

GENESEO,
LIVINGSTON COUNTY, N. Y.

1848---1888.

AN HISTORICAL ADDRESS

BY

F. DEW. WARD D. D.,

A Forty Years Resident.

GENESEO, N. Y.:
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CORRESPONDENCE.

GENESEO, DEC. 3d, 1888.

REV. F. DEW. WARD, D. D.,

The undersigned, citizens of Geneseo, who had the pleasure of listening to your able and interesting historical address last evening beg to express our sincere thanks to you and respectfully solicit a copy for publication :

S. Hubbard,
B. F. Angel,
James Wood,
John R. Strang,
J. F. Bishop,
W. A. Stevens,

W. J. Milne,
Henry V. Colt,
H. J. Schmitz,
E. N. Shepard,
J. Cullinan,
A. J. Abbott,

W. E. Lauderdale,
W. A. Brodie,
N. J. Griswold,
John Rorbach,
R. A. Waterbury,
Nelson Janes.

MESSRS. HUBBARD, ANGEL AND OTHERS,

Gentlemen :—Whatever value attaches to the Address you obligingly solicit for publication is in its collated historical statements rather than in the mode of their expression. As the facts it embodies may be valuable for reference in the future, I cheerfully comply with your polite request for its publication.

Your fellow citizen and "old friend,"

F. DEW. WARD.

ADDRESS.

It was the evening of November 8, 1868. A large assembly was gathered in one of our village churches, for an object akin to that which has convened us here at this hour. The speaker was the same then as now. His utterances at that time were, by public request, embodied in a pamphlet which is, it may be presumed, in some of your libraries. It bore the descriptive title of "Village Memories of Twenty Years; or, Geneseo between 1848 and 1868." Its opening sentences ran thus: "Late in the evening of November 4, 1848, I reached the hospitable home of the late William M. Bond on South street, (now the residence of Hon. Solomon Hubbard), after a tedious coach ride of ten hours, from Rochester. The boulder upon which I first set my foot is where it was, when the house was built seventy years ago. The late Rev. Benjamin B. Stockton having just resigned the pastorate of the Presbyterian church, I was invited to make a visit, and occupy the pulpit. My own thought was a single Sabbath service, and then return home. I so expressed myself in sincere and emphatic words to gentlemen who called upon me the next morning. Having just returned from a long residence as a Missionary in Southern India I was ill-fitted for a pastorate in a community like this. But my wishes were overruled, and the one Sabbath has become twenty years. 'It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.'"

And, now, the one Sabbath in 1848 has become *two thousand Sabbaths* in 1888! But one other minister in this County is where he was when I came to this region, Rev. William Hunter, of Springwater, and but one in

Monroe County, Rev. Dr. Shaw, retired from public service, an honored pastor Emeritus, and no other in Western New York.

Waiving further introduction, I will class what is to be said at this time, under the five heads, of

1. Geneseo, as it *was* in 1848.
2. Geneseo, as it *is* in 1888.
3. Points of *contrast* between the two dates.
4. *Miscellaneous* facts.
5. Closing *counsels* and appeal.

I.

Arriving, as remarked, on Saturday evening, the following morning found me accompanying my kind host and hostess to the sanctuary, for the first time to conduct worship in this village. I was warned by them not to expect too much in the size and architectural beauties of the structure, and was not, therefore, disappointed. Passing up the aisle I reached the pulpit platform by twelve steps, and was thus brought nearer the level of the *gallery* than the *audience* floor below. On the farther end, was the *choir*, without organ or melodeon. The leader was the late and pleasantly remembered, *Chauncey Parsons*, with needful tuning fork in hand to make sure of the "key." Near by was our townsman, Mr. J. O. Vanderbelt, with his ponderous, and loud-sounding bass viol, skillfully handled by him, as does now his son Charles the cornet. And there was Mr. Hawley Rector, with his sweetly melodious flute. And there the late Chauncey Bond, and Samuel Finley, and William Cushing, and Ephraim Cone, with their tenor and bass tones. And there was Mrs. Parsons, wife of the leader, whom to hear was a rare delight, and by her side Miss Shepard, Miss Francis Parsons, (Mrs. Shepard), Miss Mary Butler

(Mrs. Magee), Mrs. Mary Walker, Miss Almira Finley. Emily Perkins (Mrs. Judge Smith), Misses Fanny Shepard, Kate Austin.

The services thus rendered were all voluntary ; paid choirs being a modern usage, demanded by organs and ever changing tunes. Following the service was the Sabbath School—the superintendent, Mr. Parsons, and most of the teachers, have passed from earth, while the scholars are in active life, many of them striving to exemplify, in domestic and business activities, the truths there learned. So much for the morning. Evening came with its chapel service. This building was even more primitive than the church. It stood, where is now the commanding brick residence of W. E. Lauderdale, Jr., M. D. The building having vied with the fabled Ovid in *Metamorphoses*, was supplanted by what is now the “Ward Annex,” on Second street. Thither did my host and I make our way from far up South street, by aid of a light-emitting lantern and careful foot step. Thus passed my first Sabbath, unique in its experience then, and solemnly thoughtful, when considering that with the passing away of the structures, gone too, are very many who not only worshipped in them, but, with the divine blessing upon the faithful and fervent preaching of such pulpit princes, as Drs. Bull and Lord and Lewis here found peace to their anxious spirits, and salvation to their deathless souls !

