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BROOKLYN CHURCH SEMI-CENTENNIALS



PLYMOUTH CHURCH ANNALS



First Presbyterian Church, Williamsburg,
and Dr. Wells



NEW LOTS REFORMED CHURCH



PUBLISHED BY THE
BROOKLYN DAILY EAGLE

CHURCH SEMI-CENTENNIALS



PLYMOUTH CHURCH

South Third St. Presbyterian

East New York Reformed

Special Jubilee Services

History and Reminiscences

Unvailing the Beecher Statue



**OFFICE OF PUBLICATION,
EAGLE BUILDING, BROOKLYN.**

Dr. Wells' Semi-Centennial.

(From Brooklyn Daily Eagle, January 8, 1900.)

The Rev. Dr. J. D. Wells, pastor of the South Third Street Presbyterian Church, preached his fiftieth anniversary sermon in the church yesterday forenoon. There was a good attendance. The Rev. Dr. Wells was accompanied on the pulpit platform by his son, the Rev. Newell Woolsey Wells, co-pastor of the church, who assisted in the service. Dr. Wells chose as his text Philippians iii:12-14: "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect; but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus," etc. He said in part:

"We have now passed with the whole world, out of 1800 into 1900 and felt no jar. It will not be easy for us at once and uniformly to write 19 instead of 18 as the first two figures of all our dates. A lifelong habit of tongue and pen is not easily changed. As people and senior pastor we leave behind us the half of a hundred years and stand together on the threshold of the first year in 1900. As people and junior pastor we have already known nearly the fifth of a century in the sacred oneness of loving fellowship and work. I have personal record in many volumes covering all the years of my pastorate. Including the church register there are four thick quarto volumes of sessional records. I take it for granted that our deacons have preserved in writing all their official transactions and that they have inherited and guarded the records of their predecessors. I know that the trustees have a volume and file of many documents containing the entire financial history of the congregation. In fifty volumes of annual minutes the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America has preserved in print the statistics of this and all the churches under their care. And nothing has been more suggestive of progress as the years have been multiplied than the increase in the number of pages and the items of information of their successive volumes. I hold that our church life and work have made an important part of the history of the community in the village of Williamsburgh, the City of Williamsburgh, the City of Brooklyn and now the City of Greater New York. For nearly twelve years the church was under the care of the Presbytery of New York; fifteen under the Presbytery of Nassau and now twenty-nine years under the Presbytery of Brooklyn, in all, fifty-five years, six months and twelve days. Moreover, it has strongly felt and in a small measure helped, the onward movement of the nation and the world and the coming of the kingdom for which the earth was created and the stars keep their courses in the heavens.

"Some time I may speak to the present generation of facts that were recorded fifty years ago regarding the manner of our coming together as people and pastor. That the relation continues until this day I trust is in accordance with the will of God. But it is certainly due largely to the marvelous loving kindness, patience and forbearance with which the people, including the official brethren, bore the infirmities of my early years, and you, of the present, bear the infirmities of my old age. A sense of justice to you and myself constrains me to add that any timely and loving intimation that my work for you is done will lead to very prompt attention on my part. While I dare not take the initiative, lest I misinterpret the will of God and your wishes, I am perfectly clear in the conviction that I have no right to leave you under a heavier burden than you ought to

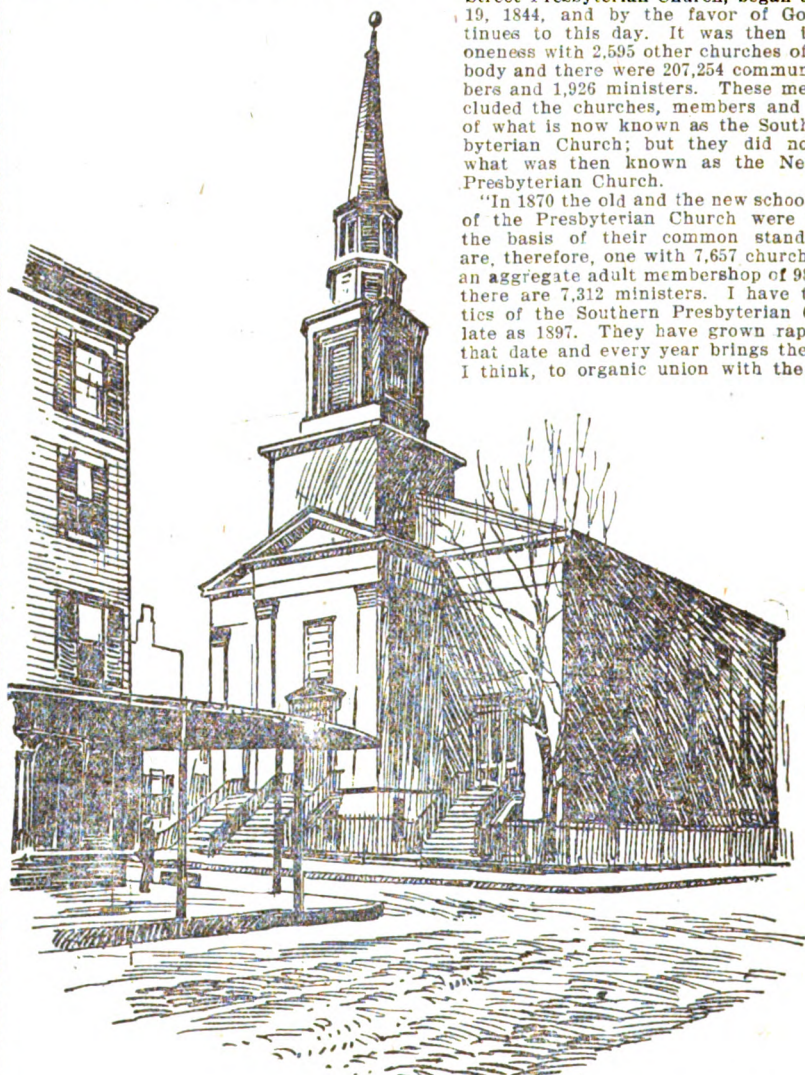
bear one moment beyond the time when I can give you relief.

