support of this institution commanded the services of the physicians in behalf of the sick poor.

The Howard Benevolent Society was organized in 1840. It aimed to “afford encouragement and aid to the moral and industrious poor.” A board of trustees was divided into subcommittees of two persons to each ward of the city. On proper recommendation the society was to make gifts or loans of articles necessary for relief of distress.

The ministry at large, a model non-denominational religious institution of Lowell, was established in 1844 at the instance of the South Congregational Society (Unitarian) and in accordance with a plan devised by Rev. Dr Tuckerman, in Boston. The object was to minister to the temporal and spiritual needs of persons not reached by the existing religious societies. Regular services were held each Sunday in the Hamilton chapel on Middlesex street. No collections were taken and no pew rents exacted. A Sunday school of about one hundred children was soon enrolled. The ministry at large began at once to employ a minister who gave most of his time to relieve suffering among the poor. The annual reports of the first years are excellent examples of descriptive writing and valuable sources of information as to economic and social conditions in the city.

New Churches in the Pre-War Period—The multiplication of Protestant churches between 1836 and 1860 in the city of Lowell seems as remarkable as are the present difficulties with which many of them are beset. The community was composed almost entirely of church-going people, most of whom were of the old Puritan stock. A man or woman who had no religious affiliations was under suspicion of being a bad citizen.

The Congregational churches in especial were spread over the community to an extent that at a later date proved embarrassing.

The Second Congregational Church, the predecessor of the present Eliot Church, began its services under the town government. Its first church building, in Appleton street, the one which was afterwards sold to the First Presbyterian Church, was dedicated July 10, 1831. The first minister was Rev. William Twining, ordained October 4, 1831. In 1837 came Rev. Uriah Burnap, who remained with the church until he died in 1854. Mr. Burnap was succeeded by two ministers of comparatively short pastorates: Rev. George Darling, who stayed two years and then accepted a call to Ohio, and Rev. John P. Cleveland, who resigned to become chaplain of the Thirtieth Massachusetts Regiment.

In 1839 it appeared that still another Congregational church was needed, and on March 11 of that year the men members of the First and Second societies met and voted that “it is expedient to form immediately a new church.” It was resolved that “from each church should
be taken, to form the new church, not more than twenty-five males and one hundred and fifty females from both churches."

This arrangement was the beginning of the church in John street, now defunct, which for many years was one of the strong centres of orthodox Congregationalism in Massachusetts. Under date of February 22, 1839, John Aiken, Royal Southwick and Jesse Fox were incorporated as "Proprietors of John Street Church in Lowell." These proprietors, together with A. L. Brooks, David Sanborn, and Edward F. Watson were chosen as a building committee. Land was bought of the Locks and Canals Company at two shillings a square foot. The church building cost $17,884.12. It was dedicated January 23, 1840, with a sermon by Rev. Amos Blanchard, of the First Church. A call was extended to an Andover student, Stedman W. Hanks, a graduate of Amherst College, who was installed as pastor March 20, 1840.

A crisis in Mr. Hanks' pastorate, the story of which has been related by the Rev. George H. Johnson, afterwards minister of the church, was typical of the controversies of the time. The new minister was a pronounced anti-slavery and temperance advocate, and he soon was in trouble because he preached on these moral issues instead of confining himself to "pure religion." As Mr. Johnson says, "his course speedily gave offence to the staid and conservative elements of society; the church came to be designated as 'Texas,' and it was said that the subjects considered at its meetings were 'rum and niggers' instead of the Gospel. After much consultation a council representing twenty churches was convened to advise whether the zealous young pastor should be dismissed. All the deacons were opposed to his remaining; on the other hand the women of the church stood loyally by their pastor, ninety-seven being in his favor to thirteen against him. The result of the council's deliberation was in favor of Mr. Hanks, and the opposition to him was gradually won over by his steadfast spirit and by a real zeal for the prosperity of the new church enterprise. A marked revival of religion followed this reconciliation; large congregations attended the services and the Sunday school, containing over 700 members, was said to be the largest in the State. An addition of over 100 new members on a single Sunday, and a contribution of more than $700 at one collection, showed that the new church had outlived the spirit of dissension, and from that time to the present no dissen-

Rev. Mr. Hanks was dismissed from the pastorate at John street church in October, 1852. He had served the church nearly thirteen years during which he had welcomed into its membership 627 communicants.

