

ADDRESS.

CHRISTIAN FRIENDS—Our anniversary harvest gathering (for such it was at the beginning) has brought us together again. I trust we meet with contented minds and happy hearts, thankful to Him who has provided again, so liberally, for our temporal wants—Who has brought us safely through another year and surrounded us with such rich promises. And although we come with merry hearts, called together with music and song in the midst of this plenty, we will not forget our Father in Heaven, the giver of all these blessings, Who has, and will supply us with grace and every needful spiritual blessing if we seek Him with all our hearts.

We come thus with prayer as well as song, and would spend a few moments in devout thankfulness for His goodness, and ask for the forgiveness of our sins and shortcomings, and that He would guide us in our hours of joy, also in our moments of sadness and temptation ; for we know that we are not free from trials, and must prove by watchfulness and prayer that we desire to live manly lives.

It is sixty years ago this autumn since the first religious service was held in this Temple ; thus this anniversary thanksgiving connects us with the past, and many who have departed this life, giving to this joyous occasion a degree of solemnity, that many feel deeply.

The greater number present have had their birth since these stately pillars and lofty windows were erected. The designer and the builders of these spacious buildings intended them to represent eternal things to all beholders, to all worshipers. They would have these lighted windows represent the light of the City of God. Let them represent truth and life and the uplifting of our aspirations.

May this house as well as our bodies refract the rays of blessedness from above as perfectly as a temple built with human hands can ; and these bodies refract and reflect as grandly as human bodies created by the Great Architect of the universe intended them to convey of his truth and love from above.

This festive gathering, however, is older than the building, older than the illumination. Seventy-three years ago this festival was instituted, and we pray that as long as the buildings stand and the festival is kept, that they may proclaim to all the devout feelings of their originators. Their origin cannot have been that of frivolity, and may the present occupants and those in days to come increase in holiness of life, and ever proclaim the saving truth of Jesus. Let us ever remember that human nature is possessed of a devotional spirit, springing perhaps from the consciousness of the existence of the Divine Being.