"Of statistics from reliable sources the following must suffice: The average annual addition to our adult membership has been 32. Of these 14 have come on confession of Christ, 655 infants have been baptized. Six hundred and twenty-one marriages have been solemnized. Two hundred and ninety-five adult members have entered into rest. Of these, John G. Bollinger, Robert Fairservis,

General Assembly, through our Presbytery, with any of the columns blank.

"What is a church? A particular church consists of a number of professing Christians, with their offsprings, voluntarily associated together for divine worship and godly living, agreeably to the holy scriptures, and submitting to a certain form of government. Within the close lines of this scriptural definition the Presbyterian Church of Williamsburgh, now called by the name of the South Third Street Presbyterian Church, began to be April 19, 1844, and by the favor of God it continues to this day. It was then in organic oneness with 2,595 other churches of the same body and there were 207,254 communing members and 1,926 ministers. These members included the churches, members and ministers of what is now known as the Southern Presbyterian Church; but they did not include what was then known as the New School Presbyterian Church.

"In 1870 the old and the new school branches of the Presbyterian Church were united on the basis of their common standards. We are, therefore, one with 7,657 churches having an aggregate adult membership of 983,937, and there are 7,312 ministers. I have the statistics of the Southern Presbyterian Church as late as 1897. They have grown rapidly since that date and every year brings them nearer, I think, to organic union with the Northern



SOUTH THIRD STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Mrs. Sarah E. Nichols, the last corporate member with us; Dr. Jas. L. Kortright, ruling elder; Dr. C. H. Schapps, Thomas King and Miss Ann McCracken left us during the year just closed. And of these I might give much pleasant testimony did time permit. Sixty-one infants, whose names are on our register, have been gathered home. In fifty years we have given \$23,330 to home missions and \$35,419 to foreign missions. Rarely, through all these years, have we sent a report to the

church. Adding the churches, members and ministers as they were in 1897 and we have 10,473 churches, 1,195,661 adult members and 8,705 ministers. Moreover, the body of which we are a living part is in much closer touch with the whole of Protestant Christendom than it was fifty years ago. Heart throbs with heart in the great work of giving the gospel to the world. Of this there will be an impressive demonstration when in April next the ecumenical conference of foreign

missions will meet in Manhattan Borough of Greater New York. This conference will represent all the Protestant societies conducting foreign missions to unevangelized peoples in the world and all missionaries so employed. Hundreds of delegates from this and other lands will be present.

"From the beginning until now we have been favored with official brethren in all our boards who have been a blessing to the church in their own times. Growing venerable in years they have received additions of younger brethren in training for service when they shall have been called away or laid aside. We have now 9 ruling elders, 7 deacons and 9 trustees, 1 deacon and 1 elder being trustees; the aggregate is 23 different persons. No church should call itself weak that has such official representatives. So, too, there has been a succession of honorable women, mature and young, who have given themselves to some kinds of service that men could not render.

"We are hearing now and again of the marvelous blessings bestowed on other churches in and out of our city. In some evangelical services are held every evening for successive weeks, attended by large congregations. In a neighboring part of our city (Greenpoint) six churches of different denomination have arranged to hold joint services for six consecutive weeks. Catholic missions have been held; thousands of people assembling at 5 o'clock in the morning and again in the evening under the promise of the Pope that the faithful ever shall have a special benediction as the reward of their fidelity. Dearly beloved, beside one Sunday service we have two meetings for prayer every week and now we are entering upon the week of prayer with a large part of Christendom. The moment attendance upon these services reveals an aspiration for more help to a closer walk with God it will be the joy of the session to arrange for other services and to bring into them all possible agencies for gracious results."

A number of the children of the Eastern District school in the gallery sang a hymn while the offertory was being taken.

DR. WELLS' INSTALLATION 50 YEARS AGO.

(From Brooklyn Daily Eagle, January 22, 1900.)

In the South Third Street Presbyterian Church yesterday was celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the installation of the Rev. Dr. John D. Wells as pastor. The church was decorated with greens, and lilies, palms and ferns almost hid the pulpit from view. On one wall were the figures 1850 and opposite 1900. There was a very large attendance at the morning services. The anniversary sermon was preached by the Rev. Newell Woolsey Wells, son of the venerable minister and associate pastor of the church. The sermon was upon the theme, "The Secret of a Successful Old Age," as illustrated in the experience of his father.

