

On the 7th of October, 1856, a local Board of Underwriters was organized in Buffalo for the first time. Its officers were A. A. Eustaphieve, President; Edward Brewster, Vice-President; William Lovering, Jr., Secretary and Treasurer. Ten years later, a new board was organized with E. P. Dorr as President; E. B. Smith, Vice-President; D. V. Benedict, Secretary and Treasurer. From that time to the present, except at comparatively brief intervals, a local board has been in existence in the city.

The Buffalo Association of Fire Underwriters, as at present existing, was organized in the fall of 1879. For a period preceding that time, losses by fire had been unusually heavy, not only in this city, but throughout the country, and it became necessary to obtain higher rates for insurance; this organization was the result. The Association was formally incorporated in 1881. The officers are:—C. B. Armstrong, President (since organization); Alexander Martin, Vice-President; C. H. Woodworth, Secretary (since organization); L. T. Kimball, Treasurer.

CHAPTER XI.

THE CHURCHES OF BUFFALO.

The First Preacher in Buffalo — Early Missionary Work — The First Buffalo Church Society — The First Church Building — Organization of the First Presbyterian Society — Names of the Members — History of the Church — Other Presbyterian Churches — Their Pastors and Officers — Episcopal Churches of Buffalo — History of St. Paul's — Other societies of this Denomination — The First Baptist Church and its Successors — Separate Church Societies — Catholic Churches — The Israelites and their Religious Societies.

THE first preacher in Buffalo was undoubtedly the Rev. Elkanah Holmes, who was sent to the Seneca Indians by the New York Missionary Society, and "preached to the inhabitants of New Amsterdam." Meetings were held at irregular intervals in private houses and in the school-house, after it was built in 1808-'09. A son of Rev. Mr. Holmes married a daughter of Dr. Cyrenius Chapin, the conspicuous Buffalo pioneer. Other missionaries followed Rev. Mr. Holmes to labor among the Indians, and occasionally preached in Buffalo.

Turner is authority for the statement that a Methodist church society was founded in Buffalo in 1809, under direction of Rev. James Mitchell, but "it had no permanent organization;" it was re-organized in 1818, his "primitive materials being eight persons who 'called themselves Methodists, mostly transient and poor.'" In January, 1819, the society had

erected a small church, twenty-five by thirty-five feet, on Pearl street, nearly opposite the present site of the First Presbyterian church; that was the first church building erected in Buffalo; it was built in forty-eight days and was dedicated January 24, 1819, the Rev. Glezen Fillmore officiating; he was one of the most conspicuous preachers in Buffalo in early days.

The best available authorities give the date of the formation of the first permanent church organization in Buffalo as towards the last of the year 1809; the society was composed of Congregationalists and Presbyterians. The formation of this society is placed by some authorities as late as 1812; but it was undoubtedly earlier, being followed at the latter date by the formation of the First Presbyterian society. The pioneer society was organized by Rev. Thaddeus Osgood, an itinerant minister; the members were Mrs. Landon, Nathaniel Sill and wife, Mrs. Mather, Mrs. Pratt and a young man whose name is not known.

The First Presbyterian Church Society was organized on the 2d day of February, 1812. Its original membership numbered twenty-nine. Their names were as follows:—Jabez B. Hyde and his wife Rusha Hyde, Samuel Atkins and his wife Anna Atkins, John J. Seeley and his wife Elizabeth Seeley, Stephen Franklin and his wife Sarah Franklin, Amos Callender (ruling elder) and his wife Rebecca Callender, Comfort Landon, Esther Pratt, Jabez Goodell, (ruling elder), Nancy Hull, Ruth Foster, Keziah Cotton, Nathaniel Sill (ruling elder) and his wife Keziah Sill, Keziah Holt, Nancy Mather, Sally Haddock, Henry Woodworth, Nancy Harvey, Sophia Gillett, Sophia Bull, Mary Holbrook, Betsey Atkins, Lois Curtiss, Sarah Hoisington. For nearly four years from its start, it bore the title of the First Congregational and Presbyterian Church of Buffalo. At the end of that period, however, the name was changed by the unanimous vote of the society to its present form. The infant church suffered even more than others of its kind from the vicissitudes and perils of the war then waging. After the burning of the village in December, 1813, the meetings which had been theretofore held in the old court house were interrupted for nearly three years. May 3, 1816, in a barn on the north-east corner of Main and Genesee street, the Rev. Miles P. Squier, a young man from Vermont and student from Andover, was installed in the pastorate of the first church, with a salary of \$1,000. Here services were held once a week or oftener until May, 1823, when a building was erected on the site of the present structure at a cost of \$874. By 1828 the congregation had outgrown their house and it was sold to the Methodists, who moved it to Niagara street; they, in turn, transferred it to a German congregation by whom it was removed to Genesee street. Its religious usefulness having seemingly died out it was finally made an ice-house for the supply of a brewery and was taken to Walnut street where it remained until 1882. During that year it was burned

