


INTRODUCTION.

NE Hundred Years of History! how much it means! what changes have taken place in all departments of life, Political, Commercial, Social, and Religious! How much it includes! How much it reveals!

To treat of these changes many books would have to be written. The Committee in charge of this brief History will not attempt it. Readers will have to allow their imaginations to have sway as they read, and many events in the life of the Church and town will be recalled to their memory. For the History of the First Baptist Church has been one that has meant self sacrifice on the part of noble men and women. There have been trying times—times when those at the helm hardly dared look backward at the little accomplished, or forward to its future labors for fear of becoming utterly discouraged at the magnitude of the work revealed.

But the Lord of Hosts was with them, the God of Jacob was their refuge, and through His power they were enabled to press onward; abundantly did they merit, and assuredly have they received, the Master's words of commendation: "Well done good and faithful servants."

PREPARATORY WORK.

Anticipating the celebration of this important event in the Church's history, a large representative Committee from the several organizations was appointed to consider and arrange a fitting programme. The successful carrying out of the plans submitted seemed a great undertaking, but loyally did the Church stand by them, and all the members of the congregation as well entered actively into the preparations. Especially to the pastor, Rev. P. J. Stackhouse, much of the credit of the success is due. Although only identified with the church for a few months previous to the occasion, he threw himself wholly into the work, with thorough sympathy, tact and wisdom, and during all the initiatory stages and throughout the week of actual celebration his was the guiding hand. To Dr. Steele, who for so many years has been identified with the labors of the Church, is due the credit of turning back