

do still retain, and shall cherish yet, a deep-seated affection for your first love.

I venture to suggest that the frame of mind which accords with such thoughts and such hallowed memories, as thus appropriately encircle this spot, is not an unfitting one with which to engage in the transition work of this evening, or in anticipation of the coming Sabbath when you shall enter on the occupancy of your new Church. Some, there doubtless are, who in making that change can and will cast a lingering look behind to an honored spiritual ancestry who occupied these pews in the days that are now gone. Those who have this bond of connection with that past generation which saw and welcomed the erection of this House of Prayer, may well and profitably to themselves, turn, though it be but a transient thought, in the direction of a Past crowded with its varied memories—pleasant or sorrowful—with which this place is connected. They will not be the worse fitted by the retrospect for going forth with hopeful anticipations of the future, amid the new scenes and surroundings on which they are about to enter.

You are now taking a last look—bidding a final farewell to the old walls, which gave rest and shelter to two generations of her Children, who here sat under their own vine and fig-tree in the enjoyment of Christian privileges—rejoicing as they did that it was after the model of the Parent Church which gave us our Forms of Worship and Articles of Faith, fresh and true and pure as itself had drawn them from the Word of God, and “agreeable thereto” as confirmed by the proofs and authority of Holy Scripture to which the appeal ever lay in attestation of them. Something doubtless you must feel that you are leaving behind you, in being parted thus for ever from the material fabric