

NEW INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH.

Splendid Building of the First Presbyterian Society

TO BE THROWN OPEN TO-MORROW

A Church for the People, With Many Novel and Attractive Features, Erected on the Site of the Old City Park Chapel—Almost Ready for Occupancy. Opportunities for Physical, Intellectual and Moral Culture.

To-morrow afternoon at 3 o'clock there will be thrown open for public inspection the new branch of the First Presbyterian church, in Concord street, near Gold, or what is, perhaps, better known as the Institutional church. At 8 o'clock in the evening of the same day, a public meeting will be held in the church, at which time the chairman of the building committee, James R. Taylor,

and educational work could be carried on. The first thought was to secure another site convenient to the old chapel, but this involved the purchase of additional land in the vicinity and as soon as the owners of the same heard that there was likely to be a demand for lots, up went the price and the idea was abandoned. It was finally decided to tear down the old City Park chapel, the corner stone of which was laid in 1865, thirty years previous, and to utilize the entire ground space. It was also decided to change the name from the City Park chapel to that of the Branch of the First Presbyterian church. The present building occupies an area of 64 by 138 feet and is three stories in height in front. The church proper is situated in the rear of the lot. The structure is a thorough up to date church building in every respect. It is fitted up with all the modern appliances and is a model of what, in the opinion of those interested in the movement, think that an institutional church of the nineteenth century should be. The basement includes a gymnasium, lockers, dressing and reading rooms, a room provided with games for the boys (under 16 years of age), belonging to the boys' club and the steam heating apparatus. On the first floor from the street on the left side of the building are the rooms of the men's club. On the right hand side of the structure is the lecture room, a room which will be used for small gatherings. There is a tower to the building and the tower room which communicates with the lecture room provides an office for the pastor's use. The library, which is a small room, is also situated on the same floor. The pastor of the church, the Rev. Gaylord S.

that streams in from the clear story windows gives a peculiarly mellow effect that warms and tones the white of the walls. Reference has already been made to the gymnasium, which, in connection with other provision for physical education, will be a feature of the new church. A friend has already generously given sufficient money with which to place a pair of bowling alleys in the gymnasium room, and the Advance club, a club for men, has assumed the expense of the entire equipment of the gymnasium, which will be thoroughly up to date. The club aims to provide rational and social entertainment for men and opportunities for physical, intellectual and moral culture. The membership dues are placed so low that they are not prohibitive for men of moderate means, and it is hoped to provide an attractive center of the kind for men. The Advance club rooms are situated on the first floor. The club has made its mark in this city from the interest which it has taken in matters that relate to the welfare of the citizens of Brooklyn. Its series of municipal conferences, recently brought to a close, attracted wide attention. The last address of the series was on "The New Civic Spirit," and was delivered in Plymouth church by the Rev. Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst. The discussion of municipal subjects was the outgrowth of a suggestion made by a member of the club at one of its meetings.

On the second floor of the building is situated the kindergarten room, a large, sunny room, 35 feet square, which is thoroughly equipped for a double kindergarten. This branch of the work is equipped and sustained by two members of the church and is sure to be one of its most valuable features.

The aim is to make it a model for other churches and institutions to copy after. The room alluded to will be set apart and known as a children's room. The infant class of 200 members will meet there on Sundays at 2:30 P. M. and the sewing school on Saturdays. The Acorn club for girls and young women has three rooms opening from the kindergarten room. The rooms will be tastefully and completely furnished from the proceeds of a fair which the club held last fall. The club is one of the most prosperous and efficient organizations of the church. In addition to its social life and receptions the club provides classes in millinery, music, sewing, stenography, typewriting and other courses. The kitchen will be thoroughly equipped for a class in cooking, which, it is expected, will be established before long. The club is self-supporting and has been from the first. It has a membership of between two hundred and fifty and three hundred persons. The gallery of the church, which is in the shape of a horseshoe, opens from the hall of the second floor. The Bible classes of the Sunday school will hold their sessions in the gallery. On the third floor is a lavatory, with bathroom, for the girls' club and janitor's room. At the front of the building are six large rooms, three of which will be used for classes carried on by the different clubs. Reading circles for men's classes in American history and civil government, will probably be organized. The remaining three rooms will be furnished for resident workers thus including in the church plan the settlement idea, which is now taking such an earnest hold on the minds of the people. There will probably be two men theological students resident, who will devote their time to various branches of the work and living in the neighborhood, will be better able to appreciate the needs of this growing church community. The project of the new building has met already with enthusiastic support, both from members of the branch and from members of the First Presbyterian church in Henry street, the mother church, and a number of gifts have been made by individuals for furnishing the rooms and providing facilities for the better carrying on of the work. Gifts have also been received from organizations that will share the benefits of the building. The building cost, exclusive of furnishing, between \$40,000 and \$50,000, and it is the work of Brooklyn men. The architects are the Parfit Bros., the builder John M. Thatcher, and the carpenter, E. S. Boyd. The Rev. Gaylord S. White, the pastor, is a young clergyman, whose abilities are admirably adapted to the new ecclesiastical enterprise and who

