

The first item to be noted in this Report is the progress and completion of the new Church building. At the beginning of Spring, work was promptly resumed; and on April 15th, the corner stone was laid by the Pastor with appropriate services, in which the Rev. Dr. Wilkes and other ministers of the city took part. On the first Sunday in December, the Church began to hold all its services in the Lecture-hall, or basement, which has proved admirably adapted for all the purposes for which it was designed. Meantime, definite arrangements had been made for the formal opening and dedication of the building to the worship of Almighty God, on Sunday, Jany. 14th, 1877. By dint of almost superhuman exertions, when the auspicious morn dawned it saw all in sufficient readiness to receive the large audiences that attended the dedicatory services on the two Sundays set apart for holding the same. The Rev. Dr. Duryea, of Brooklyn, cheerfully responded to the invitation of the Church to take part in these services, and by the high character of his Pulpit ministrations and lecture rendered valuable aid for which a deep debt of gratitude is due to him. Not less cheerfully did the Revs. Dr. Wilkes, G. H. Wells, and A. J. Bray, all of this city, give their countenance and aid to the Church on this occasion; and not less emphatically does the Church desire to hold in grateful remembrance the kindly spirit which prompted this assistance. Not the least pleasing and successful of these Dedicatory Services was the Social Meeting held on the 18th; well-nigh every Church in the city was represented by ministers and office-bearers, who came to congratulate Pastor and Church on the realisation of their hopes and wishes, and to wish them God-speed in their future work. Your Board attach much value to the fraternal spirit thus manifested, since it shows that the kindly feeling of interest and confidence with which our beloved Pastor has from the first been regarded by the various Ministers and Churches of this city has gained in strength, and that the spirit which this Church desires to cultivate towards its fellows is reciprocated by them.

The attendance at the public services of the Church has been marked by an increase of numbers, and by thoughtful attention on the part of the hearers; and evidence is not lacking to show, that the high spiritual and intellectual character of the pulpit ministrations with which we are favoured is being more and more widely appreciated and valued. It is, moreover, matter for gratitude, that the truth as proclaimed from our