

# HISTORY

— OF THE —

## FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

— OF THE —

CITY OF LANCASTER, PA.,

— FROM —

1807 to 1893.

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF EARLIER EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH  
METHODISM IN LANCASTER.

— ALSO AN —

### APPENDIX

CONTAINING A SKETCH OF ST. PAUL'S M. E. CHURCH, BY THE  
PASTOR, AND "CONESTOGA'S" NOTES ON THE  
CONFERENCE OF 1855.

— BY —

JOHN S. J. McCONNELL, D. D.

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## PART VIII.\*

DECEMBER 20, 1891. THE OPENING OF THE CHAPEL.

Opening of the new chapel; the order of exercises; sermon by Bishop Foss; Sunday-school exercises; addresses by Bishop Foss, Presiding Elder Dr. Hargis and Dr. G. E. Reed; evening sermon by the Rev. Dr. Reed, President of Dickinson College; announcements by the pastor; financial results; a surprise to the people.

**D**ECEMBER 20th, 1891, the day appointed for the opening of the new chapel was all that could be desired.

Ten o'clock was the hour designated for beginning the services, but long before that hour the chapel was filled with members and friends of the church. Every seat was occupied and a number of persons were obliged to stand. The exercises began by singing hymn No. 865 of the Methodist Hymnal: "Great King of glory come;" after which Bishop Cyrus D. Foss offered a fervent and comprehensive prayer concluding with the Lord's Prayer, in the repetition of which the congregation united.

After a selection by the choir and announcements by the pastor, Psalm No. 122 was read responsively. Bishop Foss read a part of the fifth chapter

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\* Abridged from the Lancaster papers.

of Matthew. Hymn No. 862 was sung, "Enter thy temple, glorious King!" Then the sermon was preached by Bishop Foss from the words found in Psalm 87: 2-3.

"The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O City of God."

The theme was, God's love for the Church. He loves the Church for what it has cost him; for what it is in the world, and for what it is to be.

After prayer by the Rev. Dr. George E. Reed, a financial statement was made by the pastor and contributions solicited. The amount received was \$1,275. The services closed with the singing of the long metre doxology. The benediction was pronounced by Bishop Foss.

#### THE AFTERNOON EXERCISES.

The exercises in the afternoon were by the Sunday-school and were under the direction of Dr. J. L. Withrow. Following is the programme, which, in view of the nearness of Christmas, was given somewhat of the character of a Christmas festival programme: Singing by the school, "Cheerily Chime;" recitation, "Welcome," Emily Shaub; singing, "Rejoice and be Joyful;" selections from the Scripture, Rev. Dr. McConnell; prayer, Rev. C. C. Clark, Western M. E. Church; responsive reading, led by Z. T. Hayes; singing, "To Bethlehem hasten;" recitation, "Christmas Eve," Iva Makinson;

singing, "Child Jesus Comes;" singing by primary school; responsive reading, led by Rev. Dr. McConnell; solo, "A Christmas Day," Katie Brown; recitation, with singing by class of boys; singing, "Brightest and Best;" recitation, Chester Pryor; solo, cradle hymn, Mamie Hatz, with piano and violin accompaniment; singing, "Joy to the World."

Addresses were delivered by Bishop Foss, Presiding Elder J. H. Hargis, D. D., and Rev. Dr. Reed, which were listened to with pleasure and profit.

Drs. McConnell and Reed made appeals for contributions to the building fund, which were responded to quite liberally, the school pledging about \$288.00.

#### THE EVENING SERVICE.

The greatest throng of the day was at the evening service, which was opened at 7:15 by the singing of hymn No. 860. Prayer was offered by the Rev. Dr. Reed. "Be Joyful in the Lord," was sung by the choir, after which Rev. C. S. Mervine, of Boehm's circuit, read as the lesson the 84th Psalm. After the singing of a hymn the announcement of services to be hold during the week was made by Rev. Dr. McConnell. In referring to the presence of the Rev. Dr. G. E. Reed, President of Dickinson College, he said this was the third time in the history of the Methodist church in this city, that a President of Dickinson College officiated at the first services in new buildings. The first time was in 1842, when the Rev. Dr. J. P. Durbin preached at the dedication

of the church on Duke street, and the second was in 1849, when the Rev. Dr. J. T. Peck dedicated the chapel on German street.

Rev. Dr. Reed announced as his text the seventh chapter of St. Luke, the 5th verse, "For he loveth our nation and he hath built us a synagogue."

His theme was the blessings that come to men through their association with the Church. He spoke about the centurion who built the synagogue in Capernaum with his surplus means; of his great faith in the Saviour, whom he asked to cure his servant who was in the very throes of death. He drew from the narrative the conclusion that in building the synagogue the Centurion did the best thing possible for himself and for the whole community. He did that which met the approval of his conscience, and parted with some of his wealth for the good of the community. The rich man may enjoy all the luxuries obtainable, but he should remember the great claims God has on him. The great duty of rich men is to use their capital so that the world shall be benefited and blessed by it.

At the conclusion of the sermon the collectors resumed the work of soliciting funds for the new building, and in a short time were able to report contributions which would make the aggregate of the day's offerings \$2,000.

The Rev. Dr. McConnell announced that the Young Peoples' Association presented the pulpit, reading desk and three tables, which will be used in the chapel,

and the pulpit Bible was presented by Mrs. Margaret A. Morris. He also stated that a special gift of \$200 would be added to the offerings already made, and that a friend had promised during the day to give him \$1,500 on conditions to be approved by the trustees, which conditions Dr. McConnell was sure the trustees would gratefully accept. This would bring the offerings of the day to \$8,700. This was a most gratifying surprise to the people, who showed their delight by singing most heartily:

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow.”

The benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Dr. Reed.