

HANDSOME EDIFICE IN ROSEVILLE.

The Cornerstone of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church Formally Laid--Congratulatory Addresses by Several Clergymen.

Under the glaring sun that tempered the chill winds that prevailed, the laying of the cornerstone for the new building of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, at Fifth and Roseville avenues, was successfully accomplished late yesterday afternoon by the pastor, the Rev. Bartell Prentice, Jr. A copper box placed in the stone contained a copy of the Bible, the church manual, which included a history of the church from its inception in 1858 up to March, 1893; constitution of the church, its calendars, programmes of the exercises at the cornerstone laying, sketch, report and lists of membership of the Women's Missionary Society, reports of the Young People's Christian Endeavor Society, of the Junior Christian Endeavor Society, of the Starlight Mission Band, lists of officers, teachers and pupils of the Sunday school, historical sketch of the progress of the Sunday school work, Sunday school treasurer's report, additions to membership roll since March, 1893, also dismissals, deaths, marriages and baptisms, trustees' reports, photograph of the new church as it now appears, list of present church officers and copies of local newspapers.

The cornerstone bears this inscription:

ERECTED A. D. 1899.

FOUNDED A. D. 1858.

In the chapel adjoining the new structure the exercises that preceded the cornerstone laying were held. The attendance was large. Following the doxology the Rev. Dr. Louis Lampman offered a prayer, and the Rev. Davis W. Lusk read from the Scriptures. In an address the Rev. Charles T. Haley called attention to the fact that it was thirty-four years ago since a cornerstone was laid in that neighborhood, and that of the participants in that event but two were present yesterday. Then he told of a little group of men walking up Roseville avenue twelve years ago, looking for a site for a church. When they arrived at Fifth avenue, he continued, the Rev. Dr. Frazer, one of the group, said: "This is the corner for the church."

Dr. Haley added that the plot cost \$3,000, less the \$500 donated by the owner. He added that a brick church was intended then, but a depleted treasury made necessary the erection of the frame building that has since been used. He told of the gift of a purse containing less than \$2 which a poor woman gave to the struggling church, and declared that he felt that it carried a blessing.

The Rev. E. P. Miller, of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, offered his congratulations to the congregation. He confessed, however, that he ought first to have purged himself of the sin of envy.

"This congregation," he said, "seems to have gotten so far above ours, that the day when we may ask you to join us in laying our cornerstone appears far distant. I don't believe you regret the ex-

pense. It is a sacrifice made with a worthy object. A magnificent church in any community is testimony of the value placed on the spiritual in life."

The Rev. Dr. Henry Spellmeyer then explained why the supreme purpose in the erection of a church was to glorify God. He said the cornerstone represented faith. He assured the congregation of his warmest congratulations.

It was a matter of gratification to the Rev. Dr. David R. Frazer, that the congregation was about to get away from its present house of worship. He reminded the members, however, that the laying of the cornerstone was not the end of the work. There would be days, weeks and months of toil.

As Mr. Eugene Eagles, president of the board of trustees, prepared the box for the cornerstone, he read the list of its contents. A procession was then formed, led by the active participants in the exercises. As it filed out of the chapel and marched to the spot where the cornerstone swung, the hymn "Christ Is Our Cornerstone" was sung.

The presentation of the stone was then made by Mr. Eagles, and was received by the pastor, who with a new trowel formally laid it. A prayer by the Rev. John R. Fisher, the singing of the hymn "All Hail the Power of Jesus's Name," and the benediction by the pastor concluded the services.

The church is being built of Indiana limestone and will cost \$40,000. Ward & Davis are the architects. The walls of the new building are now about fifteen feet high.

The first pastor was the Rev. H. B. McCauley, now of Trenton. For fourteen months following his departure the Rev. John R. Fisher was the temporary pastor. The present pastor was then called.

It was in May, 1858, that the church extension committee of the Presbytery of Newark appointed Dr. Frazer to meet with the officers of the Roseville Avenue Church and request the gift of its old chapel, which had been replaced by a new one, for the purpose of beginning a new Presbyterian Church north of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad. The trustees gave the chapel, but the committee was obliged to sell it, because it could not be removed to a new location. On October 12, 1858, the Rev. Dr. C. T. Haley, David Young and William Rankin were appointed a committee to erect a new chapel at Fifth and Roseville avenues. This chapel was completed on February 14, 1859. It was called the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Chapel. On March 10, 1859, it was dedicated. The first preaching service was held on March 17, that year. The same afternoon the Sunday school was organized with nine teachers and seventy pupils. The first prayer meeting was held the following Wednesday evening at the home of James E. Bathgate. The first administration of the Lord's supper was on Sunday, December 1.

The organization of the church was effected on October 14, 1859, in the Roseville Avenue Presbyterian Church.