

CHAPTER XIV

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS

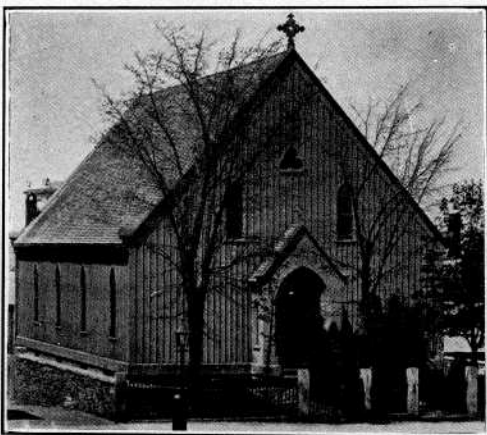
Wide Variety of Denominations. Long Pastorates and Strong Preachers.
Sketch of each Church

Though it cannot be said of Fall River that every creed finds a home here, there is nevertheless a wide variety of denominations among the Protestants. The Congregationalists, Methodists, Baptists, Episcopalians and Primitive Methodists are all strong here. The Christian denomination has three churches, the Presbyterian two and the Church of the New Jerusalem, the Unitarian, the Advent Christian, the Reorganized church, the Friends, the Christian Scientists and possibly other denominations one or more churches each. A Universalist Church existed for a time a half century ago, and attempts have since been made to revive it, but without success.

In the Colonial days the residents of what is now Fall River were chiefly Quakers, with a few Congregationalists, but they attended services held outside the present city limits, the Friends across the river and the Congregationalists in what is now Freetown. The first church to be formed here was the First Baptist, in 1781, and this was the only one till the First Congregational was organized, in 1816, closely followed by the Friends' Society two years later. The Methodist Church dates from 1827, the Unitarian from 1832 and the Episcopalian from 1836. With the growth of population new churches of these and other denominations have been formed and have prospered, though in nearly every case the early years have been periods of struggle against debt, and of self-denial for the faith.

The clergy of the city have included men whose fame has spread beyond their own denomination, notably Rev. E. T. Taylor, afterwards widely known for his work among the sailors; Samuel Longfellow, a brother of the poet, and J. Lewis Diman, later a professor at Brown University. Others no longer with us, who had a strong influence in the community during their residence

here, include Eli Thurston, for 20 years pastor of the Central Church, and Michael Burnham, who occupied the same pulpit for 12 years; the Reverend E. A. Buck, widely esteemed for his long service in the missionary field here; John Westall, of the New Church; Asa Bronson, for 19 years pastor of local Baptist churches, and P. B. Haughwout, for 15; Orin Fowler, preacher, historian and member of Congress, and George M. Randall, afterward Bishop of Colorado.



Old Episcopal Church which stood on South Main Street, on present site of McWhirr's Dry Goods Store

In point of length of service Dr. W. W. Adams, of the First Congregational Church, now completing his forty-third year as pastor, is easily the first. Others still pastors here after considerable terms include H. C. Aydelott, who has been minister of the Friends' Society since 1877; Emelius W. Smith, rector of the Church of the Ascension since 1884; Payson W. Lyman, pastor of the Fowler Church since 1888, and David B. Jutten, of the Second Baptist since 1893. These and their co-workers, who have since entered the local field, constitute a corps of

high standing and of strong influence for righteousness in the community.

The First Congregational Church was organized January 9, 1816, by Joseph, Elizabeth, Richard and Wealthy Durfee and Benjamin Brayton, at the home of Richard Durfee. For the first seven years it had no regular place of worship or settled minister, but meetings were held each Sabbath at the homes, the schoolhouse, the Line meeting house or a storehouse. The first church edifice, 45x36, with a vestry, was erected in 1821-22 on Anawan street, near South Main,

Diman, afterward professor at Brown University, 1856-1860; Solomon P. Fay, 1861-63; William W. Adams, D. D., the present pastor, since 1863. Dr. Adams, who became active pastor October 1, 1863, and was settled over the church September 14, the following year, has the distinction of having been minister of the church for a longer period than any other Protestant clergyman in the history of the city. The First Congregational has always been the church home of prominent men and women, and is the mother of the Central Church.



Central Congregational Church

and enlarged in 1827. It was later sold to the Unitarian Society, then to the town of Fall River and altered into a schoolhouse. It was burned in the fire of 1843. The present church was erected in 1832 and dedicated November 21 of that year. The first pastor was Rev. Augustus B. Reed, 1823-1825. Subsequent pastors have been: Thos. M. Smith, 1826-31; Orin Fowler, historian, State Senator and member of Congress, 1831-1850; Benjamin J. Relyea, 1850-56; J. Lewis

The Central Congregational Church was formed November 16, 1842, by seventy members of the First Congregational Church who withdrew following a business disagreement between two prominent members, which occasioned widespread disaffection. Only one of the charter members is now living, Mrs. William Carr. The first meetings were held at the dwelling houses of the members, and in December a hall in the Pocasset Building, a brick structure at the cor-

