

New Year's 1909.

TO THE ENVELOPE CONTRIBUTORS.

At the commencement of a New Year and re-adjustment of the envelope contributions, it may be well to say a word from a Layman's point of view to those who make their offerings in this way for the maintenance of the work of the Cathedral. It has not been our custom to press people to give more than they feel able to do, either in this way or any other, and consequently there is not so much given by our congregation as is the case in churches where demands upon the people are made more frequently and more urgently than is done in St. Alban's. In other words the members of our congregation do not give in fair proportion to their means and ability. There are only seven envelope contributors who give \$1.00 or upwards; and only twenty-two who give 50 cents. Twenty of the former and forty of the latter would be more nearly what might be expected.

We have made some inquiries and find that in at least two other churches not far from St. Alban's, the envelope contributions are more generous than ours, besides which the congregations are called upon to give largely to the payment of heavy debts, which in their case are parochial, while we have no congregational debt, the building debt being a diocesan one, and to this latter we contribute by no means so largely as we should do if our gifts were proportionately as great as those of the ordinary City Parish Churches, or indeed as they ought to be under existing circumstances, for we should not be content to occupy a Church almost wholly at other people's cost.

The maintenance of the Services however, is our own responsibility, and for this our income for the past two months has been insufficient.

We therefore feel that it is reasonable and proper for us to ask Envelope Contributors to give this matter some consideration, and if possible to increase the amounts of their weekly gifts.

E. M. CHADWICK,

Treasurer.