I arose on Monday morning, determined in travelers' phrase, to “do” the place thoroughly. Going down South street, I entered Main, and crossing two plank bridges, one that spanned a deep gulley near Mr. Butterway's furniture ware-house, and another near Hudnutt's machine shop, I entered the *Court House*, the same in location as now, but far inferior in surroundings. On the Judge's bench, sat Scott Lord, who had just been elected to that

highest office in the county. At the desk, the County Clerk was Mr. William H. Whiting. Among the jurists was James Wood, Jr., who had already secured a large legal practice, which he has held to the present time. Mr. (afterward General) Wood having graduated at Union College, was student, and then partner of Hon. John Young, who, while in Albany as Governor, had as Private Secretary, Henry V. Colt, son of Hon. Charles Colt, subsequently State Senator. Among those whose voices were often heard in that Hall of Justice, were such princes in legal lore, profound argument, and effective eloquence, as Messrs. John B. Skinner, Orlando Hastings, Luther Peck, Martin Grover, and J. A. VanDerlip, all of whom have except the last named ended their careers of distinguished honor and usefulness.

Leaving the court house, I went up North street (houses few and very plain) across to the head of Center street, past the Academy, then in charge of the scholarly Rev. J. L. VanLiew, and down South street, to my home; there to report where I had been, and what seen. But much more remained to be done. Next morning, I again went down Main street, reading upon the suspended signs the names of Cone & Warner, Turner & Bishop, I. Newton, M. Buell, C. R. Vance, C. & E. P. Metcalf, R. G. Patterson, R. G. Noyce, H. P. North, Bond & Walker, Wallace Walker, Moses Hunt, J. Johnson, J. B. Hall, S. Gardner, E. N. Perkins, S. H. Manley (Marble).

At the "*Post*" Office I found Dr. Bissell. At the *Livingston County Bank* were Mr. Allen Ayrault, president; E. Cone, cashier, and Charles Colt, Jr., teller. (Mr. Ayrault was afterward State Senator). In the office of James (subsequently General) Wadsworth was as chief executive C. R. Hammatt, and in that of William Wadsworth — Wild.

Calling at the Livingston Republican Office I found as editor James T. Norton, who purchased it of S. P. Allen when the latter went to Rochester as editor of the "Rochester Democrat."

At their *Law Offices* I met Messrs. Felix Tracey, O. M. Willey.

At the *Medical Offices*, Drs. Lauderdale, Bissell and Metcalf.

And thus I had a thorough view of Geneseo, as it was in the autumn of 1848, giving no special promise of what it was to become.

II.

Having taken a careful survey of Geneseo as it *was* in 1848, let it now be viewed as it *is* in 1888, a transition of forty years. The area now covered by this village is 1,425 acres; the population 2,500 against 756 in the year 1835; the streets now and projected are 20 in number, viz: Main, Center, Second, North Center (or "Ward Place"), North, South Center (or 'Chestnut'), Elm, Prospect, Park, Bank, Wadsworth, Elizabeth, Franklin, Orchard, Railroad, Livingston and Temple Hill. One is already surveyed from the middle of Second eastward to Temple Hill and two other proposed, one from midway of Center to North and another from Main westward to Wadsworth making in all fourteen since 1848. Buildings within the corporation, of all sizes and uses (barns and stables excepted) 530, of these, five are Churches; three are Hotels; Court House; County Clerk's Office with "Jail" near by, which latter is at once to be supplanted by one of larger size, greater convenience and more worthy of the county; "Normal School," largest structure in the region; "Wadsworth Library;" "Gene-

see Valley National Bank ;" and "Concert Hall." For various business purposes there are

1. *Hotels* :—"Wallace House," (J. D. & E. A. Wallace), "Big Tree Inn," the former and long residence of Hon. Allen Ayrault, (W. C. Nash), "Globe Hotel," (I. J. Stratton), and several restaurants.

2. *Dry Goods* :—J. F. Bishop, Hendershot & Bradish, W. S. L. Olmsted, Fenno & Newton.

3. *Groceries* :—W. K. Harris, J. R. Coddington, Milliman Brothers, J. Cullinan, J. O'Niel, William Brown, Z. A. Owen.

4. *Clothiers* :—N. W. Rose, Geo. Goode, A. S. Tournor, R. G. Patterson, M. Leiser, G. R. Ritchie.

5. *Hardware* :—Stevens, Bacon & Co., Wicker & Hendershot.

6. *Drugs and Stationary* :—A. H. Rogers, L. W. Crossett, W. I. Stratton.

7. *Watches and Jewelry* :—J. Davidson, J. Richmond.

8. *Furniture and Cabinet* :—A. W. Butterway, W. L. Brewer.

9. *Bakery and Confection* :—T. W. Copeland, Mrs. G. H. Stevens.

10. *Butchers* :—Coverdale & Saxton, J. Toole, T. Costello, Haley Brothers.

11. *Harness and Saddlery* :—J. O. Vanderbelt, R. P. Goodsell.

12. *Livery* :—J. O. Vanderbelt, Cottrell Brothers, J. Costello.

13. *Carriage Manufactory* :—H. Harrison, E. Goldsmith.

14. *Horse-shoeing* :—Mate Brothers, W. Crystal, M. Scully.