In the afternoon there was a joint communion service, there being present representatives of the Throop Avenue, Ainslie Street, Ross Street and Noble Street Churches, all of which, excepting the last, sprang from the South Third Street Church and were organized during the pastorate of Dr. Wells. As the venerable pastor rose to speak in introductory remarks to the sacrament of the Lord's supper much feeling was evidenced in the congregation. Dr. Wells was assisted in the service by the Rev. Dr. Lewis R. Foote, the Rev. Roland S. Dawson, the Rev. John Erskine Adams and the Rev. T. W. Campbell, pastors of the churches named above and in the order given; also by the co-pastor. Beside the pastors named there were present two elders and many members from each church.

To Dr. Wells a reception will be given on Wednesday evening by the congregation in the church. The celebration will close on Thursday evening with a general public reception. The committee having the celebration in charge is composed of David S. Giffing, John Petrie, Nehemiah Wood, K. M. Smith and George R. Valentine.

Dr. Wells was born at Whitesborough, Oneida County, N. Y., October 25, 1815. In

1838 he was graduated from Union College, and six years later from Princeton Seminary. His first charge was in New Hamburg, where he supplied the private chapel of James Lenox. Coming to New York he assisted in the organization of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. He then took charge of his present congregation, which was organized in 1844 by seceding members of the Old First Presbyterian Church.

Tribute to Dr. Wells by All Souls' Church.

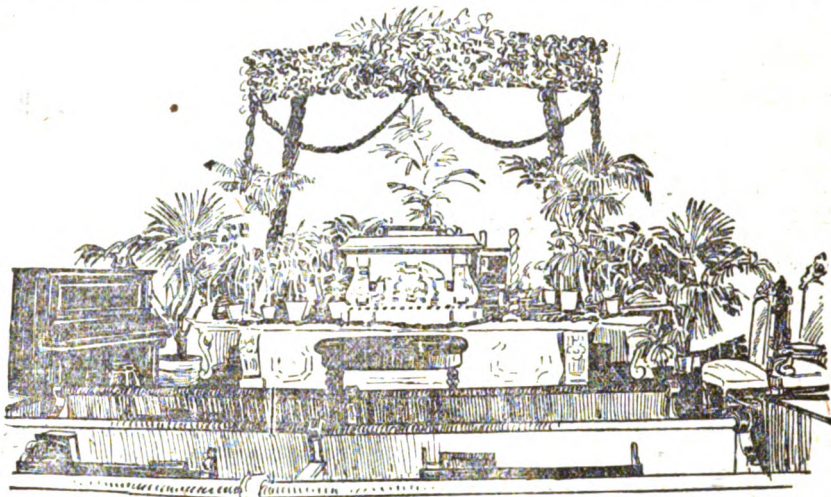
During the morning service in All Souls' Universalist Church on South Ninth street, near Bedford avenue, yesterday, an unusual tribute of affection and esteem was paid to the Rev. Dr. John D. Wells, pastor of the South Third Street Presbyterian Church, who has just completed a half century of service in his pulpit.

At the close of his sermon, the Rev. Dr. J. Coleman Adams of All Souls', called attention to the anniversary of Dr. Wells' installation, and the Christian good which he had accomplished in the Eastern District. Dr. Wells, he said, was a Calvinist of a new type and a most sincere and beloved friend of All Souls'. While he differed materially upon theological questions, those convictions had made no difference in the strong friendship which he had always shown for All Souls'. In view of that fact and the warm personal esteem in which he was held, Dr. Adams suggested that it might be fitting for All Souls' Church to send to Dr. Wells a message of

history of the Eastern District of Brooklyn for the past half century, which only such an occasion could elicit. At their conclusion a purse containing \$1,000 in gold was presented to the venerable pastor. The church had been elaborately decorated with evergreens and embedded in the decorations behind the pulpit platform in white roses were the figures "1850," "1900." There was a large attendance.

D. S. Giffing, one of the elders, presided and made a brief introductory address. "Dr. Wells," he said, "for fifty years, you, our senior pastor, and your church have been increasing in love for each other. Love is all controlling, and you, Dr. Wells, who are over 50 years of age, and the church which is also over fifty years of age, may speak to each other of our love thus publicly and without a blush, for we do not care who knows it. You have been loyal to your Master, to your church, to your country, and to the world. You have been true to our loved ones; you have been true to us. We love you, because, while you are by the grace of God far superior to us in every respect, you do not know it. We love you, and the church would like to express its opinion of you on this occasion. We congratulate you, and congratulate ourselves that you have been an influence for good in this church and this community for fifty years, and we congratulate you and we congratulate ourselves that the Master has more work for you to do."

When Mr. Giffing had concluded the Rev. Newell Woolsey Wells, son of Dr. Wells and co-pastor of the church, made a brief address.



INTERIOR OF THE SOUTH THIRD STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DURING JUBILEE.

congratulation upon the occasion of his fiftieth anniversary.

