

TO THE MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS OF ST. GABRIEL CHURCH.

DEAR BRETHREN,

The past year has been one of earnest work in our congregation. Everything has already settled down into its normal condition in our new sphere, and we have begun to grapple with the fresh responsibilities that belong to us, now that questions relating to the external affairs of the church are mostly disposed of. Three years of our second century have already gone, and we must not forget that we have a past to maintain. Let us see to it that the record shall be a constantly improving one.

The year has been marked by no very stirring event in our church life. The movement begun at the Annual Congregational Meeting last year, to provide for the extinction of the debt upon the Church, has been kept going on quietly, as the committee undertaking the work have had time to prosecute the canvass for subscriptions. It would probably have been better, if an effort had been made to wait upon all the people simultaneously to solicit contributions to the building Fund, and if the authorities of the Church had devoted a few days to this work, as soon as the scheme was launched. The whole of the people could have been seen in a week, if the work had been subdivided, and prosecuted with enthusiasm. As things are, a considerable number of the people have not yet been overtaken in the canvass, and half the amount of the debt has not been yet quite provided for. The matter should not, however, be left to drag too long. The end to be gained is too important not to be enthusiastically striven for. We must be able to call the church in every sense our own as soon as possible. We must have a larger revenue in order to fulfill our part in the community creditably. The salaries paid are too small for a church of the importance of St. Gabriel's. And, then, there is much outside work we could undertake if we were out of debt. The people ought to know this, and not be allowed to think that things are entirely satisfactory. But so long as there is a debt on the building, even one of manageable proportions like ours, it to some degree interferes with a congregation's duty in other directions.

The internal affairs of the Church are in a most healthy state. The congregation is thoroughly organized. We have tried to find a place for everyone ; and if all are not working for the Master, in connection