

The growth of our Congregation has been steady and very encouraging. Many worship with us, and I am happy to observe, that in response to the invitation given, many who "love the Lord Jesus Christ," but are not at present formally united to the Church, commune with us also. In this I have every satisfaction, since I believe that the Communion Service may be among the holiest and most helpful of all acts of worship; but I would suggest to some who have worshipped with us long and communed with us often, that a still closer union with the Church on their part would strengthen us and prove helpful to them.

I am greatly anxious to see a quickened interest in the efficiency and extension of our Sunday School. Those who have given themselves to this work, have done so with a vigour and self-denial greatly to be esteemed. But we need a general and hearty sympathy with them, and determination to support their efforts. These are our own children; the future depends upon them under God; can we give too much of our interest and care to the right conduct of the institution in which a large part of their spiritual training is received? I hope that the advantages of regular and systematic instruction which the school offers will not be deemed of little importance by any of us who are parents.

I am glad to notice a considerable interest and a larger attendance at our Wednesday evening services. It is always wise and helpful to get, if possible, this hour of prayer and fellowship in the midst of the week. I cannot but believe that our present plan of Bible studies will be found growingly instructive, and will tend to bring our minds into that close and habitual contact with the sacred Scriptures, from which the Christian life derives fullness and harmony. Let me urge upon all amongst us the great importance of regular attendance. Luther used to say that an hour spent in prayer was an hour gained for everything else. Have we not all found it so, and that just in proportion as the prayer was hearty and thorough?

On the whole, at the close of the first year, during which we have worshipped in our Church edifice, we can only speak of mercy and blessing. God has been and is with us. My own work as the minister is intensely dear to me, and my fervent