to the ground. The Presbyterians soon raised a fund sufficient to build a new house of worship and on the 28th day of March, 1827, a new church edifice was dedicated, it having been constructed at an expense of \$17,500. Mr. Squier relinquished his post January 1, 1824, having increased the membership of the society to 120. Experience had shown that it was impracticable to pay any pastor a salary of \$1,000 at that time, and consequently the second pastor of the church, the Rev. Gilbert Crawford, who succeeded Mr. Squier in May, 1824, was secured for \$600. In February, 1829, the Rev. Sylvester Eaton assumed the pastorate at a salary of \$800. The remaining pastors of the church up to the present time have been as follows:—Asa T. Hopkins, installed February 17, 1836; M. L. R. Thompson, November, 1848; Walter Clarke, D. D., April, 1864; David R. Frasier, 1872; and the present incumbent, Rev. Samuel S. Mitchell, D. D., November 1st, 1880. Rev. Mr. Hopkins and Dr. Clarke both continued their pastorates until they died, the former, November 27, 1847, and the latter May 23, 1872. The building now used by the congregation has undergone no material change since its erection except that during Dr. Clarke's administration the modern style of pulpit was substituted for the high pulpit before used.

Lafayette Street Presbyterian Church.—The society of the Lafayette Street Church was organized July 13, 1845, under the name of the Park Church Society, by the election of the following named persons to constitute a board of trustees:—Reuben B. Heacock, George Kibbe, N. B. Palmer, C. A. Van Slyke, Orrin Edgarton, Lovel Kimball, George Howard and T. J. Winslow. The board was organized August 1, 1845, by the election of the first three named respectively as president, clerk and treasurer. This organization was Congregational in its polity. October 1, 1845, application was made through a committee to the presbytery to constitute a church in the place of the Park Church, to be known as the Lafayette Street Church, which was accordingly done on the 16th of the same month. The original members numbered but thirty, although at the first communion following, most of the members of the extinct Park Church joined it by letter. Messrs. Abner Bryant and Dwight Needham were the first elders. On the 19th of October, 1845, the Rev. Grosvenor W. Heacock was installed in the pastorate at a salary of \$600. Services were then, and had been for about six months previously, held in the building known as the Park church. This edifice burned March 11, 1850, but was immediately re-built. The lot fronting thirty-five feet on Washington street was bought in the spring of 1861. The present structure was erected in 1862, at a cost of about \$25,000, five feet having been added to the lot facing Washington street. In February, 1868, a new organ was purchased for \$3,000. June 8, 1870, witnessed the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of Dr. Heacock's pastorate. During the twenty months intervening between November, 1872, and May, 1874,

the Rev. C. P. H. Nason filled the vacancy caused by Dr. Heacock's absence in Europe. In November, 1876, after a ministerial career of thirty-one years, devoted entirely to the welfare of the Lafayette Street Church, the Rev. Dr. Heacock relinquished active work. On the 6th day of May, 1877, after a long and painful illness, he died. His life was completely identified with the history of the city. He was born here August 3, 1821; he was the fifth son of Reuben B. and Abby P. Heacock, the latter being the sister of Seth Grosvenor, of New York, the founder of the Grosvenor Library. In 1840, he was graduated from the Western Reserve College, and in 1844 from Auburn Theological Seminary. His first sermon was preached in the old Park church June 8, 1845. On June 13, 1848, he married Miss Nancy Rice Stone, daughter of Jesse Stone, formerly of Brooklyn.

