

**THE CANTON  
BAPTIST MEMORIAL**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649477708

The Canton Baptist Memorial by Theron Brown

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

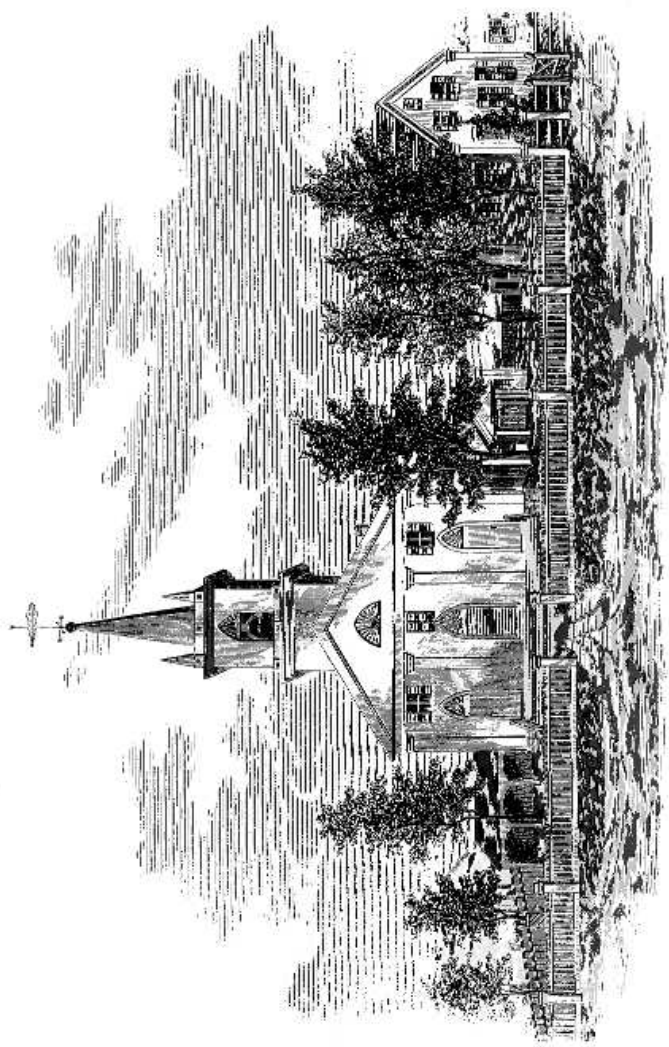
This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**THERON BROWN**

**THE CANTON  
BAPTIST MEMORIAL**





BAPTIST CHURCH, CHAPEL, AND PARSONAGE, CANTON.

THE  
CANTON BAPTIST MEMORIAL,

BEING A HISTORICAL DISCOURSE

DELIVERED BEFORE THE

BAPTIST CHURCH IN CANTON, MASS.,

AT THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY,

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 1864,

BY THE PASTOR, REV. THERON BROWN.

---

GATHER UP THE FRAGMENTS THAT REMAIN, THAT NOTHING BE LOST.—JOHN VI. 12.

BOSTON:  
PRESS OF GEO. C. RAND & AVERY, No. 3, CORNHILL.  
1865.



## INTRODUCTION.

---

THE year 1864 was pre-eminently a year of jubilees. The American Tract Society, the Northern Baptist Education Society, and the American Baptist Missionary Union, completed their half-century then, and honored their birthdays with fit and imposing ceremonies; while Brown University among the colleges, and Fitchburg among the cities, called home glad assemblies of friends to the festivities of their first centennial. Of humbler corporations, remarkable for completing that year the magic fifty, besides our own, were the Baptist churches in Sharon, Westboro', and Webster. The Baptist Church in Warren, R.I., reached the end of its hundredth year on the 15th of November, 1864, and observed the day by a re-union and religious services.

It is perhaps unprecedented in the records of church anniversary solemnities that the occasion transpired without the attendance of a single former pastor. In the case of this church, which could count between twenty and thirty living ministers who had at some time, for a longer or shorter term, cast in their lot with her, and retained yet a tender interest in her life and welfare, to find not one old pastor, and but two of her former preachers, among her guests on the morning of her semi-centennial jubilee, was a grievous and seemingly needless disappointment. Even the first, or as good as the first, of the ministers of the church, the venerable patriarch of ninety, was alive that day in a distant State.



