

**REMINISCENCES: OF BAPTIST
CHURCHES AND BAPTIST
LEADERS IN NEW YORK CITY
AND VICINITY, FROM 1835-1898**

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Reminiscences: of baptist churches and baptist leaders in New York City and Vicinity, from 1835-1898 by George H. Hansell

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GEORGE H. HANSELL

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Geo. H. Haswell

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AND BAPTIST LEADERS
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BY
GEORGE H. HANSELL

With an Introduction

BY
W. H. P. FAUNCE, D. D.

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INTRODUCTION

THE following reminiscences of Baptist history in the metropolis are so lucidly written that the only introduction needed is a word of friendly appreciation. The writer makes no claim to original and scientific research, but he may justly claim intimate association with most of our church leaders for the past sixty years. And while he would be the last to say *quorum pars magna fui*, I may be allowed to say for him that no man among us has been more alert to the conditions of church life in this city, or has rendered more devoted service, than himself.

America is usually impatient of archives and documents. Its face is toward the future and the sunrise. Consequently we are sadly lacking in the historic sense, and in breadth of view. "In to-day already walks to-morrow," said Coleridge. True; but in yesterday once walked to-day; and no man is competent to guide the church to-day unless he knows the church of yesterday. The causes of our present strength, the reasons for present weakness, all lie deep rooted in the years that are gone.

The Baptist churches of this city have had some notable leaders, both in the pulpit and in the pew; men of marked and powerful personality, who im-

pressed themselves deeply on their generation. To revere the memory of past leaders is the way to create leaders in the present. When Israel sang :

We have heard with our ears, O God,
Our fathers have told us,
What work thou didst in their days,
In the days of old,

then Israel was ready for any battle with any foe. Amid the changed conditions of modern city life, new methods are needed ; but the old heroism and simple faith and unswerving devotion are forever indispensable to the coming of the kingdom of God.

Mr. Hansell's friends have urged upon him the duty of writing down a narrative of men and movements. It has been a labor of love on his part, and his only object is to quicken memory and kindle hope and stir us all to new ambition. And though he well knows that he is working in the light of the sunset, he works with serene and steadfast faith in God's great to-morrow. It is an inspiration to us all to see those who have been long in the service growing daily younger in hope and courage and genial optimism, and recalling the past only for the sake of instructing and molding the future, and cheering the young men for their new task. So in the old Greek races, one runner handed on the torch to another. So Jacob cried : "The Angel which redeemed me from all evil bless the lads !"

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