On Sunday, October 7, 1877, the Rev. Henry M. Parsons, of Boston, Mass., having signified his acceptance of a call, began his engagement by officiating in this church at communion service. He was installed November 1, and remained about a year and a half; he was dismissed November 1, 1880. From then until October, 1881, the pulpit was vacant. September 6, 1881, the Rev. Rufus S. Green was called from a pastorate in Morristown, N. J., and having accepted, began his labors October 23, 1881. He was installed November 1st. Before Mr. Green's arrival about \$5,000 was expended in improvements. There are now four hundred and one members in the church and about two hundred and twenty-five in the Sunday school, the latter being superintended by George L. Lewis. The Milnor Street Sunday School, a branch of the work of this church, and undoubtedly the largest Sunday school in the city, has now about one thousand members. The average attendance for 1882 was six hundred and seventy-seven. Its superintendent is John Gowans. The following are the present church officers:—pastor, Rev. Rufus S. Green, D. D.; ruling elders, Charles H. Baker, Charles G. Brundige, James W. Bixby, Samuel N. Lawrence, John Otto, George R. Stern; deacons, George L. Lewis, Leonard B. Perry, Albert W. Shaw, Byron H. Westcott, Edward L. Chichester, Augustus M. Westfall; trustees, Loren L. Lewis, Alexander Brush, Willard W. Brown, Joseph P. Dudley, John Gowans, Cornelius M. Horton, Henry Childs, Alexander Meldrum, Edwin Sikes.

The Central Presbyterian Church.—The Central Presbyterian Church of Buffalo, was organized by the presbytery of Buffalo on the 14th day of November, 1835, under the title of the Pearl Street Presbyterian Church, its charter membership numbering thirty-three. The first officers were Messrs. James I. Baldwin, Reuben H. Heacock, Alden S. Sprague, George Stowe, Daniel R. Hamlin, James Cooper, H. H. Reynolds and W. G. Miller, none of whom are now living. They called to the pastorate Rev. John C. Lord, of Geneseo, who, prior to his study of divin-

ity had been a prominent member of the bar of Buffalo, and had been elected to judicial trusts. In 1836 they completed a church edifice at a cost of \$35,000 on the northwest corner of Pearl and Genesee streets. By a unanimous resolution in 1842, they expressed their adherence to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church of the United States, then designated as the "Old School." In 1848, the society reorganized under the name of the Central Presbyterian Church, and determined to rebuild on the opposite, (northeast) corner; they erected a building with a seating capacity of two thousand. The dedication of the new structure took place in 1852. In 1870 a co-pastorate was added and the Rev. A. L. Benton, of Lima, N. Y., was called. He remained until 1872, when he accepted a call from the Presbyterian church of Fredonia, N. Y. Dr. Lord, after nearly forty years of successful pastoral work, offered his resignation in September, 1873. He was succeeded by the Rev. Charles Wood, of Princeton Seminary, who remained until 1878, when he decided upon making a study of the mission field by a trip around the world. The Rev. James McLeod of Batavia, the present pastor, immediately followed Mr. Wood. The church has always sustained a Sunday school, the present attendance at which is about two hundred and twenty-five.

The Westminster Presbyterian Church.—The Westminster Presbyterian Church was organized September 3, 1854. The society was organized April 11, 1853, the following persons constituting the board of trustees:—Jesse Ketchum, Noyes Darrow, Isaac F. Bryant, James M. Ganson, Moses Bristol, Alanson Robinson, William S. Vanduzee, Benjamin Hodge and Horace Parmelee. The chief projector of this church was Jesse Ketchum, for a number of years a prominent member of the First Presbyterian Church. In 1845 Mr. Ketchum bought the lot on which the Westminster church now stands, at a cost of \$1,000. Two or three years later he built a chapel with another thousand. For a considerable period all attempts at organization failed, owing to the scarcity of population in that part of the city. Services were held in the church until after August, 1850, by the Rev. John Germain Porter, stated supply, to whom Mr. Ketchum personally paid a salary of \$800. In August, 1850, also, was organized the Delaware Street Sunday school, with an attendance of six teachers and thirty pupils. On the organization of the society in April, 1852, \$400 was added to the pastor's salary, and the burden of payment removed from Mr. Ketchum's shoulders. The church organization was composed of forty members. On June 7, 1857, Mr. Porter having accepted a call to the Union Presbyterian church of St. Louis, preached his farewell sermon. Rev. James Leonard Corning, of New York, was installed October, 1857, and remained until 1859. A new church edifice erected in 1858-'59 which cost the congregation \$19,200, was dedicated September 22, 1859. The Rev. Dr. Joseph

