

Doctor William H. Bates—An Appreciation

by Dr. Daniel A. Poling

I never knew Doctor Bates when physically he was a well man. But even in the comparatively short time of our acquaintance and friendship I never knew him when he was not a true gentleman and a veritable genius in thinking thoughts and doing deeds for others. In his profession he was a distinguished pioneer; his discoveries should give him a place among the benefactors of the race. All about me and in my own home are those to whom he has ministered. To the ends of the earth are men, women, and little children who think of him with gratitude because of pain relieved and sight restored. His welcome to the Father's House will be in the words of the immortal paean—"Well done, good and faithful servant." By every test that I know, since I have known him, Doctor Bates was a Christian. One of his favorite texts was, "As a man thinketh in his heart so is he." The good Doctor had many and long thoughts of others and always his longest, tenderest thoughts were for Mrs. Emily A. Bates who has been his comrade in a great service.

With those who have the Christian's hope, weeping endures but for the night. We sorrow but not as those who are without the promise of glad reunion. Today we lift our eyes to the hills from whence cometh our strength—the hills of God's country where dreams come true, where unfinished tasks are completed and where life with love, enters fulfillment.

Signed Daniel A. Poling



William H. Bates, M. D., Pioneer Ophthalmologist.

From the 9th Print Edition of 'Perfect Sight Without Glasses' re-published by Emily A. Bates in 1940. Famous Dr., Rev. Daniel A. Poling was Minister of the Marble Collegiate Church in New York City where Dr. Bates attended. He was editor of the 'Christian Herald', had a radio program in New York City. Famous church, reverends include Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, author of 'The Power of Positive Thinking', 'The Positive Power of Jesus Christ', 'Positive Imaging', 'Treasury of Courage and Confidence'.

Dr. Bates and Emily Lierman were married in the Marble Collegiate Church, 1928.

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The **cornerstone** of Marble Collegiate Church was laid in November 1851, and the church dedicated on October 11, 1854. Designed by architect Samuel A. Warner, the church is named for its construction out of solid blocks of marble, shipped down river from a quarry at Hastings-on-Hudson. As the city limit was then at 23rd Street, and Fifth Avenue a dirt road, the surrounding cast iron fence was erected to keep cattle out of the churchyard.

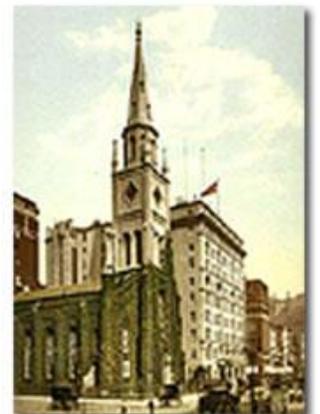
The **bell** in the tower has tolled at the death of every president since Martin Van Buren in 1862. The **spire** is 215 feet from the ground and is topped by the original Dutch-style weather vane, six feet six inches high, a reminder of the cock that crowed after Peter denied knowing Christ. The present **clock** with its four dials was installed in the belfry in 1957. It replaced the original

Seth Thomas clock that had to be wound by hand every eight days.

Inside the iron fence stands a life-sized bronze statue of **Dr. Norman Vincent Peale** by the artist John M. Soderberg, a gift of the Peale family to the church in May 1998. Also within the fence is "The Flight Into Egypt," a bronze statue of Mary and Joseph with the Child Jesus and a gift in 1966 of sculptress **Anna Hyatt Huntington**.



circa 1854



circa 1901