

HISTORICAL MEMORANDA.

On the 10th March, 1875, 111 members of Zion Church withdrew from that fellowship, for the purpose of forming a new Congregational Church under the pastoral care of the Rev. J. F. Stevenson, L.L.B., one of the joint-pastors of Zion Church. On Sunday, March 14th, 1875, after an appropriate service conducted by Mr. Stevenson, the church was duly organized, and Mr. Stevenson was unanimously chosen Pastor. At the same time the Church, by formal Resolution of the united brotherhood, received the name of "Emmanuel Church," and all present rising, the Pastor read the following declaration, which was assented to as the covenant or basis of union :—

"We, whose names have now been read, do hereby, in humble dependence on Almighty God the Father, His Son Jesus Christ Our Saviour, and the Holy Ghost the Comforter, organize ourselves into a Christian Church of the Faith and Order commonly styled "Congregational" or "Independent." And we further pledge ourselves, with the help of God, to do all that within us lies, as a church, to secure the great ends for which the Head of the Church ordained that His faithful followers should, while on earth, be banded together in holy brotherhood. And we do severally, as members of this church, solemnly promise to be loyal to our obligations to sustain the work and interests of the body now organized, and to do our best to promote the spiritual welfare of each other."

As the Church possessed no local habitation of its own, the public services on the Lord's Day were held in the Montreal Gymnasium Building ; and on week-evenings, in the Lecture-Room of Erskine Church. In the month of June, 1875, ground was broken for the erection of a new church-edifice, on a site occupying the corner of Stanley street, and facing St. Catherine street. On April 15th, 1876, the corner-stone was laid by the Pastor, assisted by Rev. Dr. Wilkes. On January 14th and 15th, 1877, the building was opened for Divine Worship with special Dedicatory Services.

In September, 1886, Dr. Stevenson resigned the Pastorate, on receiving a call to the Brixton Independent Church ; and amid many tokens of respect, both from the Church and the general community, he left for England, at the beginning of November, 1886.