

11-30-1903

Letter from George S. Pratt, New York, New York, to Anne Whitney, 1903 November 30

George S. Pratt

William Stone

Wellesley College Archives

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CHURCH OF THE ARCHANGEL

ST. NICHOLAS AVE. AND 115TH STREET

NEW YORK

*Promises to quiet them
underlying from the
Whites etc.*

Miss Anne Whitney
"The Charlesgate"
Beacon Street
Boston Mass-



BOSTON, MASS.
DEC 10
6-AM
1903

BACK BAY STATION

C

CHURCH OF THE ARCHANGEL

ST. NICHOLAS AVE. AND 115TH STREET

NEW YORK

November 30th 1903.

REV. GEORGE STARKWEATHER PRATT,
"GRAHAM COURT"SEVENTH AVENUE AND 116TH STREET
TELEPHONE 732 MORNINGSIDE.

To Mr. Charles A. Stone, Trustee of the estate of Edward Whitney
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

I am sending you with this, a copy of the Archangel Herald, our parish paper, which will give you an account of the fire and the insurance settlements, also a copy of our Building Committee Bulletin issued late in the Summer, which gives a general report of our financial, moral and social status previous to the fire, the list of subscribers, the vesting of the property, a street map of the location of the Church and Guildhouse (note that our church and guildhouse and hall is the only institution of the sort ⁱⁿ within the whole territory within the outer circle) and the cuts of building. I will ask you to read the extract from the Churchman signed by Bishop Potter, the Rev. Dr. Dix and others showing the phenomenal success which has attended the enterprise from the beginning, and the consequent pressure upon us to go forward with the work. Also I am sending you a copy of the Letter of Agreement signed by Mr. Stowe and Mrs. Whitney.

In handing you this Letter of Agreement, I will state that Mr. Stowe designated, what he called the Wharf Property as that he would set aside for the Guildhouse purpose and offered to turn that property over to me or to the trustees of the Church and Guildhouse property to sell or negotiate for that purpose.

I accepted this letter as a final and ^{legally} satisfactory instrument of that whole matter of the Edward Whitney Memorial Guildhouse, which began with action of Miss Whitney in bringing about a meeting of Mr. Stowe and myself and which had been frequently and fully discussed and practically agreed upon by all the parties interested including Miss Whitney.

REV. GEORGE STARKWEATHER PRATT,
"GRAHAM COURT"

SEVENTH AVENUE AND 116TH STREET
TELEPHONE 732 MORNINGSIDE.

In a letter dated Dec. 5th 1900, Miss Whitney writes "In any case our plan for a building to be called ----- and which is to cost \$45,000 is practically assured, always of course if the means are there of which there can hardly be a doubt"

Personally, Mr. Stowe was not deeply interested in the project but from first to last his action was determined by the well known wishes of Mrs. Whitney and the relatives of Mr. Whitney. He was in favor of a ~~more~~ more conspicuous site than that which we had at first negotiated for and agreed to increase the amount to be contributed in the event of my being able to secure our present strategic location. We had frequent correspondence and on two occasions we went fully over the whole matter with Dr. Canfield.

Mrs. Whitney had a complete understanding of what was proposed. She had visited us in Arlington, Vt. and in New York since the project was mooted. She had attended the services in the little hall on 116th Street where the work began and had personally contributed to its support and was from the very first cordially and genuinely interested in the project of building the Neighborhood Guildhouse from the funds of the estate and in memory of Mr. Whitney.

The land was purchased, the building plans were drawn and submitted to the Executors and to Miss Whitney and to other members of the family, the manner of vesting the property so that a trustee of the estate should be a trustee of the Church, and the foundations of the building were laid on the provisions and assurances embodied in that letter. Moreover, all our larger subscriptions and contributions were solicited and obtained by virtue of those provisions and assurances. I need not point out that it will be a matter of course to

C. A. S. (3)

CHURCH OF THE ARCHANGEL

ST. NICHOLAS AVE. AND 115TH STREET

NEW YORK

REV. GEORGE STARKWEATHER PRATT,
"GRAHAM COURT"

SEVENTH AVENUE AND 116TH STREET
TELEPHONE 732 MORNINGSIDE.

