

The Bigger Church
of
Doctor Brett

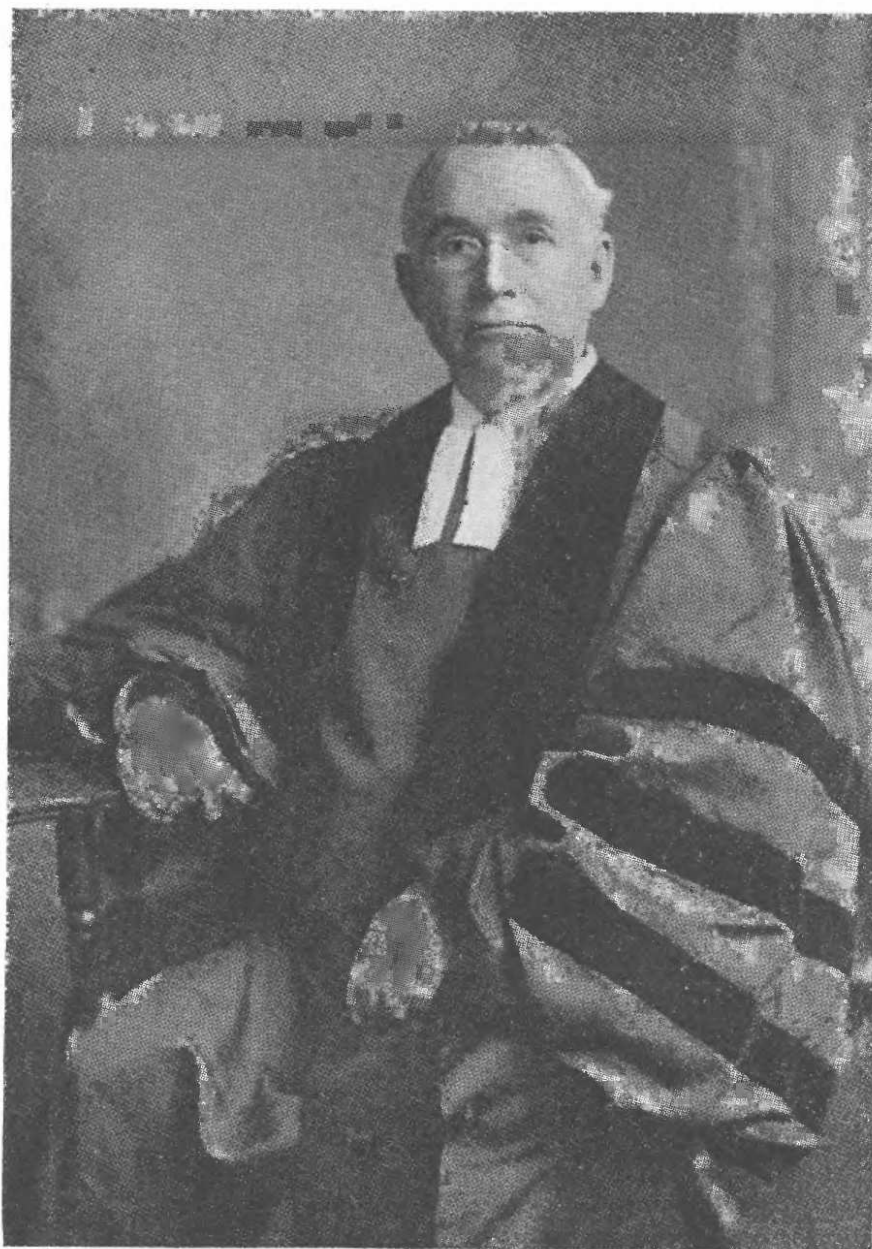
Some Reminiscences Collected by Miss D. Richardson



To another distinguished Jersey citizen
and whom I also count my friend
John W. Heck Esq. —

From W H Richardson

June 3, 1918



REV. CORNELIUS BRETT, D.D.

(From a photograph, 1910)

Cornelius Brett

The Bigger Church of Dr. Brett

Some reminiscences of his relations
to the people of Jersey City

Collated by Wm. H. Richardson



A Souvenir of the Dinner at The Carteret Club
Monday Evening, June 3, 1918

Grow old along with me:
The best is yet to be,
The last of life, for which the first was made:
Our times are in his hand
Who saith "A whole I planned,
Youth shows but half; trust God: see all, nor be afraid?"

—Robert Browning.

The Jersey City Printing Company
MCMXVIII

Dinner at Carteret Club, Monday, June 3, 1918

Guest of Honor

REV. CORNELIUS BRETT, D.D.

Invited Guests

REV. JAMES L. AMERMAN, D.D.

PIERRE V. A. BRETT

GERARD BEEKMAN

REV. W. H. S. DEMAREST, D.D.

EVERETT J. BRETT

GOVERNOR WALTER E. EDGE

REV. WILLIAM H. BOOCOCK

REV. WALTER B. GREENWAY, D.D.

REV. W. PATERSON BRUCE, D.D.

REV. JOHN J. MOMENT

E. M. COLIE

JUSTICE FRANCIS J. SWAYZE

PHILIP E. BRETT

RABBI MAURICE THORNER

PHILIP M. BRETT

Toastmaster

MR. ROBERT A. ALBERTS

Speakers

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE FRANCIS J. SWAYZE

GOVERNOR WALTER E. EDGE

REV. HARRY L. EVERETT

HON. MARSHALL VAN WINKLE

RABBI MAURICE THORNER

PRESIDENT REV. W. H. S. DEMAREST, D.D.

COMMISSIONER A. HARRY MOORE

DR. GORDON K. DICKINSON

COL. GEORGE T. VICKERS

The Dinner and Celebration Committee

ROBERT A. ALBERTS, Chairman

ROBERT J. RENDALL, Treasurer	JAMES W. GOPSILL, Secretary
H. H. BAKER	HON. A. HARRY MOORE
R. A. COYKENDALL	WM. H. RICHARDSON
DR. GORDON K. DICKINSON	VINCENT R. SCHENCK
REV. ABRAM DURYEE	JOHN T. SPROULL
REV. HARRY L. EVERETT	THOS. J. STEWART
HON. JAMES F. FIELDER	JAMES B. THROCKMORTON
HENRY FITCH	COL. GEORGE T. VICKERS
HON. MARSHALL VAN WINKLE	

Assembly and Reception, June 4, 1918

7:30 P. M.

Bergen Reformed Church

Presided over by

REV. HARRY L. EVERETT

Musical Director

MORITZ SCHWARZ

Music by Choirs from

First Presbyterian Church	Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
Emory Methodist Church	Bergen Baptist Church
First Congregational Church	Westminster Presbyterian Church
St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church	Bergen Reformed Church

Addresses by

REV. W. I. CHAMBERLAIN, D.D. REV. HENRY C. CRONIN, D.D.
REV. WALTER B. GREENWAY, D.D.

Hosts

JOHN ABEL
ROBERT A. ALBERTS
E. B. BACON
H. H. BAKER
GEO. R. BEACH
JOHN A. BLAIR
GEO. E. BLAKESLEE
GENL. J. H. BRENSINGER
WM. C. BROWN
WM. F. BROWN
WM. G. BUMSTED
ROBERT CAREY
COL. AUSTEN COLGATE
GILBERT COLLINS
J. D. COMBS
A. J. CORCORAN
R. A. COYKENDALL
HOWARD CRUSE
HARRY DAILEY
DAVID R. DALY
HARRY B. DAY
JOS. A. DEAR
WALTER M. DEAR
ELMER W. DEMAREST
ROBT. F. DENNIS
DR. G. K. DICKINSON
GEO. DINKEL
DR. W. A. DURRIE
REV. ABRAM DURYEE
E. I. EDWARDS
DR. R. W. A. ENGLISH
J. M. ENRIGHT
REV. HARRY L. EVERETT
JOHN E. FAIRBANKS

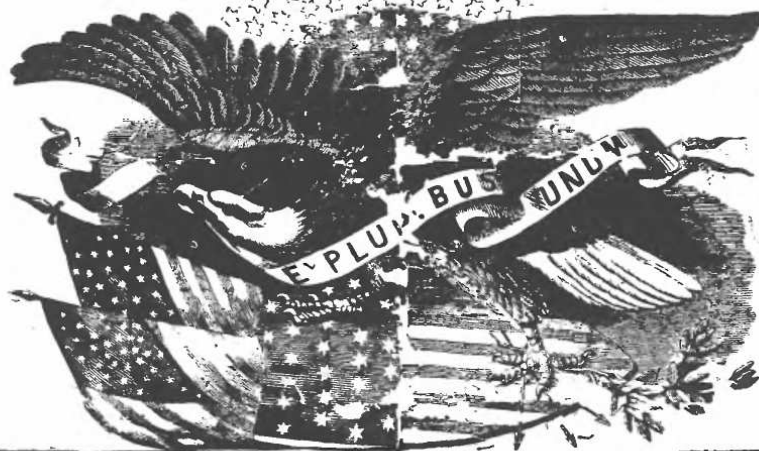
EDWIN M. FARRIER
GEO. B. FIELDER
JAMES F. FIELDER
HENRY FITCH
DR. HOWARD S. FORMAN
GEO. A. FOYE
DR. WM. FREILE
WM. A. GEMMELL
LIVINGSTON GIFFORD
JAMES GOPSILL
JAMES W. GOPSILL
JOHN GRIFFIN
THOS. H. HALL
THOS. G. HAIGHT
J. W. HARDENBURGH
JOHN W. HECK
A. M. HENRY
GEN. WM. C. HEPPENHEIMER
GEO. HOLMES
ROBERT S. HUDSPETH
ROBERT E. JENNINGS
THOS. P. KING
HENRY KOHL
JOHN P. LANDRINE
DR. THEO. H. LEMMERZ
THOS. R. LEWIS
OTTO H. LOHSEN
GEORGE J. LONG
HARRY LOUDERBOUGH
GEO. A. MCILROY
WM. H. MEAD
THEO. F. MERSELES
CHAS. LEE MEYERS
G. M. MEYERS

Hosts—Continued

FRANK E. MINER	PAUL SEYDEL
A. HARRY MOORE	LOUIS SHERWOOD
WM. GEORGE NELSON	JOHN T. SPROULL
CAPT. A. J. NEWBURY	THOS. J. STEWART
JAMES S. NEWKIRK	B. L. STOWE
HENRY E. NIESE	CHAS. J. STRANG
WM. M. OBERGFELL	ARTHUR C. STRATFORD
DR. L. A. OPDYKE	GEO. G. TENNANT
JAMES E. POPE	JAMES B. THROCKMORTON
DR. WALLACE PYLE	WM. V. TOFFEY
DR. WM. L. PYLE	S. D. TOMPKINS
DR. WM. F. RANDOLPH	GEO. J. TROLL
E. P. REICHELM	DE WITT VAN BUSKIRK
ROBERT J. RENDALL	WM. VAN KEUREN
WM. H. RICHARDSON	MARSHALL VAN WINKLE
CHAS. D. RIDGWAY	COL. GEO. T. VICKERS
JOHN T. ROWLAND, JR.	GEORGE WALKER
CHAS. M. SAMES	S. D. WALKER
DOUGLAS S. SCHENCK	JOHN H. WARD
VINCENT R. SCHENCK	LOUIS WASHBURN
JULIAN H. SCHERMERHORN	CHAS. C. WILSON
HERBERT SCOTT	H. OTTO WITTPENN
FRED SCHWANHAUSSER	FRANK WOOLSEY
HERMAN SEYDEL	JACOB R. WORTENDYKE

LINCOLN & JOHNSON

THE UNION MUST
AND



SHALL BE PRESERVED

THERE WILL BE A
GRAND UNION MEETING
AT THE
WIGWAM

PLAINFIELD, N. J.,
ON TUESDAY EVENING, OCT. 25
At 7 1-2 o'clock, under the auspices of the
YOUNG MEN'S LINCOLN & JOHNSON CLUB

JOHN Y. FOSTER, of Newark, and
C. BRETT, of New Brunswick.
WILL ADDRESS THE MEETING.

