

**HISTORICAL DISCOURSE
DELIVERED AT THE CELEBRATION
OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH
ANNIVERSARY, OCTOBER 1, 1867**

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Historical Discourse Delivered at the Celebration of the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary,
October 1, 1867 by Richard H. Steele

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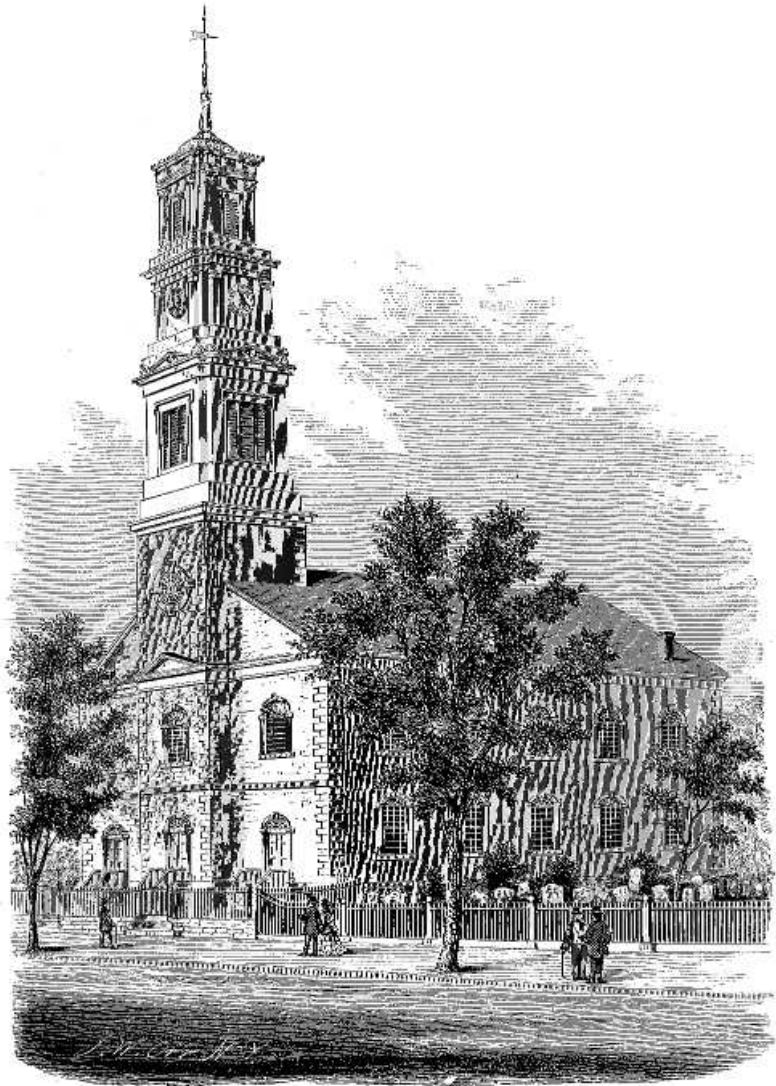
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RICHARD H. STEELE

**HISTORICAL DISCOURSE
DELIVERED AT THE CELEBRATION
OF THE
ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH
ANNIVERSARY, OCTOBER 1, 1867**



FIRST REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH, NEW-BRUNSWICK, N. J.

DEDICATED SEPTEMBER 27, 1819.

HISTORICAL DISCOURSE

DELIVERED AT THE

CELEBRATION

OF THE

One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary

OF THE

FIRST REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH,

NEW-BRUNSWICK, N. J.,

OCTOBER 1, 1867.

BY

RICHARD H. STEELE, D.D.,

PASTOR OF THE CHURCH.

NEW-BRUNSWICK, N. J.:

PUBLISHED BY THE CONSISTORY.

1867.

PREFACE.



THE First Reformed Dutch Church of New-Brunswick, N. J., completed her One Hundred and Fiftieth year, April 12th, 1867. The precise date of organization was not ascertained until quite recently. No written history of the church has ever been published. The task would have been one of comparative ease fifty years ago. Then the children of the early settlers were still living ; records were in existence which have since perished with the disuse of the Dutch language ; and important documents which would have been of great value in forming our narrative have been lost or destroyed. The recovery of our early book of records, incomplete as it is, has been of incalculable benefit. But I have searched in vain for publications of Rev. Mr. Leydt, Jacobus Schureman, Hendrick Fisher, and papers relating to the controversies during the times of Rev. T. J. Frelinghuysen, which are known to have been in existence at the beginning of the century.