15. *Marble Works* :—Joseph Cone.
16. *Photography* :—J. C. Merrill.
17. *Painters* :—Zimri H. Austin, E. A. Pickard, J. Balding, J. O'Niel, E. Whitney.
18. *Carpenters* :—E. Forbes, H. Pearson, A. Hulbert, A. Edgar, H.W. Lamson, W. R. Emory, P. Teed, Champ & Totten, H. Leonard, W. Hendershott, T. Squires, B. Moreland, J. Hughes.
19. *Wool Buyer and Auctioneer* :—J. D. Lewis.
20. *Sewing Machines* :—J. Fraley ("Singer"), F. B. Sackett ("White"), O. F. Sharp ("New Home").
21. *Piano and Musical Mdse.* :—W. W. Killip.
22. *Musical Teachers—Vocal and Instrumental* :—Mrs. Fraley, Miss Parks, Miss Jacobs, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Bridgland, Miss M. Heath.
23. *Insurance Agents* :—T. E. Burns, N. W. Rose, G. D. Mercer, J. A. Chase, W. L. S. Olmsted, T. F. Olmsted, E. F. Youngs, C. W. Fielder, C. B. Potter, E. Norton.
24. *Millinery* :—Miss M. A. Hardy, Mrs. A. Richmond, Mrs. Crawford, Mrs. Robbins.
25. *Dressmaking* :—Mrs. Rector, Miss Conron, Miss A. Robinson, Mrs. VanMiddlesworth, Mrs. Barnhardt, Miss Long.
26. *Scamstresses* :—Miss A. M. Rector, Mrs. Baldwin, Mrs. Bridgland, Miss Cahill, Miss Williams.
27. *Gardners and Horticulturists* :—J. Houston, J. Haley, Hugh Hamill, A. Rogers.
28. *Produce Buyers* :—A. A. Cox, J. D. Whipple.
29. *Coal Dealers and Lumber Merchants* :—Willard & Scheffer, Curtiss & Carpenter.
30. *Machinists* :—E. W. Hudnutt, Geo. Barclay, S. C. Green & Son.

31. *Draymen* :—F. Leonard, H. Crawford & Sons.
 32. *Teamsters* :—D. Burroughs, J. Collins, C. Marsh, F. Rebban.
 33. *Stone Masons* :—M. Manion, Geo. Glenny, M. Conway, J. Dennis, A. Ferron, N. W. Baker, J. Foley, C. Palmer, C. Grover, L. Bailey.
 34. *Cigar Manufactory* :—Lowery & Averill.
 35. *Glove Factory* :—W. D. Wells, Superintendent.
 36. *Upholsterers* :—W. S. Rector, James Brown.
 37. *Printers* :—F. L. Church, Peter Carragher, Newton Shepard, E. W. Horton, A. VanDeusen, L. J. Pendall, T. Ragan.
 38. *Boots and Shoes*—R. Lauderdale, W. E. Booth, E. F. Youngs.
 39. *Millers* :—Gilmore & Son, Henry Smith.
 40. *Barbers* :—A. C. Wilson, W. Seldon, J. Osborn.
 41. *Farmers* :—C. Jones, C. R. Shepard, H. V. Colt, J. Dwyre, Richard Gray, W. Mason, A. Huston, J. Cone.
- Newspaper and Printing* :—"Livingston Republican," A. R. Scott & Co. publishers: S. G. Blythe editor. "Livingston Democrat," E. W. Horton, editor and publisher.

LAW.

Of the forty-six members of the "Livingston County Bar," fifteen have their homes and offices in Geneseo, viz: Abbott & Son, Hubbard & Coyne, Strang & Doty, Adams & Son, Scott & Reed, James Wood, John Rorbach, Campbell H. Young, Otto Kelsey, James S. Thompson.

The senior of these, and next to oldest but one in the county, is Hon. and General James Wood. Graduating at "Union College," he studied law in the office of Hon.

John Young, became his partner and remained so till Mr. Young went to Albany as Governor ; was State Senator ; commanded during the late war the 136th Regt. of N. Y. V. and for specially valiant services in many battles was brevetted *Major General*. He is still in the active duties of his profession with a large and lucrative practice.

John Rorback commanded the 104th Regiment, being succeeded in the coloncy by John R. Strang, who took conspicuous part in many engagements especially at Gettysburg.

Kidder M. Scott was captain in the 136th Regiment, to which important department of the army belonged H. L. Arnold who was fearfully wounded at.

To the lawyers of "Livingston County" the country is indebted for many officers living and dead, who did most manly and brave service in aiding to suppress a wide-spread rebellion against the unity and glory of our fair land. Geneseo may well be proud of those who went from her borders.

MEDICINE AND SURGERY.

Of the thirty-seven Physicians and Surgeons in Livingston County, ten reside in this village, viz : W. E. Lauderdale, sr., W. E. Lauderdale, jr, John Craig, M. C. Rowland, J. A. West, E. W. Southall, Wade Botsford, A. E. Norton, — Negus, Mrs. Venable.

Dr. Lauderdale, sr., a graduate of "Union College," New York, came to this village in 1828, as partner of the late Dr. Bissell and is still associated in practice with his son. Dr. Lauderdale was for many years Post Master and for eight terms in succession town Supervisor.

DENTISTS.

J. A. Chase, first delegate to the State Dental Convention to organize a State Dental Society in Albany, Vice-

President of the Seventh District Dental Society and acting President for several years; J.W. Cowan, W. A. Wendell.

MINISTERS.

J. E. Kittredge, D. D., F. DeW. Ward, D. D. (Presbyterian). W. A. Coale, (Episcopal), Lorren Stiles, J. Irons, (Methodist), C. B. Parsons, — Parsons, R. H. Waterbury, Ph. D., (Baptist), Jas. A. Hickey, (Catholic), J. Watts, (Free Methodist).

FINANCE.

The "Genesee Valley National Bank" was organized as a *State* Bank in 1851, (Jas. S. Wadsworth, President), and re-organized as a *National* Bank in 1865. Its capital \$150,000. Officers at the present time: *President*, James S. Orton; *Vice-President*, Charles Jones; *Cashier*, Theo. F. Olmsted; *Teller*, Chas. W. Fielder; *Fire Ins. Stamp Clerk for Liv. Co.*, E. N. Shepard.

VILLAGE OFFICERS.

Peesident, Henry V. Colt; *Trustees*, S. H. Blyth, E. E. Doty, A. W. Butterway, J. Cullinan; *Clerk*, L. R. Doty; *Treasurer*, N. Janes; *Post Master*, John B. Abbott.

COUNTY AND TOWN OFFICERS RESIDING IN GENESEO.

County Clerk, Carlos A. Miller; deputy, Albert Swan.
Sheriff, H. S. Gilbert: Turn Key, W. Thompson.