The suggestion was immediately acted upon, Benjamin W. Wilson, chairman of the board of trustees, formally moving to that effect. In addition Mr. Wilson spoke feelingly of Dr. Wells' work and his oft expressed cordiality toward All Souls', a cordiality which had on more than one occasion found Dr. Wells in that church's pulpit. The motion was seconded by George H. Fisher, who, in doing so, paid tribute to the personality and Christian service of Dr. Wells. He referred to some of some other long pastorates in the Eastern District—those of Father Malone, Dr. Porter and Dr. Partridge—but none, he said, had been more distinguished or more generally beneficial than that of Dr. Wells.

The motion was then promptly carried unanimously by the rising vote of the congregation.

PURSE PRESENTED TO THE REV. DR. WELLS.

(From Brooklyn Daily Eagle, January 25, 1900.)

The services and reception in continuation of the celebration of the jubilee of the Rev. Dr. J. D. Wells, held in the South Third Street Presbyterian Church last evening, were of an impressive character. The addresses delivered were simple, touching and direct, bringing out glimpses of the church

He said that startling as it might seem to many who heard it, he (Mr. Wells) was the oldest living member of the church according to the register. Mr. Wells congratulated his father, under whose pastoral supervision and care he had been for so many years, remarking that notwithstanding his father's long ministry he was as healthy at 84 as he had been at 48. Mr. Wells expressed the hope that by the grace of God his father would long be spared to continue his work.

George R. Valentine, on behalf of the board of sessions, made a lengthy address assuring Dr. Wells of the love and respect of the session and remarking that the session would say "Amen" to every word that had been spoken by the previous speaker.

E. B. Wilcox spoke for the board of deacons. His remarks were brief and to the point. "It is the heartfelt wish of the deacons of the church," he said, addressing Dr. Wells, "that you may be preserved to the church for many years longer."

John Petrie, a member of the board of trustees, followed. When Mr. Petrie took the platform Dr. Wells stood up and, amid laughter, remarked, "I want to hear every word this man has got to say." Dr. Wells remained standing while Mr. Petrie spoke. The latter congratulated the venerable pastor on his interest and care in the church property and remarked that during their many years of business transactions there had not been

the slightest friction between the trustees and the pastor.

N. B. Roberts spoke for the Sunday school, presenting the greetings of the children to Dr. Wells. The speaker also read a minute which had been prepared and adopted by the officers and teachers of the school, dated January 21, extending congratulations to the pastor on his lengthy term of service.

James K. Campbell spoke of the Young People's Association. He recalled the fact that Dr. Wells had practically brought the association into existence twenty-one years ago and that it had just attained its majority and that the occasion was a very fitting one to pay reverence to its founder. "The snows of many winters," Mr. Campbell concluded, amid applause, "have crowned your head with glory, yet eternal spring within your heart finds its abiding place."

At this stage of the proceedings President Giffing announced that the boys of the Industrial Home wanted to pay their tribute to Dr. Wells, and a little boy stepped up from the audience and after making a speech of about twenty words, which Dr. Wells listened to with evident delight, the boy handed the clergyman a small token. Dr. Wells thanked the boy.

Register James R. Howe was the next speaker. When he began to speak Dr. Wells again rose and simultaneously the audience did while he was speaking. Mr. Howe said among other things: "We to-night gather to honor one whom we all love; one who is an honor and dear to us; dear to the aged, dear to the children; one who has gone in and out of our homes for many, many long years, bringing cheer and good help to chase away shadow and bringing sunlight and hope into our hearts. When Dr. Wells was installed Brooklyn was in swaddling clothes and the republic was in little more than its infancy. Since then he has witnessed the spread of the gospel and the banner of Christianity and manhood and civilization over our land from the North to the South and from the Atlantic to the Pacific. He has witnessed the country grow from twenty-five to eighty millions of people. He has witnessed the spread of home and foreign missions in an era and to such an extent as has never been witnessed at any other time in the history of missions."

Mr. Howe concluded by saying: "I have been commissioned by your people to present to you this small token of your worth." At this point Mr. Howe handed to Dr. Wells an inscribed silver tray bearing fifty double eagles.

Dr. Wells was evidently not aware of what the presentation amounted to and was taken by surprise. He made a brief speech in reply. The first portion of his remarks was of an amusing nature. He said:

"I would almost like that any one of you occupied my position now. I never occupied the same position before and I am sure that I shall never do so again." Dr. Wells continuing, made a lengthy and interesting speech in which he explained his attitude at the time of the civil war, and referring to the fact that Mr. B. H. Howell was the only member living of the original board of trustees of the church.

The proceedings were interspersed with selections by a choir of thirty voices under the direction of William Darling, including Miss Grace C. Smith, soprano; Miss Catharine M. Cloutier, contralto; Thomas C. King, tenor, and William Darling, basso. At the conclusion of the proceedings those present shook hands with Dr. Wells.

CLOSING OF THE JUBILEE.

(From Brooklyn Daily Eagle, January 26, 1900.)

