

**JAMES BRAND, TWENTY-SIX YEARS  
PASTOR OF THE FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,  
OBERLIN. SOME CHAPTERS FROM  
HIS LIFE. PP. 5 - 47 (NOT COMPLITE)**

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REV. JAMES BRAND, D. D.

# **JAMES BRAND**

**Twenty-six Years Pastor of the First  
Congregational Church, Oberlin**

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## **SOME CHAPTERS FROM HIS LIFE**

**Being a Narrative of Poverty, Privation, and  
Heroic Struggle, as a Boy in a Canadian  
Forest, a Carpenter's Apprentice in the  
"States," a Self-supporting Student  
at Phillips and Yale, and as a  
Soldier of the Army of the  
Potomac in the Cam-  
paign of 1862-63**

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**WRITTEN BY HIMSELF**

**For His Family, Shortly Before His Death**

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**OBERLIN, OHIO  
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1899**

**SECOND PRINTING**

## Introductory Sketch.

[The following, printed in the *Hartford Courant* of April 17, 1899, and written by a Yale classmate now on the editorial staff of that journal, affords to those to whom Dr. Brand was not known, an introductory sketch that supplements and gives added significance to the story told in these chapters.—L. D. H.]

“**H**E WAS Dr. Brand to most people, but not to all. Here in Hartford, and in other Connecticut towns, and scattered all over the country, are old friends to whom he was ‘Jim’ Brand a third of a century ago and remained ‘Jim’ Brand to the last. To them his death is a personal sorrow.

“He came of Scotch stock and had its marks in face and character. He was born

### Introductory Sketch

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in the Dominion of Canada in 1834. This made him twenty-seven years old when, in 1861, he entered Yale College—a very unusual age for a freshman. September, 1862, he enlisted in Company I, Twenty-seventh Connecticut Volunteers. He became sergeant, and color sergeant; was wounded at Fredericksburg; was in the thick of the fighting at Chancellorsville; behaved with distinguished bravery at Gettysburg; was mustered out July 27, 1863, returned to Yale and study, and was graduated with the class of 1866. He was the patriarch in age of the class, its religious leader, and its poet. After completing his divinity course at Andover Seminary, he preached for a year or two at Danvers. Then, in 1873, he was called to the pastorate of the great First Church of Oberlin—the famous 'Finney Church.' There he remained, in ever-increasing use-



### Introductory Sketch

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fulness and honor, until death took him.

"In his earlier years he could have made up very easily as an Indian chief—thanks to the tall, sinewy frame, high cheek bones, straight hair and piercing eyes inherited from his Scotch ancestors. Time's snow on his head only added to the impressiveness of his personality. He contributed constantly to religious periodicals and he published several books—among them 'The Beasts of Ephesus' and 'Sermons from a College Pulpit.' He was a trustee of Oberlin College. Iowa College made him a doctor of divinity in 1884. He was a conspicuous figure at the Congregational Council in London, and again at the World's Congress of Religions in Chicago six years ago. The moral and intellectual integrity of his nature was absolute. The vein of poetry in him was a spring welling out of the solid

### Introductory Sketch

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rock. From youth to white hairs he was manly, upright, sincere, a Christian gentleman, a stanchly loyal friend. Sorrowing Oberlin laid the mortal part of him in the grave Thursday afternoon."

## JAMES BRAND

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### Some Chapters from His Life

**M**Y FATHER AND MOTHER, James Brand and Janet Boyes, were born in 1810, and lived in Lochmaben, Dumfriesshire, Scotland. Lochmaben is in that exquisite region of Annandale made famous by the life and writings of Carlyle. My parents were poor at birth, and remained so to the end. My father seems to have received a fair education for a poor boy in Scotland, and was thus able to teach a country school, an occupation which he followed at intervals through life. The Brands and Boyes are still to be found among the farmers and mechanics of