

PASTOR'S ADDRESS.

Following the usage of former Annual Meetings, this evening's Reports are introduced by a few words from the Pastor.

I can speak from the experience of only one-third of the year in this position. This term of service, however, has been amply long enough to furnish cause for a hearty acknowledgment of the reception and support given to the new Minister, alike by the official bodies, the families and the individual members of the church.

I left Montreal, after six years' service in Gosford Street church, in 1854, and have been continually surprised, since my return, to find in how many families there is a link of association with that distant past, or with my succeeding twenty-one years' ministry in Toronto. All these have greeted me as an old friend come home again. But others, to whom I was more a stranger, are giving me their confidence, and the door is open on every side.

I am all the more affected by this, as I have come to know more intimately, in family after family, how strong were the ties that bound them to their former pastor, and how keen the sense of loss in his removal.

In view of the perils of any pastoral interregnum, and the special disappointments and severe bereavements of this church during that period, it says much for the quality of the membership and for the wisdom of the administration, above all, for the care of the Divine Head, that Emmanuel Church "held together" as it did. *Somebody must have been praying*, in many a household.

In your invitation to me, of the 25th of May last, occur these words:—"This church pledging itself, should he accept this call, it will, in all ways it can, do its best to sustain him in his work, and to make it a joy and happiness to himself and a blessed success to others." And I replied: "I shall enter on your service with all my heart and all my force." These were our marriage vows. Are we not trying to live up to them?

From my point of view, Emmanuel Church occupies a position of much power and responsibility. As one of the heirs of a noble mother, and in its own individual capacity, it has a constituency, a field and an influence of no ordinary character. I remind you o