

The publication of our little quarterly *Life and Work*, begun with the commencement of this year, has seemed to many like the resurrection of a long-lost friend. It is hoped that, like its predecessor, it may serve a useful purpose in conserving and promoting the widely varied interests of the congregation.

But I must not pause to particularize. The year, just closed, God has indeed crowned with His goodness. It has been a year of growth. There has been increase alike in our numbers, in our unity, and in our confident Christian courage. Even in things financial, notwithstanding the severe stringency from which our city and country still suffer, we have made gratifying progress : both the ordinary revenue of the congregation, and the allocations which we have been able to make to missions and education, indicate a long advance upon the similar returns of 1893. But the same remark holds true of all the departments of our congregational activity. The subjoined Reports tell their own story of work remembered, resumed and rewarded.

As regards my own labors among you, the past twelve months have seemed to slip away very rapidly. Yet they brought to me much which, happily, they have left behind them. They have been fruitful in a host of pleasant recollections. Moreover, they witnessed our union as pastor and people : and now, allied in the promotion of a high and sacred enterprise, we rejoice to continue to be workers together. I shall not deny that I have often found my duties to be exacting as well as clamant and constant : but the cases have been rare indeed in which such service has not been accompanied with an abundant compensation.

With at least some regrets, we must all make retrospect of the year now closed. For my own part, I am sorry that I have been unable, in my visits, to overtake all the families of the congregation : the claims of sickness have been too numerous and urgent. Then, some who were with us when the year began have passed from our view. Possibly they are with us still ! Certainly they are not forgotten. God cheer

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