Treasurer, Wm. A. Brodie.

Supervisor, Richard A. Riley.

Supervisor's Clerk, James S. Thompson.

Surrogate's Clerk, H. P. Kershner.

Superintendent of the Poor, John L. Scott.

Overseer of the Poor, W. W. Killip.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Chief Engineer—A. S. Tournor.

First Assistant—Geo. W. Averill.

Second Assistant—Wm. Buttry.

President—R. H. Jones.

Vice-President—W. E. Booth.

Treasurer—James O'Neil.

Secretary—W. D. Toole.

Foreman Wadsworth Hose Co.—Jas. S. Thompson.

Foreman Geneseo Hose Co.—Wm. D. Toole.

Foreman Hook and Ladder Co.—Geo. W. Averill.

Foreman Hydrant and Lantern Co.—I. C. Smyth

Foreman Protectives—W. E. Booth.

EDUCATIONAL AND LITERATURE.

History contains no reliable record of the year in which the first Institution of learning was organized in this locality. As New England emigrants immediately upon settling in any place built a church and a school house both, at times, under the same roof, a place of instruction must have existed at a very early date. In 1826 was organized the "Livingston County High School Association," having as incorporators eighteen gentlemen, headed by Messrs. William and James Wadsworth. Its first Principal was that eminent Grecian scholar, C. C. Felton who, at his lamented death, was President of Harvard University, (Mass.), Judge Treat of St. Louis, and our village was for years the accomplished principal. This subsequently became "Geneseo Academy," and held on its honored way, educating a large proportion of our adult residents till the selection by the State of this as the site of one of its Institutions for educating Teachers—a selection happily made for the commonwealth and

for this town. Its great success and wide-spread usefulness have been partial compensations for the loss of an Institution, venerable in age and dear to very many hearts. The "State Normal and Training School" was chartered in 1867, and opened on September 13, 1871. Its first graduating class numbered 10; its present will have 100. Pupils now in attendance 950, representing all parts of the County and State. The buildings standing on the west side of "Wadsworth Street" and commanding a peerless prospect of hill and valley and river (Gene-see) with three railroads fully in view cost \$145,000, a large amount but better investment there could not be. The "Faculty" are seventeen in number, viz: Wm. J. Milne, Ph.D., LL.D., principal, John M. Milne, A. M., R. A. Waterbury, Ph.D., H. J. Schmitz, Ph.D., Myra P. Burdick, Jennie C. Coe, Phoebe B. Hall, Emeline S. Curtis, Sarah A. Goheen, Mattie A. Woodbury, Lizzie McBride, Mary E. Burns, Cora E. Northrop, Mary E. Parks, Maria W. Chichester, Louisa M. Abbott, Mrs. J. L. Fralley; L. C. Morey, janitor. The "Local Board" who have a general management of its fisical and business affairs: Hon. and Gen. James Wood, president; E. F. Curtis, treasurer; A. J. Abbott, Hon. Jas. W. Wadsworth, W. E. Lauderdale, M. D., Col. John Rorbach, Hon. Solomon Hubbard, W. A. Wadsworth, and W. A. Brodie, secretary. "Union Free School, District No. 5," occupies a small building on the south side of Center Street, with no other of the same material (cobble stone) in the village, dates back more than half a century. The present principal is J. Whiteneck, having as assistants Misses Minnie Toole and Minnie Lamson. Number of scholars 150. Trustees, A. J. Abbott, M. N. Foster, N. Janes, J. D. Lewis, John Rorbach, Wm. A. Stevens, E. N. Shepard, David O'Toole, A. J. Willard; N. Janes, president; M. N. Foster, secretary; Chas. W. Fielder, treasurer. These Public Institutions are oftimes supplemented by those more private.

Music teachers, are Miss E. Parks, Mrs. Fraley, Miss Jacobs, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Bridgeland.

In this village (as in the county) for any youth to grow up in ignorance of whatever is needful in social and business life is needless and criminal.

In the line of Literature there are (1) "The Wadsworth Library," so named from its distinguished founders who left a large property, the interest to be expended in meeting current expenses and making annual additions to its shelves. The spacious brick edifice standing on the corner of Center and Second streets, contains 11,000 volumes upon all subjects needful to students who are by scores a day while the "Normal School" is in session, and by others the county over. Free to all, near and far. The Trustees are W. A. Wadsworth, J. W. Wadsworth, C. F. Wadsworth, J. S. Orton, J. Wood, A. J. Abbott, J. Rorbach, W. J. Milne. The faithful and courteous Librarian is Mrs. Ruth Shepard, with an assistant during "term time."

(2). The "Reading Rooms" in Rorbach Block, inaugurated by the late Mrs. William Wadsworth, and sustained by personal contributions. Newspapers from far and near. Open to all. Librarian now and for many years, Mr. David O'Toole.

(3). No place of its size in the land will compare with this for Lecturers from the highest posts in Church and State, on every variety of subject and in utterances most eloquent. For the last twelve or more years the Joint Society of the "Normal" (Delphic, Clionian, Philalæthean, Agonian), have secured the highest talent in oratory and music the land could supply. The same was done during many previous years by voluntary subscriptions.

CEMETERY.

“ The Temple Hill Cemetery Association ” was organized April, 1866, with Scott Lord, Geo. Mercer, Nelson Janes, J. J. Cone, J. Rorbach and E. N. Bacon as trustees. It was re-organized as it now is June 1, 1873. Officers in 1888: A. J. Abbott, president; A. W. Butterway, vice-president; Theo. F. Olmsted, treasurer; Nelson Janes, secretary; A. J. Abbott, A. W. Butterway, J. D. Lewis, Nelson Janes, Geo. Mercer, T. F. Olmsted, trustees; Wm. Bridgeland, sexton.