F. B. VAN VLECK, Secretary.

E. M. BROWN, Chairman.

GEORGE F. NESBITT & CO., Printers, corner of Pearl and Pine Streets, New-York.

A UNIQUE CERTIFICATE OF PATRIOTISM—REDUCED COPY OF A
LINCOLN AND JOHNSON POSTER, 1864

The Bigger Church of Dr. Brett

Dr. Brett's first impressions of Jersey City go back to the Lincoln Dr. Brett campaign of 1860. He then belonged to the Irrepressible Battalion, as a a Brooklyn organization which visited our town as part of a torch-light Lincoln parade, one of those picturesque political demonstrations of days gone Cam- which the magnesium light has relegated to the background. He carried paigner a smoky torch on the end of a stick; its function was to drip kerosene oil on the glazed cap and cape of the man behind, in much the same manner as his accoutrements were dripped. The only face he recognized and remembered in the long line of march in lower Jersey City was that of the Rev. Dr. Paul D. Van Cleef, whom he recalled as a friend of his father's. I wonder how many men there are left to-day who saw that wondrous demonstration fifty-eight years ago! I wonder, too, how many men now living can make the proud boast that they believed in Lincoln in his own day, when it was a harder thing to do than it is now at a modern Lincoln Association dinner, and can furnish as a proof of their faith their names on a Lincoln campaign poster! From his attic treasures in the old Bergen Avenue parsonage Dr. Brett has rescued a crumbling broadside of the second Lincoln campaign, announcing his appearance from the same platform with John Y. Foster. Still, the eloquence of both did not preserve New Jersey for Lincoln.

The earliest pen portrait we have of Dr. Brett is so singularly life- An Early like that one cannot forebear reproducing it to-day. It was printed in Pen the Newark Call shortly after his settlement with the Second Reformed Portrait Church of that city; and as it was but a few years prior to the period of his coming to Jersey City, it will be quite apropos to know how our new citizen impressed other people four decades or more ago:

"In the young pastor we have a fine specimen of a man of unquestioned purity of character, vigorous intellect, handsome in his personal appearance, and in every way fitted to adorn the sacred positions in which he is placed. . . . In person he is about five feet six inches in height, of elegant proportions, and rather stoutly built. He has a large and finely developed head, and a very handsome countenance. He is decidedly a blonde, with a rich mass of light golden hair, slightly inclined to curl, but his eyes are as black as a sloe. He is, without doubt, the best looking preacher in Newark.

"He has a rich, musical voice, with every key-note of genuine eloquence in its sound. He possesses every element of the true orator, and gives abundant promise of winning an enviable reputation among the brilliant pulpit lights of his time. He may be a trifle too orthodox to win popularity by any bold step calculated to attract public attention,



CORNELIUS BRETT WHEN A LINCOLN "SPELLBINDER"

but the time for a general recognition of his superior ability as a speaker is not far off, if it is not already recognized. . . .

"Socially, Mr. Brett is very pleasant and agreeable. He is an excellent conversationalist and in pastoral work is very assiduous in the discharge of his duty. At home he enjoys the companionship of an estimable and amiable wife and two or three lovely children."

The spontaneity and genuineness of the write-up are conveyed by that last sentence; if the writer of it had not been so completely captivated by Mr. Brett's charm as a minister he would certainly have asked the amiable Mrs. Brett exactly how many lovely children she had! Still, the article gives us a very pleasing summary of what sister Newark lost the day our good friends decided to come to Jersey City.

When the 50th anniversary of Dr. Taylor's ministerial life was celebrated in the Bergen Church, Dr. Brett again visited with us; at that time he was "Mr." Brett and he was serving the Second Reformed

*The Consistory of the
Reformed Church of Bergen
cordially invite Rev Cornelius Brett
to participate in the Celebration of the
Fiftieth Anniversary of the
Ministerial labors of the Rev. B. C. Taylor, D.D.
on Friday May 31st from 5 until 10 o'clock P.M.
at his Residence on
Bergen Ave. Jersey City Heights. N.J.*

*Albert Ackerman. } Committee
John Brinkerhoff. } of
David W. Palmer. } Consistory.*

AN INVITATION TO VISIT US IN 1872

Church of Newark. He still recalls the tenderness of the people for Dr. Taylor at that meeting, and cherishes with no less clarity of recollection the delightful entertainment he and his elder enjoyed in the home of Henry Fitch on Highland Avenue. Dr. Taylor had been made Pastor Emeritus, and Rev. James L. Amerman called as Pastor. Dr. Amerman was a lifelong friend of Dr. Brett's; they had been intimate from boyhood, and classmates in New York University, class of 1862.

In the early days of 1876, Dr. Amerman decided to go to Japan, and in March of that year Dr. Brett spent a Sunday with his old friend

and preached at both services. At the close of the second service the Consistory met, and, through Dr. Amerman, intimated their willingness to call Dr. Brett as his successor. Dr. Amerman preached his farewell sermon to the church on Friday evening, May 19, and left for his new field on June 1.

He Comes
to Jersey
City

For three years, Dr. Brett had been Pastor of the Reformed Church in Montgomery, Orange County, New York, where he was most happily located in a beautiful home overlooking the Walkill, and entirely engrossed in the care of a congregation that was responding with great sympathy to his labors. When the first call came to him from Bergen he replied that he felt it to be his duty to remain in Montgomery, but the committee was persistent; one bright summer day at the Montgomery station he met for the first time Louis A. Brigham, afterward a member of Congress from Jersey City, Judge John Brinkerhoff, and Nicholas J. Vreeland. These three gentlemen conveyed the greetings of the Bergen Church together with a call to become its Pastor, and it was quite evident from their deportment they went to Montgomery to get Dr. Brett.

The installation took place, August 1st, 1876. Strange to say, the ceremony was not observed in the newspapers of the time. Dr. Brett's name does not appear in that volume of the Journal at all except in the obscure association of the small-typed "religious notices," amplified by a few lines of type stating that "Rev. Mr. Brett preaches his Centennial sermon on Sunday next," August 20, 1876. His family remained at Montgomery for several weeks, and in the meantime the parsonage that was to be their home for forty-two years, was put in complete order and on the day they arrived they found the Ladies' Aid Society in possession and a most appetizing dinner prepared as their first experience in the long, long series of social functions in Jersey City. We trust this present instance will be a long, long way from the last.

As Dr. Brett says, that was the auspicious beginning of their life in Jersey City. In the old home their children grew up; for a time both daughter and son went to the school on Bergen Square; later they entered historic Hasbrouck Institute, whence they graduated, the daughter in 1884, and the son in 1888. All the fine connections of their lives were bound up in the parsonage on Bergen Avenue; it was the hearth around which were gathered eventually the friendships and memories of forty-two years.

Among many distinguished guests Dr. and Mrs. Brett have entertained there, they recall Dwight L. Moody, the famous evangelist; B.



THE BRETT FAMILY IN 1876, WHEN THEY FIRST CAME TO JERSEY CITY

Fay Mills; Ian Maclaren, the Scotch preacher and story writer; Rev. Benjamin Ishoo, a Nestorian Deacon, a Zulu prince and his wife, both black as night; Gen. Clinton B. Fiske, prohibition candidate for Governor; Dr. Ballard, for many years president of the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association; Dr. R. Ogden Doremus, professor of Science in the College of New York—he was the gentleman who used to startle folk with his experiments in frozen mercury, melted steel, artificially-made ice, and similarly freakish things done right before your eyes forty years ago!

Dr.

Taylor's
Semi-Cen-
tennial

Well, whether the newspapers noticed it or not, Dr. Brett had already started finely on his career as what the boys call "a good mixer" in Jersey City. The first event of large import in the early days of his life here was the celebration incident to the half century of Dr. Taylor's service in the Bergen Church. It is not singular that Dr. Brett has always been the subject of kindness and consideration from those with whom he came in contact; he has always imparted geniality and courtesy. The growing infirmity of Dr. Taylor was most tenderly recognized by Dr. Brett and the members of his congregation; the venerable pastor cordially welcomed his new colleague, and attended the morning services with regularity. Frequently he officiated at weddings in the church and at funerals of the older members, and occasionally he assisted in the celebration of the Holy Communion, until his trembling hand made it unsafe for him to handle the cup. The celebration brought together in one pretty perspective many notables of the time. The church was decorated with flowers, and although the occasion was designed to perpetuate the work of Dr. Taylor, one cannot help reading between the lines of the current reports how much of Dr. Brett's personality, as we know it to-day, was injected into the proceedings. There were two days devoted to the function, Sunday and Monday, July 7 and 8, 1878. At the service on Sunday, Dr. Brett read the sermon preached by Dr. Taylor at his installation on the first Sunday in July, 1828: "For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?" First Thessalonians ii:19.

