

DR. GRAMMER RETIRES.

His Last Services and Sermons
as Rector of St. Peter's.

TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS' WORK ENDED

**Demonstrations of Affection by the
Congregation—The Rector Overcome
by Emotion in the Pulpit—A Review
of the Work of the Church.**

Rev. Dr. Julius E. Grammer preached his valedictory sermons and performed the offices of the chancel for the last time yesterday as rector of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church, corner of Druid Hill avenue and Lanvale street. Large congregations attended the morning and evening services. The morning sermon was devoted largely to a review of the history and work of St. Peter's. In the evening the retiring rector spoke of the doctrinal position of the church and the relations it had sustained with the Episcopal churches of the diocese and those of other denominations. In the delivery of the morning sermon Dr. Grammer was overcome with emotion as he spoke of his retirement. Audible sobs came from nearly every pew, and tears rolled unrestrained down the cheeks of nearly every man and woman present. There were many listeners whom Dr. Grammer had baptized, confirmed, married and whose children he had baptized. They had known no other pastor, and the thought of the change with which they were brought face to face bore heavily on their hearts. By a great effort Dr. Grammer regained control of his voice, asked indulgence for his emotion and completed his sermon. At the celebration of the communion, which followed the morning service, three hundred and twenty-five persons knelt at the rail.

THE MORNING SERMON.

Dr. Grammer selected as the text for his morning sermon the words of St. Paul to the Philippians, "I thank God upon every remembrance of you." He said: "St. Peter's Church is eminently distinguished for its extended pastorates. From 1802 to 1891 (that is, for eighty-nine years) it has had only six rectors. The ministry of the Rev. George Dashiell as rector of St. Peter's lasted for eleven years; that of Dr. John P. K. Henshaw, afterward Bishop of Rhode Island, for twenty-seven years; that of Dr. Thomas Atkinson, afterward Bishop of North Carolina, for nine years; that of Dr. George D. Cummins, afterward Assistant Bishop of Kentucky for five years, and that of your speaker for over twenty-seven years. The rectorships of Dr. Henshaw and myself continued for a united period of over fifty-four years. Since your speaker began his work here Grace Church has had four rectors; Emmanuel, three; St. Paul's, two; St. Luke's, four; St. George's, two; Church of the Messiah, four; Christ Church, five; Memorial Church, seven; St. Bartholomew's, two, and now St. Barnabas is bereaved of her rector, next to whom your speaker was the senior rector in charge in Baltimore. The diocese has had three bishops and many changes have taken place in other churches in this city by death and removal. Indeed, the venerable Dr. Joseph T. Smith, of Central Presbyterian Church, Eutaw Place, and Dr. J. W. M. Williams, of First Baptist Church, are the only pastors whom I now recall as my seniors (with possibly one or two exceptions) in service.