

**A few Pastoral Words,**  
**TO THE MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS**  
**OF ST. GABRIEL CHURCH.**

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

In the following pages, the record which you have made for yourselves in the year, 1895, is contained. Not all your record, of course. It is only in God's book that it is fully written out. The advancement which you may have made in spiritual life cannot be described with printers' ink. But the facts and figures of the Annual Report are held to be a good index even of the strength of the spiritual pulse-beat of the congregation; and, therefore, I heartily commend to your careful perusal the several items which fill these pages, if you would know what your standing is as a spiritual agency.

A glance at this pamphlet will make one thing at least clear, that there are departments of work enough and these of a sufficiently varied character, to enlist the sympathies and co-operation of everyone of you, young and old. If you shall not find your sphere, that which is most to your liking and best adapted to call into active exercise your zeal and enthusiasm in one of the organizations existing in connection with the congregation, you will find it in another. Whatever reasonable excuse used to exist in St. Gabriel's, that there was no scope for the energies of the young, can no longer be urged. And the older members acknowledge gladly the hearty interest which the young men and women of our church are taking in all that pertains to its highest welfare. The young people may well evince the most eager desire for the welfare of St. Gabriel's—it is the Lord's cause they are promoting, and they have a greater prospective interest in the church's prosperity and success, than the older people have. Their help even in clearing off the debt is, therefore, reasonably to be expected.

Again, the Trustees echo the call to the people to furnish them with larger means to carry out the purposes of the trust. And that is right. The church is a militant institution. It must never reach the stage at which it is to rest and be thankful. "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion!" It is far better to be advancing even if the limits of the congregation's means are transcended, than to be content to sink down into a condition of inertness, with a balance at the right side. "EXCELSIOR" must be inscribed on the banner of every prosperous