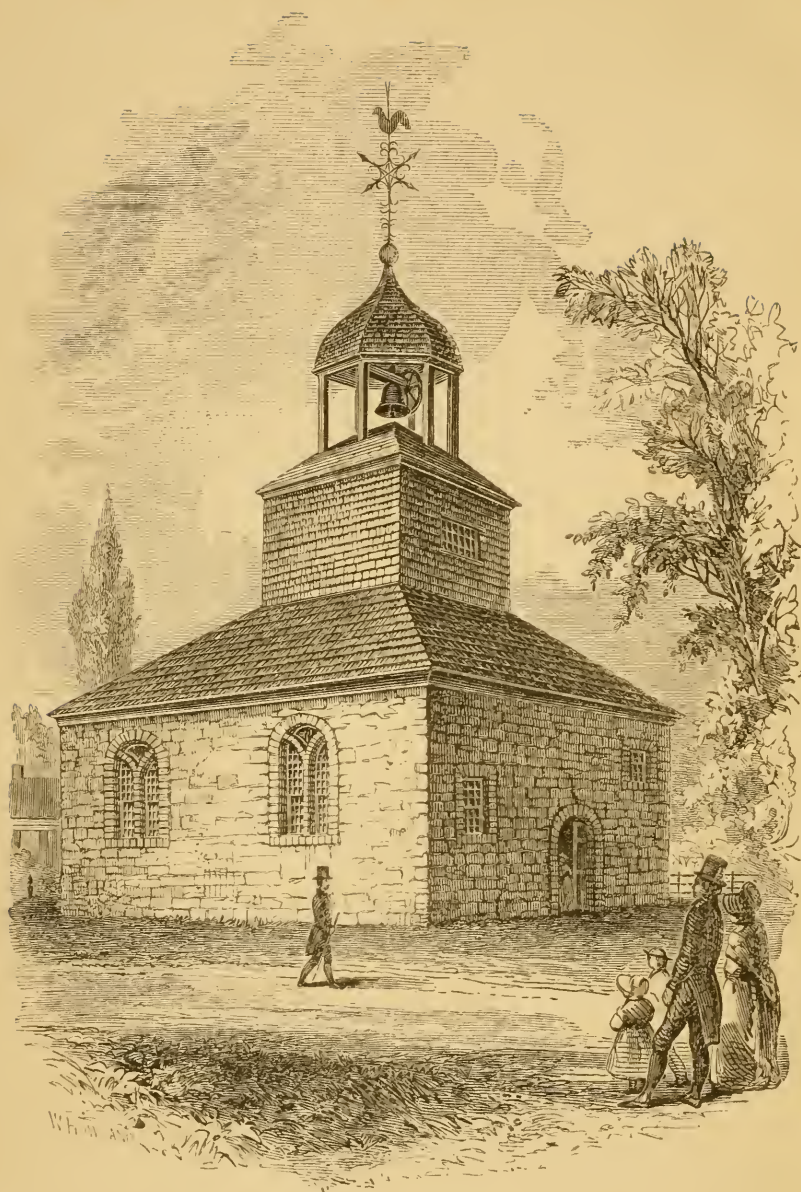




The "Old Stone Church" in 1850.

TWO CENTURIES
IN THE
HISTORY OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
JAMAICA, L. I.;
THE OLDEST EXISTING CHURCH, OF THE PRESBYTERIAN
NAME, IN AMERICA.

BY JAMES M. MACDONALD, D. D.

"One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh; but the earth abideth for ever."—*Sol. Ecc.* 1, 4.

"Nescire, quid anteaquam natus sis, acciderit, id est semper esse puerum."—*Cic. in orat.* c. 34.

With an Appendix,

CONTAINING DISCOURSES DELIVERED, AND AN ACCOUNT OF THE SERVICES
HELD, IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE FOUNDING OF SAID CHURCH, ON THE 7TH, 8TH
AND 9TH DAYS OF JANUARY, 1862.

NEW YORK:
ROBERT CARTER & BROTHERS,
No. 530 BROADWAY.

1862.

of the same household, having with them a common Saviour and Father.

Rev. Dr. Krebs, of Rutgers Street Church, New York city, came to represent the Presbytery of New York, and the Rev. Wm. B. Reeve, that of Long Island, each of which made brief and engaging remarks. The services closed by the reading of letters from Rev. Dr. Phillips, of New York city, and the Rev. Dr. Henry R. Weed, of Wheeling, Va., the oldest living pastor of the church, and others, with a brief address and prayer by the Rev. Daniel Higbie, (another child of the church,) of Orange County, N. Y.

LETTER OF REV. H. R. WEED, D. D.

MR. LAURENS REEVE, *Wheeling, Nov. 11th, 1861.*

MY DEAR FRIEND,—Your favour of the 20th September, was duly received and its contents awakened memories of great interest in my early ministry. To no period of my life does my mind recur with greater pleasure than to the time I spent in the dear old church of Jamaica, and should I be so happy as to find my final home in our heavenly Father's house, I expect to meet many there whom I was permitted in the ardor of my youth successfully to point to "the Way, the Truth, and the Life." Later events, too, I have witnessed of a soul stirring character in your congregation, that have left an indelible impression on my mind. Indeed, the history of that church is one of great interest from early times. Its old records and the traditionary accounts current among the elder members in my day, were such as pertain to no other church in our connection, and fully justify the commemoration you contemplate. I trust the occasion will be profitable to all concerned, and redound to

a new display of that glorious grace that has eminently distinguished the history of your venerable old church.

Let me say, in conclusion, that while I feel flattered by the invitation to attend, and by the kind remembrance of all surviving friends among you, my age and infirmities forbid me to indulge the hope of being with you.

Please give assurances of my affectionate regard to all inquiring friends, and believe me,

Very truly yours,

H. R. WEED.

LETTER OF REV. THOMAS WICKES.

P. D. OAKLEY, ETC., *Marietta, Ohio, Jan. 2d, 1862.*

GENTLEMEN,—I received your kind invitation to participate in the celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the founding of the Presbyterian Church of Jamaica. Be assured that it would afford me the highest gratification to be present with you on this most interesting occasion, meeting again those whom once I knew so well, and with them reviewing all the previous memories of the past, and the goodness of our God. Never shall I forget Jamaica, though for many years separated from it. It is my birth-place in a double sense, the scene of my natural and spiritual birth. I remember its Sabbath School, where one of your number was my loved teacher. I remember its sanctuary and its consecrated place of prayer. I remember some of its precious revivals of religion there experienced, for which I have such reason to thank God and rejoice.

The first minister whom I recollect was Dr. Weed, now labouring within 80 miles of me at Wheeling, where he is finishing his earthly work by a pastorate of more than 25 years. I well remember the grief that was awakened by the announcement of his intention to leave. It made a strong impression upon my youthful mind.