CLAS OF 1813.

SAMUEL KISSAM.

On Thursday the 5th inst the Rev. Samuel Kissam was ordained to the work of the gospel ministry, and installed pastor over the united reformed Dutch congregations of Bethlehem and Coeymans. On this interesting occasion, the church was crowded. The introductory prayer by Rev. Dr. Bradford—The Sermon by Rev. Mr. DeWitt from 2 Tim ii.5, "Make full proof of the ministry." The consecrating prayer and charge to the pastor by Rev. Mr. Bronk.—Address to the people by Rev. Mr. Livingston.—The exercises throughout were solemn and appropriate. Mr. DeWitt, in showing the responsibility of the ministerial calling, commanded the attention of every person present. His language was energetic—his thoughts sublime.

The Cabinet.
Schenectady
Feb. 18, 1818.
The Rev. Mr. Kissam's pastorate of twenty-four years, from 1817 to 1841, was the longest one in the history of the church (First Reformed Church, Bethlehem, N. Y.). From 1817 to 1828 he ministered also to the Reformed Church at "Coeyman's Square," and from 1828 to 1841 to the Reformed Church at Jerusalem. He resigned the pastorate at "Coeyman's Square" in 1828.

The Rev. Simon V. E. Westfall presided at a meeting on October 4, 1841, of the United Consistories of Bethlehem and Jerusalem, when Mr. Kissam presented his resignation. Mr. Kissam again, in 1843, became pastor of the church at Coeymans, where he remained until 1845, when he retired from the active ministry.

Mr. Kissam was born in the City of New York on January 13, 1796. Early in life he joined the Reformed Dutch Church in Garden Street, now Exchange Place. For some time he studied theology under Dr. John M. Mason, completing his theological course at New Brunswick, N. J., in 1817. He was graduated from Union College in 1813. When only 21 years of age he took charge of this field, though a large one for a young, inexperienced man. In a poem written at the beginning of his pastorate he made this beautiful prayer:

"Make me the instrument to save
But one immortal soul,
And I rich recompense shall have
For all my tears and toil."

"Rich recompense" was his, for during his pastorate here, not including "Coeyman's Square" and Jerusalem, he received into fellowship 314 persons, 276 on confession and 38 by certificate; performed 329 marriages ceremonies, and baptized 193 children and adults. He resided at Cedar Hill, in the house now occupied by Mrs. John Kimmey. In the reports to Classis we find that there were about 1,500 souls in the congregations he served. He is held in affectionate remembrance by some of his former parishioners who are still living and who "can trace their religious impressions and hopes to his words of warning and counsel." He is described as a man of fine physique, with dark hair and eyes. He was strong and forceful in his pulpit utterances, often epitomizing the truth presented in a sermon by the recitation of an original poem at its close. A volume, entitled "Memorials," composed by him, containing 174 poems, was published in 1859. In this volume are many poems addressed to prominent persons of his acquaintance, and some to esteemed ones in this congregation and in that of Coeymans.
A poem, entitled "A Pastor's Farewell," was addressed to the good people of Bethlehem. It is here given in full:

Thou sacred desk, farewell,
Where, for half my present life and more
It was my pleasing effort to implore
A blessing on my flock, and preach the Word,
Which can and will salvation free afford
Unto the soul--farewell.
Ye many souls, farewell,
Who, humbly awed by majesty divine,
And woed by love, did in your faith recline
On Jesus' breast, and to the world proclaim
(While 'neath my charge) the glories of his name,
In heart and life,--farewell.
Ye sinners, too, farewell,
To whom my labors arduous, all were vain;
Who only sought distinction here to gain,
'Mid mortals frail, by fleeting wealth and show,
With prayer and bleeding heart, from you I go--
Ye loved ones all--farewell.
Ye married ones, farewell,
Who, in the zeal and fulness of the heart,
Vowed from each other never here to part,
Revert again--again unto the scene,
And faithful prove--farewell.
Scenes of my youth, farewell--
Scenes of my riper and maturer years--
Scenes of delight, as well as sighs and tears--
Ye scenes, farewell, where often I have trod,
In converse with my Saviour and my God,
Ye pastoral scenes, farewell."

The last years of his life were passed in the City of Brooklyn, where, on Friday, November 6, 1868, he passed away. The following is from a memorial written at that time: "In a good old age he has been called to his reward, willing and ready to depart, to be with Christ, which is far better. He gave his blessing to children and to children's children, with the prayer that they might meet in 'a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.'"

Publications: Memorials, 12mo, pp. 448. N.Y., 1859.
CLASS OF 1813

SAMUEL KISSAM

b. in N. Y. C. in 1796; U.C. 1813, studied under Mason, and at N.B.S. 17, 1. Cl. N.B.; Bethlehem and Coeymans, 18-28, Bethlehem and Jerusalem, 28-41, Coeymans, 43-5, d. 1868.

PUBLICATIONS: Memorials. 12 mo, pp. 448. N. Y., 1859.

Manual of the Reformed Church in America p. 553
Corwin
1626-1902