTICE.

THE following Historical Sketch of the TWELFTH CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY was undertaken in consequence of friendly intimations that such a sketch was not only desirable, but demanded; and that, if written at all, it should come from the pen of one who had been connected with the Society from its beginning to its close.

Two further considerations induced me to engage in such a work. One of them was, the personal knowledge that there were large numbers of families and of individuals still living, though much scattered, who, having for many years, either at an earlier or later period, belonged to this Society, worshipped at its altar, gathered around its communion-table, received the instructions of its pulpit and Sunday school, and aided or participated in its social meetings and benevolent efforts, could not look back upon those years without regarding them as among

the happiest and the most instructive of their lives. I was assured, from my own convictions and feelings, that such a volume, by whomsoever written, could scarcely fail to be to them one of present, immediate interest; and would excite anew, as often as their eyes should glance over its pages, trains of thought and feeling which they must ever value, and long desire to cherish.

The other consideration was of a more general character, but not without its influence. It was remembered that this Society had a peculiar origin; that it was one of the first-fruits of a very remarkable and interesting ecclesiastical movement; and that, for more than a third of a century, it maintained in itself a vigorous life, and took a creditable part in religious and charitable activities for which the city of Boston has been so highly distinguished. It was further remembered, that recently this Society had been brought to an unexpected close by the operation of causes which it was wholly unable to prevent or counteract; and which causes were unknown to many, or, if known, not properly or fully understood.

Under these circumstances, it seemed due, alike to the Society and its cotemporaries, that

some authentic statements should be prepared, put into a form more permanent than traditions or manuscripts, so that, while it secured the ends proposed, it might also prove, to use the language of a revered writer on a similar occasion, "a contribution, though small, to the ecclesiastical history of New England, and be sure to win the favor of antiquaries, to whom facts are never unimportant or dull."

Influenced by these considerations, the writer has cheerfully prosecuted his work; regretting only, at its completion, that it had not fallen into hands which would have done the subject more ample justice.

Having made free use of the Society's Records, he has to acknowledge gratefully his indebtedness to its last Clerk for a constant access to its books and papers; and to the Chairman of its last Committee for copying official documents, as well as for valuable suggestions and corrections.

In addition to the many names and facts in the body of the work, there will be found in the Appendix others equally interesting.

