

liabilities are paid. The margin of funds, after meeting due claims, at no time of the year was at all extensive and at times due claims were in advance of funds, yet not of long duration was this the case at any time, and when the year closed all current claims and bills, so far as rendered, had been paid, leaving a balance on hand. This is better than 1896 closed, although arrears of that year balanced accounts, but it is due to the receipt of \$50.00 bequeathed by the late Mrs. W. Patterson and somewhat less expenditure, and not to increase of regular receipts.

The small square envelopes in which the weekly offering is made and on which contributions are kindly requested to mark amount enclosed, are on the table in vestibule, where each one may supply himself or be supplied by speaking to one of the ushers.

When looking back over our—the congregation's—financial affairs of the year that has gone, it has been thought by the managers that it would be well at the same time to forecast certain special work for the coming year, in addition to the usual routine, so that it may be duly considered by all. For some time past the renovating, &c., of the church building, especially inside, has been spoken of, if not an absolute necessity, a thing much to be desired, and now it is thought that the time has fully come when the congregation generally will approve of putting into practice this project some time during the present year. The putting in of a new organ, which has been contemplated for many a year, if it is to be done any time in the near future, would no doubt be better and more cheaply done at the same time as the other work. A breathing time has been had since the debt on our church was cleared off, and now, seeing that old Time has been leaving finger marks here and there, and that too much relaxation in church effort, even on the temporal side, is not conducive to health, it would, we believe, be proper and to the congregation's welfare to undertake the proposed work. The Managers simply recommend the foregoing to the congregation, and while speaking of material concerns they recognize and wish to emphasize most emphatically that spiritual growth, which springs from the cordial acceptance of Christ and His precepts, is the only standard of all true progress, and without this all other kind is in vain. Desiring to be guided by God's will, and longing to be more fully endowed with the spirit of Christ, we hope for a year of true prosperity, more Spirituality, and a sufficient supply of the things that are promised to be added to this.