The larger part of the celebration took place on Monday, and at 5 o'clock that evening the church was thronged. The venerable pastor, leaning upon the arm of his son, Rev. W. J. R. Taylor, was escorted to a seat inside the railing. Dr. Brett had had that tufted chair brought over from the parsonage and placed so that the speakers would stand close by him and give him the opportunity of hearing every word. After Rev. Dr. E. W. French, of the First Presbyterian Church, offered the opening prayer, Rev. Dr. Stitt of the Bayonne Reformed Church read the Scripture. Then Dr. Brett advanced and grasped the hand of Dr. Taylor, and gave his message of the moment. Perhaps Dr. Brett may tell us to-night just when he formed the habit of concocting these tabloid historical allusions, but upon the first occasion in which he is generously quoted we hear him telling the audience, on the side, that Dr. Taylor had buried four persons over one hundred years of age, two of them slaves; twenty churches had sprung from the old Bergen Church; five persons who were members of the church when Dr. Taylor took charge were

present that night. The names of these five were not mentioned in the Journal.

Rev. Dr. Van Cleef followed, with the congratulations of the South Classis of Bergen; Rev. Dr. Mabon, with the greetings from the old Classis of Bergen; Dr. Abeel, with the felicitations of the Classis of Newark. Then Dr. Campbell, president of Rutgers College, spoke for that institution. Next in order was the reading, by J. G. Harris, son-in-law of Dr. Taylor, of messages from parts of the country conveying their congratulations. Then the precentor struck his tuning fork and led the vast audience in the stately melody of hymn 459, "How firm a foundation, ye Saints of the Lord."

On behalf of the Gamma Sigma, the youngest member of that society, Rev. A. P. Foster, brought its greetings to the oldest member in a happy address. Dr. Demarest, father of President Demarest of Rutgers College, one of the earliest graduates of the Theological Seminary, at New Brunswick, was then announced by Dr. Brett. In the course of his remarks he recalled the doleful prediction by one of the seminarians a half century or more ago, that owing to Dr. Taylor's delicate constitution, his days in the ministry would likely be short! Rev. Dr. Duryee, of the Lafayette Reformed Church, and Dr. Putnam of St. Paul's Episcopal Church also made addresses expressive of their kindly feeling for Dr. Taylor.

Dr. Brett then presented Rev. W. J. R. Taylor, who responded on behalf of Dr. Taylor's family with a touching appreciation of the affair. He told us, too, that when his father first came to Bergen there were only fifteen families which did not use the Dutch language. Another address was made by Rev. Graham Taylor, grandson of Dr. Taylor, then of Hopewell, New York, later Professor in the Theological Seminary of Chicago, and celebrated the country over as the founder of the Chicago Commons. He, too, spoke for the family, and alluded to its twenty-two members who had served in the Christian ministry.

Dr. Taylor spoke at the end. He stood trembling, one hand leaning heavily upon his cane; three times his voice broke and he wept as he acknowledged all the loving attention from his friends. After Dr. Imbrie delivered the closing prayer, Dr. Taylor pronounced the benediction; Dr. Brett asked the audience to remain until Dr. Taylor had passed out. Then most of the audience repaired to Dr. Taylor's residence, 613 Bergen Avenue, where a collation had been prepared by the ladies of the church. Unfortunately the day of mentioning "those present" had not yet fully dawned, so we can not give the real social aspect of the reception that lasted from 8 to 10. We are told, however, that Hon.

C. H. Winfield occupied a seat near the platform and listened with great interest to the proceedings; that Judge Brinkerhoff, one of the oldest members of the congregation, sat near Hon. A. A. Hardenbergh; and that Rev. Dr. Ormiston, of New York, was also among the visiting clergymen.

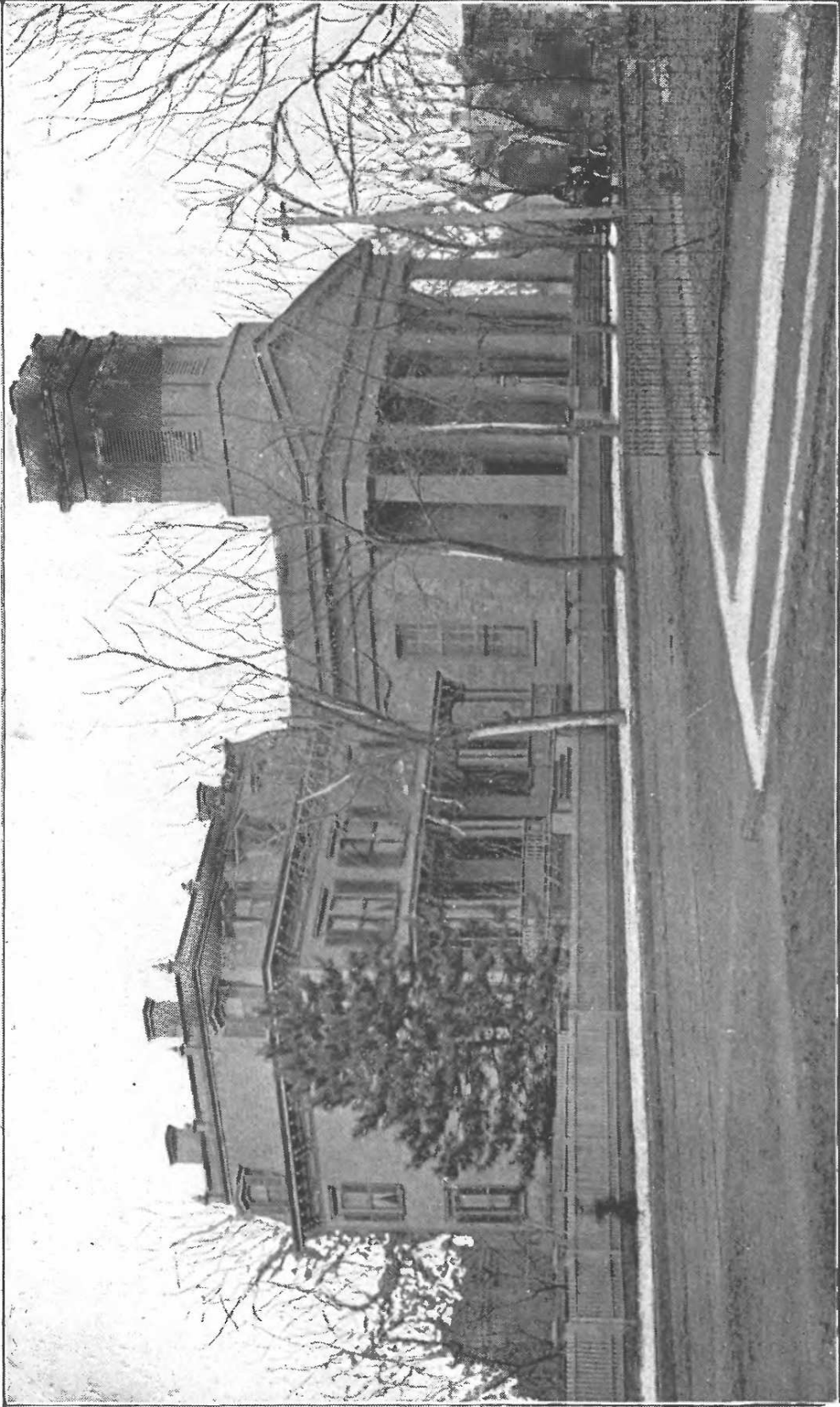
In his pages of recollections of the old parsonage, Dr. Brett has dwelt most feelingly upon this occasion. Although Dr. Taylor did not pass beyond until 1881, it seems to have marked the breaking of a tie with the very far past, the separation, in a sense, from a man who had once been a great power not only in his own church, but in the community as well.

His Ecclesiastical Honors

The probability of an early recognition of Dr. Brett's abilities seems to have been realized by his own church institutions. He was elected a member of the Board of Domestic Missions of the Reformed Church in 1879, served three years, and in 1885 was re-elected. Since then he has been in continual service for thirty-three years on the Board; for eleven years he was its president, and for a few months its treasurer pro tem. He was president of the Particular Synod in its session at Paramus early in his ministry; he served a term as member of the Board of Superintendents of the Theological Seminary at New Brunswick. In 1893 he was president of General Synod at its session at Asbury Park. He was a member of the Council of Hope College for eight years, and president of the Council for one year. As a Pennsylvanian, I am proud that Ursinus College, an institution of learning in my own State, and of my native county, was the first to recognize the right of Dr. Brett to theological honors, and to confer upon him the degree of D. D., in 1889. Rutgers thought it over for some years longer and gave him the degree in 1916.

His Church Work

In his church work, Dr. Brett has been one of the most systematic of men. It has been a source of wonder to me, when calling upon Dr. and Mrs. Brett for material for this monograph, that the Doctor could generally find a thing when he "looked" for it. He knew every cranny and crevice of that C. E. desk. In the early days of his ministry he usually wrote his sermons very carefully and read them from the pulpit. His addresses on public occasions were usually prepared with particular study so that his hearers would get nourishing food, rather than the froth of a wordy talk. An "old veteran" who was said by the *Journal* to have listened to that Decoration Day address in 1879, commented upon it with the remark, "why, it was worth a year of my life to hear and see Dominie Brett!"



THE HOME OF THE BRETTS FOR FORTY-TWO YEARS, AND THE OLD CHURCH

It seems idle to set down in lines of type the attitude of Dr. Brett towards organizations in his own church; he always had advanced ideas about enlisting every possible phase of endeavor in forwarding its interests. The Boys' Brigade, comprising an infantry company, a signal corps, a park of artillery with two guns, and an ambulance corps, under command of Major Charles W. Laws, will never be forgotten by those who participated in the parades and camps. Many a young man who took his first military steps in that Boys' Brigade afterward distinguished himself in the National Guard and in the Spanish War.

The Brett Club came later; the Duryee Club was still another manifestation of the same purpose; while the Men's Club is yet one of the leading church organizations designed to draw the men of a community into better acquaintanceship with each other and into finer relationship with public questions and public men. Now it is the Boy Scouts of to-day who are carrying along the torch that they will hand undimmed to those of the future who are to carry on the splendid work.

When Dr. Brett came here in 1876 he found the Hudson County Sunday School Association in the full vigor of its usefulness, with Elijah S. Cowles as president. For years and years, Dr. Brett has been a familiar figure at the annual conventions, held on election day. The evening meetings were always a source of inspiration and encouragement to the thousands of Sabbath school workers who have attended them.

The Hudson County Bible Society was another institution which flourished in 1876, and for many years afterward, too. An annual meeting for business was held in one of the churches, followed by an informal entertainment of delegates. An evening service at which valuable and earnest addresses were made by secretaries of the American Bible Society and other speakers. Dr. Brett was president of the local society for several years, and when, by a change of policy at the Bible House, the auxiliaries were abolished, he carried the ancient book of records for deposit in the society headquarters. The Hudson County Bible Society was founded in 1852. Our friend John W. Heck had a copy of its Fourth Annual Report (1856), showing a financial statement signed by Revs. Charles K. Imbrie and P. D. Van Cleef.