The celebration of the golden jubilee of the Rev. Dr. John D. Wells, pastor of the South Third Street Presbyterian Church, was concluded in the church last night. As on the previous evening there was a large attendance and a number of addresses by prominent representatives of various educational, religious and other institutions with which Dr. Wells has been associated during his lifetime. As on Wednesday evening, Davis S. Giffing, one of the elders presided and the proceedings were opened with the offering of prayer

by the Rev. W. H. Jackson, pastor of the old Bushwick Reformed Church.

Then Mr. Giffing extended to those present a hearty welcome. He added aptly that there were few churches that could extend a welcome to visitors on a like occasion. The speaker also referred to the fact that Benjamin H. Howell, member of the board of trustees since 1846 and president since 1869, was unable to be present and made a very appropriate reference to the regret that was felt by all that Mr. Howell could not attend.

Mr. Giffing then introduced the Rev. Dr. A. G. Vermilye, as representing the Alpha Sigma Society, of which Dr. Wells has been a member for many years. Dr. Vermilye said: "Your brethren of the Alpha Sigma, the clerical club you helped to found, now nearly fifty years ago, have come as invited to join in the felicitations of your golden jubilee. In the Catholic church at every jubilee, which is once in twenty-five years, the Pope grants many indulgences. So you must do, if we speak of yourself. The significance of our full club name, you know—'co-workers—be-



Parsonage of the South Third Street Presbyterian Church.

loved co-workers.' It indicates a meeting of brethren for mutual study and the discussion of selected themes and socially for nearer intimacy. You are now our senior member, the last of our actual founders, all prominent members in their day of the Presbytery of New York. You were among them, as you have said, a 'boy in size, culture and timidity' (laughter); but it shows that in the years of your ministry here you have long since made your mark.

"We need not trace the intervening years. It is a great pleasure to us of this date that you do survive; that at 84 your eye is not dim, your strength so little abated; you do not stoop with age.

"Of Brooklyn fifty years ago, Dr. Storrs has said that it was 'the last considerable place on the way to Greenwood.' Yet if only so in public repute, or a way station to it, here is a live church, and you were its minister—a live young man. It is a live church to-day after fifty years and you, a very much alive old man. You have stayed on, rooted and immovable, always deeply feeling 'East, West, home is best,' and surely one who has gone through, as you have for so long, the strain of changing times, changing opinions and ideas and changing congregations, but who, at the end, at 84, remains bright, youthful in spirit, beloved, active and widely useful, is a rare man. Such are few. We of the club have felt the influence of so happy, healthful and Christian a presence, always the same, itself a sermon.

"As the veteran of our guild, Alpha Sigma salutes you. The close of your days among us: May it be like unto that of the fisherman who has been out all day long at his calling in waters rough and smooth, who at night comes in calmly and fearlessly, shooting the

breakers that line his way to the harbor and there at length unsteps his mast, bring forth his anchor and with the fruit of his toil in hand goes quietly, peacefully, happily to his home and his rest—for you—heaven."

At this point in the proceedings there was a slight deviation in the programme, Chairman Giffing remarking that in deference to the wish of the Rev. Dr. Samuel M. Haskins of St. Mark's Protestant Episcopal Church, who was present, Dr. Haskins should be heard as he had to leave early. Dr. Haskins occupied a front pew near Dr. Wells. When he rose to speak the scene was an impressive one. Dr. Haskins faced Dr. Wells, who stood up in an adjoining pew, and said: "You and I and Father Malone knew each other for many years and in our sweet fellowship in Christ we have experienced great joy. Father Malone has departed to rest and you and I know that it is but a little while when we shall soon meet again in the paradise of God and renew the fellowship of the Trinity."

When Dr. Haskins had concluded his address Dr. Wells grasped his hand and, seizing hold of the lapels of his coat, said that despite the fact that they had been working on different lines for half a century, harmony always existed between all three.

The Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler was the next speaker. He said that his acquaintance with Dr. Wells began sixty years ago, when he had sat with Dr. Wells at the same table at Princeton. Dr. Cuyler made an eloquent and impressive address, after which he shook hands with Dr. Wells.

The Rev. Dr. George Alexander, representing Union College, the next speaker, related a number of college reminiscences, after which Miss Lillian F. Wells of Cambridge, N. Y., a cousin of Dr. Wells, sang a solo.

The chairman then announced that the Princeton Seminary would be represented by the Rev. Dr. John Dixon, who made a very appropriate speech on behalf of that institution.

Warner Van Norden followed. He said that Dr. Wells had been connected with the Board of Foreign Missions since May, 1854. He related some of the things the board had accomplished since that time and declared that it was through the efforts of the venerable clergyman that the work had been carried on so successfully.

The Rev. Dr. James H. Darlington, pastor of Christ Church, Bedford avenue, congratulated Dr. Wells, remarking that his work among the people of the Eastern District would be remembered in future years.

The Rev. D. J. Downey made the last address of the evening, representing St. John's M. E. Church, and paying his respects to Dr. Wells.

At the conclusion of the proceedings a reception was held, Dr. Wells shaking hands with nearly all of those present.

The Rev. Dr. Wells Sends a Cordial Letter to All Souls' Universalist Church.

(From Brooklyn Daily Eagle, January 29, 1900.)

