

WIT AND HUMOR.

A full and select house greeted Eli Perkins last night in McDonald's hall, one which any man might be pleased to address. He spoke just two hours and no one was more surprised than his hearers, for they had enjoyed it so much they were unconscious of the passage of time, a pretty fine tribute to his success as a lecturer. Some were doubtless disappointed in that he did not tell as many funny stories as they had hoped. But the great majority of his audience were very highly gratified with both his matter and his manner. He came here with a serious, definite purpose, to discuss the nature, scope and uses of wit and humor, with side-lights thrown on sarcasm, satire, caricature, oratory, etc., and he was not turned aside from his purpose. His "funny stories" came in as illustrations of his several points. He made his points clear, just what wit is, how and wherein it differs from humor, what is its place in discourse and literature. In the same careful way he treated humor, satire, etc.

He showed not only that these traits exist in most people, more fully, of course in some, but some faint sparks in us all, and what sources of pleasure they should be, as well as what effective allies they may be made to a good cause, by a skilled writer or speaker, especially sarcasm and satire in dealing with such arguments as those for which Ingersoll is famous. Satire has a keen edge; it can cut deep and quick, but to be effective it must be used with good wisdom and rare skill.

We hope our good friends made some money out of it, for they have put all good people in the city under great obligations.

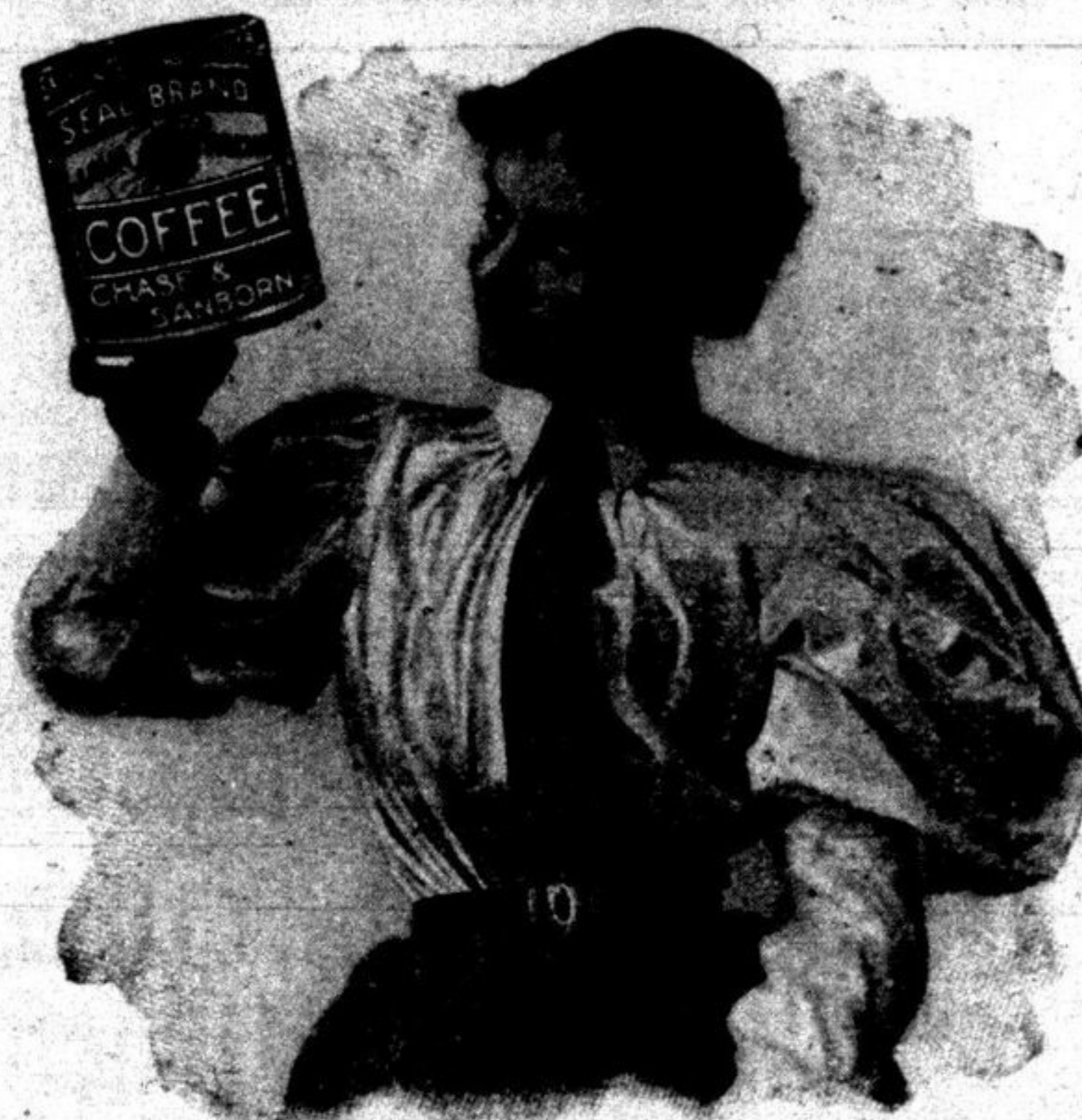
Last Sunday Richard Salter Storms, D. D., of the Church of the Pilgrims, Brooklyn, N. Y., celebrated the 51st year of his pastorate of that one church. At the rate of change we practice in these parts they would have had at least a dozen, perhaps a score of pastors since 1846. What a grand man, what a grand church and what an influence for good they all are. One man who heard Dr. Storms last Sunday was a freshman in Williams College in 1824 and went down to Pittsfield to see and shake hands with Lafayette.

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