In his earlier years here Dr. Brett was in active co-operation with Rev. William Verrinder, for more than a generation the well-known city missionary. Dr. Brett was one of the managers of the Jersey City Missionary and Tract Society, an organization which eventually went out of existence when the growth of the town required different methods of meeting its charitable problems. Mr. Verrinder was a pioneer in the

social survey idea, antedating by decades the program of later social economists. Some of his reports are inquisitorial curiosities, and they cover information about the "number of places where intoxicating liquor is openly sold," and the number of promises obtained to attend church.

Prior to the establishing of the Y. P. S. C. E. in Bergen Church, The Y. P. there was a Young Men's Guild which owed its origin to Dr. Brett's S. C. E. belief in the co-ordination of every impulse for good. After Rev. F. E. Clark had aroused the young people of America with his enthusiasm, the cabalistic capitals were adopted in Bergen Church as the insignia for their religious expression. It was in 1900 that the Society was formed here, while the county union was organized shortly afterward. These county union anniversaries were considered among the most enthusiastic religious gatherings of their day, and they went far toward disseminating the propaganda of Christian unity, a proposition which received further stimulus through the State conventions.

The Y. P. S. C. E. of Bergen Church evidently thought enough of itself or of Dr. Brett to make a special ceremony of his 25th anniversary on October 25, 1901, and they made a notable affair of it. Many prominent C. E. folk from afar were present. Prof. Wagner's orchestra furnished the music, Mayor Edward Hoos was one of the speakers. Others were Robert A. Alberts who acted as toast master; Harry Brennesholtz; first vice-president of the N. J. C. E. Union, E. E. Anthony; and President Arthur E. Farrier of the Hudson County Union. Dr. and Mrs. Brett were made the recipients of a handsome roll-top desk and chair that evening.

Dr. Brett was vice-president of the State Association, when Rev. J. Clement French, of Newark, was president. Later he was chosen president, and in the course of that connection, he delivered addresses in almost every county of New Jersey. The work of this organization has long been considered by Dr. Brett as of very high efficiency; and the manifestation of Dr. Brett's early activities in that field has been perpetuated by the naming of the summer home of the Hudson County Christian Endeavor Union for him in 1901—Camp Brett.

This pretty compliment is not the only one of the sort that has been paid him. About a decade later the Jersey City Shade Tree Commission, while casting about for a few good names with which to adorn some of the breathing spots of the city instead of numbering them like convicts or schools, selected Cornelius Brett as appropriate for one. This was not because Dr. Brett had any particular "drag" with the president of the Commission, but because great names like Leonard J.

Gordon, Mary Benson, and Katherine Buxton Pope are too easily forgotten ordinarily in this town. So we have Cornelius Brett Triangle and John J. Voorhees Quadrangle, and so on.

Gamma Sigma

Co-incident with the beginning of his church activities here, Dr. Brett was invited to become a member of the ministers' association known as Gamma Sigma. The greek letters stand for words denoting "yoke-fellow." When inditing his memoirs of that organization, Dr. Brett could not refrain from expressions of the tenderest sort as to the verity of the yoke-fellowship, the burden-sharing, of his beloved brethren in the ministry.

The first meeting he attended was at the home of Rev. Dr. Van Cleef on Barrow Street, and as Dr. Brett's mental vision spanned the space of years since that day, he commented upon the group of splendid preachers and teachers he recalled: Dr. Abercrombie, of St. Matthew's; Dr. Rice, of Grace Van Vorst; both of them in the last years of their faithful ministries; Rev. Charles K. Imbrie, an eloquent preacher and scholarly theologian, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, then downtown; Rev. J. Howard Suydam, of the Park Reformed Church; Rev. John R. Fisher, of the Second Presbyterian Church; Rev. Dr. Harkness, of the Third, or Scotch Presbyterian Church; Rev. Dr. Van Cleef, and the venerable Pastor Emeritus, of Bergen, Dr. Taylor. Of Dr. Suydam, we might add in passing that he was a gentleman of very profound scholarship, a traveler of extraordinary powers of observation and facility of expression. He was a familiar figure in the Jersey City of a generation ago. All his papers, diaries, letters, sermons, etc., were in the home of his widow in Philadelphia two years ago. When she died these were all deliberately burned up. Doubtless, a great deal of the familiar history of Jersey City, at least that part of it that was seen by Dr. Suydam, was destroyed at that time.

The Society met every fortnight at four in the afternoon. At each meeting a paper was read and fully discussed. An interesting feature of each meeting was a review of books which members had been reading. At six o'clock, the entertaining member, through the ladies of the family served a supper or dinner, and as nearly all the members had evening engagements, all withdrew at the conclusion of the meal.

In the early days of Gamma Sigma arrangements were made for the celebration of the week of prayer by union services, the day of prayer for colleges, and sometimes for union evangelical services. Later in its history, Gamma Sigma enlarged its territory by taking in ministers from North Hudson and Bayonne. Other ministerial boards were organized from it in order to act in harmony in civic affairs and the larger

religious life of the city. Dr. Brett recalls with particular interest the arrival of Rev. A. P. Foster in Jersey City and his installation as the Tabernacle Pastor in 1877. He was one of the intellectual giants of the Congregational Church in his day, and his contributions to the Gamma Sigma programs were always listened to with profound respect.

Dr. Brett's relations with Dr. Van Cleef seem to focus on a number of occasions. Another notable one was on February 16, 1880, the celebration day of Dr. Van Cleef's golden jubilee at the Wayne Street Church. Dr. Brett preached the anniversary sermon. The mention of that institution with its fine congregation suggested the name of one of its distinguished men, Wm. L. Dickinson, whom Dr. Brett knew well as an elder there, and through association with many other affairs of a public-spirited character.

Dr. and Mrs. Brett were among the early appreciators of the great The purpose in the life of Mrs. Erminnie A. Smith, founder of the long- forgotten Aesthetic Society. They attended most of the functions of the society in the decade of its existence, and from this far side of the generation of years our two friends recalled many delightful experiences in the Lafayette Church and in Mrs. Smith's spacious home in Lafayette, when people notable in the world's literary and artistic life foregathered at her instance. The informal luncheons at Mrs. Smith's, served by the daughters, were really memorable affairs. May Riley Smith has embalmed them in her tribute thus:

The wide rooms of her hospitable heart
Gave to its eager guests such royal fare
That of the company she summoned there
Not one who entered ever did depart.

She is still hostess for our old friends in the Bergen manse. Mrs. Brett remembered that she had two programs of the Aesthetic Society's meetings, and quickly turned to them in her scrap-book. One of them referred to the meeting of Saturday afternoon November 1, 1879. The lion of that occasion was Frederic Vors, art expert for Tiffany & Co., and he gave a most intensely interesting talk upon his subject, "Art Work in Metal," exemplifying it with specimens of the rarest pieces from the Tiffany studios—Egyptian, Cloisonne, etc., etc. Dr. Brett recalled, too, the vast information Mrs. Smith had on the subject of gems, speaking especially of her essay in the "Echoes" and those parts of it about the gems in the breast-plate of the High-Priest, and the foundations of the New Jerusalem.

The other program is dated December 6th, 1879; it is decorated by hand with a sprig of cypress blooms. That was the day that Dr. Peet of New York brought over his class of deaf mutes—and, incidentally, started something in Lafayette. Dr. Brett told me all about the audiphone as he first met it that day, and as expounded by Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Croffut. The melody of Mendelssohn's "Midsummer Night's Dream" duo, as played by Prof. H. F. Elss and his protege, Raymond Noonan, still lingered in his memory, too.

Dr. Brett recalls the visit, too, of Oscar Wilde to Lafayette—as nearly as I can confirm the date, this was on June 8, 1882. To people not carried away by the eccentric propaganda or cult he was then carrying on and translating into large volumes of United States legal tender, Wilde was better known as the author of some beautiful poetry; but his singular appearance, his characteristic posturing in velvet shorts, and his evident enjoyment of the adulation he must have presumed he was arousing, were still recalled by Dr. Brett with a smile.

Matthew Arnold

One of the most brilliant of those famous Aesthetic functions was given in the Lafayette Church, Saturday, December 29, 1883, and it was especially famous for two reasons, first, because Dr. Brett presided over it, and second, because Matthew Arnold, the English "author, philosopher and lecturer" was the guest of honor. In one corner of a page of his scrap book, Dr. Brett still preserves as a souvenir of that meeting a card bearing Matthew Arnold's autograph and the date he wrote it. I, too, have been fortunate in having secured one of the guest cards for the occasion, which a thoughtful friend has been saving for me ever since; it is of interest to show a reproduction of it here. Dr. Brett's fancy easily bridged the years to that wonderful afternoon, to tell with a laugh of the question asked by the puzzled Mr. Arnold as they sat upon the platform facing the crowded auditorium.

Major Pangborn was one of "those present" that afternoon, and from the current newspaper account of the meeting, I abstract what is manifestly the Major's description of Matthew Arnold: "His appearance is that of the typical English scholar. He has a well-proportioned figure, parts his hair in the middle and wears side-whiskers. He frequently placed his single glass over his right eye, allowed it to remain a few moments, and then, by relaxing the muscles, dropped it. His voice and delivery were those of a High-Church English clergyman reading prayers. His enunciation is indistinct."

The Major, as is well known, had antipathies: he did not like Matthew Arnold's lecture on Emerson, and said so in that penultimate

sentence. Chief Justice Shea was also at the meeting, but he was more kind in his spoken reference to Mr. Arnold, whom he said he met in Oxford, in 1870, and to whom he extended a most cordial welcome to America. Mrs. Smith, in her introduction of Mr. Arnold, referred to the beauty of his literary productions and then led most gracefully into a pretty compliment as "the greatest aesthetician of the age." By the way, it was upon this occasion, I am told, that the ushers appeared in "full dress," Mrs. Smith's son Carl being in charge of the group. Their costume included knee breeches and dress coats and is further described as "very becoming." George A. McIlroy, Fred R. Dudley, Charles W. Quaife, and W. H. Matticks, are named as the rest of the ushers.

EMERSON

— BY —

MR. MATTHEW ARNOLD

Saturday, December 29th, at 2 o'clock, P. M

PIANO SOLO.

MISS HENRIETTE MARKSTEIN

VOCAL MUSIC.

MEIGS SISTERS QUARTETTE.

MRS. CLEMENTINE LASAR STUDWELL.