point out to you that this last [^] a matter of serious concern to us in the event of any failure finally to fulfill those provisions, provided there are any means to do so. There is no way known to us whereby we could complete the building without your aid and now after a lapse of nearly three years and particularly since the fire it seems to be imperative that we should secure the means to go forward with the whole structure ~~on~~ failing that, we should conform our plans to what we could reasonably hope to carry out, which would mean the practical abandonment of that which was the distinctive feature and perhaps the most useful part of the whole enterprise. Moreover it would be an abandonment of an enterprise which resulted directly from Mr. Whitney's action in creating the trust fund. It is not too much to say that the success, the present moral and financial proportions to which the whole undertaking has come are directly related to Mr. Whitney's action and the action of his representatives.

Again there can be no smallest doubt that the whole enterprise with its neighborhood character and aim of bringing together the people of a great teeming neighborhood, without regard to creed or condition, out of their almost enforced isolation into mutually helpful relations and co-operation for neighborhood betterment and doing this under the financial and moral support and conservatism of a Christian church, has been established and is being conducted in a way consonant with Mr. Whitney's principles and purposes.

Finally if I may say it, my recollection of Mr. Whitney is such; the impression I have received from him; the loyalty with which he met obligations, his singular kindness and gentleness, his high-mindedness, his inflexible opposition to anything that was contrary to rectitude or straightforwardness, my impression of him is such ~~as~~ that it has been a large part of the joy and inspiration of the whole movement to feel what it all was to be associated with his name and that it was through the work of his hand, though now silent, that it was going forward.

I shall be glad to answer any questions which may occur to you. With sincere appreciation for your good offices in the matter, I am most faithfully yours,

[G. S. Pratt]

Copy

Boston, Mass, December 27th 1900.

Rev. George S. Pratt,
Rector of the Church of the Archangel
New York, N. Y.

My dear Sir and Friend:-

Whitney,
Through our repeated conferences, it is well understood what my personal feelings are as a representative of the estate of the late Edward, regarding the work which you have in hand looking to the construction of a new Church edifice and Guild House upon what I consider to be a very eligible selection of site in your parish territory, with which selection I have thoroughly familiarized myself on the spot and approve. You know that it has the warmest approval of all the representatives of Mr. Whitney, and our confident belief that he would approve the plan in which we propose to become assistants.

We have with much pleasure, already contributed toward said plan, \$15,775., of which the sum of \$13,750. has already been paid, the remaining \$2,025. to be paid and will be cared for as interest to that extent matures in mortgage loan now existing on the property you have secured.

In addition to this we desire to contribute an estimated further sum of \$30,000., which amount both you and ourselves have been led to believe will be sufficient to meet the entire cost of the Guild House part of your plan. This said amount we cannot at the moment pay, nor can we see our way to promise, definite, as to when we shall be able to pay, but we are willing to set apart from the remaining assets of the estate (which cannot at present be realized upon to sufficient advantage to justify sale,) what we deem ample to provide for an ultimate payment of the amount, and do so with the hope and expectation that there will be contributed from other sources, a similar amount or such sum as may be requisite for the completion of both Church and Guild House together with cost of the land, and all free of debt.

In addition to this there will go with our contribution our very best wishes for the movement which seems to promise such large advantage to those of your parish and its neighborhood, and also such other form of co-operation as we may be able to render.

Yours very truly,

Wm. E. Stowe

Ex. Estate of Edward Whitney.

I approve of the foregoing letter and all of its assurances.

Caroline A. Whitney
(Mrs. Edward Whitney
Executrix.

Copy

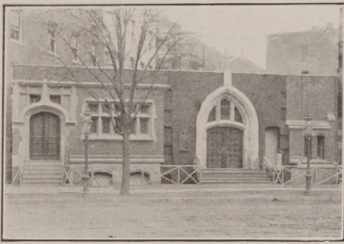
CHURCH OF THE ARCHANGEL

ST. NICHOLAS AVE. AND 115TH STREET

NEW YORK

REV. GEORGE STARKWEATHER PRATT,
"GRAHAM COURT"

SEVENTH AVENUE AND 116TH STREET;
TELEPHONE 732 MORNINGSIDE.



