

the meeting house, the Parsonage and the grounds around them were steadily falling into dilapidation and decay; and, still worse, the time when the interest upon the Mortgage debt of the Church, if not the debt itself, would have to be met, and with absolutely no provision being made or thought possible to be made to meet either.

It is not a matter of wonder that in such circumstances, a proposition was seriously made by a trustee, at a meeting of the Board, that the Meeting House and other property of the Church covered by the Mortgages (which were held by Warren Ackerman, Esquire, who had generously forborne the interest thereon for five years), should be abandoned, and the property surrendered.

As the Mortgages covered everything belonging to the Church which could be Mortgaged, real and personal, even down to the Communion Service, such abandonment could not be permitted.

This brief sketch outlines the perilous conditions which existed in the years 1881-2; the inheritance from former years of mistakes and mismanagement.

Every one, or nearly every one, felt that it was quite time to call upon a leader who could devote zeal with knowledge, experience and business ability to the work of rescue and relief—a man who would be a brave and skilful Captain, to lead the “forlorn hope,” and save the dear old church from utter annihilation.

On the twenty-seventh day of November, 1882, by a unanimous vote, the church extended a call to become its Pastor, to the Rev. James H. Parks, and on the Eighth day of December, next thereafter, at a special Parish Meeting called to con-