

ACCOUNT OF THE SERVICES.

The one hundred and fiftieth Anniversary of the opening of Christ Church was celebrated by appropriate services on Sunday the 28th and Monday the 29th of December, 1873.

The Church was very handsomely decorated with flowers, wreaths and branches of evergreen. Over the chancel was a brilliantly sparkling silver star upon a blue back ground. On the pilasters at the sides of the chancel were medallions with the dates 1723 and 1873. The ample folds of the British and American flags were gracefully hung in front of the organ gallery, and above them was the sentence pronounced at the laying of the Corner Stone.

"May the gates of hell never prevail against it."

The massive Plate, used in the Communion Service, was displayed upon the Altar, both on Sunday and Monday evenings, and the soft light of candles in the ancient chandellers mingled with the brighter glare of the gas-burners. The bells pealed as merrily as they did at Christmas tide in the last century. The singing was by the choir of Sunday School Scholars under the direction of the accomplished organist Mrs. Wm. Kent Stone.

The Sermon on Sunday morning was preached by the Rev. William A. Des Brisay (a great-grandson of the Rev. Dr. Mather Byles, jr., who was Rector, one hundred years ago,) from the text: "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off and were persuaded of them and embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." Heb. xi:13.

In the afternoon the Rev. Theodore A. Eaton, D.D., Rector of St. Clement's Church, New York, preached from 1 Tim. 3:13, "Great is the mystery of godliness. God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." His father, the Rev. Asa Eaton, D.D., preached the centennial sermon, on the 28th of Dec. 1823. Both these clergymen took part, with the Rector, in the services of the day, reading from the Bible and Prayer Book used by Dr. Byles and Dr. Asa Eaton.

In the evening the Rt. Rev. Bishop Paddock, made his first visitation to this Church. As the Bishop and clergy entered, the choir sang the hymn, "Come hither ye faithful." Evening Prayer was said by the Rev. Mr. Des Brisay and by the Rector, after which addresses were made by the Rev. Dr. Eaton, and the Rev. Drs. Wells and Vinton, who had known this parish and its Pastors for many years. The Rector then announced the presence of the Bishop, and turning to him, presented the congregation to him as their chief pastor, as king in their behalf, his counsel, his prayers, and his blessing. The Bishop made a very beautiful and