

THE PASTOR'S REPORT.

Another year of our Church life has passed away, and we are called to make some record of that which is the most apparent in our history for 1875.

All such statements, however, must fall far short of the whole of the facts, as words and figures are necessarily liable both to magnify and conceal a part of the truth; for unknown to us are the motives prompting each other's acts, and unseen are the cups of cold water, given in the name of a disciple. We have a more correct record in our own consciences, but a perfect statement is only found in the Book of Remembrance.

Chief among the incidents of the year, of which we may take knowledge, are the changes in the Diaconate; the payment of the Church debt; the establishment of the Benevolent Fund; the organization of the Western Congregational Church, and through this and other causes, an unusually large number removed from our Church fellowship.

Concerning some of these matters, you will hear from the other reports; but I cannot withhold an expression of my pleasure and gratitude at the fact that we have been enabled to discharge the Church from all pecuniary liabilities, and that a debt which, though not large, has for years been a source of perplexity is now wholly removed. In the successful inauguration of the scheme of the Benevolent Fund, we are enabled both to meet certain Church and denominational claims in a more simple and systematic manner, and also to greatly increase our means for their support. Its principle is the same as that which has been in use by the Church for the past thirty years in connection with the Weekly Offering.

The steady financial progress of the Church may be best shown by the following comparative statement of the sums annually collected for certain objects during 1870 and succeeding years.

OBJECTS.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.
Weekly Offering.....	\$1686 67	\$1621 17	\$1824 91	\$2136 29	\$2520 19	\$2542 42
Sunday School.....	33 56	43 12	41 68	48 60	65 88	150 00
Fellowship Fund.....	73 23	55 35	66 46	75 95	121 72	134 56
Congregational Mis. Soc.....	35 70	55 50	174 35	215 85	223 57	280 00
Congregational College.....	37 00	22 00	51 50	102 00	149 25	150 00
Indian Mission.....	10 00	16 00	25 00	38 50	53 00	41 00
Congregational Union.....	15 00	10 00	30 00	23 33	30 00	30 00

For several years past the necessity for a Congregational Church in the western part of the city, where a large number of our members resided, has occupied much of our attention; and in September 1874, a resolution was passed by the Church, asking for a conference on the subject with the pastors, deacons and other representatives of our sister Churches in the city. This was at once accorded, and an unanimous opinion given that such a movement was called for. Though the matter was beset with many difficulties, they were so far overcome as to admit of the organization of such a Church on the 25th of November last. It was composed of thirty members dismissed from Zion Church, nine from Bond St. Church and four who had been