

## Pastoral Letter.

TO THE MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS  
OF THE ST. GABRIEL CHURCH.

My dear brethren,

It was a good and great departure when the fathers of the Reformation called Christians back to the days of Jesus and His disciples, the Apostles, in order to learn what the christian religion really is. It was necessary to go to the fountain head, as contained in the Gospels and Epistles of the New Testament, to know what Christ meant and wished His church to be and teach and do. And what was necessary then is in a measure necessary in every age,—to get back not only to the first principles involved in christianity, as taught by its Founder, but also to the simple and earnest spirit of the early believers. There has to be a constant watchfulness, to guard against the temper of the world invading and infecting that which should belong to the church, as made up of the Lord's people. Paul's ideal of a congregation as set forth in his letters to the Corinthians, and his model pastor, portrayed in his letters to Timothy and Titus, cannot be read and studied too often by pastors and people.

The situation of the early church, in the bringing of a large number of persons to enter upon an entirely new line of thought, belief and action, is paralleled in the yearly history of every progressive congregation. There has been a new departure for some among the people, even though they may not have been numerous. A change has come over their views, which has reached to the seat of their affections, and promises to exercise a controlling influence over their lives. The duty of the church is to heartily welcome such to its membership, to encourage their enthusiasm and guide it, and to use it in the Master's service. Especially ought it to be expected that every year shall yield its quota of additions to the moral and spiritual force of the church from among the young, who have grown up in its fold and shared in its privileges. This is the quarter from which