AS AT PRESENT

This Bulletin is printed by the Rector and Building Committee of the Church of the Archangel as a means of acknowledging contributions to the Building Fund and to give such information as will aid in securing funds for the completion and equipment of the combined Church and Neighborhood Guild House.

ST. NICHOLAS AVENUE, BETWEEN 114TH AND 115TH STREETS,
NEW YORK

REV. GEORGE STARKWEATHER PRATT,
Rector.

Building Committee

JAMES H. CANFIELD, Chairman.
HAMILTON M. WEED, Treasurer.
GEORGE A. NELSON.
E. HARRIS JANES.
THE RECTOR, *ex-officio*.

The Present Status

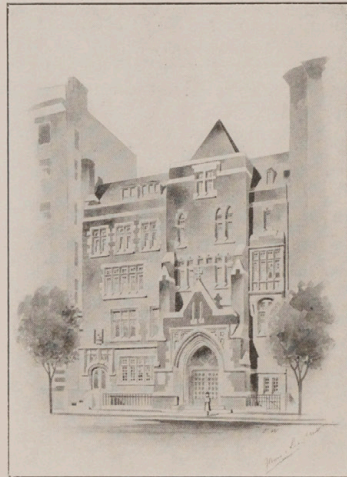
In the latter part of Lent, by putting muslin in the windows, moving the benches up from the basement and adding camp chairs, we held our services in the Church proper, on the rough building floor, under the unceiled roof. The congregation immediately doubled itself. On Good Friday and Easter, the Church, which has the same capacity as Trinity Chapel, was well filled at each of the four services held on those days, and on the occasion of the Bishop's visit for Confirmation large numbers were turned away unable to get in.

We had to move back into the basement, however, as the Summer sun on the unceiled roof makes the place intolerably hot, and if we were

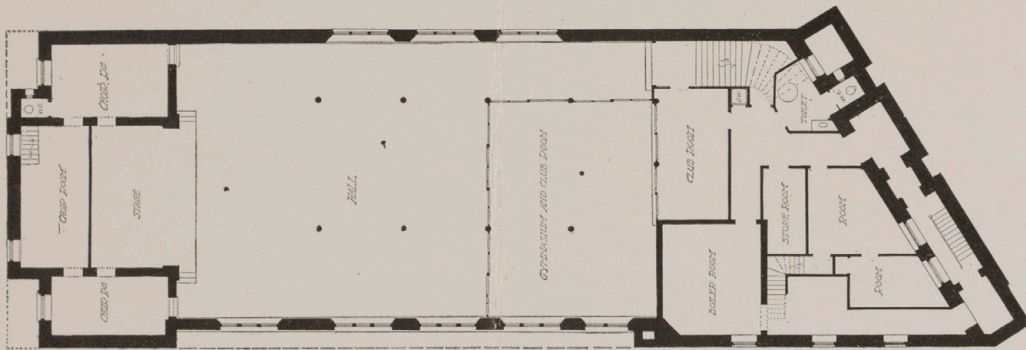
to have the Church ready for use in the Fall, it must be given up to the workmen.

During the past year, \$4,037.55 has been contributed to the Building Fund, more than half of which was given by the new congregation in addition to paying all current expenses of the Parish. All this was used in completing the Hall and Guild rooms in the basement.

In order to have the Church ready and open for permanent use in the Fall, therefore, we had



AS WHEN COMPLETED



to provide for plastering, flooring, seating, trussing and ceiling, completing the Vestibule and Chancel, and for the heating. It was also important for the success of the enterprise that we should have something more than a small cabinet organ, which could scarcely be heard in the Church.

Exclusive of the organ, a careful estimate showed that what was required to be done would involve an outlay of \$7,800.

Since Easter the plastering and flooring have been provided; we have been able to buy second-hand pews and get them in at a saving of about seven hundred dollars; and most of the windows have been subscribed. A carefully revised estimate shows that the remaining work can be completed for about five thousand six hundred and fifty dollars.

If we can secure this sum, and have the Church ready for use in the Fall, it will be well filled at least three times on each Sunday and it will be a

fine centre of uplifting activities for the whole neighborhood. But if we fail in this, there is no other place where these people will be gathered for such purposes.

