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Reformed Episcopal Church

Address by Rev. Geo. B. Allen, at Grace

On last Sunday evening the tenth anniversary of the Reformed Episcopal Church was commemorated at Grace Church, in this city, by special services and an appropriate discourse by the Rector, Rev. George B. Allen, who, nearly two years ago, left the Protestant Episcopal Church and united with the Reformed Episcopal Church. The following is the address:

WHEN, WHERE AND BY WHOM ORGANIZED.

On the second day of December, A. D. 1873, in response to a call issued by Right Reverend George David Crammins, D. D., who for seven years had been the Assistant Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky, a meeting was held in New York for the purpose of organizing a "Reformed Episcopal Church" on the basis of the Prayer Book of 1789, set forth by the Protestant Episcopal Convention of that year, under the special guidance of the venerable William White, D. D., afterwards the first Bishop of the same church in this country, the *Church and State*, edited by the Rev. John Cotton Smith, D. D., who is still in the old Church, says: "The Bishop, with these seven or eight Presbyters and the laymen associated with them, are men of unblemished Christian character, and some, at least, are men of marked ability." In the *Observer* (Presbyterian), the editor states that "we were present last week on Tuesday, when the 'Reformed Episcopal Church' was organized, and there were some noteworthy signs to be observed, of which we will say a word. It was a *serious* business that the Bishop and they that were with him were engaged in. They looked to God for direction. The Bishop said if it was of God it would stand, and if it was of man he hoped it would fail. There was no self-sufficiency nor human ambition apparent. The whole proceeding was that of humble, prayerful, conscientious men, who were not seeking their own advancement nor the applause of men, but the honor of God only. In case of the Bishop there was positive sacrifice of place, power, salary and friends. He is poor in this world's goods and goes out in faith, for conscience sake. Such a man is always respected, whether men shake their heads at him or not. There were no pastors with him who had renounced their livings; but there were men who were ready to put their future usefulness into the church, into the cause now with the Bishop, and it was announced that there were twenty-five who were

long associations into some other organized, or to form a new church? They were Episcopalians. They preferred an Episcopacy and a liturgical form of worship, not feel at home without them, to have a Reformed Episcopal revised Book of Common Prayer all that has made the prayer-book devout souls for three centuries, that has been a burden to the evangelical men during all that period in the clearest, plainest, manner, the truth, the whole truth, but the truth, as it is in Jesus?"

ITS POLITY, DISCIPLINE AND DUTIES.

It recognizes and adheres to Episcopacy as a divine right, but as a very amenable form of Church polity, of the local church as to the hand and two laymen chosen by the congregation. The canons are liberal. An appeal to a higher court. No Bishop can exercise tyranny over either the clergy or congregation has the entire constituency. Clergymen from other churches, and to those who go from our Churches. It declares its belief in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, in the Word of God; in the creed called the "Apostles' Creed," and articles of grace substantially as set forth in the Thirty-nine Articles.

ITS PROGRESS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS.

In the last report to the General Convention the following statistics are given: Members, 72; Sunday School scholars, 1,000; communicants, 7,481; value of buildings, \$883,969. There are twenty-four clergymen and ten Bishops, all in succession, five in the United States, British America and three in England, and ten churches in Chicago and Philadelphia. Other churches are being organized.

Mr. Allen stated that while in India he was requested by Bishop Crammins to hold services in New Westminster. A number of individuals, most of whom were members of the English Church, signed a paper and estate themselves together for the formation of a Reformed Episcopal church. The organization was effected. A subscription was opened for the building fund amounting to \$10,000. A sufficient pledge to put the organization on a financial basis. A call has been issued to found the new church.