

# The Presbyterian Review.

Vol. X.—No. 6.

Toronto, August 17, 1893.

\$2.00 per annum.

## Beautiful Things.

Beautiful faces are those that wear—  
It matters little if dark or fair—  
Whole-souled honesty printed there.

Beautiful eyes are those that show,  
Like crystal panes where heart fires glow,  
Beautiful thoughts that burn below.

Beautiful lips are those whose words  
Leap from the heart like songs of birds,  
Yet whose utterance prudence girds.

Beautiful hands are those that do  
Work that is earnest and brave and true,  
Moment by moment, the long day through.

Beautiful feet are those that go  
On kindly ministries to and fro—  
Down loneliest ways, if God wills it so.

Beautiful shoulders are those that bear  
Ceaseless burdens of homely care  
With patient grace and daily prayer.

Beautiful lives are those that bless—  
Silent rivers of happiness,  
Whose hidden fountains few may guess.

Beautiful twilight, at set of sun,  
Beautiful goal, with race well won,  
Beautiful rest, with work well done.

Beautiful graves, where grasses creep,  
Where blown leaves fall, and fruits lie deep,  
Over worn out hands—Oh, beautiful sleep!

—Allen P. Allerton.

## The Old Scotch Church of New York.

BY REV. DAVID WYLIE, PH.D.

THE First Presbyterian church of New York was organized in 1716, forty years before the organization of the Scotch church, which was second on the roll of Presbyterian churches. It was hard to realize all that had taken place in the period that had since elapsed. It was one of the most interesting eras in the world's history, and volumes would be required to tell the story properly. The city, for one thing, has experienced a wonderful growth. A hundred and thirty-seven years ago it was as small and comparatively insignificant town, the several parts of which were grouped around Battery Place. Dr. Howard Crosby has put on record the fact that about 110 years ago his father got lost in the woods where the City Hall now stands, while Dr. Crosby himself, looking back over a period of sixty years, remembered when Bleeker street was the last paved street in the city towards the north. When the Scotch Church was founded, there was no organized government in America, no United States Constitution, no mighty States of the Union. The Revolutionary and other wars had been fought, and the struggling Colonies united into a mighty sisterhood of States, since the Church began its organized existence. In Great Britain George III., George IV., and Victoria have occupied the throne, and on Continental Europe there have been a great array of distinguished sovereigns, including Frederick the Great. Waterloo and other great battles have been fought, and among other events that have occurred during the period are the partition of Poland and the union of Great Britain and Ireland. In all that time there have been but six pastorates—five of them finished, and the sixth re-

cently begun—in the Scotch church. The first pastor was the Rev. Dr. John Mason, who came from Scotland soon after the organization of the church, and was its pastor from 1762 till his death in 1792. He was a man of much ability, and during his pastorate the church prospered. He was succeeded by his son, the Rev. Dr. John M. Mason, a man of even greater attainments than his father, and who did a large amount of useful work both in connection with the church and outside of it. He travelled extensively in Europe, and preached memorable sermons in Edinburgh and London, being regarded as the prince of the American pulpit at that time. After him came the Rev. Robert B. C. McLeod, who was a man of piety and culture, but not of a very robust constitution. During his pastorate the church separated from the Associate Reformed denomination, and united with the General Assembly of the American Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Dr. Joseph McElroy was the next pastor. He had studied under Dr. John M. Mason, and was a man of commanding presence, a lucid and powerful thinker, and an earnest, tender and able preacher. His was the longest of any of the pastorates of the church, beginning in 1824 and lasting nearly half a century. The fifth pastor, the Rev. Dr. Samuel M. Hamilton, now living, came to the church in October, 1873, and remained until January, 1890, when he accepted a call to Louisville, Ky., where he is now labouring successfully. Of the church's six pastors and two co-pastors six were born in America, one in Scotland, and one in Ireland. Dr. John Mason was pastor for 30 years, Dr. John M. Mason for 17 years, Dr. McLeod for 12 years, Dr. McElroy for about 50 years, Dr. Hamilton for 17 years, and the present pastor (the writer) was entering upon the second half of his third year. The congregation have likewise been noted for the strong men who have filled the offices of elder, deacon and trustee, among the number being Alexander Robertson (the founder of the parochial school), George Lindsay, Peter Sim. Robert Boyd, Robert Johnston, Hugh Welsh, Robert Harper, Samuel Loudon, George Gosman, James R. Smith, Robert Blake, Isaac L. Platt, Henry Beeckman, Peter De Witt, Robert Carter, Joseph Rogers, Andrew Mitchell, Samuel Cochran, Robert Henry, H. A. Kerr, John Taylor Johnston, John Pirnie, Wm. O. Hunter, James Riddle and Alexander Miller. The first place of worship the congregation had was a small wooden building on Cedar street, between Broadway and Nassau. In 1768 this was replaced by a larger building of stone. The congregation subsequently removed first to the corner of Crosby and Grand streets, and then to the present location. At the time of the last removal it was stipulated that land was to be secured not further north than 14th street, which was then well out in the country. During Dr. McElroy's pastorate about \$700,000 was contributed for benevolent and charitable purposes; during Dr. Hamilton's pastorate something over \$500,000, and during the present pastorate something over \$55,000. Regarding the first 70 years of the church's existence there is not equally reliable information, but I calculate the amount at \$350,000, which made a grand total of \$1,705,000, or an average of over \$13,000 per year.