WATER WORKS.

Constructed in 1887, at an expense to the village of \$74,000.

Designer of the works—Nelson J. Tubbs of Rochester.

Constructing Engineer—John Young of Geneseo.

Contractors—Coone & Mooney of Kingston, Pa.

Length of pipe from Conesus Lake 109 miles.

Reservoir capacity, 1,600,000 gallons.

Board of Water Commissioners: W. A. Wadsworth, president; Theo. F. Olmsted, treasurer; Samuel H. Blyth, secretary; J. W. Wadsworth, A. W. Butterway, J. Cullinan.

CONTRASTS.

If Dr. Young of England could exclaim in his old age, “ Where is the world into which I was born? ” So could your speaker say respecting this village as he found it in 1848, and as it is to-day. The name of the place is unchanged, but in other respects how many and marked the contrasts! A few of the most notable of these may receive our brief attention.

Then, an occasional board or stone was all that kept the feet from mud and water:—now, there are side-walks of varied material and excellence in every street.

Then, a hand lantern was used for safety after night fall :—now, gas or oil cast abroad a bright light when the moon is in the wane.

Then, water was drawn from wells and cisterns, or wooden troughs fed by springs on the near hills :—now, lake Conesus furnishes a plentiful supply of this needful article to every house, garden, and lawn at small expense.

Then, hand engines and buckets were needful protection from destructive fire :—now, these have quite lost their need.

Then, a primitive wooden pump stood at the junction of Center and Main streets :—now, on this central spot has been erected a massive fountain of Vermont and Scotch granite, ever filled from a neighboring living spring :—the expense (\$7,000) being met by the sons of the noble-hearted lady, whose name is deeply chiseled on the front.

Then, the dead found their last resting place in a lot of limited dimensions protected by a rudely erected fence, with brush and bramble in sightless abundance : now, the sixteen acres present the appearance of a private and attractive lawn—pleasant to look upon and agreeable to visit as the spot where are entombed our loved of home and lost of sight.

Then, there were but two church edifices and they small in size and primitive in shape ;—now, four are already completed and one in progress, each being entitled to admiration.

Then, the aggregate church communicants did not exceed 400 and the Sabbath school less than 500 ; now there are of the former 1,600, and of the latter 2,000.

Then, intelligence was received through a few papers and periodicals, borrowed or bought ;—now, a Reading

room with its scores of daily, weekly and monthly journals upon every variety of subject, free to all, adult and young from 9 a. m., to 9 p. m.

Then, a public library with a few books, kept with little comparative care : now one of 11,000 volumes and constant additions arranged with skill and loaned with judgment.

Then, but two educational institutions with hardly 300 pupils in attendance ;—now, over 1,100 from far and near.

Then, a journey to Rochester by stage required six to nine hours now the same distance is traversed by railroad in eighty minutes twice a day.

Then, news by post required hours to go and come : now, it is sent and received by telegraph or telephone in ten minutes.

Then, a few home dwellings like those of Messrs. Wadsworth, Ayrault, Angel, Rorbach, now a score or more the peers of either in every respect.

Then, a court house small and incommodious, now, one which judges pronounce as best in their districts.

Then, a pastor's salary (highest in the county) was \$700 and pay his own rent :—now, his successor receives \$2,000 and a beautiful manse at no additional expense.

Such are some among the many respects in which the Geneseo that now is has advanced from what it was forty years ago. And yet there is ample room for improvements, very sure to be made, and for which there will be rejoicing in the year 1928 as now in 1888.

RELIGION.

The first ecclesiastical organization in this locality, dates the year 1795, bearing the title of the "Geneseo Gospel Society;" after many changes, this is now the "Presbyterian church of Geneseo village." The first edifice stood

where now stands the residence of Mr. William Stevens and goes back to 1814. This was taken down in 1885, its successor occupies the corner of Center and Second streets; built of brick at an expense of \$30,000. Its sitting capacity is 650. In the adjoining and spacious chapel, are held the mid-week services, and a portion of the Sabbath school. The dedication exercises occurred Dec. , 1881. Of its twenty pastors and stated supplies, there are now living in the order of ministerial service but three, viz.: Rev. Drs. F. DeW. Ward, Geo. P. Folsom, and I. N. Sprague. (Rev. C. S. Durfee died at East Bloomfield, Dec. 24, 1887, and his family lately came here to make their permanent home.) The Rev. Josiah E. Kittredge, D. D. having graduated at Yale University, New Haven, Conn., and at Andover Theological seminary and having ministered at Glastenburgh, Conn., and at Florence, Italy, was installed pastor of this church in 1877. The present membership is about 660, Of the 800 churches constituting the Synod of New York, this stands in recorded membership, number 16. In addition to a large and well attended Sabbath school of 435 under the superintendence of E. Bacon, there are the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, Ladies' Missionary society, Young Ladies' Missionary society. Society of Systematic Givers and Mission Band.

SECOND of the five churches, is *St. Michael's Episcopal Church* which was organized in 1823. The first church edifice was erected in January, 1828, and consecrated by Bishop Hobart. The present admirable structure. upon the site of the former, was built in 1866 at an expense of \$33,000 and consecrated by Bishop Coxe, Sept. 7, 1867. The organ is ably presided over by W. W. Killip, the oldest teacher of music in the county. The present rector is Rev. William A. Coale, who, after graduating at St. James college in the Diocese of Maryland, and after

serving for eight years as first assistant priest at St. Luke's church, Baltimore, came to this village, and assumed the rectorship of this parish, July 20, 1875. His term of service thus far, has doubled that of any of his predecessors. Rev. Rector Coale is Rural Dean of the Deanery of Batavia, and has lately been elected delegate to the next Geneeal Convention. Senior warden, John F. Bishop; junior warden, Henry V. Colt. Communicants, 240; Sabbath school scholars, 90; teachers, 7. Parochial organizations: Ladies' Aid society, Children's Guild, St. Andrew's Brotherhood.