We have endeavored to produce a history during a long period when there were no records of consistory kept, and have gathered many of our facts from traditions which yet remain with some distinctness among the peo-

ple. Our work is not complete, but that we have given to it no small amount of labor will be understood by those who have undertaken similar productions. It will be found to present many facts extending beyond our particular church, and embrace materials relating to the town of interest to all our citizens.

The pastor would express his particular acknowledgments to his own people who have kindly assisted him in his investigations, and have directed him to sources of important information. He has found the volumes of William A. Whitehead, Esq., and the Historical Discourse of Rev. Mr. Corwin, of great value in compiling the early part of his narrative. He is indebted to the publications of Dr. Messler and Rev. William Demarest, in writing his history of the life and ministry of Rev. Mr. Frelinghuyzen. Dr. W. B. Sprague has kindly given him access to his unpublished volume of the biographies of ministers of the Reformed Dutch Church, which we hope will soon be issued from the press. His thanks are due to Rev. Mr. Demarest, for translations from the Dutch of letters of Jufvrow Hardenbergh, and for extracts from her journal; to Mrs. Hanson, for important information in reference to her father, Dr. Condict; to Hen. Ralph Voorhees, for papers relating to his ancestor, Minne Van Voorhees, and for the draft prepared by himself and Mr. N. W. Parsells, from which was produced the accurate sketch, by Mr. Thomas N. Doughty, of the "Old Stone Church" erected in 1767, and which gave such interest to our Anniversary; to Mr. John W. Warnshuise, for his assistance in translating our early Dutch records; and to the surviving pastors especially for their information and encouragement in preparing the history.

The Historical Discourse, which comprises the main body of this volume, owes its publication to the following

action of Consistory, communicated through a committee appointed for that purpose :

“NEW-BRUNSWICK, October 8, 1867.
“REV. RICHARD H. STEELE, DD. :

“DEAR SIR: By the unanimous resolution of Consistory, we hereby thank you for the valuable and interesting Historical Discourse delivered October 1st, 1867, on the occasion of the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of our church, and request you to furnish a copy for publication, with suitable notes and appendices, together with the sermon preached on the succeeding Sabbath.

“Very sincerely yours,
LEWIS APPLIGATE,
JOHNSON LETSON.”

The Anniversary was celebrated on the day mentioned in the above note, with suitable commemorative exercises. Invitations had been extended to former members of the congregation and their descendants, to unite with us in the services connected with this interesting occasion. On the morning of that day the following Discourse was in part delivered ; but as the material which had been gathered was deemed too important to be lost, it is now committed to the press as it was originally prepared.

The account of the celebration, with the addresses delivered on the occasion, forming the second part of this volume, was prepared under the direction of the committee, and will be found a correct transcript of an Anniversary long to be remembered.

The pastor sends forth this volume among his people and the friends of the church, with the prayer that this humble effort to produce the history of one of the most important congregations of our denomination, may be the means of awakening within us a new sense of our responsibility to the Lord Jesus Christ, and serve to advance the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom.

PARSONAGE HOUSE, NO. 108 GEORGE STREET, }
NEW-BRUNSWICK, N. J., December 1, 1867. }

One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary

OF THE

FIRST REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH,

NEW-BRUNSWICK, OCTOBER 1, 1867.

The following was the Order of Exercises :

Invocation and Reading the Scriptures.

REV. GABRIEL LUDLOW, D.D.

Prayer.

REV. ISAAC FERRIS, D.D.

Singing.

Celebration Hymn, Written by Rev. PETER STRYKER, D.D.

Historical Discourse.

REV. RICHARD H. STEELE, D.D.

Singing.

Ode, Written by Prof. DAVID MURRAY.

Benediction.

REV. THOMAS DE WITT, D.D.

AFTERNOON.

Anthem.

BY THE CHOIR.

Addresses.

REV. THOMAS DE WITT, D.D.
REV. S. M. WOODBRIDGE, D.D.
REV. CHARLES S. HAGEMAN, D.D.
REV. WILLIAM H. CAMPBELL, D.D.
REV. P. D. VAN CLEEVE, D.D.
REV. DAVID D. DEMAREST, D.D.

Poem.

Prof. DAVID MURRAY.

Prayer.

REV. P. D. OAKLEY.

Doxology.

Benediction.

EVENING.

Reading the Scriptures and Prayer.

REV. Prof. JOSEPH F. BERG, D.D.

Singing.

The Third Jubilee, Written by Rev. JOHN B. STEELE.

Address.

By Senior Ex-Pastor REV. ISAAC FERRIS, D.D.

Doxology.

Benediction.