

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH,

HALIFAX, N. S.

Rector's Annual Report—Easter, 1897.

THIS is my Seventh Annual Report as the Rector of this Parish. It is now seven years since I was called in the Providence of God to undertake this important work, and as I am about to enter upon the eighth year of my Rectorship, a feeling of gratitude to Almighty God for His continued mercies constrains me to begin it with an expression of thankfulness.

During the past ten or fifteen years the conditions of the church life of St. Paul's may be said to have been practically revolutionized.

The old and influential families that were the mainstay and the life of the church in position, and wealth, and numbers, have, with a few exceptions passed away. A multitude of church people that not many years ago lived close to the church have removed their habitations and the population that lived within a few moments walk have been scattered to the north, and the south, and the west, in increasing numbers, and to increasingly remote distances. Time too has not only laid its unsparing hand upon many, but wrought those changes that in other cities have so disastrously affected the old and down town churches. New