

**CELEBRATION OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH-DAY OF  
WILLIAM ELLERY CHANNING: AT THE CHURCH  
OF THE SAVIOUR AND AT THE ACADEMY OF  
MUSIC, BROOKLYN, N.Y., TUESDAY AND  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6 AND 7, 1880**

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Celebration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the Birth-Day of William Ellery Channing:  
At the Church of the Saviour and at the Academy of Music, Brooklyn, N.Y., Tuesday and  
Wednesday, April 6 and 7, 1880 by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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OF THE

**Birth-Day**

OF

WILLIAM ELLERY CHANNING,

AT

THE CHURCH OF THE SAVIOUR,

AND AT

THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC,

Brooklyn, N. Y.,

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6 AND 7, 1880.

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## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION, . . . . .	5
OPENING SERVICES, . . . . .	9
Order of Exercises, . . . . .	9
Prayer of Rev. Rufus Ellis, D.D., . . . . .	9
Discourse of Rev. A. P. Peabody, D.D., . . . . .	10
MEMORIAL MEETING, . . . . .	28
Prayer of Rev. F. W. Holland, . . . . .	28
Remarks of Rev. A. P. Putnam, D.D., Chairman, . . . . .	29
Remarks of Rev. F. A. Farley, D.D., . . . . .	32
Remarks of Rev. J. B. Thomas, D.D., . . . . .	42
Remarks of Rev. Dr. J. W. Buckley, . . . . .	48
Centennial Ode, by Rev. J. W. Chadwick, . . . . .	53
Remarks of Mr. Oliver Johnson, . . . . .	58
Memorial Hymn, by Rev. William Newell, D.D., . . . . .	63
Remarks of Rev. C. H. Hall, D.D., . . . . .	65
Remarks of Rev. A. D. Mayo, . . . . .	71
Remarks of Rev. H. R. Nye, . . . . .	84
Remarks of Rabbi Gustav Gottheil, . . . . .	86
Remarks of Rev. H. W. Foote, . . . . .	90
SOCIAL FESTIVAL, . . . . .	93
MEETING AT THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC, . . . . .	94
Mr. A. A. Low, President, . . . . .	97
Hymn, "O God, we praise Thee, and confess," . . . . .	98
Prayer by Rev. George C. Miln, . . . . .	98
Address by Rev. Rufus Ellis, D.D., . . . . .	99
Address by Rev. Robert Collyer, . . . . .	108
Address by Rev. J. M. Pullman, D.D., . . . . .	115
Hymn, "Come, Kingdom of our God," . . . . .	119
Address by Mr. George W. Curtis, . . . . .	120

	PAGE
Address by Rev. C. N. Sims, D.D., . . . . .	130
Address by Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, . . . . .	133
Hymn, "O North, with all thy vales of green," . . . . .	149
Benediction, . . . . .	150
APPENDIX, . . . . .	151
Letter from Rev. George G. Channing, . . . . .	151
Letter from Elizabeth P. Channing, . . . . .	152
Letter from Rev. William H. Channing, . . . . .	152
Letter from Rev. Charles T. Brooks, . . . . .	152
Letter from Mary E. Dewey, . . . . .	153
Letter from Rev. Samuel Osgood, D.D., LL.D., . . . . .	153
Letter from Mr. George Ripley, . . . . .	154
Letter from Rev. H. W. Bellows, D.D., . . . . .	156
Letter from Rev. James Martineau, D.D., LL.D., . . . . .	157
Letter from Rev. Phillips Brooks, D.D., . . . . .	159
Letter from Rev. William Newell, D.D., . . . . .	160
Letter from Rev. John Cordner, LL.D., . . . . .	161
Letter from Rev. F. H. Hedge, D.D., . . . . .	162
Letter from Rev. Ephraim Turland, England, . . . . .	164
Letter from Rev. C. A. Bartol, D.D., . . . . .	165
Letter from Rev. Robert Spear, England, . . . . .	166
Letter from Rev. Thomas Hill, D.D., LL.D., . . . . .	167
Letter from Bishop Joseph Ferencz, Transylvania, . . . . .	168
Letter from Professor David Swing, . . . . .	169
Letter from Rev. E. M. Stone, . . . . .	170
Letter from Rev. Andrew Chalmers, England, . . . . .	171
Letter from Rev. George H. Emerson, D.D., . . . . .	171
Letter from Rev. William G. Eliot, D.D., . . . . .	172
Letter from Dr. Franz von Holtzendorff, Bavaria, . . . . .	173
Letter from Rev. C. C. Everett, D.D., . . . . .	173
Letter from the Dutch Protestant Association, Holland, . . . . .	174
Letter from Rev. C. C. Scwall, . . . . .	175
Letter from Hon. Samuel F. Sewall, . . . . .	176
Letter from Rev. George W. Hosmer, D.D., . . . . .	178
Letter from Rev. John Cotton Smith, D.D., . . . . .	178
Letter from Rev. John H. Morison, D.D., . . . . .	179
Letter from Friends in Hungary, . . . . .	180
Letter from Mr. John Fretwell, England, . . . . .	182
Resolutions of Churches in Brooklyn, . . . . .	199
Extracts from the Press, . . . . .	201

## INTRODUCTION.

THE following pages present a detailed record of the Memorial Services, held at Brooklyn, N. Y., in honor of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the birthday of William Ellery Channing. The plan of such a celebration was brought to the attention of the Trustees of the Church of the Saviour, in that city, as early in the year as Sunday, January 11. The matter was more fully considered at a meeting of the Board, held at the house of the President, Isaac H. Frothingham, Esq., on the evening of February 3, after it had been found that a sufficient number of able speakers would be ready to participate in the proceedings of the occasion to insure success.

