

this church for encouragement and aid, and they have never looked in vain. Our influence has also been pronounced and steady in favor of morality. We have always stood for temperance, and the civil rights of all men before the laws. In ecclesiastical matters we have been less bound by precedent and rule than many of our neighbors, and in many respects they have approved our course by following in our steps. Other results, which this church has secured, might easily be named, but enough has been told to indicate something of its spirit and success.

There is sufficient to make us grateful and humble in the retrospect. For God's abounding and unfailing goodness, we give thanks; for the weakness and remissness of our fathers and ourselves, we make penitent confession, and seek forgiveness at the throne of grace.

These fifty years have been crowded with wonderful events in the history of Church and State. The world has greatly changed since this Society held its first meeting at the tavern in St. Paul Street. The field which now surrounds it is widely different from that on which our fathers looked. Then Montreal was a quaint and quiet town, of something more than 20,000 souls, which had but recently thrown down its walls, and began to spread beyond their narrow bounds. Its few confined streets then crept along the river brink, and all these upper plains, on which we meet, were farmer's fields, and the slopes above covered by the unbroken forest. Our noble river