

**SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS. THE
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
OF CHARLES GORDON
AMES: OCTOBER 3, 1903**

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Seventy-five years. The Birthday Celebration of Charles Gordon Ames: October 3, 1903 by
Anonymous

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Chas. Gordon Ames

Seventy-five Years

THE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

OF

CHARLES GORDON AMES

Minister of the Church of the Disciples, Boston

OCTOBER 3, 1903

Our greater birthdays are the days when we enter into truer life,
and come into possession of that inner good which is our proper
inheritance as children of God.—C. G. A.

BOSTON

Geo. H. Ellis Co., PRINTERS, 272 CONGRESS STREET

1903

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More than all speech the Silent Order saith;
All laws of life are articles of faith;
Who loves and seeks for good, behold he prayeth!

Foreword.

The large parlors of the Church of the Disciples were crowded, Saturday afternoon, with parishioners and friends who gathered to celebrate the seventy-fifth birthday of Dr. Charles Gordon Ames. The rooms were beautiful with brilliant autumn leaves and clustered barberry branches, and the faces of the people were radiant with the spirit of the occasion. "We are glad he was born, and we are glad to be his friends," was the prevailing thought which found frequent expression. Seventy-five years are not many when one reaches the end of them with such firm hold on life's best interests and such youthful forward-looking for good yet to come. Successive speakers paid tribute to Dr. Ames's manliness, his faith and goodness, and told of the help he has been in uncounted ways, even to lives that have barely touched his own; but, after all, the impression left by the afternoon was even less of admiration for noble work accomplished than of the love he has won and kept. Loving friendship shuts him in and holds him close, and the sure evidence of it must be dearer to him than any amount of praise and honor.

The first hour was given to informal greetings and congratulations. Dr. and Mrs. Ames stood with children and grand-

children about them, making each friend feel a special, personal welcome. Mr. Edward A. Church presided over the more formal part of the reception.

Mr. Frank Lynes, the organist of the church, opened the exercises with a piano solo, and was followed by the various speakers herein reported. But no report can possibly do justice to the spirit and feeling which characterized these expressions of esteem and affection. An attempt is here made, however, to preserve some formal record of an occasion so memorable to those who shared in its happiness, with a thought also for the friends who could be present only in spirit, but who were equally entitled to a participation in the high festival. Future readers, also, may be glad in this testimony of a noble past, and children's children be proud of this record of their sire.

Representative selections from the letters of many friends have been added, and a poem by William Lloyd Garrison. The closing chapter—a discourse preached in the Church of the Disciples on the day following the celebration—seemed so much a part of the exercises as to make the printing of it both desirable and imperative.

The selected verses at the beginning and the close of the volume are from the poems of Dr. Ames.