

# **JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY**

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Jubilee Anniversary by D. T. Fiske

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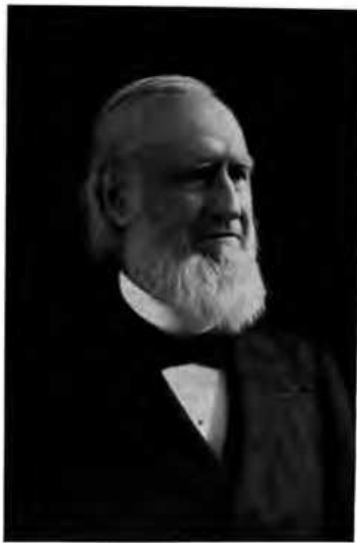
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**D. T. FISKE**

**JUBILEE  
ANNIVERSARY**





REV. D. T. FISKE, D. D.

# **Jubilee Anniversary**

OF THE PASTORATE OF

**REV. D. T. FISKE, D. D.,**

Belleville Congregational Church,

**NEWBURYPORT, MASS.**

**1897.**



PRINTED BY THE CHURCH.

## INTRODUCTORY.

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August 18, 1847, an ecclesiastical council was convened by the Belleville Congregational Church of Newbury, now Newburyport, to ordain its third pastor, Daniel Taggart Fiske. The council included such men as Dr. L. Withington of Newbury; Dr. J. F. Stearns of the First Presbyterian Church, Newburyport; Dr. L. F. Dimmick of the North Church, Newburyport; Dr. D. Dana, ex-pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, Newburyport; Rev. H. B. Smith of West Amesbury, afterwards Professor in Union Theological Seminary, and Professor B. B. Edwards of Andover Theological Seminary, who preached the sermon. After serving the church forty years, Dr. Fiske, against the earnest remonstrances of his people, resigned the active duties of the pastorate, but was induced to remain among them as senior pastor through provisions generously made for his own and an active pastor's comfort. For ten years he has acted well the part of a senior pastor.

Upon the anniversary day last August the weekly prayer meeting was given over to reminiscences, appreciations and testimonies of help and thanksgiving for years

that are past. Dr. Fiske attended, and spoke a message of love and true humility in response to the spontaneous words of his people. The day was further celebrated by the gift to Dr. Fiske of an ebony cane with massive gold head, from Mrs. Sophia C. Hale, the sole survivor of a generation of her family who were the dearest friends of both pastor and church. Mrs. Alice L. Atkinson and her four sons, Cyrus K., Joshua, Josiah L. and Benjamin Hale, presented to Dr. Fiske a large silver loving cup of beautiful design and finish. These tokens of affection and appreciation represented the feeling in many hearts; but the time for any further celebration of the half-century pastorate seemed best deferred to cooler weather, after the vacation season, and after the meeting house should be free from the hands of the decorators then to work upon it. The date selected was Sept. 14, and plans were carefully laid for the event. Dr. Fiske preached an anniversary sermon on the preceding Sunday, Sept. 12, and the active pastor followed it in the evening with another, reviewing the pastorate of fifty years, and expressing his tribute to the life and work and personality of Dr. Fiske. After the exercises of Sunday and Tuesday were over, the Church voted to print the sermon of Sunday and the addresses of Tuesday for preservation.





## ANNIVERSARY SERMON,

PREACHED BY REV. D. T. FISKE, D. D.,

OCTOBER 12, 1897.

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Ps. 36, 7-9.

*"How excellent is thy loving kindness, O  
God! Therefore the children of men put  
their trust under the shadow of thy wings.*

*They shall be abundantly satisfied with the  
fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make  
them drink of the river of thy pleasures.*

*For with thee is the fountain of life; in  
thy light shall we see light."*

Let my first word on this occasion be a word of devout and grateful recognition of the excellent loving kindness of our God, beneath whose overshadowing wings we have rested these fifty years. It is He who, during all these years, has abundantly satisfied us with

the fatness of his house. It is He who has made us to drink of the river of his pleasures. It is He who has been to us the fountain of all our spiritual life, as individuals and as a church. And in that light which emanates from Him have we had our clearest vision of things divine.

The eighteenth day of August last was the Fiftieth Anniversary of my ordination as the third pastor of this church and people. Fresh from the Andover Theological Seminary, with but little experience of life and of Christian service, it was with great diffidence that I here assumed the arduous and responsible work of the Christian ministry; little dreaming that after the lapse of half a century you would still call me "pastor," and I should still call you "my people." But so it is. "Having obtained help of God I continue unto this day." It is chiefly the infrequency of occasions like the present that makes them seem worthy of special commemoration. Once they would have passed without note. In the early history of our country a pastorate of fifty years was nothing uncommon. Of the pastors of Congregational Churches in New England



prior to 1850, about two hundred and fifty might have celebrated their Jubilee Anniversary. The longest of these pastorates covered a period of seventy years; about fifty of them were each sixty years and upwards in length. Since 1850 the celebrations of half-century pastorates have been few and far between. That the third pastorate of the Belleville Church has been so long continued has been due largely to the church itself; and for the last ten years to my young and efficient associates who have taken from my shoulders the heavy burdens of the ministry, and have allowed me to share with you the privilege of being ministered unto.

It seems to me that the work of a Christian minister is second to no other; that the man who is intellectually and spiritually equipped for it represents as no other man does the one force which is to regenerate society, and make men and women Christ-like in character and life. The ministry has its trials, its difficulties, its well-nigh crushing responsibilities; but it has also its blessed compensations; its priceless rewards. On a memorial stone in a rural cemetery is this touching epitaph: "Permitted