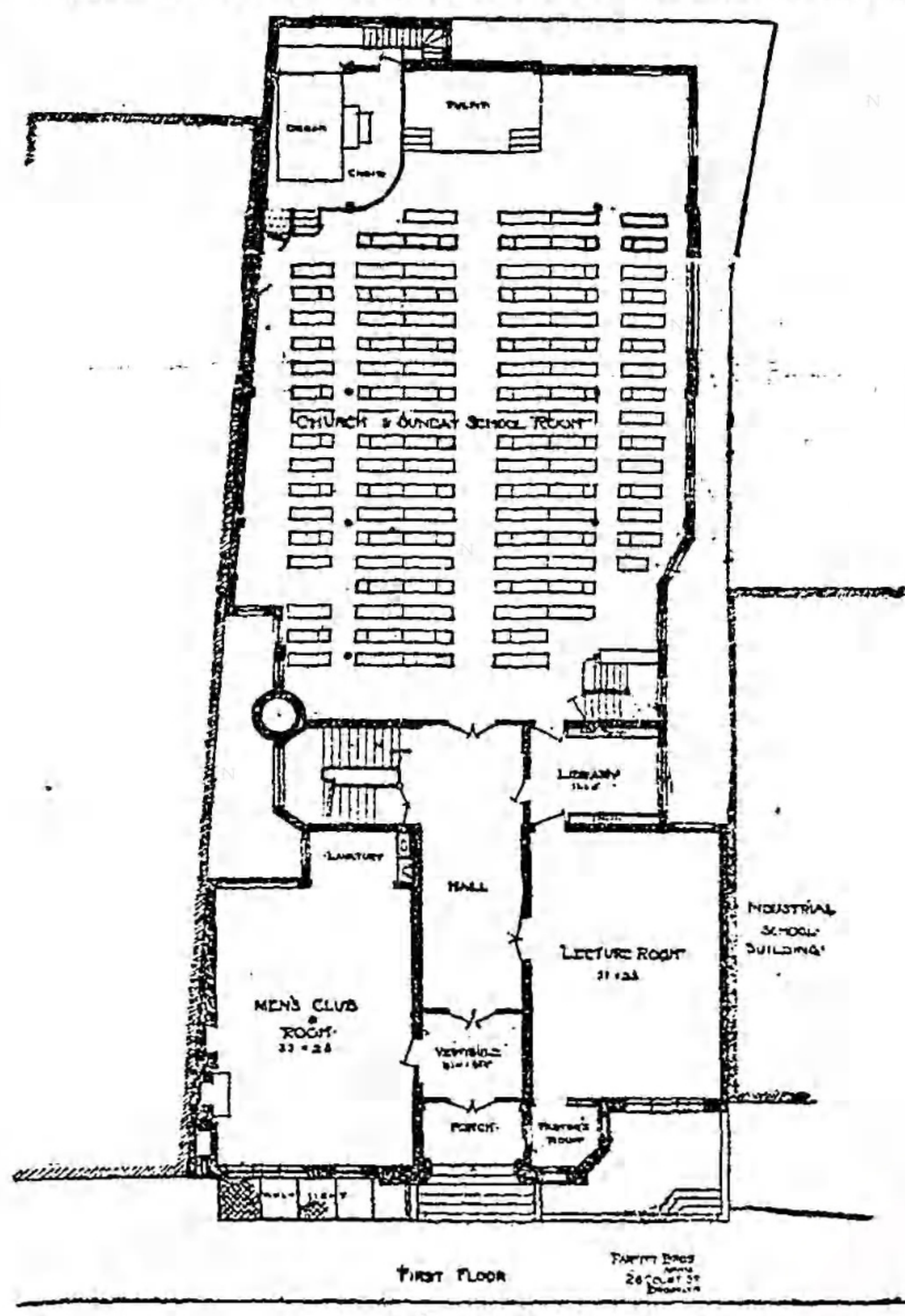


CITY PARK CHAPEL.