ner of South Main and Pleasant streets, was secured for a place of worship. The building was burned in the fire of 1843, and the church held services in the Baptist Temple until December of that year, when it was able to occupy the vestry of a new wooden edifice it had erected on the northwest corner of Bedford and Rock streets, on land donated for the purpose by the Durfee family. The new building was dedicated April 24, 1844, and in the evening Rev. Samuel Washburn was installed as first pastor of the church, which then had 106 members. The present beautiful church at the corner of Rock and Franklin streets was begun in May, 1874, and dedicated December 13, 1875. It is of brick, with Nova Scotia freestone trimmings, and is in the Victoria Early English Gothic style. It has a regular seating capacity of 1,200, which may be increased when necessary to 1,800. Over \$125,000 had been subscribed for the building fund, including two gifts of \$40,000 each from Dr. Nathan Durfee and Colonel Richard Borden, but the completion of the structure left the church with the old property on its hands and a debt of \$100,000. This was a heavy burden, but was carried until Sunday, February 1, 1880, when \$76,000 was raised in a single day. The original church property was sold in 1886, together with other land, and the church became and has since remained free from debt. The chapel was erected in 1891, at a cost of about \$18,000. The pastors have been: Rev. Samuel Washburn, 1844-49; Rev. Eli Thurston, D. D., 1849-69; Rev. Michael Burnham, D. D., 1870-82; Rev. Eldridge Mix, D. D., 1882-90; Rev. William Walker Jubb, 1891-96; Rev. William Allen Knight, 1897-1902, and Rev. Clarence F. Swift, D. D., since 1902. Rev. Edwin A. Buck was city missionary from 1867 till his death in 1903, though relieved from active duty in 1899, and both at home and abroad the church has done much in missionary service. Its present membership is about 600. An excellent history of the church was published in 1905, under the editorship of Henry H. Earl.

The Fowler Congregational Church was organized in 1874, with Rev. Leander S. Coan its first pastor, and erected its meeting house, a frame building on the corner of Maple and Hanover streets, the same year. Mr. Coan was succeeded in 1875 by Calvin Keyser. Sumner G. Wood was the next pastor, 1883-88, and was followed by Payson W. Lyman, the present incumbent. The

present name of the church was assumed in 1890, in honor of Rev. Orin Fowler.

The Broadway Congregational Church, the outgrowth of a mission established by the Central Church in 1892, was organized March 13, 1894, and on the same day Donald Browne was installed the first pastor. He resigned October 31, and was succeeded June 26, 1895, by William Todd, who resigned July 5, 1896. James G. Megathlin was installed December 18, 1896, and resigned July 6, 1899. Rev. James E. Enman became pastor September 1, 1899, was installed October 10, and still continues in service.

The French Congregational, the only French Protestant church in the city, grew from a mission begun by the First Church in 1884. The church was organized in 1886 and dedicated its edifice on Harrison street in September, 1888. Rev. Xavier Smith, who began the work, has been succeeded by T. J. Cote, G. C. Mousseau, G. Allard and S. P. Rondeau.

The First Baptist Church was organized at the home of Jonathan Brownell, on North Main street, in 1781, with 30 members, and ordained its first pastor, Elder Amos Burrows, two years later. He remained but one year. In 1795 two young men, James Boomer and Job Borden, were ordained and served jointly till 1804, when Mr. Boomer left. About 1800 a meeting house was built near the Narrows, and the name of the church changed from "The Church in Free-town, Dartmouth and Westport" to "The Second Baptist Church in Tiverton." The name was twice again changed to conform with changes in the name of the town. A new meeting house on South Main street, completed in 1828 and afterwards sold to the Episcopal Church, was followed by the present Baptist Temple, dedicated September 16, 1840. Rev. Asa Bronson was pastor from 1833 for eleven years, during which 709 members joined the church, and a strong stand was taken against slavery. The meeting house was sold to the present Second Baptist Church in 1847, and the members of the First Church worshipped in a hall until they were able to occupy the vestry of their present edifice at the corner of North Main and Pine streets, in 1850. The pastors since this time have been A. P. Mason, Jacob R. Scott, 1853; P. B. Haughwout, 1855-70; Daniel C. Eddy, 1871-73; Albion K. P. Small, 1874-83; Thomas S. Barbour, 1883-96; F. H. Rowley, 1897-1900; A. G. Upham, since 1902.

For many years this church has been active in the local mission field, and now has three prosperous chapels under its guidance, the Broadway, the Brownell street and the Harrison street. The first was begun as a Sunday school, as were the others, in 1857, and had various meeting places till its present home was selected. W. P. Osgood was the first clergyman in charge, serving until 1901. He was succeeded by George R. Atha, and in 1904 by B. G. Ewald. The Brownell Street Chapel had its inception in

June 18, 1846, by 149 members of the First Church and several others, and held services in the town hall and the Unitarian vestry until October, 1847, when it occupied the Baptist Temple, which it had purchased from the mother society. Rev. Asa Bronson, who a few years before had been pastor of the First Church, was called, and served till 1857. His successors have been Charles A. Snow, 1858-64; John Duncan, 1865-70; Frank R. Morse, 1871-73; Henry C. Graves, 1874-1880; E. W. Hunt, 1880-82; George W.



The Church of the Ascension, Rock Street

a Spring street Sabbath school 37 years ago, and after six years went to its present home. It was organized in 1871 as the Mechanicsville Baptist Church, a name changed in 1874 to the Third Baptist and later to its present title. Rev. Messrs. W. M. Lyles, George L. Mason, Edson, Lockwood, Eaton, Snow and Gould have been in charge at various periods. Charles E. Lewis, who had been pastor for some years, resigned early in 1906. The Harrison Street Chapel dates from 1885. Rev. Joseph Butterworth has been in charge for more than ten years.

The Second Baptist Church was formed

Gile, 1884-93; David B. Jutten, 1893 to the present time.

The Third Baptist Church is the outgrowth of a Sunday school organized by Deacon and Mrs. A. O. Cook and other members of the Second Baptist Church in May, 1861. The first meetings were held in a schoolhouse which stood where Tucker street now enters Stafford road. The attendance increased, and in 1873 the present church edifice was erected by the school and its friends. It was then known as Franklin Hall, and was held by the Franklin Hall Corporation, which is still in existence. The

Sunday school was continued under Deacon Cook as superintendent. In 1889 H. W. Watjen, a student at Brown, was employed to preach Sunday evenings, followed by Charles V. French in 1890 and W. F. Wilson in 1891, who remained till 1898. The church was formed under his leadership December 4, 1896, and recognized December 29. Rev. George R. Atha was the first pastor, called in June, 1898, and remained till July 1, 1902. He was succeeded by Rev. Joseph McKean, the present pastor, October 1, 1902. The church has ninety members and the Sunday school 250. Deacon Cook retired as superintendent in 1902 and was succeeded by Joseph McCreery, Jr., and in December, 1904, by Everett B. Durfee. Extensive changes were made in the church structure in 1905.

