

11. The financial story of the year, as the trustees will tell it as soon as I have done.

12. Best of all, the addition of 30 new members to the Roll, many of these on Confession of their Faith.

Surely, there is material here for thanksgiving and hope. But none for boasting or resting. "Go forward!" is our watchword still.

There are two practical objects on which my heart has been much set, but on which I have not yet seen my way clear to the necessary action.

The first is, the removal of at least a great part of the Church Debt. So deeply did I feel beforehand its burdensomeness, that I was disposed to make a large payment a condition of my coming. I was advised to wait, and am still so advised. Thus far I have yielded, and am thankful to know to-night that the way is clearing. I do not ask this year more than as liberal a payment as can be made next March, on the plan now in operation, under which such admirable results have been achieved. But I must confidently anticipate that by our next annual meeting we shall feel that we can make a united and vigorous attack on this great hindrance to our growth, which cramps and fetters us at every turn, and forbids the enterprise which is essential to success. My brethren, you are more able to lift this burden than you think. It is costing you to-day some \$25 a Sunday for interest alone.

The second unattained object is the introduction of a new Hymn and Tune book. My ideal would be one book for the Sabbath Services and the Prayer Meeting, and (if possible) for the Sunday School also; a book with Tunes; the words including Chants and Anthems as well as the choicest Metrical Hymns of all ages; the music representing many generations as well as our own; this book of such a price as to put abundant copies into every pew and every house; its contents practised in every family, and by the congregation in rehearsals, in which church and choir would sing together; and the fruit of all these appearing in public praise as the sound of many waters, inspiring to men, acceptable to God. Several books claiming to fulfil this ideal have recently appeared. You may hear more of this matter some early day.

If I were to speak of the many other aims and ideals before me, as to your work and mine, I should "continue my speech until midnight." But we are here to relate the facts of the past rather than our dreams for the future. Let us give our attention to the Annual Reports.