

THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Corner Stone Laying of the New Church Last Sunday.

A COMPLETE HISTORICAL SKETCH.

The Religious Ceremonies Which Took Place on Sunday Evening and on Monday.

HISTORICAL FACTS.

The history of the First Baptist church in Ottawa dates back to October, 1841. In that month a meeting of Christians was held in Mechanics' Hall and it was decided to organize a church. The next month the church was formed, and delegates from the churches at Paw Paw, Vermillion, Plainfield, and Bristol were present.

On the 1st of January, 1842, and in June of that year the church joined the Illinois River Baptist Association. Between January and May of 1842 thirty-six joined the church. In March, 1842, a lot was purchased on the corner of La Salle and Jefferson streets, where the post office now stands, and a small frame building to be used as a church, erected. After the death of Elder Harding, on February 3, 1843, to August, 1844, the church was without a pastor.

In 1848 the church united with other churches to form the Ottawa Association.

A "protracted meeting" was conducted in January, 1850, by the evangelist, Jacob Knapp.

Up to this time a total of seventy-eight persons had been baptized.

Shortly after the pastorate of Mr. Higby closed, a Sunday school was organized, with Newton Tuttle as superintendent, and in the spring of the next year Elder Chas. Thompson, of Winchester, became pastor, at a salary of \$450 per year. All business of the church was left in the hands of the Prudential Committee, which consisted of the pastor, officers and three other brethren. The State Baptist Association met here in October of the same year and Justus Buckley preached the opening sermon. The number of baptisms reported for that year was 1,917, and the total membership was 11,063.

Rev. John Cogshall became pastor in January, 1855, at a salary of \$600 per year. The following year a meeting of the trustees was held, and it was decided to use the "Psalmist" as the church hymn book and the dulcimer as the musical instrument. The same year seats were sold at auction in order to raise needed funds. Various minor improvements, such as building sidewalks, introducing gas as a light, etc., were made in this year. Some difficulty arising from the political elections at this time, caused the resignation of Rev. Cogshall, in March, 1857. The question of erecting a new church building was discussed the same year. The congregation was gradually increasing and it became evident that a larger and more substantial structure was needed.

The next pastor was Rev. Z. Coleman, of Rochester, Mich. He took charge in 1857 at a salary of \$800 a year. The old lot could not be sold without the permission of the state, but this was finally obtained in 1864. A building committee, consisting of Messrs. Coleman, Hossack and Hay, recommended that a brick structure 45x85 be built. The matter rested for several years, and was brought up again when the state granted leave to sell the old lot.

Many of the business meetings of those times were occupied in discussions regarding the delinquencies of members and the art of conducting church finances. The seats were rented and a certain number of the best ones reserved for strangers.

Pastor Coleman urged upon the members the necessity of a thorough and systematic laying by of money for church purposes and general benevolent objects. A vote to adopt weekly giving for church support was carried. Mr. Mills was treasurer eight years.

In 1855 work was commenced on the new church, and in 1867 the building was dedicated. Mr. Coleman was pastor until April of the next year. During the eleven years he was pastor the church grew rapidly and became more firmly established. This was due to the wise management of the pastor.

Rev. A. Cleghorn took charge in 1868, at a salary of \$1,500 a year.

The second meeting of the Ottawa Association was held in 1871, and the new Baptist Hymnal was adopted. The Ladies' Missionary Circle was organized in 1873. Resolutions were adopted at the annual meeting to the effect that they support the "Bible and Publication Society," "American Baptist Missionary Union," "American Baptist Home Mission Society," and the society for "Ministerial Education." During the pastorate of Rev. Cleghorn seventy-six were baptized, and the church prospered during the six years he had charge.

Rev. A. P. Agenbrood began his labors in June, 1874, and two years later Rev. R. L. Colwell was called to the pastorate. A revival was held in '76 and as a result there were seventy-seven baptisms. All the churches of the city united and advanced the cause of temperance. Rev. J. Alexander, of Brantford, Canada, was the next pastor and he was

in turn succeeded by Rev. D. P. McPherson, of Paris, Ontario, who became pastor in Nov. 1878. Various committees were appointed to secure subscriptions, collect missionary funds and do charitable work throughout the city. In the summer of 1879 repairs amounting to \$1,000 were made on the interior of the church. After four years' work he resigned in 1882 and Rev. O. O. Fletcher, of Morgan Park, was made pastor. His pastorate was a successful one. During his pastorate the pipe organ was put in the church and the church building was newly painted. The young ladies' mission circle and the children's mission band were organized. The net membership during his pastorate increased from 249 to 301.

