

The "Tabernacle" Church, afterwards called the Second Church, retained Rev. L. M. Woodruff as pastor until 1857, when he was succeeded by Rev. Mr. Holt, and he by Rev. Mr. Prescott, in 1859. In 1862 Rev. C. B. Smith, D.D., became pastor; he was succeeded by Rev. N. A. Reed, D.D., in 1867, and he continued until 1869. During this period, 1856 to 1869, each of these two churches had erected houses of worship. The First Church at the corner of Fountain and Bostwick Streets, and the Second on North Division Street, only one block away. The membership of the First Church was 150 and of the Second Church was 100. The houses of worship were both small and not in keeping with the growth and enterprise of the young and growing city.

A feeling that the "cause" we all held so dear could best be conserved by consolidating the two branches into one stronger and more aggressive body became about this time quite strong among the members in each of the churches. Both the pastors, Butterfield and Reed, urged the consolidation and, although to them it meant a personal sacrifice, it was cheerfully made.

April 1, 1869, the two Baptist churches were merged into one organization and the reunited church entered upon a career which, under God, has resulted in great usefulness in our city.

Rev. Samuel Graves, D.D., was the first pastor, entering upon his first pastorate January 1, 1870, and for fifteen years his work was successful in a marked degree. Under his leadership a new and commodious church building was erected, and in December, 1873, the lecture room was open for public service, and three years later the audience room was completed.

Dr. Graves succeeded in impressing his own loving, genial, progressive spirit upon the church, and his entire pastorate was marked by spiritual as well as financial growth. Sunday schools were organized in different parts of the city, awaiting the time when churches should be organized.

Profiting by the experience of the past, the church resolutely sought to strengthen and unify the one parent organization and not to imperil the church property secured by so much sacrifice and labor, by undue haste in church expansion. So soon as the reduction of the debt seemed to warrant, the church entered upon a period of enlargement.

In 1883 we dismissed fifty-five of our members to form the Second Church, on the west side of the river, and in 1885 as