

**THE JUBILEE SABBATH OF
PIEDMONT CHURCH:
TWO DISCOURSES,
DELIVERED JUNE 5TH, 1881**

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The jubilee Sabbath of Piedmont Church: Two discourses, delivered June 5th, 1881 by D. O. Mears

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D. O. MEARS

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THE JUBILEE SABBATH OF PIEDMONT CHURCH.

TWO DISCOURSES,

DELIVERED

JUNE 5th, 1881,

BY

REV. D. O. MEARS,

PASTOR OF THE CHURCH.

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WORCESTER, MASS., June 18th, 1881.

REV. D. O. MEARS,

Pastor Piedmont Church and Society.

MY DEAR SIR:—

During a period of more than half a century, my steps have led me into many different houses and places dedicated to the worship of God, and yet as memory now recalls them to mind, no one brings to me more pleasing recollections than Piedmont Church. Its outward appearance is plain but still attractive to the eye, while in its interior construction and decorations, refined simplicity appears to be blended and combined with a mild harmony of colors, which, taken in connection with the cheerful, interested and sympathetic expressions of those accustomed to assemble there from Sabbath to Sabbath, for public worship, impresses the observing mind with the conviction that it is indeed an earthly temple lighted up and blessed by a spirit from on high.

Entertaining these views, and feeling that both pastor and people have had a trying and eventful history and experience, the results of which should ever be remembered as a signal recognition of Divine favor, I respectfully request that you will furnish me with manuscript copies of your sermons preached at Piedmont Church, on Sunday, June 5th, 1881, for publication.

Very respectfully yours,

THOS. H. DODGE.

PREFATORY.

In response to the letter of the Hon. THOS. H. DODGE, and as a result of his generous gift, the two discourses delivered on the "Jubilee Sabbath of Piedmont Church" are hereby presented to the people of the Parish.

No one more than myself can realize how inadequately so great a subject as music, in even a part of its functions, can be presented in so brief a compass. If, however, from the reading of these pages, any one shall make them a gateway to the broad field of sacred musical history and thought in which he shall pass, this work will not have been in vain. There is something fascinating in a theme that has voiced itself in every martyr's song; a theme whose literature, marking every great change in religious thought, monuments, more lastingly than marble can do, the times of despair and of triumph through which the Church of Christ has passed.

I have taken the path in so great and interesting a field which seemed to me more especially helpful to the beloved Church which it is my privilege to serve. The day of our celebration came, seemingly, by no human appointment. The circumstances which gave it prominence were few but forcible.

The successful efforts in the early months of this year, which resulted in cancelling eighteen thousand dollars of our church debt,—after only a three years' respite from a heavier previous subscription,—were crowned by the following letter:

“WORCESTER, Feb. 12TH, 1881.

REV. D. O. MEARS, Pastor Piedmont Society:

DEAR PASTOR AND FRIEND—In view of the generosity shown by the members of our Congregation in their response to the recent call, to reduce our indebtedness, which has resulted in placing us as a Society on a self-

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supporting basis; we are encouraged to present to the Society, as soon as it can be secured and placed in position, an Organ suitable for our wants.

It is done, however, with these restrictions, viz.: It shall never be mortgaged, but always insured in a policy by itself, payable to the Society, that in case it should be burned the insurance money will provide another in its stead.

Rejoicing in the almost unequalled prosperity of Piedmont Church and Society, we remain,

Very truly, your friends,

CLINTON M. DYER.
SARAH W. DYER."

In response to this unexpected and generous offer, the Parish subsequently passed the following:

“ WORCESTER, March 30th, 1881.

Whereas; MR. and MRS. C. M. DYER have generously made an offer to the Piedmont Congregational Society to place an Organ in their Meeting-house free of cost to the Society, with the following restrictions, viz.: ‘That it shall never be mortgaged, but always insured in a policy by itself payable to the Society, that in case it should be burned, the insurance money will provide another in its stead;’

Therefore, voted; That the Society accept the offer made by MR. and MRS. DYER, with the restrictions as above stated.

Voted; that the Treasurer be and hereby is instructed to place a policy of insurance on the Organ, as soon as it arrives in the church, to the amount of not less than five thousand dollars payable to the Society, and to keep it insured from time to time as the policy may expire.

Voted; That the thanks of this Society be extended to MR. and MRS. C. M. DYER for their most generous gift of an Organ, as well as for their many acts of generosity and kindness to the Society.

Attest, CHARLES E. BROOKS, Parish Clerk.”

While this instrument, so generously given, was being built the time seemed ripe, although we had not known it before, to cancel the entire remaining indebtedness by raising the sum of thirty thousand dollars. In the short space of about a fortnight the work was done. That the