All work done on the Church is paid for as completed, and we have no floating debt of any sort.

It will be noticed on the diagram of the neighborhood, on the last page, that about equal distances from the Church as the strategic centre, there are four great public schools (one of which, however, is a high school), containing upward of eight thousand children. Our Church is the only Protestant Church in that circle.

The calls on the Rector for pastoral services are equal to those of many of the larger city parishes.

Every dollar contributed will go into immediate use.

Contributions may be sent to James H. Canfield, Chairman of the Building Committee, Columbia University.

From "The Churchman," Feb. 21, 1903.

We desire to commend the work being done by the Church of the Archangel on St. Nicholas Avenue and 115th Street, under the Rectorship of the Rev. George Starkweather Pratt.

The canvass made in that part of the city by the Federation of Churches in 1899, disclosed the fact that nearly 35,000 people, largely Protestants, with a preponderance of Church people, were outside the boundaries of any established parish. The problem of bringing these people together into active co-operation for the betterment of the neighborhood has already been successfully solved as the following results will show: Number of communicants, 300; families recognizing some connection, 600; in the Sunday-schools, 370; number of miscellaneous organizations, 16; membership in these, 375; present value of property above all indebtedness (including increase in value of land, \$15,000), \$40,000.

The plan of building combines the Church with the Neighborhood Guild Hall in the basement; and a Neighborhood Guild House, with apartments for the Rector and his family, for resident workers and the janitor.

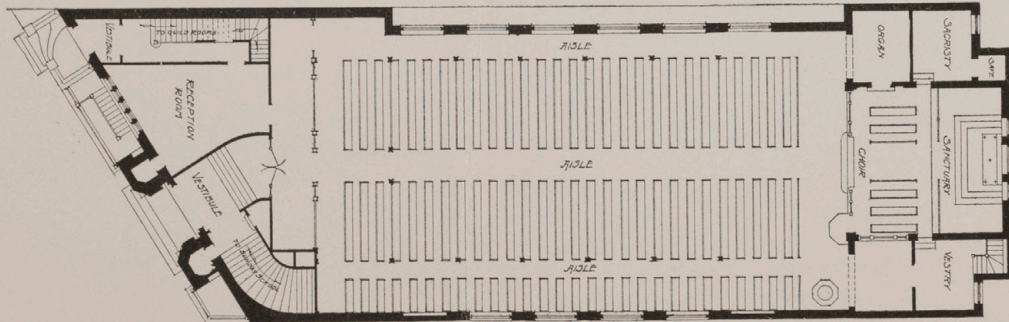
The indebtedness of the Parish consists of a \$27,000 mortgage which was given as part payment for the lot, and which, on account of the increased value of land, has been refunded on a four per cent. basis; and a non-interest-bearing second mortgage of \$5,000, held by Trinity corporation.

When completed and equipped, the entire cost of the property will fall a little below \$110,000. Of this amount, \$33,767.00 has already been paid.

Signed: HENRY C. POTTER,
MORGAN DIX, DAVID H. GREER,
W. R. HUNTINGTON, WM. M. GROSVENOR,
ERNEST M. STIRES.

The following abstract of the contributions to the Building Fund to date is eminent endorsement of our cause. All the larger contributions are from those who have made themselves familiar with the enterprise:

Total amount paid by the newly-gathered congregation (in addition to paying all current expenses) . . .	\$ 5,500 00
Estate of Edward Whitney	15,025 00
Trinity Church (loan)	5,000 00
Herman C. von Post	2,500 00
John E. Parsons	500 00
William C. Schermerhorn	500 00
Woodbury G. Langdon	500 00
Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Avery	350 00
"A Friend"	300 00
Mrs. and Miss Van Wagenen	285 00
Rev. John P. Peters	250 00
Estes and Bernard	250 00
"A Friend"	200 00
Caroline Phelps Stokes	200 00
"A Lady," through H. C. von Post	200 00
Francis L. Stetson	200 00
Royal E. Deane	177 00
Rev. David H. Greer	150 00
Frederick B. Jennings	150 00
Anne Whitney	130 00
William R. Peters	120 00
Nicholas F. Palmer	100 00
Mrs. Mary H. Whitney	100 00
F. Robert Schell	100 00
Dallas Bache Pratt	100 00
Mrs. Edwin Parsons	100 00
Rt. Rev. Henry C. Potter	100 00
R. Fulton Cutting	100 00
Wm. M. Kingsland	100 00
John A. Beall	50 00
Mrs. Eugene A. Hoffman	50 00
F. A. Schermerhorn	50 00
Rev. Morgan Dix	50 00
H. C. Cammann	50 00
Samuel J. Luckings	25 00
Andrew C. Zabriskie	25 00
Henry Dalley	25 00
Charles B. Dales	25 00
Wm. Alex. Smith	25 00
Wm. M. Kingsley	25 00
Seth Low	25 00
Miss Constance E. Roome	20 00
F. M. Doubleday	10 00
David R. Alling	10 00
A. S. Hastings	10 00
William Barclay Parsons	5 00
	\$33,767 00



The Trustees

The Property is vested in trustees in such a way that it cannot be alienated from its uses. It can not be made liable for any current expense account of the Parish. The Trustees are: The Rector of Trinity Church, The Rev. Dr. Morgan Dix; The Rector of St. Bartholomew's Church, The Rev. Dr. David H. Greer; Trustee of the Estate of Edward Whitney, Mr. Charles A. Stone; The Senior Warden of the Church of the Archangel, James H. Canfield; The Rector of the Church of the Archangel, The Rev. George S. Pratt.

Founders' and Benefactors' Tablets

On the completion of the Church, two Tablets will be erected, on which are to be inscribed respectively the names of the Founders and the Benefactors of the Parish.

Any person or Society giving one thousand dollars or more will be named as a Founder; and any person or Society giving five hundred dollars and less than one thousand will be named a Benefactor. These names will also be published regularly in such Year Books and Annual Reports as may be issued by the Parish.

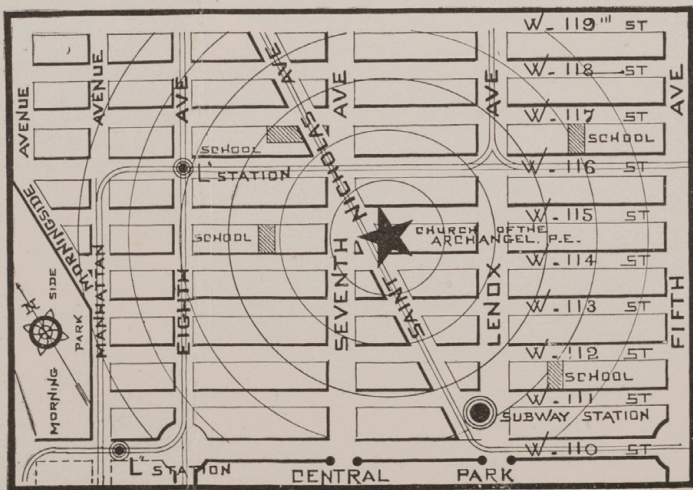
We aim to revive and maintain the *neighborhood* spirit and feeling—only too unusual in the modern city.

Notice that the Church of the Archangel is the only Protestant Church within the outer circle of the diagram.

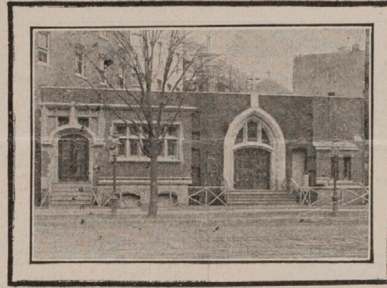
The Rev. Dr. John P. Peters, Rector of St. Michael's Church, writes: "My position as President of the Federation of Churches in this assembly district for some years gave me a peculiar opportunity to see the very great need of a Church, and a strong Church, at that point. The population is very large. It is one of the most native populations—using that term of American and Anglo-Saxon—in this city. The Archangel is the only Protestant Church in that large and growing population, which must inevitably drift away from Church relations if not cared for in some way. That is why I say that the failure to put the Archangel thoroughly on its feet would be a real disaster to the Church in this city."

