

PASTOR'S ADDRESS.

MY DEAR FRIENDS:—

By the mercy of God we have been preserved, in our relation as Pastor and Church, through another year. There are many points of view in which the call for gratitude is loud and clear in our hearing. All our Church Agencies are in an encouraging state. The Congregations, evening as well as morning, are good. Our peace with each other remains unbroken. I think I am speaking within the strict limits of moderation when I say that the pulse of the Church's life beats with increased fullness and with a healthy vigour.

I am thankful both for and to those who render help in our various auxiliary activities. I need not enumerate them in detail. But I may call attention to the great importance of every one in the Church taking up some definite department of work, and throwing his energies into its performance. It is a fault besetting us all that we look too much to the reception, rather than the giving of spiritual help. The voice of all experience is one with that of Scripture, in declaring that "the diligent soul shall be made rich," and that it is "he that watereth others" who shall himself grow in the vineyard of Christ.

I am glad to know that there is a spirit of inquiry, and of decision, penetrating to many, especially to the younger people of our families. Already we have seen happy results, but I hope and believe there are still others who will rejoice us by making clear and public acknowledgement of their devotion to the Saviour. Much depends on the influence of parents, much also on that of elder brothers and sisters. The Sunday School has already been much blessed. Let me call on faithful teachers to make it a subject of prayer and of expectation, that their pupils give themselves wholly to the Saviour. Next to the influence of a wise and godly home, there is none equal to that of a really devoted teacher.

I again call the attention of members of the Church to the importance, and in my view the duty of filling their places at Church, no only at one, but at both services on the Lord's day. There ought to be some very special and pressing reasons when this is not done; I cannot consent to urge it on grounds of example