Two weeks ago the congregation of All Souls' Universalist Church instructed its pastor, the Rev. Dr. J. C. Adams, and its board of trustees to send a letter of congratulation to the Rev. Dr. John D. Wells on the occasion of his fiftieth anniversary. The letter was sent and Dr. Wells sent the following in reply which was read yesterday from the pulpit of All Souls':

"I have had no greater surprise in connection with our jubilee than the letter received this morning, bearing your own signature, followed by the autographs of seven other gentlemen.

"But what gave me a very tender feeling about the heart was the action of the congregation, by a rising vote, instructing you gentlemen to write for them 'a most affectionate Christian greeting on my jubilee anniversary.' That we can respect and love one another while differing in our religious beliefs and methods of work has been dear for a long time. I wish we held the same views of our Lord's person and redemptive work as we do not, and probably would not, if we met every day for discussion. We will omit the discussion and wait till we see the

Master face to face and learn what we should have thought of Him here. Meantime let us continue to respect and love each other and do all the good to our fellows that we can.

"Will you do me the favor to tell your people that I very deeply feel their loving kindness in the action they took in relation to myself on last Lord's Day. And please tell them for me that if I had not been sustained by a most considerate, faithful people I could not have continued as pastor of this church for so many years. Very sincerely and affectionately yours,
JOHN D. WELLS,
Rev. John Coleman Adams, D. D.:

BIOGRAPHICAL.

The Rev. John Dunlap Wells, D. D.

John Dunlap Wells was born in Whitesborough, Oneida County, N. Y., October 25, 1815, and received the name of his mother's father, the Rev. John Dunlap, then, and for many years, pastor of the Associate Reform-



Rev. Dr. John D. Wells.

ed Presbyterian Church of Cambridge, Washington County, N. Y.

At the age of 11, John Dunlap, Jr., came with his father, John Dunlap, from Delphington, Scotland, at the beginning of the Revolutionary war. As it was their purpose to make this country their permanent home, they both enlisted in the army and saw hard and dangerous service.

Solomon Wells, the father of John D., died January 6, 1818, less than thirty years of age, and the mother, with her three little children, returned to her father's house in Cambridge. It was her privilege to minister to them faithfully until they entered into rest, her father in 1829 and her mother in 1830.

Most of the years of Mr. Wells' boyhood, up to the age of 15, was spent in the pleasant home of his maternal grandparents. The later of those years were given to earnest study in the Washington County Academy, then under the efficient care of the Rev. Nathaniel S. Prime, D. D. From 15 to 18 he was a clerk in the office of the Oneida cotton factory at Yorkville, near Whitesborough, his native place. It was while there that he confessed Christ as his Saviour and was received into the communion of the church, of which his father was a member at the time of his death.

At the age of 18 he resumed study in the family and under the instruction and fatherly care of the Rev. N. S. Prime, D. D., the principal of Mount Pleasant Academy at Sing Sing. With a son of Dr. Prime he entered Union College at Schenectady in the fall of 1835, both matriculating in the sophomore class and both maintaining a high place as they passed from class to class. A great sorrow came into Mr. Wells' life when his chum and early friend, G. Wendell Prime, died of typhoid fever at Hudson, N. Y., as they were on their way home in the spring vacation of

1837. This followed quickly upon an earlier affliction of that same year, the death of his sister and her husband, the Rev. and Mrs. David White, missionaries of the American Board at Cape Palmas, Western Africa.

Late in the fall of that year, with the approval of the faculty of Union College, he took charge of Greene Academy, Huntsville, Ala., and remained there about three years, yet receiving his diploma as a graduate of that college with the class of '38. Before leaving college he was elected a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Literary Society.

Returning to the North early in 1840 he entered the Theological Seminary at Princeton, N. J., in September of that year; was licensed to preach the gospel by the North River Presbytery in 1843 and graduated in the spring of 1844. Then, on invitation of Mr. James Lenox, he preached in his private chapel, near New Hamburg, Dutchess County, N. Y., until the families worshiping in it returned, quite late in the fall, to their city homes. Meanwhile a small brick structure was erected by Mr. Lenox's sisters at the corner of Twenty-ninth street and Madison avenue, New York, and in December of that year Mr. Wells began to preach there, Mr. Lenox assuming the entire expense of the enterprise. There was no colony from any one of the older churches as a nucleus of a new church. The chapel was far in advance of the population. Murray Hill was the common place of squatters and the pasture ground of goats and cows, with here and there a hovel almost surrounded with pens for swine.

All the circumstances of the church enterprise were disheartening and the health of Mr. Wells breaking, he relinquished the work. In the summer of 1846 he again supplied the chapel of Mr. Lenox, and, as time permitted, explored the village of Wappinger's Falls, where afterward a sister of Mr. Lenox erected a building for a Presbyterian church, which was organized and still exists.

In 1847 he went with Walter Lowrie, secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, to the Indian Territory to visit the tribes there under the care of the board.

On returning somewhat recruited in health he took charge of the parish school of the First Presbyterian Church, on Twelfth street, New York City. While there he married Jessie, the eldest daughter of David and Jessie C. Henderson of the city.

