

REFERENCE

repairs to the roof and flooring, and also requires painting inside. It was hoped that the sale of ladies' work at Christmas would have produced a sum available for these purposes, but the amount remaining after paying the balance due on the new class-room, will all be required to pay the cost of the works which the Churchwardens have been advised to have done, in order to protect the foundation walls of the Church and the furnaces against injury by water running from the roofs, against which no adequate protection has hitherto been provided.

The Churchwardens desire to impress upon the congregation the necessity of increasing the offertory. The amounts of our offerings are far smaller than they should be, as compared with many other churches, and have, in fact, during the past year been insufficient to meet our outlay. Judging from what they have observed, the Churchwardens are of opinion that the smallness of the offerings arises more from the fact of the members of the congregation being unaware of what is needed from them, than from any unwillingness to give. In order properly to maintain our Church and its work, we require a revenue from the offertory of \$50 per Sunday; and this amount there should be no difficulty in obtaining, if the envelope system were more generally adopted. Contributions made in this way are but little to the giver, and every contributor is himself or herself the sole judge of the amount which he or she should give, and fixes the amount of his or her weekly contribution, and also is at liberty to reduce the amount or to discontinue altogether whenever it may be found necessary to do so; so that it is plain that no person takes upon himself any burdensome responsibility, and the result of the regular and systematic contributions, instead of gifts which are freely made when the giver is present, but are found wanting when he is absent, has, wherever it has been tried, been found most satisfactory and valuable. It is earnestly hoped that the congregation will join more generally in the system, instead of leaving it to a few. If, as has sometimes been objected, a person wishes to provide each member of his family with something to give, there is no reason why he should use only one envelope. Each member of his family may be enrolled as a separate contributor, if required, and be provided with envelopes.