The second John street pastor was the very distinguished Rev.
Eden B. Foster, born at Hanover, New Hampshire, in 1813, being one of eight brothers of whom seven were graduated from Dartmouth College and six became ministers. When called to Lowell, Dr. Foster was minister of the church in the nearby town of Pelham. His installation took place February 3, 1853. He served the church during two pastorates, the first extending to 1861 and the second between the years 1866 and 1878, in which latter year he was made pastor emeritus. He died April 11, 1862. His first pastorate was one in which he took a decided stand against negro slavery.

The fourth Congregational church to be organized within the present city limits was that in Kirk street. On April 22, 1845, James Buncher and fifty-five other members of the First Church petitioned for dismissal in order that they might start a new church. On May 2 the petition was granted. The church started with 157 members. It was voted to call Rev. Amos Blanchard, then pastor of the First Church, at a salary of $1,000. This call was accepted on May 17 and four days later Mr. Blanchard was dismissed from his former pastorate to take up his new one. Services were held at first in Mechanics Hall and a Sunday school was formed. Later the place of worship was changed to City Hall, where services were held for about a year.

A location for the new church in Kirk street was decided at a meeting of June 30, 1845. The church building, which has since been torn down to make room for the high school extension, was dedicated December 17, 1846. Its total cost was $22,679.12, including $1,800 for an organ and $3,805.13, the cost of the land. The pews were assessed at $3,500 per annum and were auctioned on Christmas Day.

Rev. Dr. Blanchard, who was called to the Kirk street church before it was built, stayed with it down to his death, January 14, 1870. He was born at Andover, March 7, 1807, and was graduated from Yale College, and from the Andover Theological Seminary. His first ministry began at the First Church in 1829, so that his entire professional career of more than forty years was spent in Lowell. Early deacons of the church were John Aiken, elected 1845, but declined to serve; Sewell G. Mack, elected 1845 and resigned May 28, 1895, after fifty years' service; James Buncher, elected 1845, but declined to serve; Samuel Stickney, elected 1845 and died 1875; James Buncher, elected 1847 and resigned 1864 on account of leaving the city; Nathaniel Bartlett, elected 1847 and resigned 1864. Superintendents of the Sunday school before 1860 were: Samuel W. Stickney, 1845; T. L. P. Lamson, 1849; Aaron Walker, 1850; Josiah G. Coburn, 1851; Andrew Moody, 1853; Samuel W. Stickney, 1853.

Singing by the church congregation originated at Kirk street church, so far at least as New England is concerned, according to reminiscences related in June, 1875, in a sermon preached by Rev. C. D.
Barrows in commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the society. "This was the first city in New England," he said, "that introduced congregational singing into its Sabbath services, and Boylston was the first tune upon which the experiment was tried. It happened that the pastor was preaching in exchange the second Sabbath of the trial, and the officiating clergyman, after reading the hymn, was so surprised at seeing the audience rise and begin to sing, that he quite forgot his ministerial dignity, and his gravity gave way to a generous smile as, unable to take his seat, he stood chained to the spot—but whether by the superiority of the music or by the unexpected volley from the audience was never clearly known."

The crowded condition of John Street Church presently led to a movement on the part of those members living in Belvidere to organize a society of their own. The High Street Congregational Church accordingly was organized January 22, 1846, with seventy-one members, of whom fifty-two came from John Street and the others from elsewhere. The original incorporators were Erastus D. Leavitt, Artemas L. Brooks and John Tuttle. Major Atkinson C. Varnum states that "The enterprise of establishing a fifth Congregational church in Lowell, to be located on the east side of Concord river, seems to have been suggested by the failure of St. Luke’s Protestant Episcopal Church (which was incorporated February 25, 1842), and the feeling that the field should be occupied by some Protestant denomination."

