

THE WEST END PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

TO-DAY and to-morrow the West End Presbyterian Church congregation will celebrate the tenth anniversary of its organization. The significance of the occasion will lie more especially in the unprecedented growth of the church, which has exceeded the fondest hopes of its supporters, and which has become the wonder of Presbyterians throughout the country.

Starting with a communicant list of 60 members the church has grown until it now has over 1,300 members, an average increase of 150 a year. The Sunday school has increased in a like proportion and now numbers 1,300 pupils and teachers. The average Sunday attendance is 1,078, whereas at one time the attendance fell as low as 8, all told—teachers, officers, and pupils.

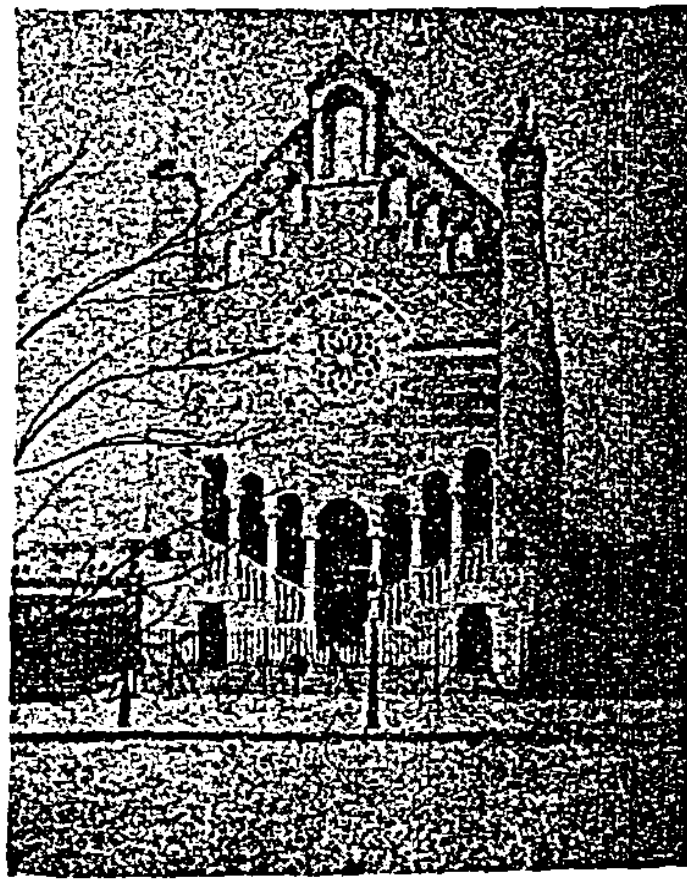
Samuel Inslee, who was eleven years ago on the Sunday School Committee of the New York Presbytery, is credited with the idea which resulted in the inception of the church. The story is told that as he was riding on a horse car up Tenth Avenue, with a friend, he pointed to the country in the vicinity of One Hundred and Fourth Street, with the remark, "Here would be a good place to start a Sunday school."

"Yes," replied his friend, "It would, if people continue building here."

Signs of approaching growth were already apparent, however, and Mr. Inslee, with wise foresight, saw the opportunity. A few weeks later he gathered together a few friends in a real estate office on Ninth Avenue and discussed the advisability of making the move. They adjourned to meet again. On the night of the second meeting in the real estate office, Mr. Marshall, who

was an absolute necessity. Following Mr. Inslee's idea, the chapel had been constructed so that it could be removed on wheels, if necessary, no one dreaming at that time that the size of the building would be the cause of its change. The decision to build again was hastened by the advantageous offer of a plot of ground at One Hundred and Fifth Street and Amsterdam Avenue. This was purchased and a chapel commenced, which was to cost \$40,000. The cornerstone was laid June 22, 1889, and the church was dedicated Oct. 20, 1890.

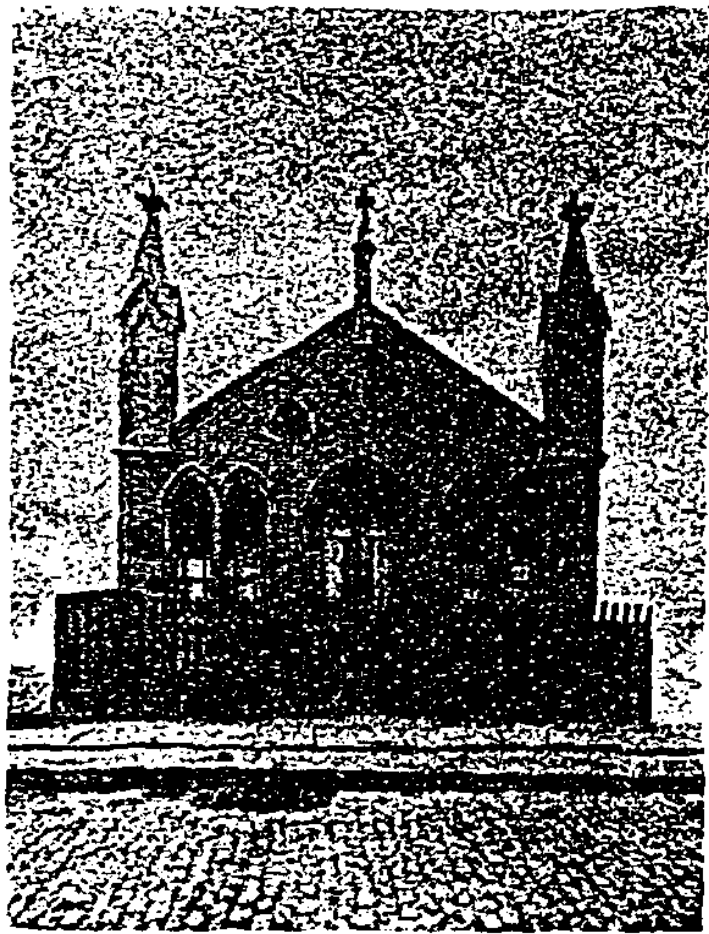
No sooner, however, had the second chapel been completed than it was seen that the congregation was destined soon to outgrow even that. The firm of Carrère & Hastings was asked to draw plans for a