H. Towne, from Rochester, began duty on a year's engagement as stated supply, June 1, 1860, at a salary of \$1,500. In October, 1861, the Rev. Joel Foote Bingham was installed in the pastorate. His resignation was accepted November 8, 1867. On the evening of Saturday, September 7, 1867, the church sustained an irreparable loss in the death of Mr. Ketchum. The Rev. Albert T. Chester, D. D., filled the pulpit as stated supply from July, 1867, to October, 1868. The next pastor, the Rev. Erskine Norman White, was installed October 28, 1868, and was dismissed September 29, 1879. In 1869 a mission Sunday school was opened on the corner of Utica and Rogers streets (now Richmond Avenue) under the superintendence of F. N. Jones, and a new chapel built at a cost of \$3,000. In 1873 it was turned over to the German Church of St. Lucas and the building sold to them. In 1874, the organ now in use in the church was bought for \$5,505.56. On September 23, 1874, Dr. White sent in his resignation, which was accepted, and he was followed in October, 1875, by the Rev. Isaac Riley, who died October 23, 1878. The present pastor, the Rev. T. Ralston Smith, D. D., was installed July 9, 1879. The trustees are:—George Howard, president; Augustus F. Tripp, vice-president; Burdett A. Lynde, secretary; William Perkins, treasurer; Ralph Plumb, John W. Brush, James B. Holmes, Henry C. French and Alfred Haynes.

North Presbyterian Church.—In the year 1847 the population of Buffalo being then 50,000, it was seen that another Presbyterian church was needed to meet the demands of the growing city. On the 25th of March in that year, letters of dismission were granted to forty-three members of the First Presbyterian Church. These were the projectors and organizers of the North Church. The first pastor of the new church, the Rev. Charles Rich, entered upon the performance of his duties October 3, 1847, though he was not regularly installed pastor until the following January; meantime, December 29th, the church edifice was dedicated. The elders were Messrs. George B. Walbridge, Benjamin Hodge, and Chauncey D. Cowles, all of whom are dead. The Rev. Mr. Rich remained in his office but a year and a month. During the summer of 1849, through the cholera season, the Rev. Joshua Cook filled the pulpit. On December 23, 1849, the Rev. A. T. Chester, D. D., became the regular pastor. An interval of thirteen months occurred between the close of Dr. Chester's pastorate in the fall of 1860, and the opening of that of his successor, the Rev. Henry Smith, D. D., February 4, 1862. No fewer than eleven ministers filled the pulpit during this period. Dr. Smith closed his labors in the church in September, 1865, and was followed in November, 1866, by the Rev. Wolcott Calkins, who continued in the office until February 1, 1880. On the 22d day of February, 1880, the new Johnson organ was first used in worship. The present pastor, the Rev. William S. Hubbell, was installed December 1, 1881. The church has

established two missions, the Harbor mission, in Dr. Pierce's old dispensary, on the Terrace, and the Eighth Ward mission. Its membership now numbers about five hundred persons.

The Calvary Presbyterian Church.—On the 22d day of February, 1860, this church was organized with a membership of forty-one. The first elders were Gustavus A. Rogers, M. S. Allen and William R. Allen. The first deacons were Wm. E. Lyman and Lorenzo Sweet. For nearly a year the Rev. Dr. Reed acted as stated supply for the pulpit. Then the Rev. A. T. Chester, D. D., preached for two or three years. The elegant church building now used by the congregation was dedicated on July 8, 1862, both it and the parsonage being a gift of the late George Palmer. April 16, 1862, is the date of the incorporation of the society, under the following named trustees:—John McArthur, James Duthie, John H. Selkirk, for one year; George B. Ketchum, Lorenzo Sweet and Alonzo Tanner, for two years; John B. Skinner, William E. Lyman and Sherman S. Rogers, for three years. During the year 1864 the Rev. H. M. Painter filled the pulpit as stated supply. In April of 1866, however, the Rev. Alexander McLean was installed as the first pastor and remained with the church eight years. Rev. William Reed officiated from June, 1874, until 1881, since which time the church has been without a pastor. There are about one hundred and sixty members in the church at present. The present board of trustees is constituted of the following members:—Hon. Sherman S. Rogers, president; E. J. Hall, secretary; John Walls, John J. McArthur, Alonzo Tanner, David S. Bennett, George N. Prince, Merritt Brooks and Harlow Palmer.

