

First Reformed Church,



NEW-BRUNSWICK, N. J.

Rev. Thomas C. Easton, D.D.,

PASTOR.

✻ 1885. ✻

PASTOR'S REPORT.

THE year has been one of mingled joy and sadness. Steady progress in all the departments of Christian work and accessions to the membership at each communion are among the leading sources of congratulation. Peace has characterized our fellowship. The presence and power of the Holy spirit resulting in the quickening of believers and conversion of sinners has been graciously manifest. A steady increase of young men at all the services on the Sabbath is a source of gladness also to the pastor.

But the year has been one of deep bereavement, as many have been removed by death, and among them some of the most useful and prominent members. Among the number two beloved Elders in active service, and others who for many years have been associated with both church and Sabbath school in official relations. They have entered upon their everlasting reward in the church triumphant and now inherit life eternal.

With us their names shall live
Through long succeeding years,
Embalmed in all our hearts can give—
Our praises and our tears.

In the Sabbath school, both in the adult and primary department, there is seen growth and prosperity, due to the faithful teaching under the administration of V. M. W. Suydam, Superintendent. The primary department, under the inspiring leadership of Mrs. Suydam and her assistants,

has enjoyed marked success during the year and repeatedly graduated classes to enter the adult ranks.

The statistical and financial report is as follows :

Pastoral visitations during the year, including sickness,	1,925
Funerals attended.....	44
Marriages.....	24

BAPTISMS.

Adults on Confession	9
Infant Baptism	23

MEMBERSHIP.

Number of communicants last year.....	738
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REVISED LIST.

Received during the present year ending April 1st, 1885:

On confession of faith.....	46
By certificate.....	19
	— 65

Total number.....	803
Dismissed to other churches.....	28
Deaths.....	16
Total.....	— 44

Actual number of communicants on April 1st, 1885.....	759
The pastor was installed May 11th, 1881, and the membership was then.....	529

And the accessions have been as follows :

First year—	
By confession.....	35
By certificate.....	26
	— 61
Second year—	
By confession.....	124
By certificate.....	33
	— 157
Third year—	
By confession.....	65
By certificate.....	16
	— 81

Fourth year—	
By confession.....	46
By certificate.....	19
	<u>65</u>
	893
Deaths during the four years	59
Dismissions.....	76
Suspensions.....	2
	<u>137</u>

Deducting these 137 from the 893 gives us a *net* gain over all losses of 227 in the four years pastorate.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT,

Year ending April, 1885.

FOR RELIGIOUS AND BENEVOLENT PURPOSES

Board of Domestic Missions.....	\$452 83
“ Foreign Missions.....	595 39
“ Publication.....	36 12
“ Education.....	39 10
“ Church Extension.....	112 08
“ Widows' Fund.....	42 74
Poor.....	207 27
Classical Dues.....	55 35
City Mission.....	59 00
Sunday School.....	67 70
Special Services.....	52 00
Fourth Reformed or Suydam-Street Church	835 25
Young Men's Christian Association	395 65
Primary Class in Sabbath School.....	115 00
Sundry objects of Benevolence.....	325 50
	<u>\$3,380 98</u>

FOR CONGREGATIONAL PURPOSES.

Pastor's Salary.....	\$2,500 00
All other Congregational Expenses	2,046 97
Total.....	<u>\$4,546 97</u>

..... Increase this year over the previous, \$1,579.98.

Total amount of money raised for benevolence and congregational purposes during the pastorate of Dr. Easton :

Extensive Repairs—First year.....	\$13,156 72
Second year.....	7,142 07
Third year.....	6,582 97
Fourth year.....	7,927 97

Total amount in four years..... \$34,809 73

~~£~~ This *excludes* all expenditures of income from bequests or from invested funds, and is the actual amount raised by the congregation during the present pastorate.

SABBATH SCHOOL.

Number on the roll—

Infant class.....	200
Bible class.....	40
Officers and teachers.....	48
Main school.....	238
Total.....	526

Average attendance—

Infant class.....	109
Bible class.....	21
Officers and teachers.....	40
Main school.....	167
Total average.....	337

Largest attendance at one session :

Easter Sunday.....	406
The net gain to the School during the year.....	48

TREASURER'S REPORT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL, 1885.

RECEIVED.