Methodist (St. James) Episcopal Church.—As far back as 1810, occasional services were held in this town, by that old-fashioned Methodist minister, familiarly styled, Father Hudson. A regular organization dates back to February, 1825. Previous to 1850, this church and that at East Groveland (Hunt's Corners) formed a circuit, the officiating minister residing at the latter place. In 1852 the plain, unartistic brick structure standing on the corner of Center and Elm streets, was sold and carried away to do secular service elsewhere. The proceeds of the sale were applied to a neat edifice in 1852, and that to one of superior attractiveness in 1886. Nineteenth of the pastors who have had this parish in charge, is the Rev. Lorren Stiles, who, after graduating at Rochester University, and at Boston Theological Seminary and after ministering at Arcade and Oakfield took charge of this parish in 1887. Membership, 220; Sunday school scholars, 240.

Note.—(1). During the ministry of the late Rev. R. Hogoboom in the year 1852 a commodious church edifice was built; the dedication sermon, a very able one, being preached by the late Dr. Cummings, president of Lima college.

(2). During the ministry of Rev. John Watts (now a resident of this village) a revival occurred which brought an hundred into the church. A similar blessed event illustrated the ministry of Rev. George W. Paddock.

(3). While Rev. C. E. Millspaugh was in charge of this parish the edifice erected during the administration of Rev. Hogoboom was reconstructed and made beautiful as now.

St. Mary's (Catholic) Church was organized in 1854 and has thus far held worship in a small building near the corner of North and Main streets; but has already contracted for a structure of brick to stand on the opposite side to cost \$15,000 and to be completed within a year. Rev. James A. Hickey, after graduating at Troy Theological Seminary and serving churches at Auburn and Spencerport was sent here in April, 1888. Communicants, 450; Sunday scholars, 75; trustees, J. Cullinan and T. Costello.

The First Baptist Church of Geneseo was organized Dec. 31, 1872, with 21 members. For about 12 years worship was held in Rorbach hall on Main street. On July 27, 1886, a new house of worship, on the corner of Bank and Wadsworth streets was dedicated in the presence of a large assembly. Expense of the property \$16,500. Rev. C. B. Parsons, graduate of Rochester University and Theological seminary began his ministry Sept. 1, 1885. Members, 115; Sunday school scholars, 175. Deacons: Augustus Palmer, Harvey G. Baker, and Allen Cone. Church organizations: Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, Ladies' Aid Society, Woman's Missionary society, Little Mission Helpers.

The aggregated membership of the five village churches is 1,685. Unscriptural and baneful religious errors and "isms" have never obtained a large and enduring peace

in this place and never will so long as the truth as it is in Jesus is faithfully and earnestly preached.

It may be well to mention in this connection several organizations not ecclesiastical, but moral in character and benevolent in design :

(1). Geneseo Lodge No. 214, of the ancient order of Free and Accepted Masons. Members, 90. Worshipful master, John M. Milne ; secretary, Josiah Warren.

Note.—This lodge was chartered in 1852. The only member living at that time is Gen. Wood.

Note.—William A. Brodie was secretary in 1863. Passed through all the chairs to the mastership which he held for eight years was deputy in the Grand Lodge comprising Livingston, Monroe, Genesee, and Wyoming counties. Attained the high rank of Grand Master in 1884. Is now chairman of a special committee to locate a state home for aged Masons, their widows and orphan children.

(2). Ancient order of United Workmen. Members, 15. Master workmen, S. H. Blyth.

(3). Odd Fellows, N. G., Geo. W. Booher.

(4). A. A. Curtis Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. Members, Post commander, John R. Strang ; adjutant, Henry Lamson ; adjutant assistant, W. R. Emory ; surgeon, M. C. Rowland, M. D. ; chaplain, F. DeW. Ward, D. D.

Note.—This post is named after Augustus Curtis, son of Ephraim Curtis, Esq., (a long resident of the village) and captain in regiment 136 under Gen. Wood.

Note.—Decoration Day (May 30) is sacredly observed by this post, by an address followed by placing flowers upon the graves of all who were in the wars of 1812-18 and 1861-4, of whom the two cemeteries contain

(5). Woman's Christian Temperance Union (W. T. C. U.) having to do with suppressing the manufacture, sale, and use as a beverage, of all intoxicants. President, Mrs. M. E. Norton.

Note.—Under the auspices of the W. C. T. U. occasional parlor meetings are held in private dwellings, which are largely attended by clergy and laity of all the churches, with music, essays and addresses. Many results for good attend these parlor gatherings.

(6). Band of Hope (a division of the Legion of Honor) composed mainly of youth of both sexes and of all the churches. The object to indoctrinate the young with the principles and to put them upon the practice of morality in all its forms, especially temperance. Meetings on alternate Sabbath afternoons are largely attended. President, Charles Durfee.

(7). Society for beautifying the streets with trees and boulevards. Mrs. B. F. Angel had much to do with organization, though its members are many and have initiated many improvements. President, W. A. Wadsworth.

(8). Royal Templars of Temperance. Members, 20. Senior counselor, C. B. Parsons.

(9). Prohibition club.

MISCELLANY.

(1). James and William Wadsworth (brothers,) natives of Durham, Conn., having purchased a large tract of land in Western New York, came to this valley in 1790, and founded what is now Geneseo, (called by the Indians "Big Tree.") The origin of the name "Geneseo" is uncertain. Burton, in his "Anatomy of Melancholy," speaks of an island of that name in the Aegean Sea.

