

PASTORAL LETTER.

My Dear Friends :

You will find in the following Reports much interesting information in regard to the work of the Church during the past year. It is not possible, of course, by any mere statements or statistics, to indicate the full results of Christian activity ; but sufficient evidence is afforded by them for abundant gratitude to God, and for quickened zeal in His service that we come behind in no gift, waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Your attendance at public worship has been most encouraging, and while we have not been visited with any unusual evidences of the Divine blessing, it cheers me to know that my ministry among you is not without it quiet helpfulness. To God be all the praise !

During the year no less than eleven of our members have been removed, some of them suddenly, by the hand of death. My earnest sympathy goes out towards the bereaved families, and I pray that the Father of Jesus Christ may abundantly sustain and comfort them.

Since our last Report, I have succeeded, by persevering industry, in completing pastoral visits throughout the whole congregation. These visits have been most enjoyable to me, and, I hope, of some benefit to you. My only regret is that under ordinary circumstances they cannot be more frequent. The care of the sick and troubled always demands the first consideration. And beyond this, in view of my growing belief that the strength of the Christian minister should be concentrated upon the work of preaching, little opportunity remains for general intercourse with you in your homes. Be assured that no one feels this deprivation more than I do myself.

Our mid-week services, on the whole, have been better attended than usual, and my hearty thanks are given to the orchestra of young people for the faithful and efficient way in which they have led the musical part of these services.

It is gratifying to note still further increase in the number of those

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