The present pastor, Rev. Fredericks, took charge about three years ago and for the increase in membership and strength his pastorate has been perhaps the most remarkable in the history of the church. The attendance at services began immediately and at the end of first year steps were being taken to secure a new lot. There was no expectation of building at once. The land on which the Hess block is built was offered for sale for \$5,000 in 1887. Fifty-eight new members were received the first year, eighty-four the second and sixty-eight the third, making a total of 210.

About a year ago the lot on which the church is being built was purchased from L. H. Eames and a preliminary committee were appointed to see about raising necessary funds to build the church. Their work was so successful that it was finally decided to secure plans and build a new church. The present membership of the church is 444 and the net increase during the present pastorate is 143. The number of baptisms is 83.

The Sunday school has increased in its average attendance under the supervision of J. E. Scott and more than 100 new members were admitted.

THE NEW CHURCH.



AS IT WILL APPEAR WHEN FINISHED.

Standing in a commanding location, at the corner of Columbus and Jefferson streets, upon the street which has been Ottawa's boast for fifty years, no situation more splendid, no place more fitting could be found for a temple of religious worship. The view from four directions, as one stands at the main entrance, is superb. To the north the broad avenue, lined with grand old trees, leads to the bluff. Upon it front the Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational, Episcopal and Catholic churches, the Supreme Court House, the High School, Columbus School, the Redick Library, and Washington Park. To the south the avenue stretches to the Illinois river with the Clifton and White's Hotels, the Hess block, and fine business blocks. Looking down Jefferson street to the west the view is uninterrupted save by the bluffs two miles away. Here are the Opera House, the Post Office, the old Baptist church, the Centennial block, the splendid Rosenkrantz-Buchanan block and a hundred of elegant homes. To the east on Jefferson, a few steps leads by the Presbyterian church and the Hess block to the Fox river, from whose banks the elegant residences on the east side spread out as a panorama. The electric cars running by the principal entrance furnish communication north and west, and one block in the rear, the La Salle street line brings the southern and north-western portions of the city almost to the door.

The new church is one of the largest in this part of the state. Its walls are of first quality Joliet stone, hewn, and finished on Columbus street, it extends to Carey's livery on Jefferson, practically giving two fronts. Two entrances to the auditorium are on Columbus, and two on Jefferson.

The architecture is a modernized Gothic, the most striking portion of the building being the tower, situated at the Columbus-Jefferson street corner. It is square in form, the base forming a large vestibule, entered by heavy double doors on each side. Above the doors it narrows somewhat and then runs up square to a height of about forty feet to the belfry, where it broadens and continues to the spire, which is topped by a golden cross. At the southern side of the Columbus street front is a smaller tower with an entrance similar to the entrances at the north. The center of this front is adorned by a large mullioned window, having four solid lights of stained glass. Similar windows are placed at either side of the auditorium. On the Jefferson street side an entrance is placed at about the center of the building, with a tower to the west. Two large windows, of heavy glass, west of the tower, admit ample light of the chapel. The roof is of slate and the cornices of galvanized iron.

