

During the year two important changes have been made in connection with the church which require special notice. We refer to the cushioning of the pews and the putting in of new heating apparatus. The former of these was undertaken, as you will remember, chiefly through the energy and generosity of our esteemed elder Mr. William Porter, and was carried out by means of a loan of one thousand dollars procured by your committee under the special authority and direction of the congregation, and which has proved to be an agreeable and important contribution to the appearance of our church as well as to the personal comfort of the worshippers. And as it is to be enjoyed at an expense to the congregation of only the interest on the said loan, pending the maturity of provision made by Mr. Porter for its payment, we feel that we cannot too highly appreciate his kindness and forethought.

The matter of heating the church having already been fully discussed at a meeting of the congregation called for that purpose, your committee beg further to report, that having as directed by that meeting had the old furnaces thoroughly examined and tested by competent persons, and having found them not only unsafe, but so far worn out as to be irreparable, they concluded to have them replaced; and from the best information available it was found that hot air was not only the least expensive but the most satisfactory medium for heating the church. Tenders for a hot air system were duly called for and a number received, and after a careful comparison of the merits claimed for each the tender of Douglas Bros. was accepted and the contract awarded to them for a system of three furnaces at the moderate cost of five hundred dollars, payable on the first of April next, subject to the furnaces giving entire satisfaction in the meantime. This contract has, we are pleased to report, been so far carried out and the furnaces are now undergoing the test of severe winter weather with favorable results. Your committee trust that apart from a considerable saving in the quantity of fuel used, the change will also give additional comfort and cleanliness, commending the wisdom of their action in this matter.

Referring to the finances for the year just closed without any desire to cause unnecessary alarm, your committee deem it a duty to call your attention to a serious falling off in the contributions to the Sustentation Fund, viz., from \$3,583.32 in the year 1892, it has been reduced last year to \$3,092.93, showing a loss in this important item of fixed revenue for 1893 of \$490.39, and although this may be accounted for in part by the extraordinary efforts made early in the year on behalf of Rev. Mr. Farries and also by the fact that no canvass was made by your committee for contributions in the beginning of the year and by the unusual stringency in money matters during the latter part of the year, may we not fear that it is to some extent due to the long unsettled condition of our church affairs. "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick."