



ZION TABERNACLE, 251 EAST SIXTY-SECOND STREET, NEAR JACKSON PARK, CHICAGO.

(See page 155)

### ZION TABERNACLE

(See Illustration on page 1.)

**Z**ION means strength, or a fortress. Truly God has manifested His strength in a very remarkable way in this little frame Tabernacle, and has made it a spiritual fortress. Since the beginning of this year more than twenty thousand sick persons have been prayed with, accompanied by the laying on of hands, in the name of the Lord Jesus, within its walls. Of these, a vast number have been healed. Many thousands have been led to sincere repentance for sin, and, through faith, have found salvation and peace. Christians witness that it has also been to them a place of blessing, where they have been

led in the King's Highway of Holiness. Many a weary pilgrim in "the valley of weeping" has found in it the "well" of consolation and refreshing. Joyful songs of loudest praise have rung forth from its courts and, by the agency of the secular daily press, Zion Tabernacle and God's wonderful work therein have been made known in all parts of this country and in many other lands.

We have thought that a picture of this humble headquarters of our work in Chicago might be appreciated by the tens of thousands who have visited it, and by the still larger number of our distant friends, in all parts of the world, who have never seen it.

It was built by the Chicago Branch of the International Divine Healing Association, for a World's

Fair Mission, and was opened on the first Lord's Day after the opening of the Fair, May 7th, 1893. But it attracted very little attention at that time, although vast multitudes of pleasure seekers passed its doors. Still it was open, for the greater part of the time, every day save Saturday; and gradually, toward the end of the Fair, many began to attend the meetings. A severe winter, and wide spread depression and destitution in the city and country followed the shameful scenes of wasteful extravagance, unbounded licentiousness, and inordinate vanity of that Vanity Fair. Our Tabernacle stood silent guard at the gates of the deserted "White City," and all through the winter the services were patiently continued, in the once thronged, but then deserted, region around the Fair Grounds. It was sometimes weary work; but we waited for the morning, and it came. We knew the Tabernacle had not done its work. Yes, it came, a steadily rising tide of blessing, until long ere the snow and ice had disappeared, thousands and tens of thousands, not only from Chicago, but from distant cities and states were thronging it, and all the surrounding buildings, almost to suffocation, Multitudes gathered far beyond its capacity and were glad to get a place outside a window, or within hearing distance, whilst hundreds stood within the tabernacle crowded the platform, the prayer-rooms, etc. Wave after wave of Divine power swept over these throngs, and God was glorified in thousands of conversions and healings through Faith in Jesus Christ. Great downtown and suburban meetings were held to ease the pressure upon the Tabernacle.

Meetings in the center of the city were held for many weeks every Lord's day afternoon in the Central Music Hall and continued, until midsummer, in Battery D. The first downtown meetings was



Central Music Hall

thus described by the *Daily Inter Ocean* in its issue of Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup>: "Central Music Hall was packed from floor to ceiling yesterday afternoon with persons drawn either by necessity, sympathy or curiosity to hear

the Rev. John Alexander Dowie and the testimonies of those who had been cured of their diseases through his ministry. If the hall had been twice its size it could have been filled easily by the crowds that were turned away. For three hours, from 2:30 to 5:30, those who were fortunate enough to obtain admission were content to sit and drink in the proceedings, and the few empty seats left by those who went out during the service were speedily filled by others from the outside." It was estimated that there were about 4,000 persons in the Hall at that service.

The meetings in the suburbs of South Chicago and Englewood were also attended by great crowds of persons, especially in the First Baptist Church, South Chicago, and in the Covenant Baptist Church, Englewood, into which buildings hundreds were unable to obtain admission week after week. The meetings still continue to be very largely attended, there being seldom a vacant seat in the Tabernacle. On last Lord's day, August 26<sup>th</sup>, after crowding every inch of standing and sitting room, many were content to stand at the window, or to remain in their carriages outside on the street, or in the prayer room behind the tabernacle, within hearing distance.

The spectacle which the Tabernacle presents is always intensely interesting from a philanthropic point of view. Thursday is denominated Children's Day and Dr. Dowie resolutely refuses to see any grown up people, excepting in cases of extreme emergency on that day. Then the children of all ages have complete possession of the Tabernacle and all its surroundings. Arriving early in the morning they take their seats, or sit upon the floor or the platform piling up and piling upon mother's knees, and often two in a chair, until the place is completely crowded. In addition to these, several rooms off the prayer-room are set apart for insane and feeble-minded children. The exercises are of the most simple and entertaining character, Dr. Dowie aiming to adapt himself to the comprehension of the youngest. Shortly after the opening of the service he frequently calls upon many whose little legs have been lengthened, deaf and dumb who can now speak and hear some who have never walked from their birth who can now walk and leap and run, and all sorts of children to testify to their healing. Their mothers stand up with them and tell the simple story. On that day there are children everywhere and oftentimes Dr. Dowie lays hands upon over five

hundred children, seeing them in the prayer-room in well-ordered and quite companies of eighty to one hundred. As many as twenty different nationalities are sometimes present on Children's Day.

We shall give an early issue a sketch of the Children's day.

The earnestness of the throngs who gather is seen in the fact that oftentimes they will take their places in the Tabernacle hours before the beginning of the service, and will wait even until nearly midnight in the hope of being seen. Oftentimes the platform in the Tabernacle during a service will be surround by many persons lying upon cots and invalid chairs, some of whom have been brought in that condition for many hundreds of miles.

On the last page of this issue some of these cots are seen in the picture entitled "Captured From the Enemy," which is a photograph of the back of the Tabernacle platform. One great feature of the Tabernacle and other services is the large number of persons, who at the close of Dr. Dowie's addresses will rise when he utters what he calls "Gods Call to Repentance." As many as two thousand persons have risen at one time in the downtown meetings and have openly professed their repentance toward God and their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, following Dr. Dowie audibly in an impressive penitential prayer. The spiritual always precedes the physical work in the Tabernacle. Repentance for sin, and faith for salvation always preceded the ministry of healing

Our hearts are filled with praise as we think of what God has wrought in Zion Tabernacle, and, although it may be that He will give us a larger building and a more permanent structure, we shall ever remember with unceasing joy, the things that "God hath wrought" within these sacred walls, where we have so often read the words (Psalm 20:1,2)

"The Lord answer thee in the day of trouble  
The name of the God of Jacob set thee up on high.  
Send thee help from the sanctuary,  
And strengthen thee out of Zion.

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