The Trinity Baptist Church is the outgrowth of a mission started about 1868 in a small store on Fifth street, near Branch, by Deacon Charles Coburn, Alexander O. Cook, Spaulding Southworth and others. The Fifth Street Mission was formed and the present building erected, with the assistance of the mills in the neighborhood, three of which gave \$100 each, and one allowed the use of the land. In 1888 the Second Baptist Society absorbed the mission and moved the building to Foster street. The building was enlarged from time to time and in 1905 the Trinity Church was formed, with sixty constituent members. The mission was in charge of various students, Mr. McLean, J. F. Watts, James Lawson, Irving J. Enslin and Rolla E. Hunt. They were succeeded by W. H. Nobbs, who became the first pastor on the organization of the church. He resigned during the first year and was succeeded by Rev. Frank W. Wheeler, the present pastor.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church was not formed until about 1827, though meetings had been held occasionally for some time before that. In 1827 the first regular preacher was sent here, Rev. E. T. Taylor, widely known as "Father" Taylor for his work in behalf of the seamen. A small church building was erected in that year near Central street. A new edifice, erected on the site of the present church in 1840, was burned in the fire of 1843, but at once rebuilt and dedicated in 1844. By 1851 the membership had become so large that a second church, St. Paul's, was formed. The church edifice was raised and stores built in front about 1870. Rev. E. Blake suc-

ceeded Mr. Taylor in 1829. Subsequent pastors were Daniel Webb, Ira M. Bidwell, Squire B. Haskell, Mark Staples, Hector Bronson, Phineas Crandall, Orange Scott, Isaac Bonney, Thomas Ely, Charles K. True, George F. Poole, James D. Butler, David Patten, Daniel Wise, Frederick Upham, Elisha B. Bradford, John Howson, Thomas Ely, Andrew McKeown, Charles H. Payne, Henry Baylies, J. D. King, in the order named. A. A. Wright became pastor in 1870 and was followed by S. L. Gracey, 1873; Ensign McChesney, 1874; Watson L. Phillips, 1877; William T. North, 1879; Warren A. Luce, 1882; Dwight A. Jordan, 1883; Alfred E. Drew, 1886; Archibald McCord, 1887; Walter J. Yates, 1889; Warren A. Luce, 1892; Stephen O. Benton, 1896; William I. Ward, 1901; Thomas Tyrie, 1903; John E. Blake, 1905.

The Brayton M. E. Church had its nucleus as a Sunday school of the First church, started in 1843. It took its place as a church in 1854 as the Globe Street M. E. Church and purchased the home of the disbanded Christ Church on Globe street. The present name was assumed about 1870, in recognition of generous gifts from the Brayton family, whose ancestor, John Brayton, founded the South Somerset Church. The present edifice was erected about ten years ago. Early pastors were A. H. Worthin, Elihu Grant, Charles A. Merrill, A. U. Swinerton, Edward Hatfield, W. P. Hyde, George H. Lamson and Charles S. Morse. Edward A. Lyon took charge in 1875 and has been succeeded as follows: Samuel Keown, 1877; Elihu Grant, 1879; William B. Heath, 1881; B. F. Simon, 1884; Robert Clark, 1886; John G. Gammons, 1889; R. M. Wilkins, 1894; Edwin E. Phillips, 1899; E. J. Ayres, 1901; William E. Kugler, 1902; H. H. Critchlow, 1903; E. W. Goodier, 1906.

The Quarry Street M. E. Church was organized in 1870 and erected its church edifice the same year. William Livesey, C. W. Warren, S. M. Beal, Richard Povey, E. D. Hall, Henry H. Martin and James H. Nutting were early pastors. Their successors were John C. McGowan, 1883; John D. King, 1884; George M. Hamblen, 1887; B. K. Bosworth, 1889; F. L. Brooks, 1892; H. A. Ridgway, 1895; Elliott F. Studley, 1900; E. J. Ayres, 1902; John Pearce, 1905; John Oldham, 1906.

St. Paul's M. E. Church was organized in 1851 by 123 members of the First Church, who had withdrawn to form a new society, following special services in the old church

that added so many that it was unable to accommodate all who desired pews. The church edifice on Bank street was erected in 1852 and enlarged to its present seating capacity in 1864. St. Paul's has aided greatly in the establishment of new churches and given freely to missions and other benevolences. Ralph W. Allen, the first pastor, was followed by John Hobart, 1853-54; M. J. Talbot, 1855-56; Samuel C. Brown, 1857-58; John B. Gould, 1859-60; J. A. M. Chapman, 1861-62; Samuel C. Brown, 1863-64; Alfred A. Wright, 1865; George A. Bowler, 1866-67; Francis J. Wagner, 1868-69; Emory J. Haynes, 1870-71; George E. Reed, 1872-74; George W. Woodruff, 1875-76; R. H. Rust, 1877-79; C. W. Gallagher, 1880-81; E. M. Taylor, 1882-84; H. D. Kimball, 1885-86; J. C. Hull, 1887-88; J. M. Williams, 1889-91; A. J. Coultas, 1892-96; J. H. MacDonald, 1897-1900; Matthias S. Kauffman, 1901-1904; F. W. Coleman, 1905.