Balance last report.....	\$190 17
Class Collections	361 68
Church Collections.....	67 60
Easter Offering.....	20 27
Lesson Books.....	42 79

Collected for Delegates to Inter-Con.....	\$55 00
Special collection from Teachers.....	50 00
Collection Infant Library.....	30 00
“ for Infant Class.....	85 00
	———— \$902 51

DISBURSEMENTS.

Weir—S. S. Association.....	\$ 5 00
Foreign Missions.....	125 00
Domestic Missions.....	75 00
American S. S. Union.....	24
Pres. Board Publication.....	14 50
Infant Department.....	10 00
Easter Carols.....	12 20
State School Association.....	10 00
American Tract Society.....	36 23
Board of Publication.....	49 50
Incidentals.....	61 40
Delegates to International Con.....	55 00
Library Infant Department.....	30 00
Entertainment for Infant Department.....	85 00
	———— \$569 07
	\$333 44

Dearly Beloved Flock:

The future is full of hope. There is needed a deeper sense of our *personal* responsibility, and a larger consecration of our means to God. There is a *decline* in the collections for *incidental expenses* which *must* be remedied the coming year, or a new assessment upon pews will be imperatively demanded. This we are not inclined to do, as our pew rentals have been, and are now so moderate that the poorest among us can enjoy the *privilege* of supporting the means of grace.

Let us renew our diligence and quicken our activities, for “the night cometh when no man can work.”

Suggestions by the Pastor.

1. PASTORAL VISITING.—It is the purpose of the pastor to visit every family of the Church.

The growing proportions of the congregation, it will be seen, render the frequent presence of the pastor in every family *more and more difficult*.

2. In cases of sickness and affliction, if the presence of the pastor in the household is desired, *inform him of it and send for him*. He may not hear of sickness in your family, or if he does he may not know that the report is correct, or whether the sickness may not be trifling. In case of the dangerous illness of unconverted persons, *send early* for the pastor. Call, also, for the elders of the Church, whose office is to visit the sick.

3. FUNERALS.—It is desirable that, as far as possible, funerals should *not be on the Sabbath*. Sunday funerals impose too great burdens on pastors, and distract attention and attendance from stated services.

4. ABSENCE.—Members of the Church about to leave the city will confer a kindness by notifying pastor and elders of their intentions. It prevents needless anxiety.

5. REPORT at once to the pastor any change of residence, giving street and number. It is better to do this by note or postal card.

Suggestions

CONCERNING PRAYER MEETINGS.

1. Let nothing prevent your presence in the prayer meeting which would not keep you from a party of pleasure,

or any other place. Give your engagements with God the precedence over all social or other engagements. Arrange your BUSINESS so as to attend these meetings. If that causes some losses (which is seldom the case) your spiritual gain will be worth a hundred fold more to you.

2. Come punctually if possible, and if not, come late.

3. Take a front seat if one is vacant.

4. Bring as many with you as you are able, and do your best to make them regular attendants.

5. Always expect in the meeting the presence of Jesus, and the joys of everlasting life.

6. Give every stranger a most cordial welcome.

7. Endeavor to make prayer meetings sociable, colloquial and cheerful. A single remark—with or without rising—a verse of Scripture or of a hymn, often contributes very largely to the profit of a meeting. *Testimony of individual experience* honors Christ, and promotes faith and brotherly love. Allow no “gaps.” Make the meeting interesting even to those who have no spiritual life.

8. Hand to your pastor, or the leader of the meeting, in writing, any question the discussion of which might be profitable, and also requests for prayers for special objects.

9. In speaking or praying it is an important rule to endeavor to be audible to the most distant person in the congregation.

10. Groups of people living remote from the church building should arrange to come to and return from the evening meetings in parties, so that none may be deprived of these inestimable privileges.

DEATHS.

JANE DUMONT,
ELIZA S. LETSON,
HENRIETTA VETHAKE,
RUTH LATHAM,
SIMON H. BERGEN,
KATE V. PENNINGTON,
EDWARD MILLER,
NATHANIEL L. JIMMERSON,
ELLA VAN NUIS,

REBECCA BORDEN,
MARGARET VAN SYCKLE,
JENNIE D. CORTELYOU,
J. AUG. THOMPSON, (col'd,)
JOHNSON LETSON,
MARIA MESSLER,
JAMES GARRETSON,
SARAH A. SMITH,
HERMAN J. HOAGLAND.

SABBATH SCHOOL.

NETTIE CHAMBERLAIN,
WILLY STIVES.

CHARLIE LUTZ,

N.J.-Y
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