

FAREWELL WORDS.

ACTS, XX. 32.

"And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the Word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."

These were the words of Paul at his last meeting with the Elders of the Church in Ephesus. They are selected to-night, not as the basis of a discourse, but as expressing my feelings on bidding you a kindly official farewell. For eleven years and eight months—more than two years longer than any of my predecessors—I have labored among you as a preacher and pastor: you will allow me to say, with more than average success, and also with more than the usual hindrances, difficulties and trials. To-night the scenes through which I have here passed are vividly before me. I think of the 210 children I have baptized, the 120 couples I have united in marriage, and the 210 persons I have buried. I recall the sermons preached, the countless visits made to the sick and the sorrowful, the inquiries and confessions made by the more than 500 persons who have come to me for guidance in their spiritual difficulties, scenes of joy and scenes of sorrow, times of success and triumph, and times of defeat and disappointment—all come up to-night to find their best expression in these words:—"I commend you to God and to the Word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."

Twelve years ago, the American Church held a humble place among the churches of this city, so far as numbers were concerned. The last census of the