The North M. E. Church at Steep Brook was organized in 1859. Its early pastors included A. G. Gurner, G. H. Winchester, B. Ashley, J. Gifford, J. Q. Adams, J. G. Gammons, Philip Crandon, R. W. C. Farnworth, E. G. Babcock, G. H. Lamson, A. J. Coultas (1880-81), A. J. Church, J. A. Rood and O. E. Johnson. Recent clergymen have been: J. Livesey, 1892; S. T. Patterson, 1893; W. Ridington, 1894; A. Anderson, 1895-98; Henry W. Brown, 1899-1900; Will F. Geister, 1901-1902; Charles A. Purdy, 1903-05; Jacob Betts, 1905.

The Summerfield M. E. Church, the youngest of the churches of the denomination in the city, dates from May 9, 1875. In that year it erected a building on Terry street and took the name of the Terry Street M. E. Church. In 1878 the edifice was removed to its present location at the corner of North Main and Hood streets, and the name of North Main Street M. E. Church was assumed. In 1883, when the church building was raised, the name was changed to Park M. E. Church, and in 1890 to the present title, in honor of Rev. John Summerfield, a famous Methodist divine. The parsonage was erected in 1891. The pastors have been: William B. Heath, 1875-78; J. F. Sheffield, 1878-79; Eben Tirrell, Jr., 1879-82; E. F. Smith, 1882-83; George E. Fuller, 1883-85; M. S. Kaufman, 1885-88; James Tregaskis, 1888-90; Robert D. Dyson, 1890-94; Edwin F. Jones, 1894-96; Louis F. Flocken, 1896-98; Oscar F. Johnson, 1899-1904; Rennetts C. Miller, 1904.

First Primitive Methodist Church.—The first meeting of the Primitive Methodists in this city was held December 20, 1871, in the Flint Block, on Pleasant street. October 12, 1874, the articles of incorporation were signed and the mission became a permanent institution. The foundation for the present building on Plymouth avenue and Dover street was laid in November, 1873. The church was erected during the following year and was dedicated January, 1875. The land was donated by the Richard Borden Mfg. Company. The school room on Dover street was dedicated September 22, 1888. The following ministers have served the church: Rev. Charles Miles, 1874 to 1877; Rev. John Finch, 1877 to 1880; Rev. Ralph Fothergill, 1880 to 1883, and died during the third year of his pastorate; Rev. J. Stewart, 1883 to 1887; Rev. S. Knowles, 1887 to 1892; Rev. J. T. Barlow, 1892 to 1897; Rev. W. B. Taylor, 1897 to 1899; Rev. A. Humphries, Ph. D., the present incumbent, began his pastorate May, 1899. From this mother church sprang the North Tiverton, Dwelly Street and Haffard Street Primitive Methodist churches.

The Sykes Primitive Methodist Church, on County street, is named for a member of the denomination who contributed the site of the edifice. It was founded by the Rev. Thomas Wilson, who, after a number of years' absence, is now the pastor.

The Second Primitive Methodist Church.—In 1890 about twenty persons, members of North Tiverton and Plymouth Avenue (Fall River) churches, had located in Globe village with their families, and as the distance was too great for them to attend regularly their home churches, and there was seating capacity in Protestant churches in the village for only 400 persons out of a Protestant population of about 3,500, it was decided to form a new society.

Meetings were held in a store on the corner of South Main and Dwelly streets, and the Rev. John Mason, then pastor of North Tiverton Church, supplied the new society with preaching and pastoral oversight. The following year Rev. W. H. Childs took the place of Rev. J. Mason as pastor of the two societies, and preparations were made for the erection of a church in Globe village. A site was secured on Dwelly street, west of South Main street, and the corner stone was laid December 17, 1892, under the pastorate of Rev. T. G. Spencer, who had been appointed to the charge by the conference held

in May of that year. The church was dedicated April 16, 1893. It is a commodious structure. The audience room, neat and attractive, seats about 450, the vestry, or school room, is well arranged with class rooms, with folding partitions; the basement is fitted for gymnasium, tea parties, etc., the whole steam heated. The Rev. N. W. Matthews, Ph. D., succeeded Mr. Spencer in 1894, and served three years. Rev. J. T. Barlow served from 1897 to 1901, during whose pastorate the parsonage was purchased, though in an incomplete stage. Rev. F. M. Bateman, D. D., was appointed in May, 1901, and during his ministry the parsonage was completed. The present pastor, Rev. Dr. Elijah Humphries, accepted the call in May, 1904, and is therefore in his second year.

The church suffered the loss of one-third of its membership by removals from the village on account of the long strike in the cotton mills, but these losses have been fully made good and a fair increase in membership secured. The changing character of the population—the English mill workers leaving the community and other nationalities taking their places—presents a serious problem in common with the other Protestant churches of the south end. Apart from this the church is in a flourishing condition, and the prospects for the future cheering.

The Church of the Ascension, the parent of all the Protestant Episcopal Churches in the city, was formed July 15, 1836, in the Methodist Episcopal Church. Services were held in the Pocasset house till 1837, when the parish moved to the town hall, on Central street, where it met till 1840, when it occupied the former building of the First Baptist Church on South Main street. This was burned in 1850, and at once replaced by a new edifice. In 1875 the parish removed to its present stone church on Rock street. The early services were in charge of a missionary, George M. Randall, afterward Bishop of Colorado, became the first rector in August, 1840, resigning in 1844. Subsequent rectors have been: A. D. McCoy, 1845-47; E. M. Porter, 1849-63; A. M. Wylie, 1863-68; John Hewitt, 1870-71; Henry E. Hovey, 1871-72; William McGlathery, 1873-75; William T. Fitch, 1876-81; A. St. John Chambré, 1881-84; Emelius W. Smith since 1884. It supports St. Matthew's mission on Pine street.

