

Pastoral Letter.

To the Members and Adherents of St. Paul's Church.

BELOVED BRETHREN AND FRIENDS,

The issue of the Annual Reports of the Congregation affords me an opportunity at this time of addressing a few words to you, in the form of a Pastoral letter. Among the reasons which may be given for my doing so, one especially occurs to me, the fact namely, that I have lately completed sixteen years of pastoral connection with St. Paul's. So long a pastorate might warrant any minister in addressing to his people, in this form, words of Christian counsel and appeal.

I refer with satisfaction to the financial position of the Congregation, as reported at the late Annual Meeting. That we are free from debt, that we have a small surplus of income over last year's expenditure, and that provision has been made for completing the Church building according to the plans of the late Mr. Laword, are facts which call for gratitude to Him who has given us the will to accomplish these most desirable results. I commend to your consideration the recommendation given by the Board of Trustees as to the necessity of enlarging our contributions to the ordinary Sabbath collections, that so we may maintain, as to revenue and expenditure, the position which for the first time in the history of St. Paul's church we were last year able to achieve.

It is matter of deep regret to me, that so few, comparatively, of the members of the Congregation see it to be their duty and privilege to contribute to the Missions of our Church, and its other benevolent work. Many among us contribute liberally; some contributions, indeed, may be deemed almost munificent; but the discouraging fact remains, that more than one-half of the families in the Congregation hold their hand from giving in any wise to Home Missions, to Foreign Missions, to French Evangelization, to the support of our Colleges, and to the other benevolent objects named in our yearly Schedule of contribution. I affectionately recommend and even urge those of our members who have not yet contributed to these great Christian objects, to consider this whole matter of giving, in the light of Holy Scripture, and of their own conscience. I plead not for large contributions so much as for a *general* recognition of this God-enjoined duty, on the part of the great body of our Congregation.

The Congregation is to be congratulated on the fact that for many months past, the Sabbath-evening services have been more largely attended than they had been for some time previously. Even with this improve-