## "Pinky" Thanks Plymouth For Freedom; Daughter Lost Ring Beecher Gave Her

Former Slave Girl, Greeted realize the South was not the place to bring up colored children at that Regrets She Did

By ALICE COGAN.

woman has publicly paid back her | "That is why I haven't returned in debt of freedom to Plymouth

Church. she returned yesterday in the per- in the Beecher home.

church. Hundreds, it is said, were and after the saie. turned away unable to get near the door.

Lines of Automobiles.

Lines of automobiles were formed for three blocks surrounding the "I can remember his being very church, even as carriages were kind to me," she said. "I remember parked in the days of Mr. Beecher, all the pretty white ladies who called according to Charles F. Halsey, sex- to see me at his house. It was his ton, who was present that day in sister who gave me the rubber February when "Pinky" was sold.

woman, in that crowded church last last week referred to the fact that M. Knight, Mr. Halsey, the sexton, bered that. and a Miss Grierson, who sat in the Lincoln pew with Miss Hunt and Miss Beecher.

The crowd was both old and young. Gray-haired men and women I had bad coughing spells." who have been attendinug Plymouth Church for years and years sat side by side with strange and new faces people in the congregation.

versary services. A letter from Dr. for a few years. Miss Eva, their said in reviewing Pinky's history. Hillis, who is at Bronxville, was read, only living child, is in the patent expressing his sorrow that illness office in Washington. prevented him from being present. | Mrs. Hunt was persuaded to come | Durkee explained that Beecher's Durkee, new pastor of Plymouth, in- of Plymouth Church at the "urgent | anti-slavery. He called Beecher treduced Mrs. Hunt, a stout little persuasion" of Dr. Durkee. She met "the prince of the pulpit opposed to woman arose from her chair and Dr. Durkee about a year ago, just man selling man for greed."

that covered the pulpit. The hymn was not in the regular attend. order of the program—but somehow it relieved the tenseness.

Eyes Dimmed With Tears. unwrinkled. There is a look of con- | years ago as Miss Rose Ward.

When the last note of the organ | Ward was after Beecher.

of her native South, she began to shame-faced and explaineed: read from a paper. It was her dec- "I gave that ring to my oldest dued, at first the people in the back | lost it. I feel very bad about it." aged and it was less difficult to morning and evening service. Miss there.

Wore Comb in Her Hair, the auction to this woman. She was Beecher were not in church. Miss the result of repeatedly being told wearing a round rubber comb in Beechr said: "Uncl Will was not well the story. her hair to keep her curls out of enough to attend." her eyes. Those combs were the rage in those days before the Civil

took it out.

for freedom. All the other inci- talk." dents, she says, have been repeated | Dr. Durkee preached on "The to her so much since that she feels Fundamental Unities" in which he they are other persons' memories, endorsed law enforcement and the not her own.

Wins by Simplicity.

By her very simplicity Mrs. Hunt quite won the big Plymouth Church "There is Turkey, formerly the sick crowd. There is nothing presuming about her. She looks and acts just what she is—a quiet little world will never have to bother with home-body who has never appeared such dreamy fantasies; Mexico with in public since she stopped school all the heritage of prepudices left teaching when she married her husband in 1879.

At the conclusion of the church | services Mrs. Hunt held an impromptu reception at Plymouth In- ist movement in China when he stitute. The crowds were out in the linked up the Chinese situation with street for an hour waiting to get in. | the conditions that brought about Dr. Durkee found it necessary to the Civil War in America. warn the people not to insist on | 'China last week abolished child'

Sit in Lincoln Pew.

shaking her hand.

Mrs. Hunt had also attended yesterday morning's services with her daughter, Miss Eva Hunt, the accompanied her from Washington. The mother and daughter sat in the Lincoln pew at the morning service. This was the pew President Lincoin occupied when he came to

Brooklyn to hear Beecher preach. After the morning service Mrs. Hunt posed for photographs with slave statue on Plymouth Church grounds. She later met reporters in Dr. Durkee's study for an interview.

Humble and Gentle. Modernists would say Mrs. Hunt has an interiority complex. She is so humble and gentle. The reason she has never returned to Brooklyn in all these years, she confessed to reporters, is because she is ashamed at not having been a greater success. I often wish I had not left Brookan when I was a little girl," she said. "You see, my grandmother did not like the North. She went back to Washington and brought me with her. My grandmother-God rest her soul-was a wonderful woman. But

she had no advantages and did not

by Thousands at Church, The fact that Mrs. Hunt attended Howard University and taught school for her own people for some years before her marriage does not compensate her for what she considers "Make More" of Her Life. her lack of doing something in the

Ashamed to Return.