There was, however, but little room for blame in any quarter. The haste of the preparations and the imperfect acquaintance with post-office addresses rendered the disappointment in question almost if not quite unavoidable, and it must be written among the lost opportunities with as much content as may be.

---

### The Jubilee Exercises.

---

The fiftieth anniversary of the Canton Baptist Church fell on Wednesday, the very week-day on which it was constituted. The weather was warm and bright; and the church, with many visiting friends, assembled in the Baptist meeting-house at ten o'clock, A.M., for religious services. The anthem, "Wake the Song of Jubilee," was sung by the choir, after which the sixth chapter of Ezra was read by the pastor, and prayer was offered by Father David Curtis of East Stoughton. The hymn, "I love thy kingdom, Lord," was then sung, and immediately followed by the Memorial Sermon. After the sermon, the anthem, "Daughter of Zion, awake from thy sadness," was sung; Rev. A. F. Mason of Meriden, Conn., offered prayer; and, after the singing of another anthem, the congregation was dismissed, to meet again in the afternoon.

At half-past one, P.M., the church and visitors re-assembled around a bountiful feast in the dining-hall of the Massapoag House. A blessing was invoked by Father Curtis; and, after a hearty discussion of the viands upon the table, letters were read from former pastors Moses Curtis, Henry Clark, T. C. Tingley, David B. Ford, and George W. Hervey, expressing their regrets that they were unable to be present. Short addresses were then made by Father Curtis, Rev. Joseph W.

Eaton, Rev. A. F. Mason, and Deacon Luther Hewins, containing interesting allusions to "the former days;" and Messrs. Addison Boyden and Roland F. Alger, of South Dedham, did ample justice, in stirring and pithy speeches, to the progress and claims of the Baptist cause in New England. Remarks were made also by the pastor; and, after singing "Coronation" together, the jubilee assembly broke up. Rev. J. W. Olmsted, D.D., of the "Watchman and Reflector," arrived too late for the festivities, but made one of a party in an excursion to the old Blackman House to see the room where, fifty years before, the thirty-five constituent members of the church signed their names to the Covenant and Articles of Faith. In the evening, an interesting meeting was held in the chapel; where former preachers took part in the services, and closed with worship a happy and memorable day.

---

In the following history, wherever I have occasion to refer the reader to the church-records, I have inserted in the text parentheses ( ) containing the figures of the page.

Proper names introduced in capitals are those of pastors or evangelists of the church.

Tables of statistics and other important particulars respecting the church, which would have embarrassed the pages of the Memorial, I have placed in the Appendix.

I have to express my obligations to members of the church, past and present, resident and non-resident; to the former pastors and ministers; to many intelligent friends in the town, not connected with us; and to the Editors of the "Watchman and Reflector," and the "Christian Secretary," for their valuable aid in furthering my inquiries and collecting desired information. Special acknowledgments are due to Rev. Kendall Brooks, Rev. J. Ricker, Rev. William Hurlin, Rev. David

Benedict, D.D.; Rev. Baron Stow, D.D.; Rev. Cornelius A. Thomas, D.D.; Professors Ripley, Hovey, and Train, of Newton; Mr. James M. Whitehead, Assistant Treas. Bap. Home Miss. Soc.; Mr. Albert Mason, Mr. Jonas Evans, Ellis Ames, Esq., Alfred E. Giles, Esq., Mrs. Hannah W. Ober, Mrs. Martha H. Moore, Mrs. Abigail Maynard, Mrs. Nabby Capen, Miss S. L. Kimball, and Bro. Alonzo Bunker, Assistant Librarian in Newton Theological Seminary, for their kind assistance in searching for and communicating facts, and for papers lent to me by them, which have enabled me to certify many doubtful points in the history.

I should say here, that, though the body of this history is styled a "Memorial Sermon," the sermon, as originally delivered, forms but the nucleus of the book. Facts and corrections accumulated; and, as what was worth doing at all was worth doing well, the sermon grew into a volume.

THERON BROWN.

*Canton, June, 1865.*