

be printed herewith, it is not necessary to go into detail in this report. As further indicating our religious condition, reference may be made to the spirit of harmony and unity which has constantly shown itself between pastor and people, and between the members in general. The loving esteem in which our pastor is held by members of church and congregation is as gratifying as it is manifest and may largely account for the abundant measure of Christian fellowship that shows itself among the membership of the church. Love multiplies itself. A loving pastor begets a loving people. And when true Christian love exists and manifests itself between shepherd and flock and between members of the flock itself, we possess God's best gift. Some branches of our work call for special mention. There is the Sisters' Visiting Committee, for example. In a membership of over three hundred there are always poor and afflicted who need the warm, loving, practical sympathy of their fellow members. Our Sisters have devoted themselves nobly to this work and have greatly aided the pastor and helped those who were in need or laid aside by illness. The Young People's Union has continued to flourish and gather strength and affords an opportunity and means of growth and development in Christian graces which probably could not otherwise be obtained.

Having thus briefly mentioned several features of a gratifying character, we may refer to one which has long caused great regret and is a source of much weakness to the church. We have on our roll quite a considerable number of worthy and esteemed members who very rarely attend any of our religious services except those on the Lord's day. We hold our stated meetings for praise and prayer. We hold a conference meeting once a month, in which members are given a special opportunity and are expected to relate their own personal Christian experience. And these week evening meetings are those most highly valued by the most sincere and devout Christians. Now, two things seem very certain in this connection, namely, that those who continually absent themselves from these meetings lose the principal opportunities given in a church for the enjoyment of religion and for growth and development in the Christian life. Not only that, but they throw on others the entire work of carrying forward and maintaining these services. They themselves suffer by their non-attendance, and others suffer for want of their co-operation. There is urgent need for amendment here. We have no list of "associate" members in the church. God expects every member to do his duty, and He waits to be gracious and to bestow His richest blessings upon all who give themselves freely to His service.

Turning for a moment, in conclusion, to ourselves as deacons of the church, we have had occasion during the year to deeply regret the long protracted illness of our Brother William F. Parker, and his resignation on that account of the office of deacon. Through this resignation and the retirement of another