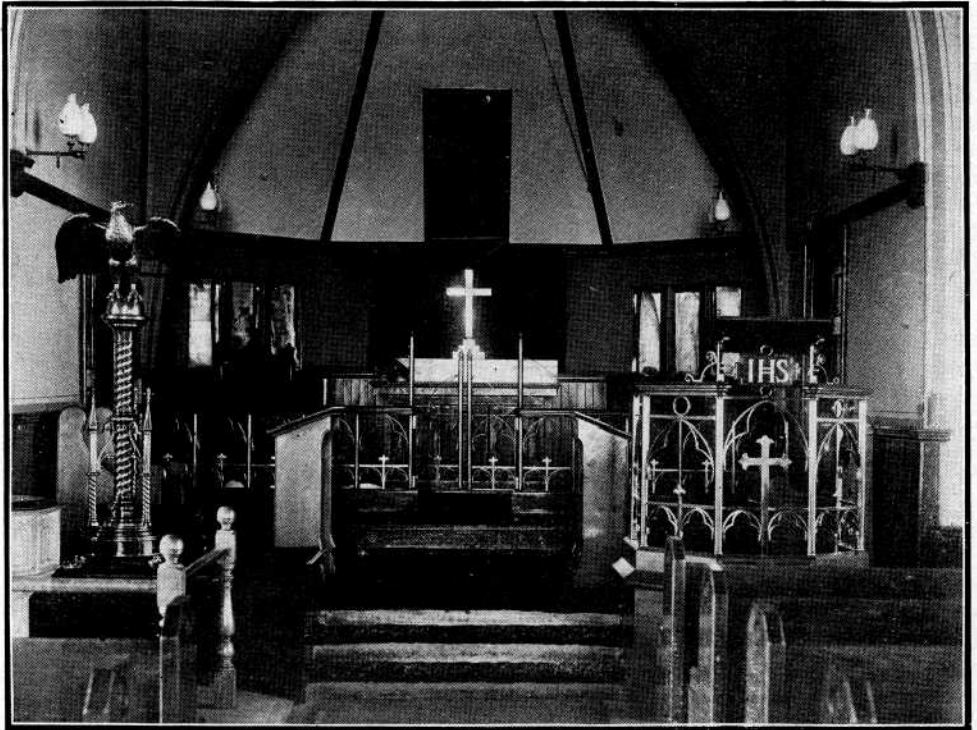
St. John's Church began as a mission branch of the Church of the Ascension. Its

originators were Nathaniel Lewis, Nathan Crabtree, George Watters, Richard Fleet, George Hanson, William Wilde, William Bottomly and John Taylor. To these were soon added George Porteous and others, who took an active part in building up the mission. The first service was held in Connell's Hall Sunday, October 6, 1878. For nearly three years the Rev. Arthur H. Barrington was minister in charge. In 1881 the mission became independent and erected a wooden building on South Main street. The Rev. Samuel S. Spear became rector in June of that year and continued so for twelve years. As a result of his leadership the parish bought land, built a parish house, and on Easter Day, 1890, the first service for public worship was held in the present stone building on Middle street. The Rev. Herman Page became rector in July, 1893, and was in charge for seven years. During this time the parish continued to increase in numerical and financial strength, a branch Sunday school, which has since become St. Stephen's parish, was started, and a three-story addition to the parish house built. Mr. Page left in October, 1900, and the present rector, Rev. Chauncey H. Blodgett, took charge April 21, 1901.

St. Mark's Church began its life as a Sunday school, meeting in private houses among the English church people in the Flint. Later on the members met in the office of the Wampanoag mill. It became organized as a mission of the Ascension Church February 23, 1886, and held its services, in the little hall on Cash street, near Pleasant street—a building demolished in 1904. The Rev. Percy S. Grant was elected minister of the mission, and his right hand helpers were Joseph Shaw, for many years the treasurer of the church, and a most faithful and efficient leader; and Richard F. Smith, warden of the church until his death in the winter of 1905, and, like Mr. Shaw, a most loyal and devoted friend and servant of the parish. In 1888 the edifice on Mason street was erected, Mr. Grant continuing his work until the summer of 1893. The Rev. John Franklin Carter was the second minister of the mission, coming to Fall River in the winter of 1893, and when, in 1894, the mission became an independent parish, Mr. Carter continued as its rector until the summer of 1900, having organized the Young Men's Club, which bears his name. The Rev. A. A. V. Binnington was rector from the fall of 1900 to the summer of 1903.

The Rev. Edward S. Thomas, the present rector, commenced his ministry in the fall of 1903. The officers of the parish to-day are as follows: Rector, the Rev. Edward Seymour Thomas; Wardens, John R. Leeming and Harold Crook; Treasurer, Henry Lord; Clerk, William Burton; Vestrymen, John Blakely, John Buckley, Joseph Cheetham, Ernest Dowty (Financial Secretary), James J. Sampson, John Taylor and Thomas Wolstenholme.

Rev. J. E. Johnson, 1894-95. Under these men it had grown into a promising church, and in 1897 it became independent. Rev. F. B. White became rector in that year, and under his guidance the present stone edifice in Gothic style, 40x85 feet, with a tower 57 feet high, was erected. The audience room is 40x60, and the chancel 24x24. Rev. J. W. Dixon followed Mr. White in 1901, and the present rector, Rev. J. J. Cogan, took charge in August, 1905. A. S. Babbitt is senior war-



Interior of St. Mark's Church, Mason Street

St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church dates from a house meeting held in the winter of 1891. In July of the next year, 1892, the first money was raised to pay for land for the site of the church, at the corner of Warren and Oxford streets, and in July, 1893, the final payment was made. In this year the basement of the present church edifice was built to serve as a parish house and Sunday school room. The church had begun as a mission of the Church of the Ascension and for the first five years was in charge of Rev. E. W. Smith and his assistants. Rev. Dr. Williams was in charge from 1892-93, Rev. Hugo Klaren, 1893-94, Rev. Mr. Wainwright for a few months following, and

den, R. E. Fogwell treasurer and Benjamin Piggott clerk.

