

And here I will not enter into any minute detail. I will refer only to the *growth* of the congregation during my ministry, and to two things only in connection with that growth.

The congregation has grown *in numbers*. As I have said already, when I came here there were one hundred and twenty-five names on the Communion Roll. There are now three hundred and sixty-eight; that is, they have increased three-fold, and this, in a community where there has been no influx of population. And if you should think that this is an inconsiderable increase or number, I would point out—what you may not know—that in the two hundred and forty or two hundred and fifty congregations within the bounds of the Maritime Synod, there are only *nine* whose communicants exceed our own.

But the congregation has grown, not only in numbers, but in *liberality*. For the support of the ordinances of the Gospel among ourselves, we are contributing at least two hundred dollars, annually, more, than we did five years ago; while in the recent Blue Book, the congregation is reported as having given, during last year, eight hundred and forty-two dollars for Missionary and Benevolent purposes. *This*—I would impress on you—is one true test of a congregation's spiritual life—not what it expends on itself, but what it gives to others more needy than itself. But here, too, you should know, that the sum above mentioned—which I do not say is, in itself, any great matter for glorying—is, in like manner, exceeded by only *twenty-five* of the two hundred and fifty congregations of the Maritime Synod and these, for the most part, in cities or towns. It should be said, too, that, in this respect, the last ten or fifteen years have been the best years.

I would only add that, in my opinion, there has been a very great improvement in the outward face of society. Doubtless, evil still exists in our midst. Old evils re-assert themselves, and new evils make their appearance. Constant watchfulness and effort are, therefore, needed. But I cannot help thinking, that we are a more industrious, intelligent, moral and religious people than we were fifty years ago.