The Breckenridge Street Presbyterian Church.—By means of a careful scrutiny of the fragmentary records of this church the following facts have been ascertained: It was organized September 18, 1831, under the name of the First Presbyterian Church of Black Rock, the meeting being held in the building now used for worship. The first ruling elders of the church were: Joseph Sill, James German and William Davis; Joseph Sill also acted as deacon. The names of the Revs. R. G. Murray, Hugh Hamill and Sylvester Eaton, appear in the records as administering the sacraments, etc., in 1832. The Rev. J. D. Moore was stated supply in 1840, and closed his labors in this church on March 19, 1843. The Rev. J. C. Lord occasionally administered the sacrament. The Rev. Smith Sturges was called to the pastorate on December 3, 1845, and was installed within a month. He was dismissed October 17, 1848. The Rev. J. C. Knapp is then mentioned several times as acting as moderator *pro tem*. April 19, 1854, Rev. A. T. Rankin was moderator and continued his relations with the church until July 15, 1859. In the fall of 1861 the Rev. William Hall was installed in the pastorate, but his connection with the work here closed in six months. After Mr. Hall left the Rev. A. T. Rankin was appointed by a committee of the presbytery to act as mod-

erator of the session. An item dated February 9, 1864, states that E. P. Marvin, who had then been preaching to this congregation for about two years, was ordained and installed as pastor. In 1866 Rev. A. T. Rankin is again referred to as pastor. From the early part of 1868 to 1869, the Rev. P. G. Cook held that position. For a brief period in 1870, the Rev. Anson G. Chester was stated supply. Rev. Ansley D. White was elected pastor on October 30, 1870. In the summer of 1871 the property of the church, which had been previously held by a stock company, was transferred to the congregation and the building was repaired at a cost of \$2,000. In 1871 or 1872, the name of the church was changed to the Breckenridge Street Presbyterian Church of Buffalo. On the 11th day of May, 1873, the Rev. William A. Gay, of Winnebago, Illinois, assumed the duties of the pastorate at a salary of \$1,500 a year. In December, 1882, he resigned and went to Tonawanda. The present pastor, the Rev. Giles H. Dunning, of Dryden, N. Y., began his labors here on August 1, 1883. There are now one hundred and seventy-two communicants in the church. The Sunday school, under the superintendence of Russell Weller, has attained a membership of about two hundred and seventy-five pupils.

The East Presbyterian Church.—In 1864, under the pastorate of the Rev. Henry Smith, D. D., the North Church employed Rev. Henry Ward, then a student in the Auburn Theological Seminary, as a city missionary. On the 29th of May in that year, a mission Sabbath school was opened on Exchange street near VanRensselaer street. When Mr. Ward returned to the seminary A. R. Ketcham became superintendent of the school and was ably assisted by teachers from the North Church. On the 22d of February, 1865, a commodious chapel was completed and occupied on Seneca street, under the supervision of Mr. Ketcham, of the North Church. Rev. George LeBotilleur, from June to September, 1865; Rev. Mr. Perry, from September to December, 1865; Rev. Robert Proctor, from December, 1863, to December, 1866; and Rev. R. D. McCarthy from January, 1867, to May, 1867, were employed in the mission. In July, 1867, Mr. Ward, upon the invitation of the North Church, again took charge of the work. Up to this time, besides the Sabbath school, a Sabbath evening service and a prayer-meeting in the week had been held. Regular services were now begun and continued. The church was organized by the presbytery of Buffalo on the 21st of July, 1869, with sixty-five members, with Rev. Henry Ward as pastor, and Merritt Brooks and Thomas Olver as elders. The society was organized May 31st, 1871, with Alexander Brush, Joseph N. Mileham and Nicholas Olver as trustees. The lot on South Division street, near Spring, now occupied by the church, was purchased, and in September 1872, work was begun on the building of a church edifice. In 1875, the Seneca street chapel was sold and the building was completed. The present

house was first occupied the 14th of November, 1875, and from January, 1876, the church ceased to be a mission and assumed its own support. In the first year after the present house was occupied one hundred and thirty-nine members were added to this church. The present membership is three hundred and fifty, with about four hundred in the Sabbath school. A. R. Ketcham, Merritt Brooks, Nicholas Olver, Meyers Garrett, D. W. Carney, with John Shaw, who is now in that position, have been superintendents of the Sabbath school. Merritt Brooks, Thomas Olver, Jonathan B. Williams, John Stuart, Duncan Colquhoun, Thomas Shaw, Henry Thomas, Guy C. Martin, Charles E. Porter, David O. Porter, have been elders, and of them the last six with the pastor, now constitute the church session. The trustees of the society have been Alexander Brush, Joseph N. Mileham, Nicholas Olver, Joseph W. Dennis, Henry Thomas, John Stewart, Guy C. Martin, W. W. Buffum, Duncan Colquhoun, C. K. Walrath, J. C. Post, Cyrus Nichols, Theodore R. Henshaw, Frederick Johnson. The last six of these now constitute the board of trustees.