St. James' Episcopal Church is the outgrowth of a mission established in 1871 in Tarrant Hall, on North Main street, over what is now Cobb & Reed's store, by Rev. Henry E. Hovey, of the Church of the Ascension. It grew vigorously, but was allowed to lapse in 1873. Ten years later, and nearly a mile farther north, on North Main street, many of those who had worshipped in Tarrant Hall, together with others, founded St. James mission in Brightman Hall, taking the same name as the former mission. As a result of the tireless efforts of Rev. Ernest Mariett, first as assistant to Rev. Albert

St. John Chambre, rector of the Church of the Ascension, and afterward as minister in charge of the new mission, a strong work was developed. The congregation began to worship in Brightman Hall in July, 1883, and removed to their new church, on the corner of North Main and St. James streets, in March, 1885. A parish organization was effected Dec. 7, 1884. Mr. Marriett's rectorship terminated in November, 1889. Rev. John Milton Peck was in charge for a few months, Rev. George Esdras Allen from the spring of 1890 until his death on Ash Wednesday, 1896. During the rectorship of Rev. Leslie Elias Learned, which lasted until November, 1897, the indebtedness was much reduced. The next rector, Rev. William Porteous Reeve, was succeeded in March, 1899, by Rev. George Winship Sargent, during whose incumbency the church was consecrated free from debt. The present rector, Rev. Albert L. Whittaker, assumed his duties January 1, 1902. A parish house basement, 66x41, was formally opened October 1, 1905.

Of the six Episcopal churches in Fall River, St. Stephen's was the last to be established. It owes its origin to the tireless activity of the Rev. Herman Page, sometime rector of St. John's Church, who felt that there was a crying need for services in the southern section of the city. Under his supervision a Sunday school was opened in a paint shop on Charles street. This soon proved too small, and the school was moved to a barn on the same street. The work was placed in charge of the Rt. Rev. Logan Herbert Roots, Bishop of Hankau, China, who was at that time assisting the Rev. Mr. Page as a lay reader. St. Stephen's has ever afterward felt the effect of his powerful personality.

Increase of attendance necessitated another removal, this time to Mills' Hall, on South Main street. It was here that definite steps were taken to organize the work as a diocesan mission, and a general meeting was held on the 23d of October, 1896, in Mills' Hall. Articles of incorporation were applied for and a permanent organization effected by the election of James B. Clifton as warden, John Isherwood as clerk and George Butcher as treasurer. The church was placed in charge of the Rev. Gilbert W. Laidlaw.

The need of a church building was now felt, and under Mr. Laidlaw, and with the cordial support of Mr. Page, a lot was

bought on South Main street, facing Hicks street, and a substantial granite basement built upon it. The first service was held in this building on December 5, 1897.

Since then the welfare of the mission has steadily advanced. In November, 1899, the Rev. Ernest Nelson Bullock assumed charge and remained until February, 1904.

The present officers of the parish are the Rev. Donald Nelson Alexander, minister in charge; James O. Mills, warden; James Harrison, clerk; and Walter Schofield, treasurer.

The First Christian Church, organized in 1829, erected a church edifice the following year. This was burned in the fire of 1843, and the present structure on Franklin street, erected in 1844. The pastors have been: Joshua V. Hines, Benjamin Taylor, William H. Taylor, James Taylor, Simon Clough, William Lane, A. G. Cummings, Jonathan Thompson, P. R. Russell, A. M. Averill, Elijah Shaw, Joseph Bodger, Charles Morgridge, Stephen Fellows, David S. E. Millard, B. S. Fanton and Warren Hathaway, all prior to 1860. Thomas Holmes became pastor in 1863, Hiram J. Gordon, 1865; S. Wright Butler, 1866; P. W. Sinks, 1878-1880; M. Summerbell, 1880-1886; G. B. Merritt, 1886-94; Charles E. Luck, 1895-1902; F. H. Peters, 1904.

The North Christian Church, situated on North Main street at Steep Brook, was organized in 1842. The pastors have been: William Shurtleff, 1861; Moses P. Favor, 1866; Charles T. Camp, 1872; O. P. Bessey, 1874; O. O. Wright, 1876; C. A. Tillinghast, June 11, 1876-April 1, 1879; J. W. Osborne, April 1, 1879-January 4, 1889; George H. Allen, January 13, 1889-July 1, 1900; T. S. Weeks, November 11, 1900-January 22, 1905; Walter B. Flanders, since April 1, 1905.

The Bogle Street Christian Church was organized December 3, 1876, from a Sunday school conducted for several years by Mr. and Mrs. John Kennelly. For several years the parish was under the spiritual oversight of Rev. S. W. Butler, pastor of the First Christian Church. Under his oversight the church grew, and in 1883 the first pastor, Rev. William Dugdale, was called. The present edifice was erected in 1885 and dedicated the first Sunday in January, 1896.

The membership on March 30, 1906, was 101. There is a large Sunday school, two Christian Endeavor societies, Ladies' Aid Society and a Young Men's Club. During the last fifteen years the church has sent

out seven of its young men into the work of the ministry. The pastors have been: William Dugdale, 1883-1884; E. Grant, 1884-1885; O. J. Wait, 1885-1887; D. Heron, 1887-1888; W. S. Lathrop, 1889-1890; G. A. Beebe, 1891-1895; M. W. Baker, 1896-1898; R. R. Shoemaker, 1898-1900, and the present pastor, E. J. Bodman, since 1901.