The first meeting of the society was held in the vestry of John Street Church, July 7, 1845, Nathan Crosby acting as moderator. Arrangements were made to purchase the unfinished edifice known as St. Luke’s Church on December 4, 1845. The first pastor was the Rev. Timothy Atkinson, installed February 25, 1846. He was followed on December 15, 1847, by Rev. Joseph H. Towne, who after seven years was succeeded by Rev. Orpheus T. Lamphear, whose stay was only a year. On September 15, 1857, came Rev. Owen Street, D. D., who remained until his death May 27, 1887.

St. Luke’s Church, which the High street congregation acquired as a church home for $7,500, represented an unfortunate attempt to establish an Episcopal church in Belvidere with insufficient financial support. In the late thirties the attendance at St. Anne’s Church had increased so fast that another Anglican church was proposed. Services were held for a time in a room in the Wyman Exchange, with Justin T. McCay as minister, and with music directed by George Hedrick as a volunteer organist and choir director. The room was soon overcrowded, and Mr. McCay felt that the time was at hand for a new edifice. Against the advice of some of his supporters he circulated a subscription list and obtained money enough to buy the lot of land in Belvidere and to erect the present structure, which was heavily mort-
The church was first occupied in 1841. The attendance, which had seemed overwhelming at the room in the Wyman Exchange, failed to fill the pews. The financial support which Mr. McCay had confidently expected from the manufacturing corporation was for some reason or other withheld. The prospect steadily grew more discouraging, and in 1845 the opportunity to sell to the newly organized Congregational body was welcomed.

A Third Congregational Church, which was started in June, 1832, came to an end soon after the incorporation of the city. This society, whose struggling existence of about six years has been generally forgotten, was initiated, like several others to follow, by reason of the crowded condition of the pews in the First Church. To Major Varnum the late Deacon Samuel B. Simonds contributed some reminiscences from which it appears that the society began with eighty-three communicants. The first preparatory lecture and communion service was ministered by the Rev. Daniel S. Southmaid. On December 18, 1832, a call was extended to Rev. Charles Kittredge to settle "at a salary of $700 the first year, to be increased $300 when the resources of the church would admit." This call was declined. After two other clergymen had refused to come, Rev. Giles Pease, of Coventry, Rhode Island, accepted the invitation. He was installed October 2, 1833. Public services were maintained in a building at the corner of Market (then Lowell) and Suffolk streets. In 1833 financial irregularities of the treasurer compelled the society to give up its building and hold meetings in the town hall. The embarrassment continued and the church made an appeal to the community for help in buying a theatre that had been constructed on Market street, just above Worthen street, and which the owners would sell for four thousand dollars. "Considerable aid," it is related, "was furnished by people who were not especially interested in the church, but were willing to be rid of the theatre." A large audience assembled at the first religious services in this building, "owing in part to the fact that one Henry Patch had circulated the report that 'a performance would be given that evening at the theatre'." The attendance presumably did not continue to be satisfactory, for in 1834 the society adopted the free church system under the style of "The First Free Church of Lowell." The former name of the Third Congregational Church was resumed in 1837. Meantime, on May 31, 1836, Mr. Pease had resigned. In 1837 members of the church sent a communication to the other churches of the city stating explaining their embarrassed financial condition and asking advice as to the proper course to pursue. No records have been found to show what reply was made to this communication, but it was Mr. Simonds' recollection that in the spring of 1838 the remaining
1. INTERIOR VIEW OF ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH.
2. ST. PETER'S CHURCH.
3. IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH.
4. INTERIOR VIEW OF ST. JEAN BAPTISTE CHURCH.
members voted themselves letters of dismission to other churches of their choice.

