

that have secured his labors, retires to enjoy rest from the further anxieties of the pastorate. He carries with him, into private life, the esteem and confidence of his Brethren, and the prayer, that he may be spared yet many years, and prove still further advantageous to the Denomination, in whose services the vigor of his manhood has been spent.

While we cannot report a large net increase of members, we still rejoice in abundant evidence of the presence and power of God having attended our ministrations of the truth, resulting in many conversions, and, in some instances, extensive revivals. Thus, after making up for losses from all causes, we still report an increase of 413 meeting in society, although the total in full membership has triflingly diminished. Thus our hearts are gladdened by the experience so well expressed by the venerable founder of Methodism, "The best of all is, that God is with us."

The incubus of heavy debt upon our funds, accumulated as the result of the rapid extension of our work, within the past decade, to many new and important centres, had become oppressively burdensome, if not endangering our denominational solvency and existence. The appeal of the Executive, accompanied as it was by a clear statement of the full facts of the case, has elicited a most generous response, so much so as to place beyond doubt the self-sacrificing denominationalism of our friends. The easier circumstances in which our Funds are thus placed, together with the vantage ground arising from our recently enlarged field of labor and influence, will materially improve our position, and facilitate judicious extension of our work as a denomination.

The leave of absence, by which Bro. Barker has been permitted to live and labor within your jurisdiction proper, during most of the past year, has, we are thankful to learn, resulted in good to the Home cause, and proved a source of great enjoyment to him, and that without any serious damage to his physical strength, such as might have resulted from incessant activity and toil, so long continued, at our dear Brother's time of life. We devoutly acknowledge the goodness of our God in the preservation of Bro. Barker's life, and hailing his presence in our midst once more, with joy, feel that we are drawn all the more closely to you by our Brother having so recently left your land and work, and by the kindness and courtesy extended to him while among you.

The approaching Methodist Ecumenical Council in London, England, while it may be regarded as ushering in a new era in this extensive and influential ecclesiastical system, will be looked forward to with deep interest by millions; and earnest prayer that its deliberations, and the influences that shall go out from

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