

## LOCAL CHURCH ACTIVITIES

We found when we arrived here, the 11th of June, 1857, that both Mr. Kidder and Mr. McNair were holding meetings and dividing their work—one a Congregationalist and the other a Presbyterian. The meeting house on the East side was a small building boarded with rough boards, and battened, and on the West side the meetings were sometimes held in what was known as the Niagara Hotel, kept by George A. Buffington, and sometimes in a hall over the store of Budd & Holbrook. Sometimes they would be held in the forenoon over the river, and Mr. Kennedy and I and our wives would row up the river in a small boat; then in the evening, Mr. Kidder or Mr. McNair would hold services in the hall and then come down to our boarding house and stay all night. We had better singing when Mr. Kidder held the meetings because he was a good singer. Miss Augusta Kidder was large enough to sing and could play the little organ we moved from one place to the other. The Presbyterians and the Congregationalists each had an organization, with a small number of members. Before coming here we attended the Presbyterian church and your mother was a member of that church in Glens Falls and at Lake George, and Mr. Kennedy also was a Presbyterian. The Presbyterians thought they ought to build a church, and solicited subscriptions. Mr. Kennedy and I were subscribers, as I remember, to the extent of about half the amount they expected to put into it. We had the only planing mill in the valley and furnished the dressed lumber and a greater part of all of the building material. Shaw & Huntington had a small hardware store on the East side and furnished the hardware. Both of them, as I remember, were members of the church. Few of the members had much money, and they were running in debt largely for the material they got at home, what money they had going to buy the sash and doors and other things that

had to be hauled here—I think most of it from Portage. When the building was completed they were owing Shaw & Huntington about \$800 and Shaw & Huntington were owing us for lumber they had got for some building they were doing. We were calling on them for pay, and they were calling on the church for pay, and it was finally arranged that Mr. Kennedy and myself would assume the payment of the \$800 to Shaw & Huntington, and we made a turn of that much on what Shaw & Huntington were owing us. The trustees (I think Mr. Kennedy was one of them) promised to pay us as soon as they could collect it; and so far as I know they have never collected it. So we got some \$800 more into the church building than we had subscribed for it, and I have been wondering whether it would be advisable to call on the trustees of the Presbyterian church now for that \$800 and interest. Some of the time Mr. Kidder, and some of the time Mr. McNair occupied the church. The next year it was decided to organize a Congregational church on the West side, which was done, and a movement made for building a church. Quite a number of people had come into the town, settling on either side of the river. Mr. McNair and Mr. Kidder had each built a residence on the East side, and a little later Mr. Kidder built a house on the West side.

About the same time school districts were organized on the two sides of the river, Mr. Kidder taking a very active part in the school on the West side and Mr. McNair on the East side.

Soon after the church was built on the East side a Baptist minister came here and held evangelistic services in it. There was a good deal of interest in the meetings, and among others I felt it was my duty to unite with the church over there. Afterwards, when the church was built on the West side, your mother and I took our letters from the Presbyterian church and united with the Congregational.

Our first child died while we were in Ottawa and our son Charlie was born here September 12, 1858.