

PASTORAL LETTER.

TO THE CONGREGATION OF THE AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Dear Friends :

It is a pleasure to pen the opening words of this year's Report, for a glance at the total shows that, both in the number of subscribers and in the amount contributed, this year's record surpasses that of any previous year in the history of the fund. A net increase of forty-eight names upon this "Roll of Honor," and of over eight hundred dollars to the Lord's work through this channel is encouraging evidence of healthy growth in benevolent and missionary interest, and ground for hearty thanksgiving to God.

A study of this year's disbursements shows them to have been most judicious and satisfactory. Never have I been so thoroughly satisfied with the results of our expenditure at Inspector Street Chapel as this year. Never have the letters of our own missionaries given greater evidence of the good that our gifts are doing.

A comparison of the classified list of subscribers with that of last year shows that the increase has been among the small givers, rather than the large ones. We still have one noble subscription of \$300; but, while last year there were three who gave from \$150 to \$200, this year there is only one. While last year there were three who gave from \$75 to \$100, this year there is only one. But for the increase in the number of smaller gifts, we should have fallen behind. I earnestly hope that those who have led this ever increasing host will not begin to lag. If you decrease what you have given out of your abundance, others will certainly lessen what they have given out of their poverty. I sincerely hope that the leaders will quicken their pace to the speed of last year at least.