

Introduction.

To the Members and Adherents of St. James Square Church :

The publication of another ANNUAL REPORT, for which I am asked to write a few introductory sentences, reminds me that already three years have elapsed since I accepted your invitation to make my home amongst you. To me the time has seemed to pass very rapidly. Indeed, it seems hard to realize that already so wide an interval divides the present from that wintry Sabbath morning upon which I preached my first sermon in your hearing, and from a pulpit which has since become for me so familiar and so inspiring.

This REPORT is worthy of your perusal. There are portions of it to which, as it is natural, some will turn with peculiar interest ; but I commend it all to every one of you. It teems with evidences of a cheerful activity, which is not easily wearied. It is permitted to record, in not a few instances, the success of earnest endeavours to advance Christ's Kingdom. And it speaks of other labors, as yet only partially required, but of which the sure and abundant harvest will be garnered by and by.

The unusually early appearance of this REPORT marks a commendable advance, and is certainly a matter of satisfaction to your Committee on Publication. The beginning (not to say the end) of March, is fully a month too late for setting before the Congregation a review of the notes of progress which have characterized the preceding year. On the present occasion, the expedition which,—without sacrifice of accuracy or good mechanical workmanship,—has placed this REPORT in the pews, less than three weeks after the date of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, is deserving of all praise.