

EFFECT OF LONG PASTORATES.

"Long pastorates speak well for the church and the minister. They indicate stability of purpose, strength of attachment and efficient service. They give a restful relief to the prevailing love of change and migration common to our American life. They tend to unify and cement the energies of the congregation. They impress the teaching and character of the minister upon his people and save the congregation from the hazards of frequent changes and the unsettling effect of new teaching and methods. Nevertheless, changes are sometimes helpful, both to ministers and people. They give the congregation the incentive of new life and energies. They inspire the minister with fresh enterprise and aspirations. We see the good effect of it in the Wesleyan churches. We see the benefit of it often in our own churches, where the law of adaptation is better fulfilled, and we often see a people awakened to new and stronger efforts. However painful and trying it may be, however at the time it may shock the settled associations of our life, yet in the end it is often helpful."

HIS EARLY MINISTRY.

Dr. Grammer reviewed the earlier events of his own life, beginning with his confirmation in his native city of Washington at the age of nineteen years, which was followed by his preparation for the ministry in the Theological Seminary at Alexandria, Va., and his installation as a deacon in 1855. His first charge was in Jefferson county, W. Va. In 1856 he was admitted to the office of presbyter, and became assistant rector of Trinity Church, Washington, of which Dr. George D. Cummins was at that time rector. Called from there to thirteen different churches, he went to Smyrna, Del., for two years. In July, 1861, he went to Columbus, Ohio, as rector of Trinity, the chief Episcopal church in that city. Six months later a call came from Christ Church, Cincinnati, the largest church there, and in 1863 he was called to Trinity Church, Chicago. All these were declined, and in 1864 he accepted the call of St. Peter's Church, Baltimore. After coming to St. Peter's he declined calls to Chicago, Cincinnati, Germantown, Pa., and other cities. Dr. Grammer continued:

WORK AT ST. PETER'S.

"It was a happy Providence that brought me here. The genial skies, the loving hearts, the generous sympathies, the hospitable homes of Baltimore and the good name of St. Peter's made me glad to come here and spend the enthusiasm and energy of my fresh manhood for such a people. The names of Drs. Henshaw, Atkinson and Cummins had been known through the church in connection with your work. They were men of renown, of zeal and piety, and I came among you in weakness and in fear and in much misgiving—as to myself. The earnestness and devotion of the congregation were a fresh incentive to me. Never before had I seen such a Sunday-school and such a large communion, or united in services so responsive and hearty, or found a people so rich in good works. My ministry in St. Peter's has been blessed by the addition of 1,525 souls to the church, of whom 1,041 were by confirmation. That is to say, there were added in the course of these twenty-seven years an average of fifty-six souls each year and by confirmation thirty-six each year. The losses by death and removal have reduced the number in all this lapse of time to 578 enrolled communicants. In the same period there have been 308 marriages and 717 funerals."

PREACHED 2,500 TIMES.

Dr. Grammer described the removal of St. Peter's Church from the southeast corner of Sharp and German streets to the present site, Druid Hill avenue and Lanvale street. The new church was erected at a cost of \$130,000, and was opened for services in October, 1870. Dr. Grammer reviewed the various departments of church work, each having accomplished great good. He continued:

"During all these years the attendance at the morning service has been large, and the lectures averaging on Wednesdays about a hundred, and at Sunday nights possibly as good as unhappily most of our Episcopal second services are. It is wonderful to me that for so many years you have listened to my voice and waited on my imperfect ministry of the unfailing word. With almost uninterrupted health, and seldom absent from this one pulpit, I have preached at least 2,500 times. Here, for you, and for this church and for the duties of the pulpit, it has been my part to spend the best energies of my life, and I thank God upon every remembrance of you for all the encouragements you have given me. Like sweet ointment will be the memory of you and your work."