Second Chapel. Erected 1890.

bers, and it is expected that several of the latter will relate interesting incidents of the early history of the church. At the conclusion of the reception stereopticon views concerning the church will be described by the assistant minister, the Rev. James Hunter.

Besides the pastor and assistant minister of the church, the officers include E. Payson Porter, Clerk; Henry R. Elliott, James W. Noyes, Charles S. Patteson, Prof. Francis M. Burdick, James M. Gifford, Nelson Olcott, John Pennington, and William E.



First Chapel. Erected 1887.

large church, which it was decided to build next to the chapel. These plans, however, called for so large an outlay that it was necessary to modify them, and at the same time increase the capacity of the church.

The present church structure was built after the modified plans, at a cost of \$140,000, all of that sum being raised save \$55,000. The cornerstone was laid June 22, 1891, just two years after the laying of the cornerstone of the chapel.

The services of the anniversary will commence this morning with a communion service, followed by historical addresses by the pastor and several invited speakers. The afternoon service will be of the same nature. On Monday evening a reception will be tendered by the Ladies' Aid Society to the congregation and former mem-



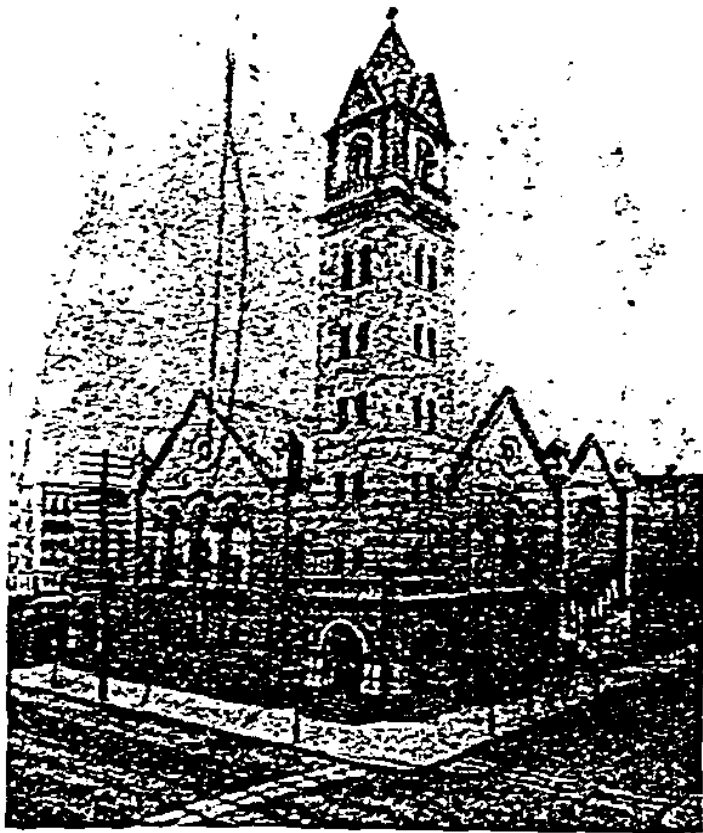
The Rev. John Bileon Shaw, D. D.,
Pastor West End Presbyterian Church.

lived near by in the Marshall homestead, One Hundred and Fourth Street and Ninth Avenue, noticed them, and after learning the purpose of the meeting, invited them to his house.

Here they took the decisive step of establishing the Sunday school. There were present at that memorable meeting the Rev. Dr. J. H. Hoadley, J. Finlay Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Fulton, George W. Beale, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall, and Miss Marshall. George W. Beale was made Superintendent of the Sunday school which it was decided to establish at One Hundred and Fourth Street and the Boulevard. Mr. Inslee contributed the larger amount of the needed funds, and on May 22, 1887, a modest little chapel was opened, with seventy-seven members, including officers, teachers, and pupils. In the evening preaching services were held.

The church was formally organized at a meeting of the congregation Feb. 7, 1888, with sixty-nine members, sixty-six being received by letter and three by confession. The Rev. Mr. Shaw was installed as pastor the following May. From that period the little society has grown with what is said to be the most remarkable growth of any Presbyterian church in the land.

In less than a year the chapel was becoming so overcrowded that another building



West End Presbyterian Church,
Erected 1892.

Collins, Elders. The Trustees are Edward M. Taintor, Charles S. Kohler, S. E. Goodale, Robert G. Hunter, James K. Warnock, Lewis A. Bower, and Robert Main.