

Pastoral Letter.

MY DEAR FRIENDS :—

It is my privilege to write as a preface to our annual report, a short pastoral letter. In one sentence I would like once more cordially to thank all who have helped and encouraged and cheered me in my work, and to express my great thankfulness for the unbroken harmony which continues to characterize our congregational life. In retrospect of another year, whilst it makes me grateful it also makes me humble, and I earnestly pray that I may be enabled to be more faithful to God and more helpful to you during this new year.

There are only two things to which I wish specially to allude—one regarding the temporal and the other the spiritual welfare of the congregation. For some time past there has been a debt, a debt I am sorry to say, not diminishing, but rather increasing, year by year—at the end of the year, it amounted, including the mortgage on the caretaker's house, to between ten and eleven thousand dollars. The Trustees thought that the present, with all its financial depression, was not a good time to try to raise the amount. So anxious was I, however, to see the debt removed, that I offered, with their approval, to make the effort. I did so reluctantly—it is the first time I have made an appeal for my own congregation—and I hope the necessity will never again arise : at the same time I do not regret doing it, because the kindness and cordiality manifested towards me by all whom I approached, have greatly encouraged me, and have taught me two things—one, that I have your full sympathy with me in all my work, and the other, that by diligent faithfulness I might accomplish more in Christ's service than I have hitherto done. The result of my effort is told elsewhere in the report. Owing to sickness, I was unable to see all to whom I hoped to appeal. I would ask all who are willing to aid me still to send their contributions, and if this is done, I am full of hope, that the end of 1895 will see our congregation entirely free of debt, and also the church lighted with electric light. And I would now very strongly urge upon the members of the congregation so to support the Trustees in their work that we will never need again to raise money to pay off debt.

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