

## PASTORAL GREETING TO THE MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS OF ST. GABRIEL CHURCH.

MY DEAR BRETHREN,

Another large instalment of our time on earth is gone. Our opportunities for laying up in store a good foundation against the time to come are less now than they were a year ago. Eternity is a long step nearer: are we also readier for it? Have we all made choice of Christ? Have we come to a decision to be His? Happy are they that have done so: a life of peace, of joy in God, and of the blessedness that flows from having an object in life worth living for, follows. My duty is "to watch for your souls as one that must give an account."

Being Christ's, or desiring to be Christ's, are you placing yourselves at His disposal for service? Have you said to Him sincerely "Lord, what wouldst thou have me to do?"—"Here am I, send me." Brethren, "ye are not your own but bought with a price." Remember the word of the Lord Jesus: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross *daily* and follow me."

And besides personal service for Jesus, have you done your duty towards the Church of God,—that agency of the Lord's own creation for making His love known? "Ye shall hallow my Sabbaths and reverence my Sanctuary," saith the Lord. Have you done so the entire fifty-two times that you had an opportunity of doing it in a year? Did you allow a trivial excuse to keep you away? You know from experience that it is good to be there. And as your spiritual instructor, I always strive to make it worth your while to be there. I study variety in my teaching, so that, if possible, every one's need may be met in turn. You ought always to get good by waiting on the Lord in His ordinances. And in contact as you are, all the rest of the week, with influences that are depressing to the spiritual nature, you need to be kept in mind of the things that are unseen and eternal, and to have your religious life kept up. "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together." There is magic in numbers,—there is joy in fellowship; and if you all attended the services of God's house every Lord's Day, we should always have a full congregation. We have people enough nonimally connected with us to occupy every pew,—provided it were