

## INTRODUCTION.



OVER three-quarters of a century of history is back of Presbyterianism in St. George, and without a doubt, it has witnessed many important changes and events along the years in the community. It carries us back to pioneer days when our forefathers hewed for themselves little homes in the "forests primeval," built the mills whose ruins to-day are the admiration of the antiquarian, erected rude school houses, little churches and laid the foundations, strong and well, upon which the succeeding generations builded. At this crisis in our history we love to look back in reverence to our fathers, and we feel they are still with us—the past calls out to us—and posterity cries from out the future—"Quit yourselves like men."

Our fathers were religious men and loved the Church of God. Accordingly we read that the first divine services were held in a school house, about a mile west of St. George; then, in 1834 a church edifice was erected. This was supplanted by a new brick church, more commodious, in 1861, and to-day we begin a new chapter in our history in the dedication of this new house of worship to the honor and glory of God. Thus the world moves on:

"I read on the porch of a palace bold,  
On a brazen tablet, letters cast,—  
'A house though a million winters old,  
A house of earth comes down at last.'  
Then quarry thy rock from the Crystal All  
And build the dome which shall not fall."

To many the old church has hallowed associations. Memories from out of the past consecrate it dear to them forever. At the mystic touch of memory old faces, old voices, old friendships, old days leap forth out of the shadow.