will formally turn over the building to the committee in charge of the work. There will be addresses by Robert C. Ogden of Philadelphia, a former superintendent of the City Park Sunday school, who is closely identified with the Open and Institutional Church league, and the Rev. Dr. Amory H. Bradford of Montclair, N. J. On the Friday following, from 3 to 5 P. M., there will be an exhibition of the kindergarten, to which all friends interested in the work, are cordially invited. On Friday evening there will be a general reception and house warming by the various clubs and organizations connected with the church. On Saturday the building will be open for inspection and on Sunday there will be special services, with the exception of in the morning, when the service will be omitted. At 3 P. M., there will be an inaugural service of the Sunday school, with addresses by former superintendents, the service at the First church, in Henry street, being omitted. In the evening at 8 o'clock, services of dedication will take place. The Rev. Dr. John Hall of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian church, New York, preaching the sermon. The sacrament of the Lord's supper will be observed at the close of the service. The opening exercises promise to be of great public interest and an invitation is extended not only to those engaged in church work in general, but those who believe in Christian progress and development.

The opening of the new church marks a new epoch in church activities in this city. There is no existing ecclesiastical institution carried on on the same lines. In this feature the work is unique and its success will be watched and noted in every part of the country. It is not the beginning, in any sense, of a charitable movement, but what is regarded as a self-respecting church, with a distinct purpose in view, viz. The physical, intellectual and moral education of its members. In short it is to be a people's church, ministering to a large population of citizens of moderate means who desire to have and sustain a church home. The exterior of the new structure is an adoption of the domestic English Gothic style in the school of modern English church buildings and the material used is special brick with Indiana lime stone trimmings. There have been many structures of the kind erected recently in Great Britain, where the church house has become a notable institution, an immense building of the same character having been dedicated not long ago at the rear of Westminster Abbey, London. The idea of the present structure in Concord street dates from a sermon preached two years ago this month by the pastor of the First Presbyterian church in Henry street, the Rev. Dr. Charles Cutburt Hall, when he proposed to his congregation to build a parish house for the branch. The suggestion was quickly taken up by the congregation and

White, and those associated with him, hope to emphasize the library feature. The church has already a nucleus for a free circulating library, and when the institution is well under way every effort will be made to provide a center for such work. The library, although not large, is a well selected one.



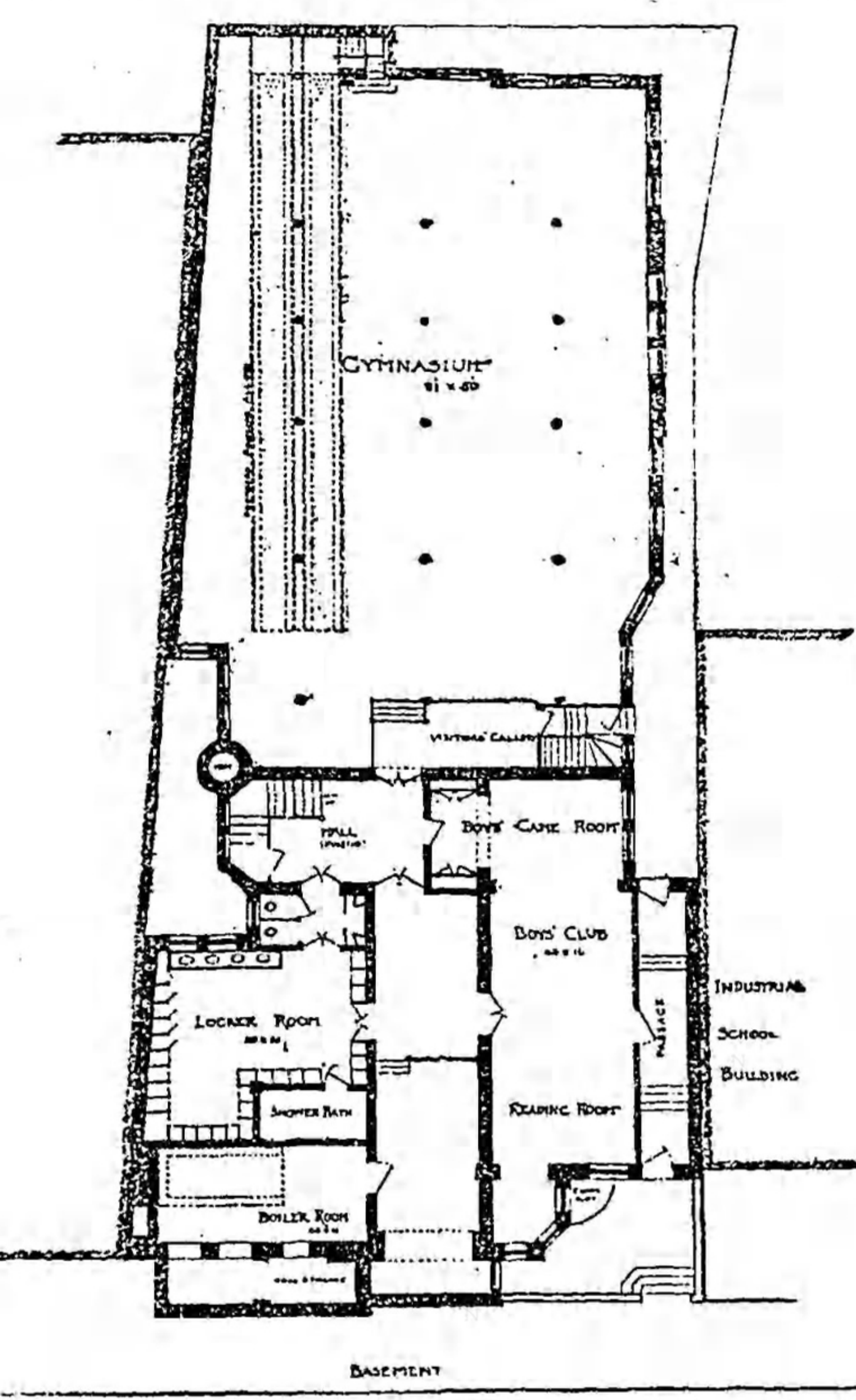
The church or audience room on the same floor is 50 by 70 feet, and with the gallery will seat over 700 persons. It is ecclesiastical and worshipful in appearance, and is regarded by those familiar with church architecture as a beautiful room in every respect. There will be pews on the main floor specially assigned