The Rev. Dr. Laidlaw, Secretary of the Federation of Churches, writes: "*The failure to establish the Church at this point would be criminal to the religious interests of the city.*"

"He giveth twice who giveth quickly."



Archangel Herald



Vol. VI.

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER, 1903.

No. 1-2

CHURCH OF THE ARCHANGEL.

SAINT NICHOLAS AVENUE,
Between 114th and 115th Streets.

On account of the fire and while rebuilding, the only Church Service will be at 11 o'clock in the Empire Hall, No. 252 West 116th Street, near 8th Ave. Infant Class at 2.30. Intermediate Classes at 3.30, at the same place.

BISHOP.

Rt. Rev. Henry Codman Potter, D.D., LL.D.

RECTOR.

Rev. George Starkweather Pratt,
Residence Graham Court, Seventh Ave. and 116th St.

LAY READERS.

James Hulme Canfield. Allan Davidge Marr.

WARDENS.

James H. Canfield. George A. Nelson.

VESTRYMEN.

Henry I. Thornton, Hamilton M. Weed,
Walter D. Davidge, Elisha H. Janes,
Robert B. Lewis, George W. Griffith.

CLERK OF THE VESTRY.

George W. Griffith, Graham Court.

TREASURER.

Walter D. Davidge, 345 Manhattan Avenue.

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER.

Lee M. Bingham, 48 West 94th Street.

SEXTON AND UNDERTAKER.

Christian Fredk. Grunwold, 2134 Eighth Avenue.

BAPTISM.

The Sacrament of BAPTISM will be administered on the first Sunday afternoon in each month at Children's Vespers, and at other times by special appointments.

Rector's Office Hours, 8:30 to 9:30 A. M.

Clothing and Furnishing Bureau.

Send outgrown, half-worn clothing of all descriptions to Guild House, 88 St. Nicholas Avenue, for the Sale.

Dramatic Entertainment

By Young Women's Guild

HARLEM CASINO

Friday Night, December 11th

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and

116th Street and Seventh Avenue

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BUSINESS, FAMILY AND PERSONAL ACCOUNTS SOLICITED

When trading kindly mention "The Archangel Herald"

The Archangel Herald

Issued monthly, or on chief Festivals, except July and August.

The paper will be sent to any who desire it on the payment of twenty-five cents per year in advance.

Communications of every sort, relating to the paper, should be addressed to the Archangel Herald 88 St. Nicholas Ave.

This first issue of the ARCHANGEL HERALD since the fire has been held back in order to give an account of the complete adjustment of the insurances.

THE FIRE

As is doubtless well known to all those to whom this will come, our beautiful church was almost entirely destroyed by fire, which started at midnight on Saturday, September 26th.

The Origin of the Fire.—It started in the audience room of the church, presumably in the north-westerly part. There were no shavings in the room nor any papers or chips out of which a fire could easily have started. The electricity had not been installed in the building. The two men who had been working in the church during the day, left at five o'clock; and from five to six o'clock the Rector and Organist were trying the organ, which, except for a few pedal connections, was just completed; and, to get the effect at various points, they each in turn walked over nearly every part of the room. There was no light other than that of the setting sun, nor was there any match lighted or fire of any sort. The first thought was that the fire was set by apartment-house thieves for the purpose of looting the adjoining apartment houses. This opinion sprang from the fact that four men were arrested in the house which suffered most severely; but as these men were discharged on the following day, no evidence being found against them, there is left no evidence on which to base such an opinion. There was no way in which it could have been an advantage for anyone to have the church destroyed.

To the officers and people of the parish who had, with almost unexampled patience and courage, labored and waited for the four years past, building little by little; paying as they went, the sudden destruction of the Church, which because of all the care and generous interest that had been wrought into the structure, seemed even more beautiful than it was, just on the eve of the time when with joy and solemnity we were to enter into it as to a long delayed but precious inheritance; it was simply a calamity. Of course the building was insured, (it was rather under than over insured.) It could probably be rebuilt. But it meant that again we were roofless and shelterless. It meant the entire breaking up of the whole work of the season which had

just been so enthusiastically entered upon. It meant the inevitable disintegration of a part of the congregation. There were no valuables such as could be stolen, and there had been no trouble with anyone who had had anything to do in or about the building such as might have engendered malice.

