

In making a comparison, with the previous year, 1896 shows 45 additional contributors by envelope and an increase in receipts of \$1,992. But on the other hand the contributions of others were reduced by \$626, so that the net increase is only \$1,366.

The open collections show a decrease of \$145.09, which is doubtless accounted for by the increase in the offerings by envelope.

As to special contributions, these shew a decrease of \$787, which is more than offset by the increased weekly offerings, and to this extent the necessity for special appeals has been overcome.

The Court was hopeful, in view of the action taken by the Congregation at the special meeting held in October 1895, and the subsequent response to the appeal then made, that the weekly offerings would have increased to a sum sufficient to warrant a continuance to the same extent of the assistance heretofore given to the various schemes of the Church, in addition to the maintenance of Dr. McClure as our missionary in China. But for the fact that former subscriptions were reduced by \$626, we should have been able to accomplish that which we had in view.

Notwithstanding the transfer of a balance of \$639.15 from the China Mission Fund to the weekly offering account, the amount available for allocation, after providing for the fixed claims, is less by about \$600 than that of the previous year. In view of this condition of things it becomes a question for serious consideration whether the Congregation should continue to support the Chinese mission work to the same extent as heretofore.

PEW RENTS.

The revenue from pew rents for the year has been \$4,537.22, an advance of \$113.01 over the previous year. After providing for the usual charges against this account, and also wiping out a balance of \$317.47 against the account at the beginning of the year, there remains a balance of \$225.56 to carry forward into the new year.