Toward the close of the year 1849 there were several overtures to become pastor of churches made to Mr. Wells, and his way was made clear at last to accept the call to the Presbyterian Church of Williamsburgh, now called by the name of the street, and here he remains to this day.

He entered upon the service of the church on the first Sabbath of 1850, but he was not ordained and installed until the third Sabbath. All the distinguished men who shared in that service, Drs. Phillips, Krebs and Jacobus, have long since entered into rest.

With occasional interruptions in his work by the failure of his health, after roughing it in the hills and mountains of our country or at the seaside and in the surf, Mr. Wells was able to resume his labors, favored as few pastors are with the love and loyalty of an exceptionally considerate people. In 1854 he was elected a member of the executive committee of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, and has been president of the board since 1884. In 1858 the congregation sent him abroad and he visited England, Scotland, Ireland and some parts of France, sharing actively in the work of religious awakening then enjoyed in most of those countries

and here. In 1864 he received from his alma mater the degree of doctor of divinity and never learned by whose agency the honor came to him.

In 1870 and 1871 great bereavement came to the family in the parsonage by the death of the mother and the wife of the pastor.

In 1875 Dr. Wells was elected a trustee of the Theological Seminary at Princeton, N. J., and remains such to the present time.

In 1881 the Rev. Newell Woolsey Wells, second son of the pastor, was elected co-pastor with his father, after having been his assistant for six months, an arrangement most acceptable and useful to the people, and making it possible for the father to continue in the active ministry and pastorate far beyond the usual limit.

In 1888 Dr. Wells spent three months in a visit to the Pacific coast, from Los Angeles, in Southern California, to Seattle and Tacoma, in Washington, camping for a month in a visit to Yosemite Valley and the Calaveras group of the big trees, and returning by way of Yellowstone Park. After reaching home he gave four public lectures on his outing.

In 1854, 1862 and 1864 the congregation and pastor co-operated earnestly and heartily in the measures that resulted in the organization of Ainslie Street, Throop Avenue and Ross Street Presbyterian Churches, all of which are favored with able and faithful pastors, and have grown to be strong and consecrated in the appropriate work of Christian churches.

Beside occasional sermons in pamphlet form and others in the secular and religious press, the senior pastor of South Third Street Church has been the author of three or four small volumes, viz.: "Saved by Grace; or the Last Week in the Life of David Johnson, Jr.," "Little Walter of Wyalusing," "The Pastor in the Sick Room," being three lectures delivered at Princeton Theological Seminary in March, 1892, and "Boys and Young Men in



Rev. Newell Woolsey Wells.

Relation to Business." The was the publication of a lecture delivered to the boys and young men of the South Third Street congregation. The author still enjoys firm health and the people are making preparation to celebrate the jubilee of the pastorate, which is not even yet at an end.

The Rev. Newell Woolsey Wells.

The Rev. Newell Woolsey Wells was born in what was then known as the Village of Williamsburgh, on November 29, 1831, not far from two years after his father had entered upon his work as pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Williamsburgh, now called the South Third Street Presbyterian Church. He

received his tuition in childhood at the school of the Misses Day on South Third street, and Avery J. Smith in South Fourth street. Later he attended that of the Rev. Dr. Benjamin W. Dwight, corner of Broadway and Twenty-seventh street, New York, then probably the leading school for boys in the metropolis. His final preparation for college was made at Wilton, Conn., under the tutelage of Professor Edward Olmstead. He entered Princeton College in his seventeenth year, graduating with honor four years later. His class, '72, of which he has been president since graduation, was the first to complete a four years' course under the presidency of the Rev. Dr. McCosh, who came to the institution in October, 1868. Mr. Wells is strongly of

the opinion that his class fulfilled an important function in the process of evolving an American president out of a Scotch professor. He believes that the work of instruction was a mutual one, to the general edification of both parties, though perhaps attended with a minimum of comfort on the one side and a maximum of discomfort on the other.

Having felt himself called to the ministry he entered Princeton Seminary in the fall of 1872, graduating in the spring of 1875. In the fall of that year he went to Coopers-town, N. Y., where, having occupied the pulpit for several weeks, he became pastor early in November. Here he remained for six years at the expiration of which time he

was called to assist his father in the church where he is now at work. He entered upon the co-pastorate in April, 1882. Since that time he has engaged in considerable literary work, having been for many years a regular contributor to the Presbyterian of Philadelphia and the Illustrated Christian Weekly of New York. He has also contributed numerous articles to the Atlantic Monthly, the New Englander, the Presbyterian and Reformed Review, and the Homiletic Review, of which latter publication he was editor from 1891 to 1895, when increasing pastoral responsibilities led him to resign the office. After filling the office of permanent clerk of the Presbytery of Brooklyn for some time, Mr. Wells became its stated clerk in 1885, which office he has held ever since.

History of the East New York Reformed Church, by Its Pastor

(From Brooklyn Daily Eagle, January 8, 1900.)

The East New York Reformed Church, New Jersey avenue, near Fulton street, was filled yesterday morning by an interesting congregation to take part in the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the organization of the church. Surrounding the pulpit was a mass of flowers and on the platform were seated the pastor, the Rev. Dr. James M. Dickson and the Rev. Jesse W. Brooks, a former pastor of the church.

