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TRINITY CHURCH.

The Last Public Services in the Present Edifice.

THE RECTOR'S DISCOURSE.

An Interesting Historical Narrative.

The services of yesterday morning at Trinity Episcopal Church were of a deeply interesting character. It was upon the occasion of the last public ministrations of the Church in the edifice which has been occupied for forty-four years, and which is now to give place to the larger structure demanded by an increasing parish. The present building is familiarly known as one of the most prominent landmarks of the city. As such it has been regarded, and hereafter will be so considered, with sincere regard by every citizen who takes pride in the material history of Pittsburgh. The new Church edifice will have a type of architecture, and a completeness of structure, quite in keeping with the esthetic tastes of the present day and with the resources of a wealthy and prosperous parish. So, in its day also, the building which is now to be demolished, and which bears up a modest comparison with the costly imposing Church-erections of later years, was considered a splendid proof of the liberality of the parish and of the cultivated taste of its architects.

The scene at yesterday's services—the farewell of the parish to the sacred edifice which, for forty-four years, had given sanctuary to two generations of worshippers—was peculiarly a solemn and affecting one. The crowded Congregation numbered scores, indeed hundreds, more than the usual full and regular attendance there, at various periods since that day when Trinity was the only Church of the Episcopal denomination in the city, and with the exception of a Wesleyan and a few Presbyterian of a Wesleyan and a few Presbyterian and Methodist, and many, in yesterday's audience came back from their present connections elsewhere to this city and to this Church, to spend a Sabbath hour once more in her spiritual and material welfare.

The discourse of the Rector, Rev. Mr. [illegible], which was an eminently appropriate one, presents a graphic sketch of the history of the parish, of its early days, and of the edifice to which many eyes yesterday turned for the last time, and which in years to come thought of the Protestant Episcopal Trinity congregation with the grounds with which we have become so familiar. During this period, the history of the parish has been a peaceful one, and that is most appropriately sketched by the Rector. His allusion to the fact that three of the Bishops of the Church have been his predecessors in that spiritual office, is a matter of interest to many. His discourse abounds with matter which will interest not only his parishioners but the public-at-large.

THE RECTOR'S ADDRESS.

Who is he, among you that was like unto house in her first glory? *Haggai*: 1 chap., 3 v.

It was a glorious and a joyous day when the first temple was formally dedicated and set apart for the worship of God. A spirit of infinite satisfaction seemed to pervade the whole land. The resting place was provided for the Ark, —a spot, where God Himself would vouchsafe to dwell! He never more dulce and special presence between the Cherubim over the Mercy Seat.

It was a great event in history when King Solomon offered up his princely dedication prayer, and at the same time invoked the divine blessing on the finished work. But magnificent and costly as was this house of God—sacred and solemn as its use—it was finally to be destroyed, and not one stone left upon a stone. The hand of the destroyer was to be laid upon it, and its sacred work to be broken down with axes and hammers. To their captivity Israel remembered the temple of their God, and wept bitterly with sadness. The harp refused to utter its evening notes in response to the skilful touch of the psalmist. The voice ceased with deep emotion in allusion to the temple, which was now in a forlorn and desolate condition. The ruins were to be repaired. The house of the Lord was to be rebuilt, and the reproach taken away. In goodly manner the people were to be encouraged to work in the glorious age and condition of this, on the old foundation laid.

Accordingly it was an occasion only for the wildest joy. But there were present those who remembered the first house in all its glory. In early life they had stood under its brilliant dome, and worshipped within its sacred walls. Its rare beauty and splendors were dimly and indistinctly remembered, and the memory of the past as it was recalled was crowded and swallowed up in the thoughts of the present so that while others shouted for joy, because the foundation of a new temple was laid, these old men wept with a loud voice, and many shouted for joy, so that the people could not discern the voice of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people. Could any other words so vividly and truthfully describe that strange scene? The old men who had seen the former house, and expressed their feelings in stories that rent the air. The chief of the fathers who were ancient men, living in the past—more than in the present, kept their eyes upon the spot where they had been wont to pay their vows unto the Most High.

And this was most natural. I do not [illegible] but rather praise them, for this [illegible] and [illegible] of the original pew-holders is preserved, and [illegible] of the Church in all its progress and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]