The West Side Presbyterian Church.—The West Side Presbyterian Church was organized May 9, 1875, in a frame chapel on the corner of Sixth and Maryland streets, which had been bought several years before by the First Church and used as a mission chapel. The original membership of the chapel was thirty-three. The first pastor was the Rev. G. G. Smith; the first elders were William L. Doyle, Edward J. Hingston, John W. Danforth; first deacons, George Preisch and John A. Bell. The Rev. Herbert G. Lord, the present pastor, was called in the latter part of the year 1877. During the year 1881, the society bought a lot on the corner of Prospect avenue and Jersey street, upon which they subsequently erected a stone edifice worth nearly \$20,000. The building was dedicated Christmas day, 1882. Its present membership is one hundred and fifty.

Wells Street Chapel.—The Sunday school from which this body has grown was organized in August, 1865, in a building called the Soldier's Rest, on Exchange street. The first superintendent was the Rev. P. G. Cook, who has up to the present time been the leading spirit in the work. In 1870 the society removed the building in which they held services to the southwest corner of Wells and Carroll streets. The present building, on the northwest corner of Wells and Carroll streets, was erected in 1872. In February, 1874, Mr. Cook received a written request from a number of prominent members of the society, urging the organization of a church, with Mr. Cook as pastor. In March of the same year the church was organized with forty-five members. The chapel and site originally cost about \$22,000, though the rise in the value of real property has increased its worth to \$35,000. The church is in a good part of the city to wield a beneficial influence, and has

unquestionably contributed not a little to the cause of reformation where reformation is much needed.

The First United Presbyterian Church.—An organization which might be called the beginning of this church was effected here in 1835, the Rev. M. McFinney being settled as pastor. It was then part of the Associate Reformed Church of America. The society, however, expired in 1840, owing probably to the want of a house of worship. In 1847 measures for a reorganization were set on foot and on February 28, 1848, the Associate Reformed Church was represented in Buffalo. The first ruling elders were David Boyd and James Duthie. There were thirty-six charter members. The pulpit was filled by visiting pastors until May, 1850, when the Rev. Clark Kendall was secured and was installed by the Presbytery of the Lakes, on the 27th of June following. Mr. Kendall continued his pastorate for twenty-two years. In 1850 the property now occupied by the church, previously used by a Dutch Reformed congregation and a Lutheran society was bought for the sum of \$5,000. They immediately removed from the Young Men's Association building into their new quarters. Some time in 1857 the church in connection with the general body united with the Associate Church of America, and was afterwards considered a component unit of the United Presbyterian Church of North America. In 1867 the society was transferred to the care of the presbytery of Caledonia. In 1869 a mission chapel was erected on Hamburg street. The present pastor, the Rev. H. W. Crabbe, began his labors as successor to Mr. Kendall, on the first Sabbath in April, 1873. The Sabbath school is co-eval with the second organization of the Church.

First Congregational Church.—The First Congregational Church of Buffalo was organized in May 1880, being composed of a number of the former members of the Lafayette Street Church. The organization took place in McArthur's hall, with about ninety members. The first board of trustees was composed as follows: L. H. Brown, H. D. Demond, W. M. Knight, R. K. Strickland and Mr. Ketchum. Worship was held in this hall until about the middle of October, 1881, at which time the church had increased its membership to about one hundred and fifty. The church edifice on Niagara Square had just previously been bought of the Niagara Square Baptist Society, for \$15,250. The building was also repaired and enlarged at an expense of about \$11,000. The Rev. George B. Stevens, the first pastor, was called about the 1st of June, 1880. He remained until December, 1882. Just before the contemplated dedication of the newly-purchased edifice, it was damaged by fire and the dedication delayed until January, 1882. In January, 1883, the Rev. Frank S. Fitch, the present pastor, was secured at a salary of \$2,250. The corporate society was organized in June, 1880, the first board of trustees being Wm. G. Bancroft, since deceased, Geo. R. Haynes, Hon.