

Church, as given in the minutes of the General Assembly, U. S. A., for 1877, we find it is the largest congregation but one in its Presbytery, having on its roll 516 communicants. We find also that thirteen new communicants were added during the year, and fifteen infants baptized, while the congregation contributes to every Church scheme save one, and has moreover a Sabbath School of 498 scholars. On the principle of the proverb, "Physician heal thyself," we are warranted to receive with respectful attention what an able and experienced pastor with such a record has to say to us on the practical work of the ministry.

But Dr. Murphy is furnished for his work with more than his own experience. He tells that when preparing for the ministry, he enjoyed the very great privilege of listening to lectures and familiar conversations on the character, duties, and responsibilities of the pastoral office, by the Rev. Dr. Archibald Alexander. When listening to these lectures he took copious notes, with which he now enriches the pages of his treatise.

Having devoted a chapter to "The Nature and Importance of Pastoral Theology," Dr. Murphy discusses with clearness, copiousness, and evangelical ardour, truly refreshing, the following subjects, each under a chapter:—"THE PASTOR—IN HIS CLOSET—IN THE STUDY—IN THE PULPIT—IN HIS PERSONAL PAROCHIAL WORK—IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHURCH, (such as elder's work, woman's work, prayer-meetings)—IN THE PROGRESS OF THE CHURCH, (this treats of revivals, meetings with inquirers, care for converts)—IN THE SABBATH SCHOOL—IN THE BENEVOLENT WORK OF THE CHURCH—IN THE SESSION—IN THE HIGHER COURTS OF THE CHURCH—IN HIS RELATION TO OTHER DENOMINATIONS."

We could wish space were at our disposal this month to give some extracts which we are sure would delight our readers, not only for their matter, but for the fact that such a book is likely to pass into the hands of the young ministers of the American churches of all denominations. On the assumption made by the sainted McCheyne, that "one word to a minister is worth sometimes a word to two or three thousand souls," one cannot calculate the good this book may effect. Reader, do you feel special interest in any young man who is about to enter the work of the ministry, or who is already in that work groping out solutions for himself in pastoral theology, then we know of no greater boon (a boon that might color a life-long ministry,) you could confer on that young pastor than with a kind note and many prayers, to make him a present of this timeous volume by Dr. Murphy, not less beautiful in its typographical finish, than weighty and impressive in its message to pastors.