



REV. J. WALTER COBB

When Rev. Cobb assumed the leadership of the struggling church, it had 75 members. When he left the church in 1910, membership had increased to 136.

Rev. Cobb loved the independent spirit of Central's communicants, and he enjoyed seeing it in action. Consequently, he got a chuckle out of the following incident. The Second Presbyterian Church, located at Second and State streets, contemplated building elsewhere if certain conditions could be brought about. As a feeler, a meeting of the Sessions of the two churches was arranged and a merger of the congregations was proposed. Central's Session dutifully called a congregation meeting and asked for its reaction to the proposal. It was typical! Instead of debating annexation, Central's leaders brought up the matter of their own growing pains. With characteristic promptness, Alex Herd moved—and Fred Partee seconded—this motion: "That it is the sense of this meeting that we take steps at once towards enlarging our own church edifice!"

From Central Rev. Cobb went to Nashville, Tennessee, as Presbyterial evangelist. He now lives in Cherryville, North Carolina.

While it might tax the imagination to liken Central to the Lost Tribe wandering in the Wilderness, the followers DID have a Moses who, in their extremity, snote the Rock from which gushed the needed \$1,500—and the deal was closed! The newly acquired property was at Twentich and Arch streets.

In due time the chapel was built, occupied, and elevated to the status of a church. Gradually the Spartan atmosphere thawed out under the spell of fairly comfortable pews, which replaced the torturous benches, and a huge rotund coal stove that glowed cheerfully on cold nights. This modest structure began with enterprise and prudence—and completed with sweat and prayer—is still in use and venerated as the parent church of the imposing edifice to which it is joined.

From the beginning, Central's membership had steadily increased. It was composed of substantial citizens of Little Rock who were devoted to family and home. They were mostly of pioneer stock, and a part of the social, business and civic activities of the town. Their new church was the portal to a way of life good for the community and a comfort to themselves. This invisible portal separated the spiritual from the mundane, but they measured their conduct by the Golden Rule, on Sundays and week days, in church and out.

Hospitable and friendly, they also were thrifty and economical. They knew the value of a dollar, and respected its power without bowing in worship to it. They worked for the Lord with their hands; but were lavish with their money after all other means were exhausted. Brought up themselves in a strictly religious environment, they reared their offspring in the ways of righteousness as they saw it. And heaven