

Oberlin with its first class in 1836. Later he received a degree from Yale University.

He was prominent in the Anti-Slavery movement and lectured throughout northern Ohio, while he was a settled pastor at Maumee City. He then went to New York City and attended a course of medical lectures preparatory to his chosen life work as missionary to Africa.

A severe illness nearly cost him his life at this time and prevented any fulfillment of these plans. He was obliged to go to St. Augustine, Florida, for his health and undertook some religious work among the negroes there until he was able to return North, where he preached for two years at the Cong. church in Barkhamsted, Conn. A powerful revival followed this effort, and in 1842 he became pastor associate of the Congregational church in Stamford, Conn. Here he was married to Myrtilla M. Peck of Greenwich, Conn., in 1845, and then assumed full pastorate until 1846 when he was called to Phillips Church, South Boston, Mass.

In 1857 his failing health sent him to Russia and northern Europe for a six months tour, and he was obliged to resign in 1852 and seek open air employment at the Custom House in Boston for the next year and a half, when he became Secretary of the American Tract Society in Boston.

Here he took an active part in the Anti-Slavery discussions which arose between the two Societies in New York and Boston, and literature was prepared on this subject under his direction.

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, Mr. Alvord went to the front at once and arranged a system of distribution by which books and papers issued expressly for soldiers could be sent to every regiment of the Army of the Potomac. He also dispensed hospital stores, caring for wounded soldiers and holding religious services until the Christian and Sanitary Commissions were formed, when he cooperated with these organizations, having his headquarters mainly with Gen. O. O. Howard until the close of the war. Special facilities were offered him by the Government and, when the army of Gen Sherman reached Savannah, Mr. Alvord organized ten schools for freedmen as a beginning of this important work.

In 1865 he organized a National Savings Bank for the freedmen, which had branches throughout the South, and he subsequently became its president.

In 1866 he was appointed supt. of schools under the Freedmen's