The interior of the church consists of a splendid auditorium, a large chapel, a parlor, primary and culinary rooms, etc. The auditorium occupies somewhat more than the eastern half of the building, fronting on Columbus street, and extending the entire width of the building. In the rear is the chapel, as large as the interior of a good-sized country church, and to the south of the chapel are the parlors, culinary department, etc. The ceiling of the auditorium is just thirty-five feet from the floor, which inclines toward the pulpits situated in the south-west corner. Extending from the south-east to the north-west corner of the auditorium in graceful curves is a wide gallery. The choir is at the rear of and slightly raised above the pulpits, while the organ stands in the corner above the choir. The wainscoting and all woodwork about the auditorium gave the floor and stairs leading to the gallery and the railings, are of yellow Georgia pine. The stairs and rails are of oak. All will be finished in hard oil. The walls will be handsomely frescoed. The auditorium will be splendidly carpeted and at night will be lighted by electricity. The chapel, connected with the auditorium by sliding doors, which may be elevated making both rooms one, is finished in Georgia pine and will have a polished floor. The parlor and remaining rooms are similarly finished. All will be frescoed in light tints. The fine system of ventilation will be used, flues being placed in the side walls, and the building will probably be heated by steam. The exterior of the church will be the handsomest in the county of La Salle. All of the woodwork about the doors and vestibule is to be of solid oak, finished in oil, with splendidly paneled oak doors inside and out. No finer church than the First Baptist church of Ottawa could be built unless one were to erect a cathedral.

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Despite the fact that rain fell in torrents, every seat in the Opera House was occupied when Rev. Dr. Fredericks called the assemblage to order at 8:30 o'clock Sunday evening. Rev. M. K. Whittlesey, D. D., led in

SUNDAY EVENING.

scripture and prayer. After a song from Sylvan quartette, Rev. Frank Lines, pastor of the Second Methodist Episcopal church, spoke on "Christ, the Corner-Stone of Character." He was followed by Rev. H. H. Gregg, Jr., of the Presbyterian church, who held that "The Bible is the Corner-Stone of the Family." "New Testament Ethics the Corner-Stone of Society" was the subject of Rev. N. O. Freeman's address. Rev. Warren F. Day held that "The Church is the Corner-Stone of the State," as well as the corner-stone of society, family and character. All the remarks pleased the audience very much. The Sylvan quartette sang remarkably well. Rev. Fredericks thanked the pastors of the different churches and the large audience for the kindness and assistance rendered on this occasion. He then deposited the records in the box, and after prayer and benediction the exercises were at an end.

IN WIND AND RAIN.

The announcement that the cornerstone of the new Baptist church would be put in place at 4 o'clock Monday afternoon drew a large crowd to the scene. The cold blasts of wind made the work very disagreeable, nevertheless it passed off pleasantly.

Rev. N. O. Freeman read the 132d Psalm of the scripture and Rev. H. H. Gregg, of the Presbyterian, led in prayer. He referred to the difficulties yet to be overcome in erecting this church, and hoped that the work would be completed without a mishap and that God would bless the church and its people. Rev. Dr. Fredericks then placed the box in the cornerstone, and after the benediction the masons covered the stone and began building the wall upward. The box contains a host of articles—a copy of the program of the Sunday evening's exercises; a directory of the officers of the church and societies connected therewith; the articles of faith and covenant of the church; the church paper; the records of the meeting of the Ottawa Baptist association last year; Young People's society of Christian Endeavor, etc.; the papers of the church and corner-stone services, and copies of the Chicago Standard and New York Examiner.

ABOUT TWIN BLUFFS.

The Full Force of Men May First-Other Matters.

The Peerless Press Brick Works at Twin Bluffs will put on a full force of fifty men on May 1. The second press is now in position and the third kiln is finished, while the fourth kiln is rapidly nearing completion. Two kilns of brick are now burning, and some splendid brick have already been made.

The drill in the big artesian well on the north bluff will pound sand to-day. It had, until yesterday, been stuck in the rock for four straight months. Capt. Wallen loses about \$3,500 on the well.

THE TARIFF BILL.

The Measure Completed and Reported to the House.

SOME IMPORTANT CHANGES MADE.

Hides Placed on the Free List—Sugar Also, and a Bounty Fixed on the Home Product of the Latter Commodity—Other Capital News.

FREE SUGAR AND HIDES.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—The tariff bill has been reported to the House and referred to the committee of the whole. Just as the bill was to be reported the Republican members again changed their minds, and at 11 o'clock this morning completely changed two of the most important items in the bill. Again hides have been placed on the free list, and so has sugar; but in the latter case the committee has adopted a provision looking to the payment of a bounty of two cents a pound on the domestic product. It is understood that the sugar men have little confidence in the continuity of the bounty, and they, therefore, protested against the change. The duty on sugars, above and including sixteen Dutch standard, it is said, is fixed at two-fifths of a cent per pound; grades below that are to be admitted free. This satisfies neither the sugar-cane nor beet-sugar producing States.

HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—In the House Mr. Baker (N. Y.) from the committee on commerce, reported back adversely the resolution directing that committee to investigate the life-saving system. Laid on the table.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—The bill to define and regulate the jurisdiction of United States courts was passed by the House Tuesday—yeas, 131; nays, 13—the Speaker counting a quorum. Under the bill the terms of the circuit court are to be held at the following places: First circuit, Boston; Second circuit, New York; Third circuit, Philadelphia; Fourth circuit, Richmond, Va.; Fifth circuit, New Orleans; Sixth circuit, Cincinnati; Seventh circuit, Chicago; Eighth circuit, St. Louis; Ninth circuit, San Francisco. The circuit court is made an appellate court exclusively, except that it has the power to issue all remedial process. The bill withdraws all original jurisdiction now vested in the circuit courts of the United States and vests the same exclusively in the district courts of the United States. This bill, it is believed, will greatly relieve the Supreme Court, which is now over three years behind in its work.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—In the Senate, Senator Mitchell (Ore.) gave notice that he would address the Senate next Tuesday on this constitutional amendment for the election of Senators by the people. On motion of Senator Cullom (Ill.) Senate bill to authorize the construction of a bridge across the Mississippi river at some accessible point between the mouth of the Illinois and the mouth of the Missouri rivers, was taken from the calendar and passed. The Montana election case was again taken up and (as Senator Daniel (Va.) did not claim the floor to continue his speech of yesterday) Senator Gibson (La.) addressed the Senate in favor of the Democratic side of the question. Senator Cameron (Pa.) introduced a service pension bill which has been approved by the Pennsylvania Service Pen. Association. It provides that all persons who served in the late war shall receive a service pension of eight dollars a month, and in addition a per diem pension of one cent for every day's service. Widows of those persons shall be entitled to a pension of \$12 a month.

SPLIT ON THE SHAVE QUESTION.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—The Senate and House Republican committees on the silver question were in joint session two hours Tuesday morning and were unable to agree. One of the chief points of difference was the proposed increase of National bank circulation. Such a proposition, it is said, could not secure a majority vote in the House. It was finally decided to commit the subject to a sub-committee of five Senators and five Representatives, who will continue the work of hunting for a common ground on which they can stand.

COURT-MARTIAL FOR M'CALLA.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—A general court-martial to try Commander McCalla has been ordered to convene in New York on Tuesday April 22. Rear-Admiral Harmony will be president of the court with Lieutenant Perry Garst as judge-advocate.

APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—The President has approved the act to admit free of duty articles imported for the St. Louis Exposition from Canada, Mexico, and other American republics.

SUSPENDED PAYMENT.

DETROIT, Mich., April 16.—C. V. Bryan & Co., of which firm President Bryan of the Board of Trade, is the senior member, have been caught short some 2,000,000 bushels in this market on the recent advance in wheat and have suspended payments. The firm owes \$25,000 here, and enough in other markets to make their failure amount to \$100,000. President Bryan and his friends say that a speedy settlement will be made.

THEY FAVOR FEMALE SUFFRAGE.

BOSTON, April 16.—At the session in this city Tuesday of the Methodist annual conference, with over 200 ministers in attendance, resolutions were adopted condemning allegiance of American citizens to any foreign power or potentate, political or ecclesiastical, and declaring for women suffrage in municipal elections.

DEATH OF JACOB ESTEY.

BRATTLEBORO, Vt., April 16.—Jacob Estey, the famous organ manufacturer, died suddenly on Tuesday at his home in this city, aged 75 years. Mr. Estey had served in both branches of the Legislature, and in 1870 came within a few votes of being nominated for Governor.

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Miss A. D. Brady has returned from the markets with an elegant line of

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Easter Hats, \$4.00, Chicago price \$7.00 | Easter Hats, \$7.00, Chicago price \$15.00 | Easter Hats, 5.00, Chicago price 10.00 | Easter Hats, 25.00, Chicago price 40.00

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