The Second Universalist Society, later known as the Shattuck Street Universalist Society, grew out of a meeting of May 22, 1836, in City Hall, at which Rev. J. G. Adams was preacher. He officiated four Sundays and then a meeting was held in Mechanics' building to consider whether or not it was advisable to organize a society. A committee reported that it was so expedient, and accordingly, on September 4, 1836, about one hundred men and women signed the preamble and constitution. The first pastor, the Rev. Zenas Thompson, was installed February 5, 1837. The first annual meeting was held March 27, 1837, at which Solon D. Pumpelly was chosen chairman; David Tapley, treasurer; W. B. Davis, collector; Isaac Place, James C. Hill, Hale Clement, Otis Bullard and Holland Streeter, prudential committee.

St. Peter’s is Lowell’s second oldest Roman Catholic church, and dates its beginning from the year 1841, St. Patrick’s from 1831. When it was deemed important that “Chapel Hill,” as the Gorham, Green and William streets section was called, should have a church of its own, there was a great deal of opposition among the parishioners of St. Patrick’s, and a special meeting was called in 1841, at which Bishop Fenwick, of Boston, presided. Bishop Fenwick was impressed by the speeches of those favoring a second church, and finally, to test their sincerity, he asked for all who would contribute $100 to a building fund to indicate it by rising. He received such a hearty response that the debate was ended without further argument, and a second parish was decided upon.

As a result, a plain brick church edifice costing about $22,000 was dedicated in September, 1842, that church standing at the corner of Gorham and Appleton streets. Services were first held in the church on Christmas Day, 1842, Rev. Father Conway being the first pastor of the new parish, which was named in honor of St. Peter. At the dedication the pews sold at a high price, those nearest the altar bringing $200 and more, each purchaser receiving a deed signed by Bishop Fenwick. The new parish was under Father Conway’s care until 1847 and prospered. Failing health compelled Father Conway to take a vacation, Rev. Peter Crudden being appointed to fill the pastorate during his absence. Later Father Crudden was appointed pastor of St. Peter’s, Father Conway going to a Salem parish. Father Crudden continued as pastor until the summer of 1883, many parish activities dating from his pastorate, one being St. Peter’s Orphan Asylum on Appleton street, near St. Peter’s Church, built and placed in charge of the Sisters of Charity, whom he introduced to the city.

Rev Michael Ronan succeeded Father Crudden, August 8, 1883,
and greatly improved the church by enlarging the basement to the full length, putting in new lights, a new organ and a handsome new marble altar, the basement being reconsecrated on Sunday, December 10, 1883. As the parish grew and prospered a new and larger church was imperative, hence the old site was not considered desirable, and the present one on Gorham street was decided upon. Arrangements were made to sell part of the land upon which the church stood to the United States Government as a site for a new post office building. But there was strife among the sections of the city as to which should secure the new Federal building, the Massachusetts Corporation finally offering a free site in the section they favored. There was quick thinking done to meet this, but St. Peter's countered with a duplicate offer, and the present site of the Federal building, the old St. Peter's site, was presented to the Government. This was accomplished by the formation of the Lowell Land Company, who bonded both church and rectory, the plan being to keep the rectory lot for an investment, open a subscription to pay for the church lot so that it might be presented to the Government, those in the movement expecting to be reimbursed by the increase of land values in the section surrounding the new Federal building. When all was settled, it was necessary that the church be at once torn down, the work of destruction beginning May 20, 1890, forty-seven years having elapsed since its dedication in 1842. The site for a new church was secured on Gorham street, just opposite the court house, the lot being large enough for both church and rectory. It was decided, however, to erect a temporary wooden church nearby, that building, seating 1,500 people, being finished and first used for service, Sunday, April 27, 1890. The plans for the new church were finished, and the rectory, begun a year earlier, was completed in 1891, and the foundation of the church finished in 1892. The formal cornerstone laying was on Sunday, September 11, 1892, in the afternoon, Archbishop Williams laying the stone, Dr. Garrigan, of the Catholic University, Washington, D. C., preaching the sermon. The church, one of the most beautiful in the archdiocese of Boston, was finished in 1900. The building is of granite, designed by P. C. Keely, of Brooklyn, of Campanello Gothic order of architecture, its greatest length, one hundred and ninety-six feet, its greatest width, ninety-one feet. The Nave is eighty-five feet wide, height from floor to ceiling, sixty-seven feet. One of the towers fronting Gorham street is one hundred and ninety-six feet in height, the other, one hundred and seventy-six feet, with base diameter of twenty-six feet. There are five altars in the church and five in the lower chapel.