Tradition has it that the exclamation "Oh!" was uttered at first sight of the beautiful meadow and forest on the west. William was, through life, a celibate, James married Naomi Woolcott of East Windsor, Connecticut, a "lady of cultivated taste, rare judgment and a disposition congenial to that of her husband." Of their two sons, William married Miss Austin, of Boston, their children being William Austin, occupant of the early homestead in the south end of the village; Livingston, deceased, and Herbert, (who recently married Miss Blow of St. Louis,) residing at Avon. James S. Wadsworth married Miss Wharton of Philadelphia, and died in 1864. Their children were Cornelia, who has long resided in England; Charles F.; Craig W.; Nancy (Mrs. Rogers;) James W. and Elizabeth (Mrs. Post). Waiving farther domestic details, suffice it to say that of those who took early, earnest, fearless and persistent part in suppressing the late civil rebellion, no name stands before that of *General J. S. Wadsworth*. His munificent gifts, his wise councils in military emergencies, his bravery in the field, his excellent qualities which he displayed when "Governor of Washington" and final death in the murderous "Wilderness," fully entitle him to the honor of having his name given to a fort in New York harbor and to a proposed Territory in the N. West. Charles was on General —; Craig on the staff of General McDowell, and James on his father's staff, and since the war has been Supervisor, Member of Assembly and of Congress, and State Comptroller. Geneseo may well be proud of such citizens.

John Young, in his boyhood, accompanied his parents from Vermont to Conesus, studied law with that eminent jurist, Augustus A. Bennet of E. Avon, opened an office in Geneseo, taking a front rank in the legal profession—had as student and then as life-long partner,

James Wood,—was a member of congress for four years, and then a member of assembly, then Governor, and finally United States assistant treasurer at New York, continuing in this office till his death in 1852. He married Miss Ellen Harris who has followed him to the grave. Their children, Mary, (Mrs. North,) Campbell H., Katherine, (Mrs. Buckley,) John, Jane L., (Mrs. Powell.) It is well said that Mr. Young died when only entering upon the brightest portion of his life, and that had he lived other and greater honors would have been showered upon him by an admiring and trusting people. Campbell Young held the position of Adjutant and Judge Advocate on Governor Fenton's staff. John is a resident civil engineer.

(3). The oldest person in age in the village, is Mrs. Robert McBride. Though in her 98th year, she is still active and has no assistant in housekeeping.

(4). The longest resident is Mr. Jones Wilson, who came in 1826. Though 88 years of age his mind is clear, and reading engages most of his time. When he came here there were but three streets: one of which (North,) was little better than a cow-path. Trees were in full growth up to the very borders of the place.

(5). *Benjamin F. Angel*, a native of Burlington, Vt., came to Geneseo, in 1828, studied law in the office of his brother-in-law Hon. C. H. Bryan, and became his partner; was surrogate seven years; master in chancery and supreme court commissioner; consul at Honolulu, (S. I.); special commissioner to China, and minister to Norway and Sweden, under President Buchanan; is closing his long and honored career in one of the most attractive of homes and much interested in public improvements, having taken the lead in the "boulevards" which are now so ornamental to our streets.

(6). *Miss Maria Hills* came to the village in 1822. Her sister and sister's husband (Mr. and Mrs. Russell Austin,) having taken up an abode here in 1815. Miss Hills still lives at the homestead, feeble in body, as might be expected in one at 88 years, but most fondly cared for by her neice and nephew Miss Catherine and Mr. Zimri Austin.

(7). *Mr Nelson Janes* came here in 1838; passed eight years in Buffalo, where, in a contest for supervisor he was victor over Mr. and now President Cleveland; returned here in 1863, and was for four years president of the village and supervisor, still giving diligent attention to duties in the office of Hon. James W. Wadsworth as he did that of General James Wadsworth and his estate after his death.

(8). *Mrs. George Mercer*, formerly Mrs. Morton Reed, came to the village in 1833, and has made this her home for 55 years. In the person of Mrs. J. O. Vanderbelt and Mrs. A. R. Scott and Master Walter V. Scott, she is the first of four generations, all but herself natives of this place.

(9). The late *Rev. Abraham Foreman* after graduating at Union College, became a tutor in the family of James Wadsworth, Sen., (commonly styled the Squire) and was first pastor of the Presbyterian church. Though well endowed mentally, and liberally educated, his eccentricities of disposition and conduct, ill-fitted him for any public post. He retired from public life and spent his last years upon a few acres of land presented to him by his patron and which still bears the name of Formansville. Within a body, little cared for in the matter of dress or motion, dwelt a kind heart, especially toward children. Seldom did he come to the village without a basket on his arm, containing apples or berries to give to children he might meet. On not a few occasions being without fruit he has

been seen to take a raisen from his pocket and, breaking it in two, give a half to each child. It was all he had to give and he did not wish to be partial. This is the well remembered, eccentric but well-meaning Rev. Foreman.

(10). Respecting the Main street gullies and South street, the late Jacob B. Hall was wont to tell the following anecdote with characteristic gusto! He bought an ill-broken cow of a Groveland farmer. While milking her one evening, she managed to get her head through a line of picket fence ten feet long, and lifting it from its fastenings made her way into the street and down toward the south bridge. Her bellowings called out the villagers who were greatly amused by the odd spectacle. The fence was pretty well balanced on her neck, but so heavy that at every few steps the cow would tip forward, tail in air, come down her knees, and then, righting herself, get up and go on. Reaching the bridge she was unable to clear the railing. The post broke off, and down into the gully went railing, post, cow, fence and all. Soon emerging she came up without the fence and took up South street where she was soon overtaken. He drove her along Temple Hill street and on his way down North street sold her to Ben Fox, a colored man, from whom the street took the sobriquet of Nigger street.