"I feel I should have made something more of my life when I was A trembling, elderly mulatto given such a good start," she said. all these years. I was ashamed."

Just once in the 67 years has Mrs. Hunt visited Brooklyn. That was Sixty-seven years after Henry | about 40 years ago, she thinks, when Ward Beecher had auctioned the she called on Mr. and Mrs. Beecher. slave child "Pinky" from his pulpit that time with the bright lights as a glaring protest against slavery, across the water and the electric bell

son of Mrs. James Hunt, wife of a "I tried to pull the bell out," she retired negro lawyer of Washington, Smiled. "It was the first of its kind I had ever seen and I thought it was D. C. It was her first visit to the a pulling kind we had down home. church that bought her freedom in I I'm afraid I must have broken it."

While she is in Brooklyn Mrs. Humbly, did this stout mulatto | Hunt wants to take her daughter to woman stand before the vast assem- | see the Rev. Bishop Falkner, rector emeritus of Christ Church, who at blage that crowded historic old Ply- 93 remembers the slave sale in mouth Church last night. Three Beecher's church. Little Pinky lived thousand persons, it is estimated, at the Falkner home on Pacific st. filled every available corner of the during her stay in Brooklyn before

Remembers Mr. Falkner.

Mrs. Hunt inquired if Bay Ridge were very far away and told Dr. Durkee she would like to call on Mr. Falkner.

Three persons, two men and a Mr. Falkner, recalling the sale

"Indeed I do," she smiled. "I was not sick enough to go to bed, but Miss Falkner used to send me out in the back yard to get the air when

## Met Husband in University.

Mrs. Hunt met her husband in was a generous sprinkling of colored | Howard University when they were

When the Rev. Dr. J. Stanley to Brooklyn for the 80th anniversary first sermon had been dedicated to to its rafters in a spontaneous dem- accident -- so quietly and unobtru- evening service. onstration for the gentle old woman sively has Mrs. Hunt lived all Mrs. Hunt's speech in full, folon the platform. Some one started these years—and when planning this lows: to sing "Onward Christian Soldiers." celebration wrote and asked her to

Official Records.

Dr. Durkee is convinced that Mrs. Hunt is the original slave child be-Mrs. Hunt stood nervously by. She | cause of her memory of incidents.

Beecher is the daughter of the late Herbert Foote Beecher. Col. Wil- seemed not to have impressed me liam C. Beecher and Mrs. Beecher, very much, and I am sure that the A simple little incident recalls son and daughter-in-law of Mrs. picture which I now hold of them is

Reminded of Auction.

Mr. Beecher put his hand on the 'The church was crowded as it others. What great love, what great child's head during his auctioneer- is now," he said. "Every one seemed i compassion for their unfortunate ing sermon. He felt the comb and tense and full of emotion. The fellow men, redeeming their bodies, streets outside were lined with car- as Another had long before re-"My child, never wear anything riages. Now there are automobiles. | deemed their souls! And in this they in your hair that God did not put I remember most distinctly the col- followed that great example, inaslection baskets. They were piled much as they did not defy the law. That is the only vivid impression with jewelry that people had thrown | Such an attitude toward this insidi-Mrs. Hunt has of her public sale in after Mr. Beecher's stirring ous fee of the nation was the leaven

League of Nations. He pointed out that only four nations are not members of the League.

"What are they?" he asked. man of the East; Russia, playing over for 100 years, and America."

Indorses Chinese Nationalists. The pastor indorsed the National-

"Pinky" Posed by Slave Statue



The picture shows "Pinky," the slave girl, now Mrs. Rose Ward Hunt, night had been there 67 years ago at Pinky had whooping cough at the posed by the Beecher statue at Plymouth Church beside the figure that the original sale. They were Philip time. She was asked if she remem- represents her at the time she was "sold" at the church.

Service Expression of Love.

"I am glad of this opportunity to

slavery." he said. "I say God bless which led to the manumission of the Nationalists movement that ends | thousands, black and white. child slavery. We know what human slavery means. Look at this little girl grown old in the 67 years since her freedom was purchased from publicly acknowledge that I have

this pulpit." always had a feeing of deep love and Howard University when they were When Henry Ward Beecher sold gratitude toward this church, whose both students there. They were marther the slave child, he "assumed the congregation did so much for me. It had been expected that the Rev. ried in Annapolis, Md., where they posture of a Kentucky auctioneer These agents of the Almighty Newell Dwight Hillis, pastor emeritus were teaching school. He later be- and in a mean raucous voice called of Plymouth, would attend the anni- came a lawyer but has been retired for the highest bidder," Dr. Durkee

Prince of Pulpit.