Father Ronan's labors were ended by his death in July, 1909, and on August 18, 1909, Rev. Daniel J. Keleher, Ph. D., was appointed his successor. With his coming a new order began for St. Peter's. The
church, like the professions of law and medicine, has her specialists, and among her sons are great preachers, great pastors, great church builders, and great educators. Father Ronan was a great church builder, and that he did his work well, magnificent, beautiful St. Peter's testifies. With the church completed came the era of another specialist, the educator, in the person of Rev. Daniel J. Keleher. He was a man of learning, a college professor, an experienced pastor, and wholly consecrated to the work to which he had devoted his life. He came to the parish in the heat of the summer, and in addition to the ordinary burdens of a large parish, found himself confronted with three grave problems, each calling for quick solution. These were: To provide a school for the children of his parish; to provide a distinct parish for the members of St. Peter's Church living in the Highlands, it being a hardship for women and children to take the long walk necessary to reach their place of worship; to relocate St. Peter's Orphanage, and in freer, more healthy quarters, and amid better surroundings, carry forward the purposes of the institution. How well Dr. Keleher solved his problems, the admirably-located and modernly-built school where six hundred children in six grades are daily taught by the Sisters of Charity, of Halifax, answers the first; St. Margaret's in the Highlands is the answer to the second; and the healthful surroundings, amid which St. Peter's Orphanage under the direction of the Sisters of Charity, who care for the needy children in the splendid Stevens street home, answers the third.

In selecting a site for St. Peter's Parochial School, he chose the lot upon which stood the temporary church used during the building of St. Peter's, a lot bounded on three sides by Gorham, Union and Linden streets, and on the fourth by St. John's Episcopal Church. Plans were drawn for a modern building, three stories and basement, and on May 1, 1912, ground was broken, the same year the cornerstone was laid, and in September, 1913, the beautiful light brick building, modernly built, lighted, warmed, ventilated and equipped, with every sanitary precaution taken to insure health and comfort, was opened. The Sisters of Charity of Halifax have charge of the school. In appearance the building speaks volumes of praise for those responsible, and in utility it possesses the best in modern school room designing and furnishing. The lower grades, one and two, were first admitted, another grade was entered, and another room opened each year, until now six grades are receiving instruction in as many rooms on the first and second floors. Soon the entire building will be occupied, and about nine hundred pupils in daily attendance.

The question of relief for that part of St. Peter's congregation living in the Highlands was at once taken up by Dr. Keleher with Archbishop, now Cardinal, O'Connell, and the setting off of a new
parish strongly advocated as an act of justice to those members. The bishop approved, the lines of the parish were defined by him, and Dr. Keleher was authorized to select a location. He chose the property on Stevens street upon which the church stands, the home of the then owner now being the church rectory. The purchase price, $7,000, was paid in full by St. Peter's. In 1910 the parish of St. Margaret's was erected, and a pastor appointed.

The removal of St. Peter's Orphanage from contracted quarters and undesirable surroundings was a subject that directly challenged Dr. Keleher's interest, and aroused his determination to improve conditions. The building, then situated on Appleton street, had been transformed from an old dwelling in a location which had become most undesirable. The Orphanage, founded in the fall of 1865, was opened by Sisters of Charity on November 23, of that year. Later the institution was placed in charge of the Nazareth Sisterhood, and came under the care of the pastor of St. Peter's.

