

Pastoral Letter.

TO THE MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH:

It is with a feeling of great thankfulness that I write the annual letter to preface the congregational reports. The past year has been a year of unbroken harmony and of uninterrupted prosperity in every department of the congregation's life and work; and I have good reason to believe that the outward prosperity has been accompanied by a corresponding growth in spiritual life in the hearts and homes of our people. The reports of the various agencies and organizations speak for themselves, and will be studied by you all with much interest.

It has been a sincere pleasure to me to work with all the office-bearers, with the Superintendent of the Sunday School and with all who assist me in the different departments of my work—in all I have found the most ready willingness to help, and I take this opportunity of cordially thanking them all.

In my own pastoral experience during the year the outstanding feature has been the unusual amount of sickness and sorrow in the congregation. Especially during the later months of the year the visits of the "destroying angel" to our homes were very frequent. Sad in all cases, death was unusually sad in some, and our sympathy and sorrow were deeply stirred. I was brought very near to many of our people, and shared again and again, as perhaps I have never before done, the burden of another's sorrow. The experience, even to those most sorely tried, was not all darkness and sadness; amidst the darkness light arose, and in the sadness there was hope—the sorrow was lightened alike by fond memories of the past and bright hopes of the future. Very distinctly has the voice come to each one of us "Be ye also ready"; and that that voice may be earnestly listened to is my sincere prayer—and that our sympathy with the sorrowing ones amongst us may be accompanied by devout resolves and earnest endeavours so to live during this year that we may be ever ready to die—consecrating each day's work and life to Him in whom alone is true life here and the sure hope of life hereafter. Let us connect all the events great and small of our life—its troubles and its joys—its deepest experiences and tenderest feelings, with the thought of God. Let us never be far from Him—let there be a

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