

MAYOR LOW IN THE PULPIT

[abridged]

Assisting in the Dedication of the Church of Our Father

The Church of Our Father, erected by the First Universalist Society of Brooklyn at the corner of Lefferts-place and Grand-avenue, was dedicated yesterday afternoon. The new church is a substantial brick structure of the cosmopolitan style of architecture, and presents a rich and highly ornamental appearance. It contains, in addition to the main room, a commodious chapel adapted for prayer-meeting and Sunday-school uses, a Pastor's study, and a large ante-room. The interior decorations are bright and cheerful. The furniture is handsome and in perfect keeping with the surroundings. The edifice was begun a little over a year ago and cost \$58,000. Of this \$23,000 was raised by subscriptions, a mortgage was given for \$20,000, secured by the property, and the remaining \$15,000 was lent to the society by a friend. The church was crowded yesterday afternoon, and many were turned away unable to push themselves in. On the platform with the Pastor—the Rev. A. J. Canfield—were seated the Rev. Charles H. Eaton, Pastor of the Church of the Divine Paternity [Fourth Universalist] of this City; the Rev. C.[Cyrus] H. Fay; the Rev. J. Smith Dodge, Jr., of Stamford, Conn.; the Rev. William S. Balch, of Elgin, Ill., formerly pastor of the old Bleecker-Street [Third] Universalist Church, this city; Mr. A. M. Sweet, Chairman of the Building Committee of the society, and Mayor Seth Low of Brooklyn. The services began at 2 o'clock with sentences and responses by the Pastor and congregation and anthems by the quartet choir. After the invocation, Scripture reading and reading of the hymn of dedication, written by the Rev. C. H. Fay, followed, and the prayer of consecration was made by the Rev. Charles H. Eaton. The Pastor, in his remarks to the congregation, gave a brief account of the belief of the church. The faith of the Universalists, he said, was the faith of the early fathers. Each soul has the power to create its own heaven and hell. The society now contains in this country 200,000 members, 1,200 churches, and 750 clergymen. Mr. A. M. Sweet reported from the Building Committee the cost of the church and the condition of the finances. The Rev. J. Smith Dodge, Jr., made the address to the people, in which he congratulated them on having completed such a grand achievement as the erection of the church, and urged that the increased responsibility which it necessitated should be met with increased labor and zeal. When Mayor Low stepped forward to deliver the congratulatory address he was greeted with a hearty round of applause. He said that the invitation for the Mayor to take part in the services was gladly responded to. "You rightly thought," he said, "that when a new church was to be dedicated it was a matter of concern and interest to all the residents of the city. As the telegraph wires are the avenues for thought and the streets for human travel, so are the churches the places through which the best and highest and purest thoughts and actions pass. Here is where the originate...."

Last evening the church was again crowded to witness the installation of Mr. Canfield as Pastor. The installation sermon was preached by the Rev. J.[James] M. Pullman, D.D., of this city; the prayer of installation was made by the Rev. C. H. Fay; the "right hand of fellowship" was extended by the Rev. Almon Gunnison, D.D., of Brooklyn Eastern District, and the charge to the people was delivered by the Rev. E. C. Sweetser, D.D., of Philadelphia. The church was handsomely decorated with flowers on both occasions.

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