There seems to be little or no reason for supposing the fire to be the work of an incendiary, and with the more than usual precaution that was exercised, thus far there is no light as to how the fire originated.

The Insurance.—All the insurance was in the German-American Insurance Co. The insurance on the building was \$17,000, which has just been adjusted by the agreement to pay \$14,000. The organ was insured for \$1,500, which sum was paid in full, as the organ was totally destroyed, and simply covered the amount which we had contracted to pay for the instrument. The contents of the church, which were mainly in the basement, were insured for \$1,000, for which the Church received \$850. The damage was by water only.

The Rector had an insurance on his books, papers, office effects and furnishings for \$400, of which he received \$225 (the damage being only by water), which, aside from the amount which will be required to get his books, papers and furniture in usable shape again, he announced that he should turn over to the Rebuilding Fund.

The Response of the Neighborhood.—It was immediate and most assuring. Ere the morning light dawned, offers of help and subscriptions for rebuilding began to come in, and also from persons not in any way connected with the Church. There seemed to be an immediate recognition that the Church was a neighborhood affair and that its destruction was a neighborhood calamity. The silence and hush over the great throngs that not only witnessed the fire but kept coming all the day following, seemed to stir up a profound and grateful consciousness that the neighborhood had owned the enterprise as something belonging to it, and that our labors had not been in vain. That spirit of neighborliness which we had preached, which we had posted on the sign-board and which we had tried to practice, all seemed to come back to us in a great wave of community feeling and sympathy.

The Response of the Neighboring Churches.—Beginning with the gracious and generous letter of Bishop Potter and other letters, some of which are printed with that of the Bishop's in another column, there has come a widespread and generous interest to lend a helping hand. A resolution commending our cause to the benevolence of the churches of the

Diocese was voted in the Diocesan Convention. Several churches have already sent contributions, and in view of the importance of the work here, and what has already been accomplished and the necessity of completing the whole building free of debt, we have reason to hope that at least every church in the city will make such contribution as they may deem consistent.

The Services in Empire Hall.—Notwithstanding the immediate and generous tender of the use of the Crypt of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine by Bishop Potter, and the similar offers of the churches of our own and other denominations nearest to us, of such uses as we could make of them, it was felt that if possible we must not go out of our immediate neighborhood. Here was where we had set up our banners. Here were the people to whom we had committed ourselves; and here we must stay. The only available place in the neighborhood was the Hall of the Empire Dancing Academy, which, by the consideration of the proprietor, we have secured for the eleven o'clock service and for the Sunday Schools in the afternoon.

The Organ. The following extract is from the Building Bulletin issued late in the Summer:

"The Rector, with the full approval of the Building Committee, but on his personal responsibility, has purchased the large, fine-toned Jardine organ, which was in St. Peter's German Lutheran Church on Lexington Avenue, for \$1,450. He paid down the two hundred dollars, which was in his hands as an organ fund, and has undertaken to raise and pay the balance when the organ is set up in the Church ready for use.

"The organ if new would cost five thousand dollars. It is being set up by a reliable organ builder, with a guarantee for five years."

The organ was just completed at the time of the fire. It fulfilled all our expectations, and its loss was one of the saddest circumstances of the fateful fire. Two hundred and fifty dollars only had been paid on it, and it was insured only for what we had agreed to pay for it. So that we are just where we were before, except that some small contributions have been made, which will be acknowledged in the next issue of the HERALD.

The following statement is made by the Building Committee:

It is neither wise nor best to delay further the erection of the Guild House, as well as the renovation of the Guild Hall and the rebuilding of the Church. All the interests of the Parish imperatively demand that the entire plans of the Church, Guild Hall and Guild House shall be carried to completion at the earliest possible day. The Building Commit-

tee has therefore to determine to carry up the walls of the Guild House and roof in and inclose the same, to repair and renovate the Guild Hall and to rebuild the walls and inclose the Church proper. For the completion of this work the Committee relies upon the interest and co-operation of the entire Diocese and of the people of the Parish, who have never yet failed to support their officers in this great undertaking.