DR. BRETT PRESIDED OVER THIS MEETING IN 1883

Mrs. Smith died June 9, 1886, and was buried from the Lafayette Reformed Church, whose walls had so often resounded with the echoes of her enterprise. Her sincerity, her enthusiasm, and her genuine accomplishments had most profoundly impressed so many great folk of the land besides the "Aesthetic Society" group in Jersey City. Dr. Brett was chosen as one of the pall-bearers, and a large and distinguished company from home and afar gathered to honor the memory of an illustrious woman that day; it would be difficult indeed to find a more imposing group in a single circle of friendships than she had. Can we wonder that the faces of Dr. and Mrs. Brett are illumined when this page of their past is turned over for them?

From the Lafayette "salon," Dr. Brett's reminiscences turned to those rare evenings at Major J. B. Pond's, a few years later, when some of the most eminent talent of the country appeared for the entertainment of the Major's friends who had been summoned by telephone or special messenger. There was no regular time for these gatherings; they happened when the entertainer was available, and Dr. Brett says that Major Pond's friends would either have to be very sick or very busy to decline the invitations. These affairs, too, were only interrupted by the sickness and death of another splendid citizen, one whom Jersey City people once regarded as their friend and benefactor.

Another manifestation of the culture of those times found expression in the "Odd Volumes," an organization of which Mrs. Brett was a member, and whose president is still Mrs. John A. Holland, formerly Miss Celia Gaines, one of the daughters of the Aesthetic Society. Going down through the years, there are newspaper accounts of a trip up the Hudson, of meetings at the homes of club members, of a breakfast at the Jersey City Club, and so on.

The Garfield Memorial

President Garfield died September 19, 1881, the victim of the assassin Guiteau's bullet the previous July 2. For all those weeks the thoughts and prayers of the nation were centered upon the dying man, and when he passed away the Mayor and Board of Aldermen designated the Bergen Reformed Church as one of several places in the city at which public services of sorrow would be held. The meeting was held Monday evening September 26th, and many prominent citizens were present. Revs. F. C. Putnam, H. H. Waite, J. W. Hathaway, J. V. N. Tallmage, E. L. Stoddard, P. G. Blight, A. S. Gumbart, E. W. French and Cornelius Brett; Hon. Jacob Weart, Isaac S. Taylor, Esq., Justice Jonathan Dixon, Hon. G. D. Van Reipen and Major Z. K. Pangborn made addresses or otherwise participated in the exercises. Harry Brigham presided at the organ and A. D. Joslin led the music.

The previous day most of the pastors all over the city preached memorial sermons, and it was decided at that meeting in the Bergen Church to collate all those sermons and the reports of the public meetings in a memorial volume with the hope "that it will keep alive in our memories the virtues of this great statesman and stimulate the rising generation to greater exertions and a broader Christian philanthropy." The volume is a scarce piece of local literature to-day. It is of curious literary interest because of the fact that the sermonizing of nineteen local preachers upon the same subject is gathered in one volume. I believe

it is unique in that respect. Dr. Brett took his text from Second Chronicles xxxv:14-15, and his sermon is found on pp. 127-144 of the book.

When Dr. Brett went abroad in 1882, Jacob Weart, Esq., the editor of the book, handed him a sumptuously bound copy that was prepared for the especial purpose of presentation to Queen Victoria. She had expressed such deep interest in President Garfield's fate and sent such loving messages of sympathy to Mrs. Garfield during the long days of his illness. The book was covered in red morocco and silk lined, and stamped with the royal arms. Arriving in London, Dr. Brett called upon James Russell Lowell who was then our representative in England. Mr. Lowell received the minister from Jersey City with great affability, and as Dr. Brett unfolded his mission, he thought he saw a smile play over the lips of the author of the Bigelow Papers; perhaps he might have written another Paper upon the presumption of a plain American citizen in bringing a book for the delectation of the Empress of India!

However, Mr. Lowell explained that as the representative of the United States, he was only a minister, and not an ambassador, he could only approach the Queen through the Foreign Office, and that if Dr. Brett left the book in his care he would undertake to deliver it to the Foreign Secretary. That he kept his word was known a few weeks later when the Queen's Secretary, Sir Henry Ponsonby acknowledged the gift in a letter to Mr. Weart. Another copy of the book was sent to Mrs. Garfield and gracefully acknowledged by her on July 4, 1882.

Mr. Lowell, like most people, was captivated by his genial visitor from Jersey City, and he did more than deliver Dr. Brett's package to the Queen: he gave him a visiting card which secured a seat in the gallery in the House of Commons. From this Dr. Brett looked down on the historic Parliament of Great Britain and listened to one of the speeches of the great commoner, Gladstone.

Cosmos without Dr. Brett would seem like the play with no Hamlet. Cosmos His presence has been such a matter of course, that few of us can ClubCom- visualize the tragedy of his absence. Some of our more elderly friends here menced to-night will bear me out in the statement that the Jersey City of an older generation, before the Durham Duplex days, ran rather to high-brows. Debating and literary societies abounded. These were a sort of oratorical training camp, and the youth who attended them sharpened their wits upon abstract questions that never were settled even when decided. Capital punishment has been abolished, and it has not been abolished;

prohibition has been adopted and it has not been adopted. And millions and millions of cubic feet of hot air have been expended in Jersey City alone, about these matters years before Cosmos came into being!

Dr. Brett credits Rev. Dr. E. L. Stoddard with having issued the first invitation to a number of gentlemen of Jersey City to meet at his home for the purpose of organizing a club for the discussion of philosophical and historical questions and topics of timely interest. He recalls the names of Father Corrigan, Father Hennessy, Dr. Stoddard, Dr. Brush, John A. Walker, Major Pangborn, Charles R. Heike, James Flemming and Flavel McGee, in that connection.

The club was formed upon the basis of free parliament, and its first rule was "no refreshments"—broken at the first meeting. It was the custom to "meet around;" many papers of importance were read and the discussions developed great interest. When the club met at Dr. Brett's residence, Thursday, September 16, 1886, the current account says that the organization then was six months old. A gentleman distinguished as "ex-Mayor" Gilbert Collins presented a paper entitled "codification of the law; its desirability and practicability." Rev. Dr. Stoddard was president at that time; W. H. Newell, M. D., secretary and treasurer; and James Flemming, Rev. Patrick Corrigan and Wm. T. Evans, executive committee.

We get an illuminating glimpse of Cosmos' catholicity in the same article: at the three previous meetings, Rev. Wm. A. Holbrook, of St. Matthew's P. E. Church, read a paper on "Communion;" Wm. T. Evans, on "American Art;" Rev. Dr. Stoddard, on "Modern Education." The meeting for October 28, 1886, was held at the residence of Rev. Father Corrigan in Hoboken. Robert Waters, one of the public school teachers, told Cosmos "How a Work of Genius Originates." The club then had a membership of fifty, which it was planned to increase to one hundred.

Cosmos eventually lapsed into the habit of "Ladies' Nights;" and looking forward to this occasion, Dr. Brett has saved for twenty-three years a program of one of its most delightfully memorable functions. This was given at the Hotel Washington, February 22, 1895, and the two inside pages of the card are reproduced for this souvenir, with the suggestion that the legend at the top of the left hand page be read carefully in connection with the market list below it. John A. Walker was president at that time. The list of speakers and the titles of their addresses would indicate rather an interesting evening.

"During a part of this terrible winter (1777-78) the Army was reduced to a fare of hominy and potatoes. The Commander-in-Chief shared this with his men, and it is said it formed his birthday dinner, February 22nd, 1778." *Washington at Valley Forge.*

•: MENU. •:

Blue Point Oysters on Shell.

SOUP.

Consomme of Chicken.

RELISHES.

Celery. Queen Olives. Radishes.

FISH.

Broiled Pompano, a l'Ecossoise.

Potatoes Chateau.

ENTRÉE.

Filet of Beef with Spaghetti, American Style.

Asparagus in Branches.

CHERRY SHERBET.

ROAST.

Blue-Winged Teal Duck on Toast.

Currant Jelly.

LETTUCE SALAD

DESSERT.

Cosmos Ice Cream.

Roquefort Cheesé.

Fruits.

French Coffee.

Fancy Cakes.

Toasted Biscuits.

ADDRESSES.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS, JOHN A. WALKER.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF OUR GOVERNMENT, { Rev. JOSIAH STRONG, D.D.

"The foundation of a great Empire is laid, and I favor myself with the persuasion that Providence will not leave its work imperfect."

Washington to Congress, 1780.

SUCCESSES AND FAILURES OF OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM, { GEO. L. RECORD.

"The preservation of the sacred fire of Liberty, and the destiny of the Republican model of Government, are justly considered as deeply, perhaps as finally, staked on the experiment intrusted to the hands of the American people."

Washington's First Inaugural, 1789.

THE AMERICAN FREE SCHOOLS, ADDISON B. POLAND, Ph. D.

"Promote, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened."

Farewell Address, 1786.

NEW JERSEY IN THE REVOLUTION, HON. JOHN A. BLAIR.

"The most brilliant campaign of the century."--*Frederick the Great, on the Trenton and Princeton Campaign.*

THE WOMEN OF THE REVOLUTION AND OF TO-DAY, { COL. J. B. WILKINSON, JR.

"It embellishes the American character with a new trait, by proving that the love of country is blended with those softer domestic virtues which have always been allowed to be peculiarly your own."

Washington to the Women, 1787.

Music by Toone's N. Y. City Orchestra.

