

And a blessing has attended it. Our numbers have increased beyond the expectations of the most sanguine. When we began, five years ago, we counted by dozens only—now, by hundreds, and far more are sometimes obliged to go away than our first congregations amounted to.

Our communicants are more than two hundred.

Our Sunday school contains a like number, and some of its scholars have already been removed to a higher sphere; leaving a good hope behind. Testimonies to the benefits experienced from the ministrations in this chapel, I often hear from the lips of those who before had been strangers to the means of grace; and many a blessing has been invoked in my hearing on the head of him who opened its doors. All this is good and cheering.

Good, that such numbers crowd the courts of the Lord; better still, if they are “doers of the Word, and not hearers only.”* Good, that we have nearly ten times as many communicants now as we once had of attendants; better still, if these shew, day by day, that they have indeed been with Jesus†—are fed with the bread of life, and living members of His Body, the Church.

Good, that such unusual numbers of the *young* attend our services; better still, if “our sons shall grow up as the young plants which the Heavenly Father planteth,‡ and our daughters be as the polished corners of the Temple.”§

So may it be. Let us never forget that though a Paul may plant, and an Apollos water, it is only God that can give the increase; || that ye are God’s husbandry, and God’s building, ¶ and that however flourishing our congregation may seem to be, it will be accounted as nothing before Him, except each of us be animated by His indwelling and sanctify-

* James i. 22. † Acts iv. 13. ‡ Psalm cxliv. 12. § Matt. xv. 13.
|| 1 Cor. iii. 6. ¶ 1 Cor. iii. 9.