The enterprise was regarded with earnest favor, and a Committee of Arrangements was appointed to take it in hand, and carry it forward to completion. This Committee was subsequently enlarged by additions from the other Unitarian churches in the city, as appears in the list appended to the circular of invitation. The action of the Trustees was heartily approved by the congregation of the Church of the Saviour, at a meeting which took place immediately after the morning service, Sunday, February 8. In the forenoon of the following day, the ladies of the Society assembled, and entered into arrangements for the social festival, and for the decoration of the Church and Chapel. The plans of the Committee having been largely matured, the following circular was sent to Unitarian societies far and near; and another, slightly changed in form, was mailed to a large number of persons of all sects and communions in and out of the city:—

BROOKLYN, N. Y., March 12, 1880.

DEAR SIR:

Wednesday, the 7th of April next, being the one hundredth anniversary of the birthday of

**WILLIAM ELLERY CHANNING,**

it is proposed here, in this city, as in many other places, to mark the occasion with suitable public services in honor of the memory of that illustrious man.

An opening service will be held in the Church of the Saviour, corner of Pierrepont Street and Monroe Place, Brooklyn Heights, Tuesday evening, April 6, at 7.45 o'clock, Rev. A. P. Peabody, D.D., of Cambridge, Mass., preaching the sermon.

The next day there will be, in the same place, at 10 A.M., a commemorative meeting, to be addressed by ministers and laymen of the immediate vicinity, and of other cities and States, who are of widely different theological views and ecclesiastical relations, but who yet all deeply venerate the name of Channing. Some of the surviving personal friends or acquaintances of the revered preacher and philanthropist will be present and will speak, and letters will be read from others who may not be able to attend.

At 2 o'clock P.M., a lunch will be served to the guests at a social festival to be held under the direction of the ladies of the Society, in the Chapel and Basement Hall of the Church.

In the evening of the same day, Wednesday, the 7th, at 7.45 o'clock, there will be a public meeting at the Academy of Music, Montague Street, at which Mr. A. A. Low will preside, and addresses will be made by Rev. Rufus Ellis, D.D., pastor of the First Church, Boston; Mr. George W. Curtis, Rev. E. H. Chapin, D.D., Rev. Robert Collyer, and others. There will be choir and congregational singing.

Among those who have already expressed their intention to join in this celebration may be named, in addition to those who are mentioned above, Rev. Drs. F. A. Farley, Rufus P. Stebbins, and Samuel Osgood; Rev. Messrs. F. W. Holland, R. R. Shippen, A. D. Mayo, H. R. Nye, S. R. Calthrop, Henry W. Foote, Joseph May, J. W. Chadwick, S. H. Camp, J. L. Seward, and other well-known clergymen.

You and your friends are cordially invited to be present at these meetings. Pastors and delegates coming from the out-of-town churches to which this circular is sent, and wishing or purposing to remain in the city during the celebration, will confer a favor by reporting themselves at the Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning meeting, to any of the members of the subjoined committees from various societies in Brooklyn, that the hospitalities of the occasion may be duly extended to them. We also request any such parties, so far as it may be convenient to them, to forward to us beforehand the names of those of their number who are likely to be with us.

Sincerely yours,

ALFRED P. PUTNAM,

*Pastor of the Church of the Saviour.*

*Reception Committee.*—Isaac H. Frothingham, Joseph R. Blossom, and James Littlejohn, of the Board of Trustees of the Church, with others, ladies and gentlemen, whose names will be announced hereafter.

*Committee of Arrangements.*—A. P. Putnam, *Chairman*; Alfred T. White, Isaac H. Cary, Jr., Sylvester Swain, Josiah B. Blossom, E. A. Doty, W. H. Cromwell, E. M. Whiting, J. H. Hebert, John W. Wood, Ethelbert M. Low, D. B. Halstead, William Potts, W. C. Gardner, Alfred P. Dix, Hersey Brown,

T. F. Taylor, Robert Foster, Joseph Lyman, B. T. Frothingham, E. M. Wheeler, W. A. Butler, Richard Arnold, T. C. Wallace, Gustavus Coombs.

Several sub-committees were formed out of the general Committee of Arrangements, Messrs. Nelson G. Carman, Jr., Chauncey E. Low, and others acting with them, to have special charge of the matters of Music, Finance, Printing, Advertising, and various things pertaining to the meeting at the Academy.

The idea or purpose which had early manifested itself, of making the celebration large and inclusive in its spirit and scope, was soon still more fully revealed; and people and churches of the neighborhood and the public at large, without regard to creed or name, were cordially asked to join in the celebration. Ministers and laymen, of evangelical and liberal denominations indiscriminately, were invited to speak at the meetings. The response from all sides was most gratifying. It was found that, however widely men were separated from Dr. Channing in the direction of conservatism or radicalism, yet all recognized some vital point of agreement or sympathy with him. To bring out this latent and universal feeling and let it find full expression was the strong desire of the Committee.

They were glad to find that their policy was universally approved. The meetings, however varied their utterances, were wonderfully harmonious in spirit. Each speaker expressed freely and fearlessly his honest thought, yet there was nothing said to give pain or disturb the good feeling of the occasion from beginning to end. Every voice waked responsive echoes, and the interest and enthusiasm of the crowds that were in attendance increased till the close of the last meeting. The memorial meeting of Wednesday morning not only witnessed the presence of many who had personally known Dr. Channing or heard him preach, some of them having listened to the first sermons which he preached in New York; but it was also particularly rich in letters and speeches of reminiscences of the great and good man whom all had met to honor.

A pathetic interest attaches to the letter from Dr. Osgood, which may be found in the Appendix. The Chairman knowing his earnest desire and purpose to join in the celebration, called for