

## The Gravestones

Art, such as the painting in the apse can be restored to nearly its original state. But we have other works of art, which time has had her way with, that cannot be restored. These are the gravestones that have been placed into the Memorial Wall on the east side of the church property.

If you doubt that these tablets of stone are really works of art, consider the comments of Mr. Paul Pierce, nationally known expert on church decoration, when he first saw the gravestones in 1929. At that date, the stones still stood watch over the resting places of departed Trinity members in our churchyard. Mr. Pierce remarked, "Why, students are being sent abroad in order to study the old world tombstones which are not nearly as good examples of the art as these very ones." Pierce's excitement was so complete that our Senior Pastor Dr. MacIntosh later said, "We could hardly get him out of the graveyard."

If you doubt the fact that the years are slowly erasing the hand of man from these works of art, the same newspaper article that provides the foregoing quotes, also shows close-up photos of eight of the stones rising from their grassy bed. A comparison of these photos with the actual stones set in the Memorial Wall shows what only 75 years of rain and weather can do.

One of the intriguing aspects of Mr. Pierce's study of the stonecutter's art displayed at Holy Trinity was the corpulence of the cherubs that appear on many a stone. They vary in their individual traits, but they are all universally fat. An explanation that has been advanced is that the designs are of German influenced origin, and a Falstaffian physique was in those days considered a mark of beauty. One stone beauty even sports three chins.

It has also been observed that the texts on the plaques are hard to understand. This is because they are apparently written in a German dialect that is very difficult to translate.

Though we may not be able to read what has been written upon the sandstone, they still have much to say to us. As they are one of only a few places in this country where this type of artistic expression can still be seen, we should not take them for granted but do everything we can to preserve them.