

TO THE MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS OF ST. GABRIEL CHURCH.

DEAR FRIENDS,

It is now four years since I have had the opportunity of addressing to you a few words on the occasion of publishing an annual report of the Congregation. Those years have been trying ones to the most of the Congregations in Canada, and we have had our share of difficulties. But we have cause to bless God that we have come so well through them. To-day we stand in as prosperous a condition as we ever were in. All that we need now to guarantee an influential and important future to the Congregation is that we go on steadily and patiently in the support of ordinances. We happily are not burdened with any debt worth mentioning; and if the edifice and its equipments are not all that modern taste demands, we may remember how long they were thought adequate to furnish accommodation to the best of Montreal's sons and daughters, while we may cherish the hope at no distant day of being able to erect a more suitable building, in a convenient locality, free of debt. Meanwhile let us stick together. Let us be faithful to the cause which we are charged to maintain in this part of the city, and we need have no fears for the future.

The envelope system, introduced a year ago, has been found to work so well, and has been so generally adopted, that it would greatly lessen the labour of the Treasurer if the few who have not yet fallen in with it could see their way to do so at an early day. There was a slight misunderstanding last year on the part of some as to what the envelope contributions were to be devoted to. All should know that they are for purely *congregational* objects. We still rely on our Missionary Association and on the occasional collections ordered by the Assembly for the means to aid in the great missionary and benevolent undertakings of the Church, which it has always been our ambition to help forward. Dear brethren, whatever we come short in, let us see that we do not fail to come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty. The large constituency connected with our Church ought to be able to do much more for outside objects, besides efficiently sustaining ordinances at home.

I commend to your careful perusal the separate items of the following report. Read them carefully and take note of what they say.

“The very God of peace sanctify you wholly: and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Your faithful friend and pastor,

ROBERT CAMPBELL.

Montreal, February, 1880.