Father Ronan inaugurated a greatly improved condition, and from the receipts of a great fair held in Lowell paid the debts which had accumulated, and placed the Orphanage upon a sound basis. During the years of his pastorate which followed, he created a fund from bequests and donations, which at his death amounted to $20,000, which was used in relocating the Orphanage and building. On December 18, 1910, land was bought at No. 530 Stevens street, the old property on Appleton street was sold, the purchase price added to Father Ronan's fund, and both used to defray in part the cost of the new buildings erected. After the sale of the old building, possession being at once demanded, quarters were found in the newly-erected building owned by the Shaw Stocking Company, which was used until the completion of the new home. The business administration inaugurated by Father Ronan has since prevailed, the children of the Orphanage, about one hundred and thirty, are cared for under the best conditions, and Sisters of Charity are in charge, under the supervising care of the pastor of St. Margaret's and general direction of the pastors of the Catholic parishes of the city.

No vital interest of St. Peter's has been neglected in bringing about the solution of these problems, on the contrary, the parish, under Dr. Keleher, has prospered materially and spiritually, and in the many ways not visible to the unthinking but to those who can discern are the truest measure of a pastor's success. He is a profound and learned theologian, an eloquent preacher, possessing a fine voice and commanding presence, a cultured Christian gentleman with a pleasing personality which wins the love and respect of all who come within the circle of his influence. He is a strong advocate for any cause he may espouse, and numbers his friends among all classes.
is a member of the Lowell Board of Trade, and interested in all movements tending to the betterment of the city and the cause of the common good. It is in keeping with this spirit that he so warmly advocates the cause of temperance, his long continued labor as chaplain of the Mathew Society resulting in great good. He has also interested himself in the Society of San Antonio, an Italian social and beneficial society, and in many ways his influence has been exerted for the good of his fellow-men outside of his priestly duties. Many substantial improvements to the church property have been made during Dr. Keleher's pastorate, amongst others, the purchase in May, 1910, of the residence immediately south of the rectory and the removal of the buildings, and the addition of the site to the grounds surrounding church and rectory. In 1916 the building north of the church was removed and the site added to the church grounds. In 1915 a beautiful estate, at the corner of Highland and Thorndike streets, was purchased, and a convent opened. In 1916 the adjoining property was purchased, and after extensive alterations and improvements, was joined to the former, and now both are occupied by the Sisters who teach in the school.

There is nothing in the history of St. Peter's parish of which the people are more proud than that it is the home of Cardinal O'Connell, for here he was born, and here he spent his childhood and youth, and even in those early days gave promise of his great career.

The many activities of Rev. Theodore Edson at St. Anne's and of his devoted parishioners kept that church in the forefront of the city's life.

At the Unitarian church, Rev. Henry Adolphus Miles continued his enlightened and scholarly ministry during a period of sixteen years down to May 30, 1853, when he resigned to become secretary of the American Unitarian Association. He was succeeded by the Rev. Theodore Tebbets, whose pastorate, interrupted by ill health, lasted only ten days and who was followed by Rev. Frederick Hinckley, whose ministry continued until October 3, 1864.

The first cemetery to be opened after the incorporation of the town of Lowell was the Old Lowell Burying Ground on Gorham street, just opposite the former fair grounds. The first grave in this was dug August 15, 1835. It is still kept up, though of late years there have been but few interments.

The Lowell Cemetery, occupying some eighty-four acres of land near the Concord river to the south of Fort Hill, was laid out by a corporation chartered March 8, 1841. The original officers were: President, Oliver M. Whipple; treasurer, James C. Carney; clerk, Charles Hovey; trustees, John Aiken, James Cook, Jonathan Tyler, Samuel Lawrence, John W. Graves, Seth Ames, John C. Dalton, Alex