

REPORT OF CHURCH BOARD.

Another year in the history of this Church has passed away, and added its account to the record of the past. And, at the outset of this Report of the year's events, the pertinent and important question presents itself:—Of what character is that account? Progressive or retrograde? It must be one or the other; it cannot be neither. Many factors enter into the calculation by which the question is determined, and there is difficulty in deciding it. For, in some respects, it has been a year of progress; additions have been made to the stated attendance at public worship, so that to find seat-room for all is becoming a matter of difficulty. The finances of the Church are in a healthy condition, enabling the Treasurer to meet all demands for current or other expenses; and there has been a growth in liberality of giving to our various denominational objects, which is very gratifying. On the other hand, your Board would not be faithful to their brethren, nor to themselves, were they not to give expression to the anxiety which they have felt at some discouraging features of our present position, on which the pastor and themselves have had much serious and prayerful thought and conference. There is an apparent apathy in the general business and aggressive usefulness of the Church, which cannot, in a membership such as ours, find any excuse to justify its existence. Our Sunday-evening and week-evening services are not attended as they should be, and might be; many of our younger members do not manifest that zeal and self-denial in promoting the best interests of the Church, which it is their duty to show. The Bible Classes, which are specially intended for our young men and women, are treated with an indifference which is somewhat disheartening to those who give so much time and thought to conduct them in an efficient and interesting manner; and, our Sunday School has not given one member to the Church during the whole year covered by this Report. Now these things ought not to be; and it behoves us all to faithfully endeavour to find the cause, or causes, of them; and, by God's help, to vigorously remove them. An apathetic Church is a decaying Church; and, unless the process of decay be promptly checked, it will in time be a dead church, so far as the high and holy objects for which it should exist are concerned, though it may "have a name to live," and be very complacent and self-satisfied.

During the year, our esteemed Pastor has been enabled regularly to discharge his duties among us; but, in the autumn months, he showed