

respect to the peculiar character which we have seen to belong to this house, it now stands alone ; an influence that shall become deeper as well as wider with every year of its exercise. We enjoy the smile of Heaven upon our work of to-day in the bland sunshine which has softened every unfriendly element of the season. Let us interpret it as the promise, in our spiritual husbandry, of a fruitful summer and an abundant harvest. May souls here grow into a ripeness for a better world. As the Father shall here be worshipped and the Son be honored, may the spirit of grace from the Father and the Son descend in unseen influences, that shall not, like the visible flames on the first Christian Pentecost, cease to rest upon the brethren at their departure from the place of their assembling. And when in the course of time this structure shall give place, as we trust it may, to one of ampler dimensions, may its history be invested with associations that shall cause its remembrance to abide with those who shall have then entered the " temple not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." Father Almighty ! hear thou our desires, and grant them fulfilment. To thee, in the name of thy dear Son, we consecrate these walls, these seats, this altar. Thine be the glory of their fresh beauty, and thine the richer glory of their decay !