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As regards this house of God in which we are now assembled, I consider it a very happy thought to have rescued it from total abandonment, and restore it to its original purpose. It is always painful to surrender houses of God to the slow or speedy process of decay, and give up all the associations of spiritual interest and edification connected with them. This is sometimes an unavoidable course; but it is a matter for thankfulness that it did not prove so here.

The project of establishing a new parish in this town, was one which, very naturally, would awaken great diversity of opinion. Some would, not unreasonably, regard it as likely to interfere with the progress and prosperity of the parish, of which the new Church is the centre. Much anxiety would be felt as to the removal of the debt contracted in its erection; and the establishment of a rival Sanctuary would be regarded as likely to draw off much of the support requisite for the extinction of that liability.

But events seemed to have proved that all these forebodings were unfounded. There seems to have been no misconception as to the strength of the church in this town and neighborhood; no erroneous calculations as to the materials which existed for forming two flourishing congregations within its limits. I believe I am correct in saying that there has been no perceptible falling off in the number of attendants at St. John's Church; no diminution of its communicants; no contraction of its offerings on the Lord's day. And in regard to this Church of St. Mark's, I have on several occasions witnessed here the gathering of large congregations; and have often had the assurance that the