

CHURCH OF OUR FATHER
A Statement by Mr. Caleb Barstow

To the Editor of the Brooklyn Eagle:

In some remarks published in the *New York World* of Wednesday, July 21, the writer states that I, as Treasurer of the Church of Our Father, the Universalist church in Clermont avenue, asked for \$1,500 at one time, and \$1,200 at another time, alleging that I had paid the money from my own private funds. Both sums were, as the writer alleges, paid to me. That soon after such payments I was adjudged a bankrupt, and then I called on Messrs. Brett, Sons & Co., my successors in the care and guardianship of certain children whose money I had spent. In reply to the whole of these crude and jumbled up false allegations in the article about my trusteeship, I can say that I assigned \$2,000 of my claim on the church to Messrs. Brett, Sons & Co., as a payment toward sundry notes they had discounted for me. Messrs. Brett, Sons & Co. are highly respectable merchants, but I never had any connection with them in the case of children. A certain other sum, which will probably be about \$2,500, I assigned to my good friend, Mr. L. B. Carhart, my successor in the executorship of the estate of his wife's grandfather, Joshua Gru, deceased. Then, as to my bankruptcy, I have never been insolvent, but some infamously fraudulent, at the same time very heavy, claims, came in upon me from two very dishonest men, that compelled me to make a temporary suspension. Any and all insinuations that I used any of the church's money improperly, have not a particle of truth in them. In reply to the whole, I will further say that the church spoken of owes me, or my assignees, about eight thousand dollars, including about \$1,300 and interest thereon, paid by my Assistant Treasurer and Collector, Mr. W. H. Wilder. To all this the church will have to add the law expenses on the several times that they have been beaten. In the article published against me they admit that they have been beaten every time. I have been so much occupied of late with other affairs more important to myself, that I have not yet had time to come out in print to explain in full to my church friends the exact relation in which I stand toward them. I shall now do it at an early day, and state that I have, during my twelve years of treasuryship, paid for them bills to the amount of \$4,000, say four thousand dollars that I did not charge at all, nor do I expect ever to charge them. I shall also add that, as I am informed, one of my successors in the office of Treasurer received the money for which the church edifice in Clark street was sold. If such Treasurer had forthwith used a part of the money to pay me and Mr. Wilder the amount due us, the church would have avoided all the lawsuits and trouble which the society will have to meet.

CALEB BARSTOW ex-Treasurer, &c.

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