Subscriptions are requested from all interested in the welfare of the Church in this Diocese, payable at once, or in thirty, sixty or ninety days. Checks and pledges may be sent to the Rector, Rev. Geo. S. Pratt, Graham Court, 116th Street and Seventh Avenue; or to the Chairman of the Building Committee, James H. Canfield, Columbia University.

The New Presbyterian Church. It appears that we are to have a new ecclesiastical neighbor, and a most desirable one at that. Four lots have been purchased on West 115th Street, just off St. Nicholas Avenue, and a new Presbyterian Church is to be built on them.

The new church will be so near our own that the Sunday School children and the congregations of each will mingle in the same throng. It will mean an increased company of church goers on the avenue. It will mean two hands instead of one in the larger tasks of this immediate neighborhood. It will give the impetus of a generous competition. It will mean a new measure of moral support. Welcome to the new Presbyterian Church.

NEW YORK, Sunday Morning,
September 27, 1903.

MY DEAR MR. PRATT:—I have but just heard of the fire last night at the Church of the Archangel. Accept the assurances of my heartfelt sympathy! Your church edifice which Dr. Canfield told me last Wednesday was just beautifully completed. It is verily a trial of one's faith.

Put me down for five hundred dollars, which I hope to be able to pay after New Year's; and remember that the Crypt of the Cathedral is entirely at your service for any services that you can arrange there.

Affectionately yours,

H. C. POTTER.

REV. GEORGE STARKWEATHER PRATT,
Graham Court, New York.

MY DEAR MR. PRATT:—I know of no more practical way of expressing the sympathy for you which we all feel in the loss of your new church at the beginning of the working year, than by offering to you the use of our building for service Sunday evenings,

if that arrangement prove convenient for you.

This my trustees have authorized me to do. In any case, accept our profound regret over this lamentable but conquerable misfortune.

Faithfully yours,

MERLE ST. C. WRIGHT,

Pastor Lenox Avenue Unitarian Church.

September 28, 1903.

A letter from a parishioner who had come to us from another country and another communion of Christians:

NEW YORK, September 28, 1903.

REV. GEORGE S. PRATT.—

DEAR PASTOR:—Mrs. R., the children and I watched with tearful eyes the destruction of our dear church, and we thought immediately of you and of all your efforts to give us a spiritual home.

We find no adequate words to express to you our heartfelt sympathy in this our common sorrow, for although we may be able to have again a church and beautiful organ, yet nothing can replace those old pieces that you got here and there, little by little, into which were weaved the toil of years and the expectation of the morrow.

But the hand of God has shown itself even in destruction, and it seems as though He sent a conflagration to appeal to us for more interest and sacrifice in the completion of His house.

Both Mrs. R. and I put ourselves at your disposal for any service we can render you in any capacity whatever. No doubt Mrs. R. can be of some service, and I only wish I could, too, as you know well my hindrance owing to my poor use of the language.

Please accept our mite for the rebuilding of our church. Kindly pay our respects to Mrs. Pratt, and with filial love we remain,

Your most obedient servants,

MR. AND MRS. R.

HOLY TRINITY RECTORY,
10.30 A.M., Sunday.

MY DEAR MR. PRATT:—I hear with the very deepest sympathy through Mr. Wilson at this moment of your terrible misfortune. Your beautiful new building, with its growing promise, just on the threshold of the working year. I can hardly put into words the depth of my sympathy.

This is a hurried line to put at your service church or parish house for any use to which you may desire to put it, for one time, or for regular services or sessions. We are beginning to-day our full routine.

With warmest regard,

Sincerely yours,

H. P. NICHOLS.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH,

New York, September 27, 1903.

MY DEAR MR. PRATT:—My heart goes out in sympathy. I told my people this morning, and asked their help, and we prayed for you. I want to see you, and plan what I can do to help.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN P. PETERS.

WEST END PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

New York, October 2, 1903.

MY DEAR MR. PRATT:—I beg to express to you not only my own personal sympathy, but that of our church, in the great misfortune which has befallen your parish. I can easily imagine how overwhelmed you have been by it all. If I can serve you in any way, please command me. With cordial regards, believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

JOHN BALCOM SHAW.

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