Three times the East New York Reformed Church, during the past six decades, has erected new buildings. The first one is still in existence. It was first bought by the Protestant Episcopalians when that denomination started a church in New Lots and is now occupied as a synagogue only a block away from its former site.

The historical address delivered by Dr. Dickson yesterday was an interesting one and kept the attention of his auditors throughout.

The long list of pastors contains the names of men who became prominent in both educational and religious life in later years. Names of men who were brought up in the Reformed Church community were mentioned by Dr. Dickson who have made notable records in spiritual work in both foreign and domestic fields.

"The East New York Reformed Church," said Dr. Dickson, "was organized on January 7, 1840, by the Classis of Long Island. Three men, namely, John Williamson, Williamson Rapelle and Jacob T. Bergen, were chosen as elders and John S. Wortman and Henry Bergen as deacons. All were previously members of the New Lots Reformed Church. It is a curious thing how this church came to be organized in East New York. In this vicinity of the Town of New Lots was located a small growing little village—East New York. The people were a mile distant from the New Lots Reformed Church and as they were poor, conveyances to go to church were out of the question. Some time previous, a Sunday school had existed among them. Edward M. Strong, who kept a small store in which was placed the first post office of the Town of New Lots, and who became its first postmaster, was the leader of the people in

securing religious privileges nearer home, although after the church was organized he never became a member of it.

"John Williamson, who has been designated as the founder of this church, was a strong temperance man, and in those days the sideboards generally of well to do citizens were stocked with liquors. He approved the establishing of a temperance church. The four men who joined with him were probably men of his own selection. John R. Pitkin was the owner of much property in this vicinity and when he was advised of the movement he thought it would be a great benefit to business to have a house of worship in the vicinity and donated three lots on which the first church was built and which is the site of the present church.

"The New Lots Church, which was organized in 1824, never had its own separate pastor. The Flatlands Reformed Church was associated with it under one pastoral care. All these years of the spiritual wants of each of these churches were administered every other Sunday. They soon found a pastor in the person of the Rev. W. H. Campbell, who had served for several years as principal of Erasmus Hall, in Flatbush. He was called and remained pastor less than a year and a half, accepting a call to Albany. His life work afterward was along educational lines. The erection of a building had been underway before the call was extended to Dr. Campbell and the building was completed and dedicated on March 1, 1840.

"During Dr. Campbell's ministry a bell was secured and an adjoining lot was purchased. One hundred feet of horse sheds were constructed, the comforts of the beast being considered at that time by righteous men. Mr. Campbell was succeeded by Martin V. Schoonmaker, a student at the time in the New Brunswick Seminary. He labored successfully as pastor until 1849, when he accepted a call to Waldron, Orange County, N. Y., where he remained pastor for thirty-nine years, resigning only as the infirmities of age came upon him. He was a man of great spirituality and the church gradually grew under his ministry, although the population was still limited.

"He was succeeded on September 25, 1850, by the Rev. Joseph Paschal Strong, one of the four sons of the Rev. Dr. Strong of the Flatbush Reformed Church, all of whom became ministers. He was a brilliant young man and was very successful in his work. For him a parsonage was built in the second year of his ministry here. In his fourth year the

church building was disposed of and removed from the site and a new building was under the process of erection, when Dr. Strong received a call to the Third Reformed Church of Jersey City, which he accepted. His leaving the church at the time was very unfortunate, so far as the church itself was concerned. An unfinished church on their hands, a population gradually growing, a debt for church building demanded the continuation with them of this popular man. Had he remained the success that attended his father at Flatbush might largely have been his. Nor did it seem much of a gain to him, for he remained in Jersey City only two years. His life, however, was a successful one, ministering to several different churches. He was called away suddenly, being stricken with paralysis while preaching the gospel.

"Anson F. Munn, also just from the seminary, succeeded him in 1856. Dr. Munn did much good in his quiet, characteristic way. His following ministry was at Coxsackie Landing. He died June 26, 1877, a good preacher, a tender, watchful and judicious pastor. These four pastors have all passed away. Dr. Dickson passed lightly over the remainder of the church's pastors, naming them each and stating in what manner they are now engaged.

He concluded by saying that if the stirring and worthy labors of the first pastors during the building period and of those during the last decade of the century were ever written, it would surpass any other, in general activity. During this time the church has been enlarged and remodeled at the cost of nearly \$18,000, which has all been paid off. "Men of this church," he said, "have been largely instrumental in making the Twenty-sixth Ward Young Men's Christian Association a grand success. These men are Dittus Jewell, Williamson Rapelle and Earl Gillespie, and they have given to the association nearly \$20,000. As a mark of gratitude these men have had their pictures hung in the parlors of the Young Men's Christian Association building. At yesterday's evening service the Rev. Daniel Rapelle, whose whole ministerial life has been spent in the Amoy Mission, in China, delivered an address on "Sixty Years' Progress in Foreign Missions in the Reformed Church."

To-morrow evening there will be a rally of the members and friends of the church. Addresses will be delivered by the Rev. Dr. J. Howard Snydam of Rhinebeck, N. Y., the Rev. Dr. Daniel Van Pelt, a former pastor and several others.