

TO THE CONGREGATION OF TRINITY CHURCH.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,—

I gladly seize the opportunity which the publishing the Annual Statement of Accounts for the past year affords me, of communicating to you some information respecting the re-building of our Church and School-House.

It is, I am sure, with feelings of surprise and regret that you do not see the work in a more advanced state, and have counted the time long, since the waste places have lain desolate. It may, however, be some satisfaction to learn that that state is not attributable to indifference or neglect on the part of those upon whom the responsibility of the work rests. No one regrets more keenly that the Church and School-House are not already built than the members of the Corporation of the Church, and I may add that their efforts have been unremitting to that end. The Vestry was summoned as soon after the Great Fire as was possible, and steps were immediately taken to procure plans from Architects for a Church and School-House. After much deliberation the plans furnished by Messrs. Potter & Robertson of New York were adopted, and the work entrusted to their hands. This was done in November, 1877. When, however, in the Spring of 1878, Tenders were received for the erection of the Buildings, it was found that their cost would enormously exceed the sum for which the Architects had been instructed to furnish plans. This was both a surprise and disappointment, and while the Vestry felt that delay was no slight injury to the Parish, they yet felt that far greater harm would be done if they entered upon a work which could not be satisfactorily completed, and which must be for years to come, a great burden on the Parish. It was therefore decided to abandon the plans adopted, and solicit others from Messrs. Potter & Robertson, and other Architects. This was done in June of last year. Plans were accordingly furnished by many Architects, and those of Mr. W. T. Thomas of Montreal were accepted. Tenders for the erection were advertized for, and the one