At the morning service, Dr.

smiled over the bower of flowers before he left Howard University, The Gloria Trumpeters played at where he was president, to assume the morning service, Miss Florence Suddenly, there was a burst of ap-the pastorate of Plymouth Church. Mulholland, contralto, and Walter plause and the old church rocked He happened to run across her by Green, baritone, were soloists at the

Own Recollection Meager.

"It is with deep emotion that I greet you and congratulate you upon this, your 80th anniversary. I feel it a great privilege to be with you tosmall person inclined to be He is backed up in his conviction by day, to join you in your celebration stout, quietly dressed in black and the official records of Howard Uni- and especially to extel the memory white. Her skin is fair and almost | versity which she attended many of one whose name always seems to me to be the complement of tentment on her smooth face. For That was the name given to her by Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, the gray eyes were dimmed with tears. Henry Ward Beecher after the auc-Earlier in the day when she had tion. The Rose was after Rose Terposed for photographs and taken off her black straw hat, her hair was seen to be curly and well streaked with gray, plainly parted in the mid-die and drawn from her face.

Into Rose was after Rose Ter
ry, authoress, who had thrown her ring into the collection plate, and which Beecher had placed on Pinky's finger saying "With this ring I thee wed to freedom." The dept standing out in my childish dent standing out in my childish pealed away, Mrs. Hunt had regained Mrs. Hunt was asked if she still mind. My hair was combed back her composure. In the soft accents has the ring. She looked rather from my face and held in place with a long, curved rubber comb, such as children wore at that time. Evilaration of thanks to Plymouth daughter, whom I named Rose dently Mr. Beecher had not noticed this before I was put upon the platform, but when he did see it he of the church did not hear her. But Miss Beatrice Beecher, a grand- came quietly to me, removed the the room was tensely quiet, and as daughter of Henry Ward Beecher, comb and said, 'Never wear anything she went on she was more encour- was with Mrs. Hunt during the in your hair except what God put

Redeeming Their Bodies.

"As the years went by, however, I War, and the little mulatto child Mr. Halsey who remembers the came to a full realization of the felt very proud of hers because a original auction said last night's Christ-like work of Mr. Beecher and "pretty white lady" had given it service reminded him of it very his associates. Harriet Beecher Stowe, the Faulkner brothers and only be imagined, never known, as most probably for the last time. You my dear mother and brothers have canseeby this that a trip to New York never been heard of by any of our is a remarkable occurrence in my quiet family since that separation 67 years | career. I shall carry a vivid memory ago. These Christians did not stop of this occasion throughout the rest there, but saw to it that I was given of my life and shall always love a start on the road to good citizen- this church for what it has been in ship. I was sent to school through | the past and for what it is today. 1 their willing assistance. I have shall remember with great joy in looked upon all of this as a trust re- | these times of many changes that posed in me and have ever endeav-, there has been no change in the ored to shape my life in keeping goodness of these descendants and with such confidence. My lot has successors of the congregation of been an humble one, but I have tried | several decades ago. I shall rememto help in the lowly places. As a ber with joy that you are pastored teacher, a wife and a mother I have by one who is worthy to carry on tried to exemplify and to inculcate the work of his distinguished predethe principles of a Christian life. I cessors. have found, as those whom we honor | "Thanking you for making it postoday found, that service is the high- sible for me to be with you today, I est expression of love. Optimistic for Future.

"I have been asked for an opinion concerning the future. I am optimistic, for I perceive in each new generation an increasing thirst for knowledge which they are gaining by means of hard work and selfdevelopment. They are learning gradually and consistently, selfreliance, so necessary to perfect development. I see remarkable successes in individuals in the face of seemingly insurmountable obtacles and these things make me believe that they are but the vanguard of a vast host who will not be left behind in the forward march of civil-

"It is not likely that I shall ever come back again to Plymouth Church. My first visit here was 67 years ago, and 25 years later I was again here in Brooklyn and visited Mr. and Mrs. Beecher but was not in this church at that time. Now, after

snatched me from a fate which can a lapse of 42 years, I am here again ;

wish for you Godspeed forever and ever in Plymouth Church."