

## Farewell Services.

The farewell services at the Old South Church on Sunday last, was both interesting and impressive. The services were opened by Rev. Mr. Lyford, of the Baptist society, who after a short petition to our maker and preserver, continued by announcing the following hymn, written for the occasion :

1. When in Eternity's strong arms,  
Earth lays her years to rest ;  
'True souls of God will only keep  
In memory the best.  
And those are best which serve to bring  
Souls nearest to their God,  
And show his promises fulfilled  
According to His Word.
2. A hundred years of mortal's work,  
This house gives to God's care ;  
Humbly, let all leave Him to sift  
The wheat from every tare.  
Here, many a soul we love so well,  
Seen last through blinding tears,  
If heard by ears of faith to-day  
Would sing away our fears.
3. These walls must crumble into dust,  
And our poor bodies too ;  
God gives them worth only in what  
Our souls through them may do.  
Then who shall come with tardy steps  
To this old house to-day ?  
Or fail of Thanks and Praise and Prayer  
Their parting gift to pay ?

After the singing, which was executed by the three united choirs of the town in a manner that received the eulogies of all, the Rev. D. D. Marsh invoked the Divine blessing, mingling in his petition the circumstance that had called them together,

and the scenes for good which had been enacted in that venerable house of praise and prayer.

Following the petition, Rev. T. R. Beeber, colleague pastor of Rev. Charles Beecher, gave a historical sketch of the formation of the society, the building of its first and second edifice, the standing and the character of the men engaged in the work and in the ministry, from its commencement to the present time.

He commenced by reciting the original act of incorporation for the formation of the society, continuing with scenes and incidents in the building of the edifices, telling of the trials in connection with the settlement of its various pastors, and religious beliefs of its spiritual advisers, of divisions even in some of the households, as to the isms of the day—noting the free use of intoxicating drinks, at the raising, the dedicating, and installing, making mention that on one occasion, when the church was literally packed with the inhabitants that had come from miles around, that one bottle of wine at least, was hoisted from the outside of the church to the gallery, that those therein might quench their thirst, and although great quantities of various kinds of liquors was for sale at the wagons, not one case of drunkenness was noticed for the day. He noted also the large number of candidates that were tried previous to the installation of Father Braman, and as was the custom of that time for one of the deacon's to carry the candidates on a tour among the members of the society, Father Braman was taken and in one

household the matron said to Mr. Braman "I like your preaching, but don't tell John of it," and John taking the good man aside made the same remark, with the same injunction that the wife should not be told. Mr. Braman's life and character was vividly portrayed, setting forth the keenness, the wit, the reverence, the punctuality, and the eccentricities of the good man, mentioning that in the promptness and punctuality with which he was wont to leave his home, the sexton could tell within a minute, the time he would step from his own dwelling and the time taken in reaching the door of the edifice. He also paid a glowing tribute to his venerable partner, who is still sharing the comforts of life among us, and whose name is only spoken of in praise by all whose good fortune it is to know her, and the more that is known, the more occasion there is to eulogize her worth.

Passing from this sketch, the speaker entered into the life and character of the present pastor, noting the works he has placed before the public, his musical acquirements, and mentioned that his hearers were indebted to Mr. Beecher for many of the hymns in the Plymouth Collection.

He concluded his remarks by noting the number of infants that had been given to God, and after a lapse of years renewed their faith by their own free will. Those, too who had been united in the bonds of matrimony were recollected, as well, also those whose remains had been brought hither to receive the farewell benediction of a well spent life. Since the formation of the society 704 had been taken into the

church, and the speaker hoped that with their better facilities for the work of the church, that the lapse of another hundred years would find a larger percentage in the future than in the past. He made mention of the many presents the society had received, and the names of the donors.

The large assembly maintained an unusual quiet through the whole service, each individual paying intense interest to the narration of the events, and in the closing remarks such a quiet was preserved that it seemed as though the dropping of a pin might have been heard in any part of the house.

The second original hymn on the programme was next announced and at its close the long metre doxology, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," was united in by the congregation, and the closing benediction was reiterated probably for the last time within its consecrated walls.

#### CLOSING HYMN.

1. When from God's deepest fount of love  
He gave His blessed Son,  
To show us how thro' suffering  
His kingdom must be won;  
He sealed this blessed vital Truth,  
With Jesus' bleeding hands—  
That loving each through love to Him,  
Meets all his law demands.
2. We journey but in God's dear sight,  
Our paths oft hidden lie;  
But yet the prints of Jesus' feet  
Show where our own should try.  
Then help us, Lord, by Thy rich grace,  
To leave this earthly tent,  
Keeping our hearts too near Thyself,  
To suffer discontent.

3. So bless this Israel's exodus,  
Thy truth is still the same.  
In Heaven, Thy Church is known as one,  
Though Earth gives many a name.  
And bring us through to Canaan's shore  
One blest unbroken band,  
We'll give Thee praise, thro' Christ, Thy Son,  
And own His leading hand.

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