The first meetings of the Friends were held here in 1818, and were for several years in the care of the Swansea meeting, at what is now South Somerset. Previous to that date the Friends in the southern section of the town had attended the Swansea meeting, which was more accessible than the one near Assonet. The services here were first held in a room in the second story of the Troy mill dyehouse, on the site of the present office of that corporation. The North Main street lot, the site of the present church, was purchased in 1821, 90 rods, at a net cost of \$200, and a plain structure, shingled on the sides and unpainted within or without, erected on the north side of the lot, the following year. Land for a burying ground was left in the rear. A high stone wall was built on North Main street. The present building was erected in 1836 and remodelled in 1895 at a cost of \$3,500. The former structure was removed to the north side of Cherry street, near Rock, and made into a tenement house, later to be again moved to the lower end of the street, where it still stands. In the thirties the congregation was large, and of the 56 heads of families in 1836, 15 were Buffintons and 18 Chaces. Henry C. Aydelot has been minister since 1877 and his wife, Phebe S. Aydelot, his colleague since about 1885.

A Friends' mission has recently been started on Stafford road, where a chapel was erected and dedicated in April, 1900.

The United Presbyterian Church dates from 1846. Its edifice was erected on the corner of Pearl and Anawan streets in 1851. Rev. David A. Wallace, the first pastor, was followed by William Maclaren, 1856-67; J. R. Kyle, 1867-75; J. H. Turnbull, 1876-85; W. J. Martin, 1886 to the present time.

The United Presbyterian Church has been one of the prosperous Protestant organizations of the city, and has now on its roll of communicants 300 members. It has been one of the influential but conservative church forces of the city. It has been simple, steady and regular in its services and work.

It has stood for services of worship and for presentation of the truth of God as that

bears on all life. The church has for more than 20 years been what may be called a free church. It has no pew rents. It levies no direct assessments on its members. The church owns all the pews, and any family uniting with it is allowed to have choice among the pews which may at the time be vacant. It makes no difference what the amount which the family may feel able to contribute, a pew vacant anywhere is open to selection.

The church uses the envelope system for its entire finances.

A member contributes regularly by envelopes, if so willing to do, what the member regards as proper. The method has not been a failure. It has been in operation for more than 20 years, and in that time the church has not once had a deficit to be made good at the close of the financial year.

This condition has not been reached by special, large gifts on the part of a few. Those have not been such. It has been reached by the faithfulness of those enrolled as members. The change in the population of the city has affected the locality in which the church has its position, and scarcely any of the members now live near to the church building. Because of this there has been in recent years some consideration of an effort to remove to some site which in the judgment of the church would allow a still better result than the present location. But whether a change of location will be a fact of the future or not, the prospect is that the church will hold on its way in a good work and that its members will in coming years count even more than in the past as social and religious factors in the community life.

The Globe Presbyterian Church is the outgrowth of a mission Sunday school organized October 20, 1889, in the Republican headquarters at the Globe corners by the Rev. Mr. Morrison, a Sunday school missionary. His assistants were the Rev. John Brown, pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, and Messrs. Winslow and Elliot, who were the first superintendents; George Donaldson and William Peters. The school soon removed to the Democratic headquarters, and then to a small building erected on Penn street, near South Main, where services were first held December 15, 1889. Preaching was carried on regularly by Mr. Brown, and on October 13, 1890, the church was organized, with 23 members. James Earnshaw and Frederick Thorpe were the first elders. Rev. William Fryling became

the first pastor, April 1, 1891, and remained three years. He was followed by Rev. Mr. White in 1894, Rev. A. G. Alexander in 1897, Rev. Roger Charnock in 1898, Rev. C. W. Nicol in 1900, Rev. G. A. Humphries in 1901 and Rev. Edward Eells in 1906. The church edifice on South Main street, at the corner of Charles, was erected in 1900 and opened February 10, 1901. The church has 80 members and a Sunday school of 117.

The Unitarian Church was organized in 1832 by 74 men, among whom were N. B. Borden, Dr. Foster Hooper, Caleb B. Vickery and Hezekiah Battelle. Its first services were held in the old Line meeting-house, which stood on South Main street, a little north of Columbia, but it soon bought the First Congregational Church edifice, on the site of the Anawan School. In 1834, when the first pastor, George Ware Briggs, was called, the erection of the present church edifice was begun, on the corner of Borden and Second streets. This was dedicated January 25, 1835. The basement was rented for storage. In 1839 the society was incorporated, with Dr. Hooper the first moderator. Mr. Briggs had resigned in 1837, and was followed in 1840 by A. C. L. Arnold, who remained one year. John F. Ware was pastor from 1842-45, and was succeeded in 1847 by Samuel Longfellow, brother of the poet, who remained till 1851. Subsequent pastors have been Josiah K. Waite, 1852-58; William B. Smith, 1859-63; Charles W. Buck, 1863; Joshua Young, 1868-75; Charles H. Tindell, 1875-77; Edward F. Hayward, 1878-83; A. J. Rich, 1883-90; Arthur May Knapp, 1891-97; John Mills Wilson, 1897-1905; John B. W. Day, since March, 1906. The present lot on North Main street was purchased in 1859, and the church building removed to its present location in 1860-61.

The Fall River branch of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was organized by Elder James W. Gillen, December 3, 1865, with 13 members. The organization, perfected, stood as follows: President of the branch, William Cottam; first priest, Thomas Gilbert; second priest, James Hacking; teacher, Charles Gilbert; deacon and secretary, John Gilbert.

