

PASTORAL WORDS
TO THE MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS OF ST. GABRIEL
CHURCH.

MY DEAR BRETHREN,

In preparing a word or two introductory to the Annual Report of our Church, I gladly avail myself of the opportunity of offering you a few exhortations and suggestions.

First, let us thank God for the mercies of the year 1890. It brought sorrow to many a home indeed, as the *In Memoriam* column strikingly shows ; but our Heavenly Father mingled much that was sweet in the bitterest cup any of us had to drink. In spite of the prevalence of sickness, and of the hard times accompanying financial stringency, as a community we enjoyed a large share of prosperity. Personally the year will be memorable to me because of the long and refreshing holiday it gave me, through your kindness, in affording me the opportunity, with some members of my family, of visiting the land of my fathers ; and this favour I should probably not have enjoyed, but for the previous somewhat prolonged indisposition which was the occasion of it.

The Financial Statement of the Trustees is suggestive. Four years have now elapsed since we took possession of our beautiful and comfortable new church, and the experience of that period affords a criterion of the probable future success of the venture made in the purchase of the property and removal to it in 1886. A review of those four years, it will be gratefully conceded on all hands, has nothing to teach us but what is encouraging. There has been steady growth and improvement all along the line. The Sabbath attendance, especially in the evening, has greatly increased,—the Sabbath School and Bible Class have been doubled, and, as they are the feeders of the church, they guarantee a strong future for the congregation,—the Young People's Association has proved itself an institution of great vigor and capacity, such as it did not dream of becoming in the old church, and now that it is supplemented by the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour, together they possess possibilities for good which, wisely employed, make failure in any cause that they enlist in, out of the question,—the several Ladies' Associations have added in our new sphere to even that reputation which they had made for themselves the previous twenty years, for zeal and efficiency, proving still the right arm of the service, in all work for the Lord among us,—yea, in every department of our congregation, whose organization is so thorough in its