"LADIES' NIGHT" AT THE COSMOS CLUB, FEBRUARY 22, 1895. SURVIVED BY DR. AND MRS. BRETT

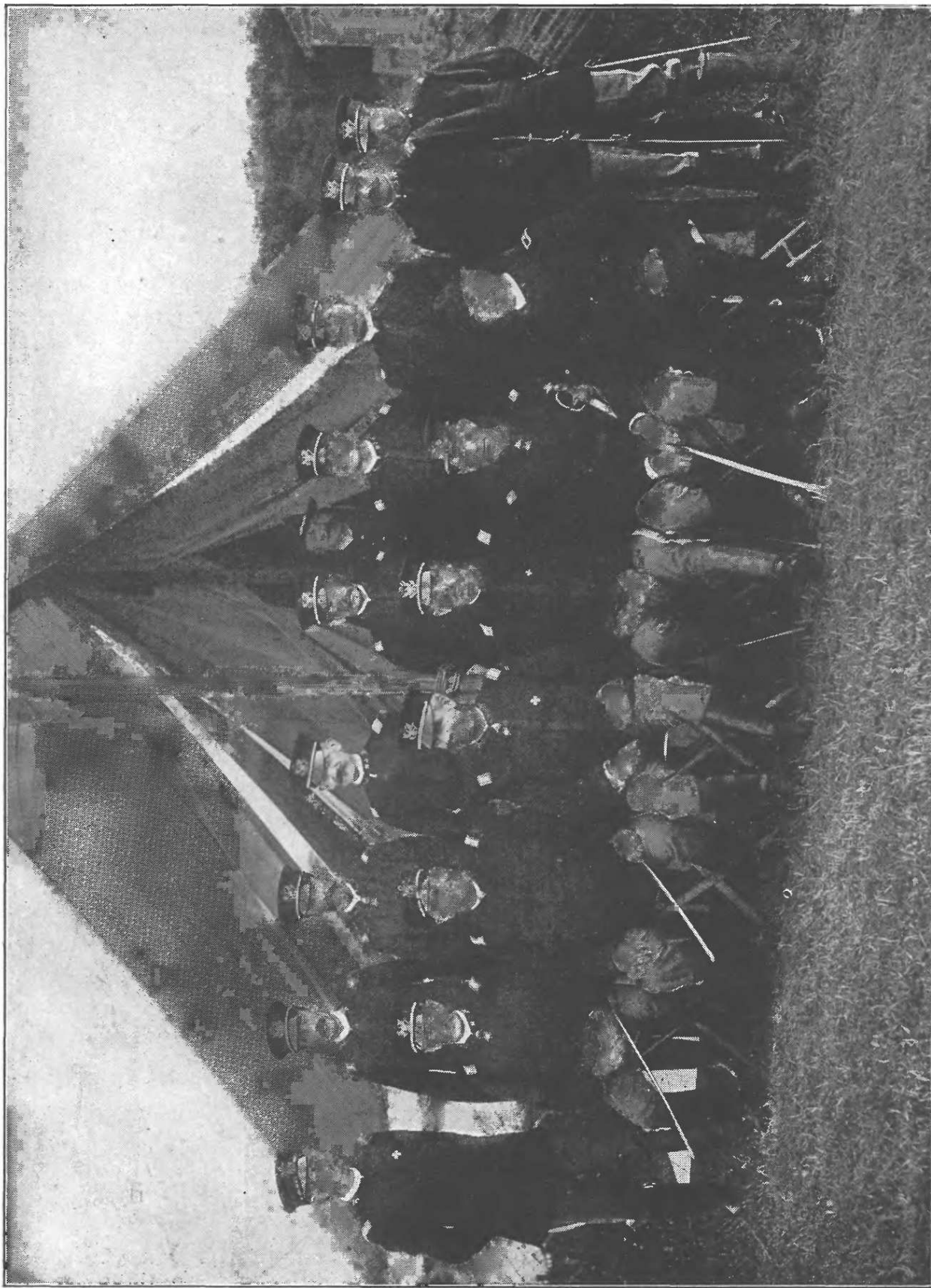
**Chaplain
of the
Fourth
Regiment**

When the Fourth Regiment returned from the Spanish War there was a complete reorganization, involving among other changes, the appointment of a new chaplain. One evening Adjutant Gerardin appeared at Dr. Brett's home with a message from Col. Smith, covering an offer of the position. The first thought that flashed through Dr. Brett's mind was that he was not an expert horseman, and as the Chaplain was supposed to be a mounted officer, he hesitated to accept. But then the Doctor remembered that his home was practically next door to the Armory; that his summer home was only nine miles from Sea Girt; that he might possibly learn to ride better; that perhaps he might be able to buy a cheap saddle and other accoutrements from Dr. Scudder; such was the train of thought that led him to accepting the appointment and being sworn in as a member of the National Guard.

As showing the place Dr. Brett had come to occupy as "news value," we read in one of the papers that Dr. Brett had made his appearance in a new suit: it was his new uniform as Chaplain, and "he presented a very fine appearance in it." But he never did like to ride a horse, and his appearance on parade distracted his son, who was then an officer in the Signal Corps, to such an extent that the latter narrowly escaped discipline on more than one occasion when he had to decide quickly between filial duty to save his father or to stand fast and let the runaway get away with him. Still Dr. Brett stuck to the Fourth for eight years, preaching his annual sermon from "Little Round Top," and another to the "boys" every May in his own church, and taking that grilling trip over Manassas with the U. S. A. manœuvres with them. He retired under a legislative enactment that deprived the State of all commissioned officers who had passed their 64th year.

Col. Vickers was with the committee that called upon Dr. Brett a few weeks ago to pull his particular string in the plan we were weaving, and there was no one in the party who could present the argument on behalf of the boys "over there," with the eloquence and impressiveness that Col. Vickers could and did. He had "campaigned" with Dr. Brett in the strenuous times of the summer encampments, and on parades and other military functions; and he knew the psychology of the Fourth Regiment. Dr. Brett "gave;" of course, the Fourth Regiment "gave" in return; men know whom they like, and why.

Several months after Dr. Brett resigned the chaplaincy (in 1909), the Armory was the scene of another affair, something akin to the one which calls us together to-night. The members of the Fourth Regiment were quite as reluctant to say farewell to him then as we are now, and one evening our friend was summoned from the comfort of that big



OFFICERS OF THE FOURTH REGIMENT, WHEN DR. BRETT WAS CHAPLAIN

chair in his study to appear before the Board of Regimental Officers, in consultation over some business of alleged importance. His successor as Chaplain, Rev. J. Madison Hare, then made an address dealing with the characteristic capacity of Dr. Brett for reaching the hearts of every man in the regiment, and he concluded by presenting the astonished Dominie with a superb testimonial, to which practically every member of the regiment had subscribed. That in itself was unusual, but Chaplain Brett was generally conceded to be entitled to unusual honors. The testimonial consisted of eight double eagles in a morocco-covered box, together with the iron cross symbolizing long service in the New Jersey State militia.

**Boomed
for the
Mayor-
alty**

Most of Dr. Brett's friends of 1918 do not know, perhaps, of the narrow escape he had about twenty-five years ago from being elected Mayor of Jersey City. Fourteen Jersey City clergymen met in the lecture-room of the Wayne Street Reformed Church to talk over the scandalous state of local politics and to make an effort to procure some amelioration of affairs. These were the fourteen—and their names are of interest as showing who the ministers were who were ready to clean things up in that day: Rev. Paul D. Van Cleef, Wayne Street Reformed Church; Rev. John L. Scudder and Rev. Mr. Wells, First Congregational (Tabernacle) Church; Rev. Alexander McKelvey, Second Presbyterian Church; Rev. Joseph Dalby, Centenary Methodist Church; Rev. Gottlieb Andreae, St. John's German Evangelical Church; Rev. Edward McMinn, Summit Avenue Baptist Church; Rev. Cornelius Brett, Bergen Reformed Church; Rev. Mr. Heisig, First Baptist Church; Rev. Teunis J. Kommers, Lafayette Reformed Church; Rev. Wm. D. Grant, South Bergen Reformed Church; Rev. Nathan Sherwood, Waverly Congregational Church; Rev. David Mitchell, Scotch Presbyterian Church; Rev. R. K. Wick, Wayne Street Reformed Church.

Rev. Mr. Grant admitted that the meeting had been called at his suggestion, so that Dr. Brett is therefore absolved from any suspicion of having sought political preferment. Mr. Grant presented a not altogether unfamiliar arraignment of the City Hall bunch, and said he thought it was about time an honest man should be elected to the mayoralty; it was time the clergymen had something to say as to who should administer the affairs of the city. He approved a citizens' movement, and thought that if Rev. Cornelius Brett could be induced to stand as a candidate for Mayor he would sweep the city. These remarks were vigorously applauded.

After thanking Mr. Grant for thinking so highly of him, Mr. Brett gently and firmly declared that he had no desire to be Mayor of Jersey City, and so that opened the field for discussion of candidates and a good many other things. Dr. Scudder, "who is becoming quite an authority on political matters," was in favor of holding a convention, participated in by all citizens who favor honest government and financed by the delegates or those who sent them to it.

Mr. Brett then pointed out the dangerous possibility of such a convention being packed, leaving to the citizens no other course than supporting some undesirable candidate. Dr. Scudder insisted that the convention could be organized so that only representatives from the different churches could be chosen. "But why can't we nominate Brother Brett? He is just the man for our emergency!" Again he shut his eyes upon the alluring prospect for political life. But he would have made a good Mayor, just the same!

The Moral Reform League was launched on October 17, 1893, in the United Presbyterian Church on Barrow Street. Dr. Brett was its president. Somehow, one gathers from the papers of those times a feeling that Jersey City must have been a very uncomfortable place for immoralists to live in! Dr. John L. Scudder was extremely active then, and he too had a habit of calling a spade by its real name, rather than an implement used to dig post holes. The following Tuesday night (October 24th) the League had a big mass meeting in the Tabernacle.

Dr. C. H. Parkhurst was the principal speaker and when Dr. Brett introduced him the audience almost went wild over his attacks upon the grand juries and their failures. The meeting endorsed the shrievalty candidacy of Col. John J. Toffey tumultuously, although we are told that a certain "S. B. Ransom, a rabid prohibitionist" made a lot of trouble trying to stampede the League into endorsing T. W. Bergen, the prohibition candidate for sheriff.

All through the following weeks the League held rousing meetings, and it seems strange to say their sheriff was elected. For Sunday November 12, Dr. Scudder announced as the subject of his "prelude," "The Ring is dead. Funeral services will be held in the Tabernacle next Sunday evening at 7:30. Please omit flowers." And in the later newspaper report of the sermon we find that he described the character of the deceased, the cause of his death, and the lesson that should be drawn by certain city officials whose names and functions are not necessarily a part of this present memoir of Dr. Brett. Of a meeting of the League held in the lecture room of the Bergen Reformed Church on November 27, it was said that that organization, it seemed,

was now the "boss," and political preferment could only come through its endorsement.

First Trip Abroad

I wish there was space enough in these pages to give Dr. Brett's own account of his first trip abroad in 1882. He and Mrs. Brett, and E. H. Apgar sailed for the "grand tour" on the Cunarder *Gallia*, one of the finest in her day, and landed in Liverpool, ten days out. Just where their feet touched the ground, I have not been able to ascertain; they must have flown, every day after they landed, to accomplish it all! Disembarking on a Saturday morning, they immediately went out to Chester; the "Roman walls, the magnificent cathedral, the curious old buildings"—these were all done before twilight, and the evening was spent in Liverpool again.

Stratford-on-Avon, Kenilworth, Warwick Castle, Leamington; then some delightful days in London, even if they did not get into the fashionable Grosvenor in the West end; an interview with James Russell Lowell, recounted on other pages of this narrative; Ventnor, Isle of Wight, visiting Isaac S. Taylor; tally-ho rides through the charming island; back to London, thence to Harwich and Rotterdam, and a tour through Holland and Belgium; to Cologne, and down the storied Rhine, with a day's stop at Coblenz and castled Ehrenbreitstein—an institution now closed to American tourists.