For some time the meetings were held in private houses, but the growth of the organization soon made it necessary to engage a hall. During the year the membership increased from 13 to 48. The first Sunday school of the branch was organized February 25, 1866. Edward Rogerson was

Superintendent, assisted by Charles Gilbert and John McKee. The first church was built from October to December 24, 1876, at a cost of \$1,038, on Claflin street, the present location. At this time the membership numbered 81. The building answered for all purposes until April, 1882, when it was enlarged several feet. The church was destroyed by fire November 12, 1893, with damage estimated at \$1,100, and rebuilt by the insurance company. The church was remodeled and enlarged again during 1903 at a cost of about \$3,000. The 40th anniversary was observed December 3, 1905, at which time the statistics showed that there had been 17 presiding elders who had served the organization, with 17 secretaries. There had been 357 baptised, 103 expelled, 42 deaths, 77 removals and 71 received by letter from other branches.

The organization has grown steadily in the face of adverse circumstances; has fought down prejudice and has at last compelled the people of Fall River to recognize the fact that it is antagonistic to the doctrines as taught by the Mormon Church of Utah, there being no affiliation between the two churches, the Reorganization being the strongest enemy of that institution. At the last report the membership of the branch was 162. The present presiding elder is Frederick G. Pitt; secretary, W. A. Sinclair, M. D.; treasurer, John Gilbert, M. D. The auxiliary societies are: Sunday school, present enrollment 180; superintendent, John Pilling; secretary, Charles Cockcroft; Zion's Religio Literary Society (Young People's Society), organized 1900, present membership 70; president, Susan E. Gilbert; secretary, Elizabeth Heap; Ladies' Aid Society, president, Mrs. M. E. Cockcroft; secretary, Margaret Billington.

The Advent Christian Church is the outgrowth of meetings of that denomination held about 1842 in the First Christian Church, and also at Steep Brook. In 1843 Elder I. I. Leslie, Roland Grant, Enoch Merrill and others held meetings in a large tent at Bowenville, following which services were continued for a time in Pocasset Hall. Elder C. H. Sweet held meetings in Hoar's hall in 1884, and in 1887 Mary H. Winslow and Mercy Arnold began meetings in the Troy Building, at which others soon assisted. After a few months removal was made to 26 Hunter street. Tent meetings were held by Elder William A. Birch, in September, 1887, and the church organized October 27. Land

on Coral street was purchased, and the chapel erected and dedicated September 19, 1888, in connection with the sessions of the Bristol and Plymouth Counties conference. The pastors have been C. H. Sweet, T. W. Richardson, H. E. Thompson and A. R. Mead.

The Church of the New Jerusalem was organized in 1854, with seven members, and erected its edifice on Rock street in 1869. The society had previously met in various halls, and was led by the Rev. John Westall, who was also reader. Mr. Westall was ordained as the first pastor October 21, 1877, and served till May 25, 1886. His successors have been: Henry C. Hay, May 25, 1886-July 31, 1887; George S. Wheeler, March 18,

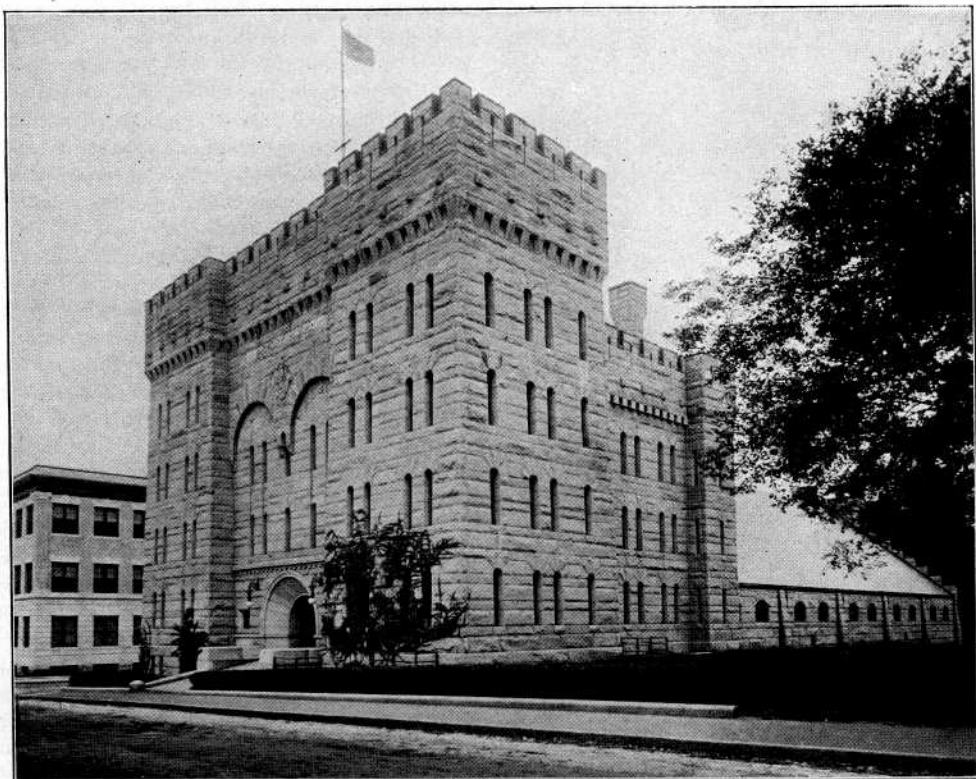
1888-July 6, 1890; Clarence Lathbury, March 29, 1891, to October 15, 1894; Gardner I. Ward, March 18, 1895-June 21, 1903; Duane V. Bowen, the present pastor, since November 1, 1904.

A Church of Christ (Scientist) was organized May 19, 1892, and now meets in the Archer building on Rock street.

The First Spiritual Church and Lyceum was formed in 1858 and is pushing plans for the erection of a temple.

The Jews have three congregations here—the Sons of Jacob, the Union Street Synagogue and the Congregation Adas Israel.

There are also three colored churches—the African M. E. and the Shiloh and Union Baptist.



The Armory