has a deep sympathy for the work. In speaking of it to a reporter of the Eagle he said: "We aim to have an open church, an everyday church, on institutional lines; in other words, a people's church working on the principle of self support. We want to provide a church that will minister to the moral, intellectual and spiritual sides of the earnest seeker after truth, which will have something to attract his attention every day in the week. Of course, we don't mean that it will be all amusement or intellectual education, but we do hope by this broad ministrations to build men up in all that makes for righteousness." Mr. White, in speaking of the theological students, who it is expected will, after a time, make their home in the new building, said he hoped that women might become interested in the work to the extent that by making their temporary residence in the neighborhood they could come into closer touch with those they desired to serve.

The executive committee chosen by the First Presbyterian church, to take charge of the work in raising the funds for the City Park branch consisted of James R. Taylor, Willis L. Ogden, George H. Southard, Bryan H. Smith, Henry K. Sheldon, Edwin Packard, Frank H. Lovell, Edward B. Bartlett and George F. Gregory. Messrs. Bartlett and Gregory have since died. Charles A. Murphey has been chairman of the committee in charge of the building. The staff of the branch church is as follows: Pastor, the Rev. Gaylord S. White; pastor's assistants, Mrs. D. M. Miller, Mr. A. J. Marsh; choir, Frederick Resseque, organist and leader; Misses M. Brown, C. Tongue, R. Schade, M. Rosa, M. Young, A. Bolk, A. B. White, S. Lupton J. Wachter, C. Goodwin, L. Heaney and Mrs. M. W. Dunsmuir, and Messrs. L. Paff, H. S. Bryant, R. Hoerl, M. W. Dunsmuir, J. Pollock, J. R. Stryker, O. Gerlach.

The City Park branch was built in Concord street, in 1866, the Rev. Dr. Charles Wood was placed in charge, February 23, 1868, and retired after a long and faithful service of twenty years, on February 12, 1888. The Rev. Henry G. Golden succeeded Dr. Wood on February 7, 1889, and retired at his own request on March 1, 1893. The Rev. Gaylord Starin White, the present minister in charge, entered upon his clerical labors on September 3, 1893.

The committee of arrangements in charge of the public exercises in connection with the opening of the church edifice and parish house is as follows: Willis L. Ogden, James H. Callender, Charles W. McLavy, Fraser M. Moffat, Charles A. Murphy and J. William Wells.



a call was issued for an informal meeting of men to consider the matter. The result of this was that a movement was set on foot to raise a sum to be known as the First Presbyterian church improvement fund. This fund was intended for several purposes, among others the erection of a parish house near the old chapel, where the social

so that they can be readily adapted to the purposes of the Sunday school without detracting from their churchly appearance. The pulpit is of oak, and the entire furniture belonging thereto, is the gift of the Acorn club, one of the clubs for girls. The windows of the new edifice attract attention, being simple, but exceedingly tasteful in design. The light

"What's your name?" asked St. Peter, sternly. "Russell Sage." St. Peter waved his keys joyfully and embraced the shade with fervor. "So glad to meet you," he said. "We are elective affinities, because we never let people into a good thing if we can help it. You'll find the nearest road down on your left."—Town Topics.