Heidelberg, Strasburg, a ride through the Black Forest, Neuenhausen, Constance, Thün, by diligence for two days over the Splügen Pass, to Lake Como, and thence to Milan and Venice; then Switzerland and the Italian Lakes, the Alps, and eventually back to Paris. Then across to England again and up to York, Abbotsford, Edinboro, the Trossachs, Glasgow, Liverpool—and home. About three months of it! It makes one breathless even to read that sparkling itinerary. And still, in 1918, if Dr. Brett wasn't a bit uncertain with his eyes, he'd be tramping abreast of the spryest of us instead of driving in Red Cross parades!

In Jersey City the reflex of this wonderful journey with Mr. de Potter's party was presently seen in the local papers; an advertisement tells us that Dr. Brett would give a course of lectures on "Europe in three evenings," Tuesdays, January 16, 23 and 30, 1883, and that Isaac S. Taylor would lecture about the Isle of Wight on February 6. Perhaps some of my readers to-night may have heard the lectures; I am sorry that my acquaintance with Dr. Brett had not then begun, for a man who could paint Europe in three evenings might have enlightened

me a little on the subject of picturing forty-two years of his life in a twenty-minute essay!

In 1884, Dr. and Mrs. Brett were members of a party which accompanied George B. Fielder across the continent, to attend a National reunion of the Grand Army of the Republic at San Francisco. Mr. Fielder was then commander of the State veterans of the Civil War. The tourists left via the Erie Railroad to Chicago and thence to Denver. Excursions were made to Colorado Springs, Manitou, Garden of the Gods and the foot of Pike's Peak. Then there was a stop at Salt Lake City, with "Pioneer Day" attractions, besides the usual sight-seeing trip to the Tabernacle, and a bath in the Salt Lake.

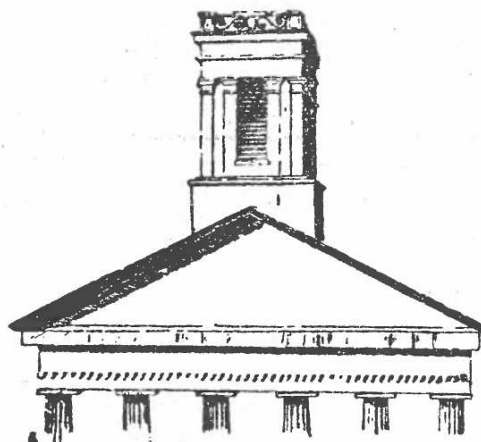
Mrs. Brett's brother, Simeon N. Runyon, was their host in San Francisco. From there they made a delightful journey to the Yosemite, and they would have had another equally delightful sea voyage if there hadn't been something wrong with that Pacific Ocean. At Tacoma they met the veteran General Sherman. The occasion was a grand ball; but I am unable to get the General's opinion of Mrs. Brett's dancing, in time for this publication.

Their journey was pursued from Portland up the Columbia River, where they saw the great salmon fisheries; and then on from the Dalles to Yellowstone Park. Five days were spent in that marvelous area of scenic grandeur, and they turned with some reluctance to a resumption of the journey to St. Paul. As usual, the whole trip abounded in opportunities for new acquaintances and friendship; and for service and usefulness to fellow travelers; for the performance of little courtesies which make the long days of travel memorable rather than miserable or tedious. Dr. Brett recalls among other delightful memories of that journey, holding religious services on the train on the Sunday morning before they reached St. Paul, in which he and Dr. Graham of Philadelphia participated.

Another milestone in the career of our good friend was passed on May 16th, 1901, when the twenty-fifth anniversary of his pastorate was celebrated. Again the Doctor and his wife were surrounded by multitudes of their friends and overwhelmed with congratulations from everybody. The Ladies' Aid Society planned the affair, and it was counted one of the big events in the history of the church. Former Sheriff John J. Toffey, he who was a little doubtful once about the practical

.. 1876 ..

.. 1901 ..



**THE LADIES' AID SOCIETY
OF THE BERGEN REFORMED CHURCH**

**REQUEST YOUR PRESENCE IN THE LECTURE ROOM
ON THURSDAY EVENING, MAY SIXTEENTH,
AT EIGHT O'CLOCK,
TO PARTICIPATE IN CELEBRATING THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF
DR. BRETT'S PASTORATE.**

FAC-SIMILE OF THE 25th ANNIVERSARY INVITATION 1901

aid a ministerial endorsement would be to a man running for the shreivalty, was glad to preside on this occasion. A letter from Rev. James L. Amerman, who moved out of the Bergen parsonage to go to Japan, was read; he was still in Japan, and still in love with the memory of his former friends on Bergen Avenue.

Rev. Dr. E. L. Stoddard, Rev. T. J. Kommers, Rev. Dr. A. H. Brush, and Rev. Arney S. Biddle were among the clergymen present who brought messages from sister churches; and Isaac S. Taylor, Esq., son of the former pastor, was particularly felicitous in an address which culminated in the presentation to Dr. Brett of a "silver brick" on behalf of the congregation. The news account of the event tells of the delightful music with which the program was enlivened, and gives us the names of the singers: Miss Mary E. Currie, soprano; Mrs. W. J. Oliver, alto; Charles L. Dunn, tenor, and Wm. F. Brown, basso. Frank R. Gilbert was the organist.

When that "silver brick" was turned over to our guest of this evening, the suggestion was made that the money be spent in traveling. The thrifty donors, when they donated it, knew by that time that they could have more pleasure out of it that way than any other. So Dr. Brett and his son-in-law, Rev. W. H. Boocock, bought them tickets



DR. BRETT IN 1901

for a trip to the West Indies the following winter, with the prime purpose of visiting St. Thomas, where Dr. Brett's father preached in the early forties. When Dr. Brett was only six weeks old he made his first voyage thither in the bark Martin W. Brett, named for his grandfather; his mother died and was buried in St. Thomas. And, sixty years afterward, our friend went back, preached in his father's old church, and entangled the affections of a new congregation in the Antilles!

Dr. Brett tells it quite as a matter of course—how could they remain passive?—of the few old folk remaining and their children and grandchildren still cherishing the memory of the old time pastor; how the town was decorated with flags, the windows filled with people waving handkerchiefs, his room at the hotel and his mother's grave beautifully decorated with flowers; how a committee of prominent citizens came out in small boats to the steamer as escort. And when the visitors finally turned their faces toward home the hospitable people loaded them with

presents of bay rum and guava and embroidery and sent them away rejoicing. The papers of the time recount the story of this voyage with much zest. It seems too bad that Dr. Brett hadn't been given powers as minister plenipotentiary and ambassador extraordinary by the Government before he went away; the Danish ownership would have been settled then, for the Doctor would have brought the island back with him!

It is interesting to recall that a patriotic service was held on board the steamer, bound south, on Lincoln's Birthday, and that Dr. Brett delivered an address upon a favorite subject. He reminded his audience that Jersey City had produced the first Lincoln Association to celebrate the Emancipator's birthday. Other participants in the program were Miss Florence Field, niece of Eugene Field; Foster M. Voorhees; B. H. Stayton, of New York; Robert Giles, and various of the passengers.

The
Friesland
Cruise

Probably very few of those around this board to-night have ever heard of the Samaritan Brotherhood, the record of whose pilgrimage reveals another phase of the versatility and adaptability of our Dr. Brett. It was organized by twenty-five members of that famous Clark "*Friesland*" tour of 1895. The steamer sailed from New York with four hundred passengers on February 6th, entirely under charter for a cruise to the Mediterranean. A notable company of Jersey City people were on the tour, and they occupied places in the dining saloon at one large table laid across the room.

Dr. Brett and his daughter were urged to go on the trip by a committee of his Consistory, and his memoirs of the journey furnished some most delightful "listening" in later days. Of course I need not tell this company how keen an observer or how charming a narrator he is; it will not overwork our imagination to appreciate how much he enriched the lives of his friends at home with his travels on this voyage. The Bermudas, Gibraltar, Malaga, Granda, the Alhambra, Algiers, Cairo, Joppa, Jerusalem—what a wealth of scene and incident to draw upon!

The part of the journey that has been most vividly preserved for us is told about in a sixty-eight page pamphlet, doubtless unknown to most of us. It is titled "The Pilgrimage of the Samaritan Brotherhood, narrated in brief by the President." He was Dr. Brett, of course. In it are ten letters describing the experiences and travels of the twenty-five who made that extra trip through the country hallowed by the sublimest history of the world. If they are a sample of what might have

been done for the other sections of the tour, we can only lament that Dr. Brett did not finish his book.

On the way home Captain Nickels landed his party at Pera; then there was a short stop in Constantinople; then at Naples the main cruise ended. Dr. Brett saw Vesuvius and Pompeii, and then pursued his journey north through Italy, over into Switzerland and thence to Paris and home. One brief message got into the local papers: Hon. W. H. Beach delivered his lecture on the Yellowstone Park while the *Friesland* was sailing eastward from Constantinople.

For a third voyage to the other side, Dr. Brett was commended Other to the courtesies of the Cunard liner *Carpathia* by his friend Colonel Journeys Smith who was then connected with that company. The itinerary in- Abroad volved a pleasant jaunt across Ireland—Cork, Killarney, Dublin, Belfast and the Giants' Causeway. Then over into Scotland, and down into London, where the Doctor dug for family historical records in the British Museum. In the brief notes he handed me about this enterprise, the Doctor writes "our findings were not very satisfactory." This is an admission I have not yet been forced to make: Dr. Brett seems to have stood the acid test of newspaper scrutiny for forty-two years with perfect satisfaction. Before their departure from Liverpool for New York on the *Carpathia*, the party visited Salisbury Cathedral and Stonehenge, and made a hurried tour of Wales.

In 1912 Dr. and Mrs. Brett, their niece, Mrs. E. M. Colie and Miss Margaret Colie formed a party sailing on the *Lapland*. They landed in Antwerp, and toured through many of the cities and towns now devastated by the German occupation. Many of the places visited were associated with ancestral ties. At Hasselt they secured copies of certificates of Francis Rombout's birth and marriage. In Holland they visited Schoenwarde, whence their Bogert ancestor came to Harlem. Theodore Roosevelt is descended from Dr. Brett's great grandfather, too; so Dr. Brett sent one of the two pictures of the old town hall he purchased there to his appreciative cousin.