11. Near the boundary line of the village on the north side of Center street there stands a brick building having the aspect of age and of rough usage by the elements. It bears the well-known name of "Hill's tavern." In ante railroad days it did good and needful service, especially to teamsters. But in this respect its occupation, like many like it on the main roads, is gone. The parents are both deceased, but sons and daughters are still there. It may be said without question that to no house in the village do callers receive a more cordial welcome, are treated with more regard, find more courtesy of deportment and lis-

ten to more intelligent conversation than there. But from some unknown cause the ladies never go beyond their yard. It is said that during the last score and half years not one of the sisters has been to the village and never one travelled on the cars. Business demands the presence of the sons, especially at the polls on election days, but the sisters are always at home.

(12). Since beginning this address I have come in possession of a weekly of quarto size, of eight pages entitled "The Companion" having as printer, E. Clark and as editors, H. Galpin and D. Robinson. The first page is occupied with a Sketch of Geneseo, in a letter to a friend at * * * signed R. A. R. It is written in a racy style, full of information and humor. Here are a few sentences, all that space allows the insertion: "Here is a handsome court house built of brick, and on every monthly term, is the seat of plenty of business to the lawyers. But I see no reason why people should have much to do in quarreling in such a fine country as this; well settled farms; luxurious crops of wheat; a fine prospect of getting rich; and their children fat as pigs. Why should they quarrel? Because as Pat says, 'they will'" again, "I am here in the comico-serio, hurly burly of politics! Patriotism of the purest kind runs high. Masonry and anti-masonry, Jackson, Wirt, and Clay, are told about in fine style." Again, "There is some expectation that Rochester and Dansville railroad will be executed. But the difficulty is want of activity and of funds. There must in no distant time be a railroad from Geneva or Canandaigua to this place, connecting the whole route in the end to Albany and New York.", Once more, "the place has as yet no poet to sing its romantic hill and dale; no painter to put on canvas some of its distinctive features, such as that of the academy and the scenery, which is worthy of no inferior artist. But who

knows but in due time some female Sedgwick, Porter, Hemans, and Sigourney. Some Titian, Hallock, Rubens, Dwight, or Brant may appear to fill up the niche and portray the uncelebrated treasures."

This wish was expressed and recorded fifty-six years and, Hosmer excepted, no such needed one has yet appeared. We are becoming impatient for his coming !

CONCLUSION.

A few more added years and half my long life will have been spent in this community. All who were my early and academic instructors ; all whose names are on my collegiate and theological diplomas ; all who took part at my several installations ; all who were my shipmates to India and my missionary colleagues while here ; all, with two exceptions, who were my co-Presbyters when I came to this place ; all my early elders and deacons ; all have gone from faithful labor on earth to full fruitions above. Their's is the robe and the crown ! That last goal which they have reached I am fast nearing. Standing in this place, and in this presence I desire to bear public and grateful testimony to the divine Disposer of events in three special respects :

(1). In bringing me to this village and allowing me to remain here so long. I came against my inclination but was not allowed to have my own way. I have had invitations to city pulpits and collegiate chairs, but declined all ; which I do not regret. Through passing years this village has been increasingly dear to me ; as well it might.

(2). Through sovereign grace mine has not been the wailing cry. " I have labored in vain. I have spent my strength for nought." Seldom have I been out of the pulpit. To the extent of my ability I have preached " the

truth as it is in Jesus," not learnedly and eloquently, but with sincerity of heart and plainness of speech. To hundreds, adult and young, have I given the eucharist for the present time. Many of these are still residing here in domestic and business activities; many are church officers in this place and away; a score are pulpit preachers in this land and beyond the seas. Praise only to God!

(3). Blessed be the Divine Parent for making you the almoners of his bounty; you of all ecclesiastical bodies and all religious relations.

In the preparation of this historical address MEMORY has been active in recalling persons whose acquaintances I have formed and whose friendships I enjoyed. Against, alas! very many stands the fatal *. Though "lost to sight, they are to memory dear." My spirit has been elate with gladness and gratitude at what is yours to-day of domestic felicity, business success, educational advantages and religious eminence. My heart is hopeful that onward will be your motto, your desire, your endeavor.

Suffer a few words of earnest counsel and exhortation addressed especially to those of you who are in or are nearing the meridian of life. Let not the causes of morality and of religion suffer in your hand. Do your best to suppress intemperance and Sabbath desecration. Act worthy of the age in which you live and of the land in which you dwell. Take the testimony of an aged one that while "Some hours must be dark and dreary" yet, the year through "there isn't more night than day." Be hopeful; be diligent; be earnest; be useful; be christian in heart and deed. And would you rescue anything from final dissolution lay it up in God.

A few weeks since occurred an event in connection with myself which brought out sympathy and tender

condolence far beyond all former experience. I said as said the Patriarch of old, "Give me possession of a burial place with you that I may bury my dead." And the "Cave of Macphela" was no more welcome to that weeping, widowed Israelite than is that which is mine on "Temple Hill." On a day of peerless beauty in mid-October, you came to my house in large numbers, gentlemen representing all religious faiths bore the lifeless form of the wife of my early years and companion of my old age, first to the church and thence to the cemetery. Loving hands had decorated the grave with choicest flowers and evergreens. The committal services being uttered by the Pastor, the words went upward in sweetest tones, "We are gathering home, one by one." The casket was slowly and gently lowered to its last earthly resting place, while her spirit was with that Redeemer whose she had long been in heart and whom she had faithfully served for more than three score years. For all these attentions my heart and that of my children and my many kins-people, will never cease to be grateful to the people of this village and to others who came from far to attend these services.

As to *myself*, my remaining years on earth must be few. I have no supreamer desire than to be still a dweller in this place, serving you in whatever times and ways I am able and then to repose where are so many of your relatives and my dearest one. What more need I say ; than this :

Beautiful village of this peerless valley !
 Prosperity be yours with every rising sun.
 And blessings be upon you till time its race has run.