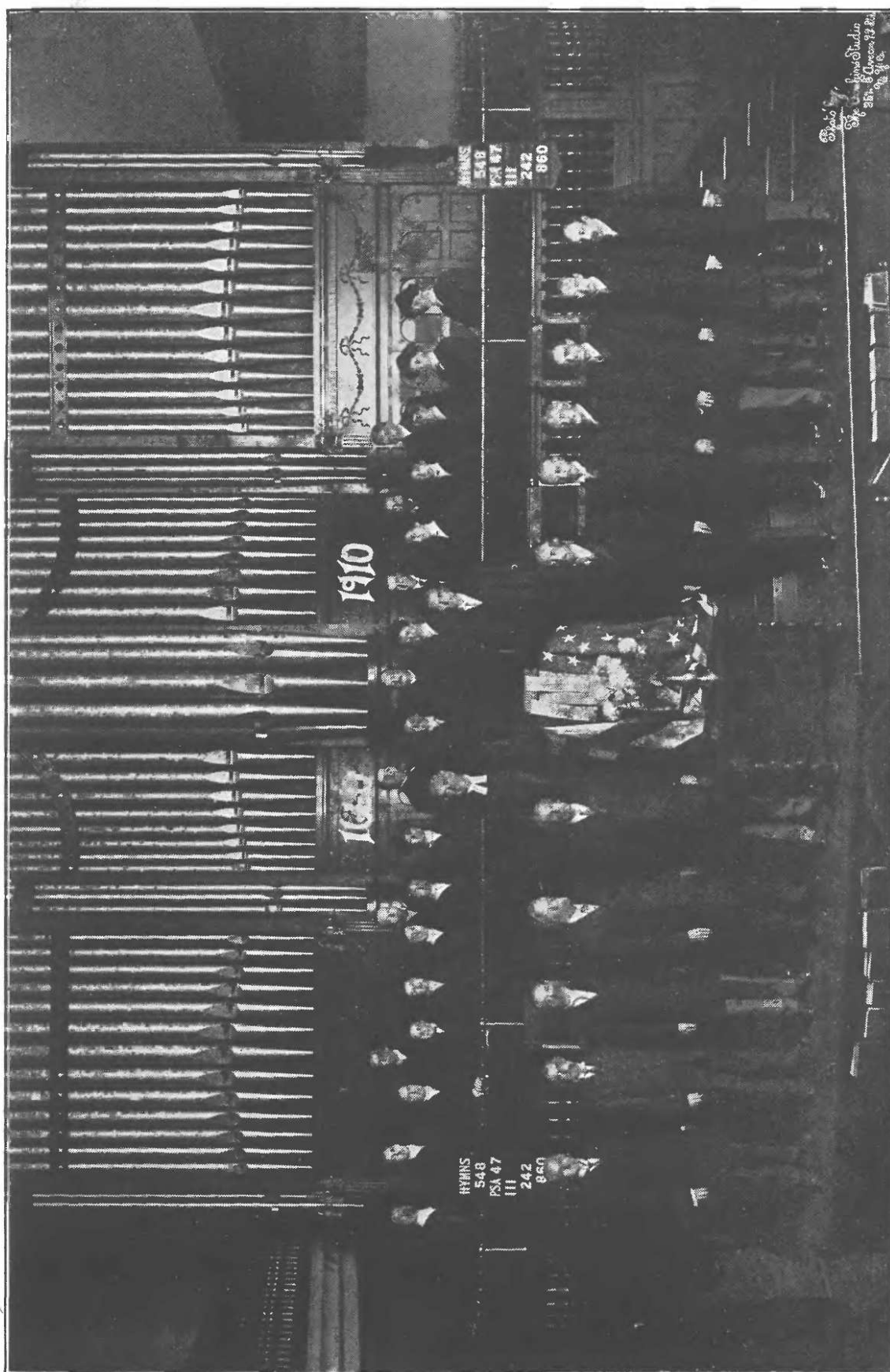
After a pleasant trip down the Rhine, stopping at Cologne, Weisbaden, Nuremberg and Rothenberg, they crossed into Switzerland, visiting Zurich, Lucerne and Berne. Their destination was Hertsegenbochsee, and the hamlet of Kleinstock, the home of John Muhltheler, father of his great grandfather, Dr. Milldoler. It goes without saying that Dr. Brett secured extraordinary attentions from the archivist of the canton, which resulted in his being able to extend his family line back to 1540.

After Switzerland, Dr. Brett writes, "we re-visited our familiar haunts in Paris, then crossed from Calais to Dover and were presently once more in London." You get the idea that Paris to the Doctor was something like little old Jersey City! Then there was an excursion to Canterbury and a motor trip through Kent, inspecting church registers, which did not reveal any trace of the baptism of Roger Brett—but, that did not convince our fine optimist of anything except that perhaps their church registers were wrong: his ancestor certainly must have been baptized!

The 250th Anniversary Doubtless, the most important celebration ever held in Jersey City, in point of historic relations, at any rate, was that which commemorated the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Bergen Reformed Church. For a long while, a committee of citizens, of which John P. Landrine was chairman, had been at work enlisting the interest of the community from every possible angle. Naturally, the whole affair focussed in Dr. Brett's church. The first services were held Sunday, October 16, 1910—morning, afternoon and evening. The afternoon service was conducted in "the language of the Fatherland." Dr. Brett's name was not on that page of the program; at least I do not read Dutch well enough to discern it. Rev. James L. Amerman, D. D., the only living ex-pastor, took part in the other two services.

The next evening there was an immense gathering, addressed by speakers from various denominations: Rev. Jasper S. Hogan, Reformed; Rev. G. W. Smith, D. D., Methodist Episcopal; Rev. Charles Herr, D. D., Presbyterian; Rev. J. Madison Hare, Baptist; Rev. E. L. Stoddard, D. D., Protestant Episcopal; Rev. Arney S. Biddle, D. D., United Presbyterian; Rev. John L. Scudder, Congregational; Rev. John E. Heindel, Lutheran; Rev. Rabbi J. L. Goetz, Hebrew. All these gentlemen presented their congratulations to the Bergen congregation.

One day was given over to a gathering of patriotic societies of the State, preceded by a procession starting from the Armory. There was also a military parade by the Fourth Regiment, the Signal Corps, with the Seventy-first New York assisting. The whole pageant passed in review before the city authorities on a platform in Bergen Square. An industrial parade passed over the same line of march on another day. The project to erect the monument to Peter Stuyvesant in Bergen Square grew out of this celebration, and this was dedicated the next year, when Dr. Brett delivered the historical address. The statue of the old Governor with his wooden leg, is perhaps the most pretentious of our scanty stock of municipal art.



AN HISTORICAL GROUP IN THE BERGEN CHURCH AT THE 250th ANNIVERSARY, 1910

Another valuable souvenir of that memorable week is a bound volume containing two sermons preached by Dr. Brett, and one by Rev. John J. Moment, Associate Pastor. Dr. Moment's discourse was entitled "A Look Forward"—and it, too, is almost as fine reading as it was to listen to.

The Golden Wedding

It is quite likely that most of those present this evening were also present when Dr. and Mrs. Brett celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. The real date to be observed was October 10, 1915, and as that fell upon a Sunday, it was decided to observe the function on the preceding day. I like to think of an occasion like that as in the nature of the most beautiful experience in life; of growing old gracefully—for we must grow old, or die—hand in hand with the one with whom the romance of life was started, and with the brightness of it all still undimmed.

Dr. Brett does not know how diligently I have ransacked old newspapers for the sake of uncovering his early career in Jersey City, and so he may be informed that his statement about having sent out over two thousand Tiffany-made invitations to their circle of friends in 1915 is remarkably illustrative of what a man can do who sets out to cultivate friendship. He may be sure of a big bill at Tiffany's, for one thing, but who would worry about that, if he could hold a dear woman's hand in his at the close of half a century of life; their faces lit by the glow of a wonderful, westerning sun and the music of the voices of familiar friends delighting their ears!

That Saturday afternoon, at four, most of those invited and then some were assembled in the lecture room of the Bergen Church. First of all, the photograph of the family group was made; and this we have introduced into this narrative partly that the contrast with the 1876 family group picture may be made! After the appointment with Mr. Harrison the party returned to the church and the hand-shaking began, and it lasted a long while. In the center of the room was a small model of the church building with the lecture room annex, most skilfully executed by Miss Mazie Barnes. The mystery of the miniature was explained when Henry Fitch, the oldest member of the church led Dr. and Mrs. Brett over, lifted off the roof, and handed out a box containing \$1,100 in gold, as a token of love from the Bergen Church folk, and this was further augmented to \$2,000 by gifts from other friends.



THE "GOLDEN WEDDING" GROUP, 1915
(Photograph by Wm. R. Harrison)

His
Fortieth
Year

When Dr. Brett's fortieth anniversary rolled around in 1916 the celebration was in the hands of the Men's Club of the church. The exercises were conducted with the same tenderness and regard that have always been shown on their anniversary occasions. Robert A. Alberts was in charge of the arrangements, and the speakers were as follows: Rev. A. J. Sadler, of the First Presbyterian Church; Rev. Harry L. Everett, pastor of the First Congregational Church; Marshall Van Winkle; Commissioners George Brensinger and A. Harry Moore; and Abram J. Duryee, assistant Pastor of the Bergen Church. Wm. F. and Mrs. Brown, Mrs. P. K. Green and Marshall Van Winkle received particular commendation in the newspapers for the beautiful flowers they had sent to Dr. and Mrs. Brett.

No
Sadness
of
Farewell

The minutes of the spring meeting of the Classis of South Bergen on April 16, 1918, will always be notable in Jersey City's annals as containing the formal record of the change of relations from that of Pastor to Pastor Emeritus. While the knowledge of this step was not new at the time, the actuality of the situation seemed to overwhelm the feelings of those who confronted the acceptance of his resignation from the Classis. Rev. H. W. Noble was president and Rev. Dubois Le Fevre temporary clerk of the meeting. Rev. James Boyd Hunter voiced the feelings of everyone present in a beautiful tribute to Dr. Brett's character and life in Jersey City. It seemed inconceivable that that ceremony should put a period to the forty-two years of service which Dr. Brett thanked God he had been able to render here.

Now that these pages are nearly filled it seems fitting to bring to the focus of a last paragraph or two, some of the things I have been trying to say in all that has gone before. Dr. Brett's place in the hearts of his greater congregation has been achieved because he has always practiced the finest service. His present "largeness, calmness, majesty, out of the long stretch of life" are but the current manifestations of characteristics to which that newspaper interviewer introduced us nearly half a century ago. He has always been the Dr. Brett we know to-day.

It is a great honor that we are permitted to gather in this company, to take a moment's pause from the high concerns which throng us in these strenuous days; and for our own sakes as well as those who come after us, to acknowledge the benediction that has come to all of us in "the bigger church of Dr. Brett."

