

THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT.

"I must preach the gospel to other cities also, for therefore came I forth."

What more inspiring thought can fill created minds than that we are carrying on the work which the Son of God, in his visit to earth, began, as he journeyed throughout his native land from town to village and from village to city? His was an aggressive policy. Success in one place or limitation of his mighty works in another made no difference in this, that he must preach. "Forward, ever forward," as with busy feet he hastened to go "over the cities of Judah" with a message from his Father to his fellow-countrymen.

Your Board has in some measure felt the "Woe unto us if we preach not the gospel." "Necessity laid upon us," whether of our own will or not, has enabled us, with some encouragement, to grapple with the difficulties incident to laying broad foundations for a superstructure whose vast dimensions faith grasps for no distant day.

With no little pain and with a great deal of shame do we "stand still" to consider the slowness of our pace and the weakness of our efforts in overtaking the work lying around us in the home land. We acknowledge before God that "we have been unprofitable servants," and we wish that we could honestly say, "we have done that which was our duty to do." Affected sorrow and feigned regrets would ill become us in an engagement holding the destiny of immortal beings. In the very dust we lie, as we consider how God has blessed the half-measures of our halting faith and what might have been on record to-day, had there been that safe boldness in venturing out more in a work for which all the promises of God are pledged.

We are glad to report an increasing interest in Home Mission work. Neither in a day nor a year can we reach the high-water mark necessary to flood this country with New Testament churches and gospel preaching. But there can be no doubt that, to a much larger extent than at any previous time in our history, the conviction is gaining ground that Home Mission work is our first work, and that unless thought, purpose and energy characterize this department, the general denominational work is without a foundation, or to say the least, upon a flimsy one.

Your Board has endeavored to so conduct the year's work as to inspire confidence for the future. Those who do not know the difficulties of dealing with the divers interests and meeting out, with an even hand, the assistance at our disposal, may run across instances which may not strike them favorably on the points of economy and prudence. Yet your Board expects, at the hands of all interested, the consideration which should be given where there is, first, an honest desire to do right; and then, necessarily, in many cases, a groping after what is right so as to do it.

The year's work has been a consolidation of work begun in the year of operation which had

For two years past many—in comparison with the year set out, that we found it necessary to give care not to all but the most essential. We feel our need more than ever to undertake the difficult task of the future. Many may be frightened by the pediments, well fenced with the boldness of the boldness of settlement—cutting light and scratching in seed for the future. Colleges must provide us with the hard and often the most difficult of the ordinances of the New Testament. Everything else, we need to leave to the Windsors, Essex Centre, and the privileges of labor. We have grown up in past years, to some considerable measure, but we have some fear, the thought—in part to discount oneself. This is possible for it, in the state of things. Instead of the cities and towns, the mountain hills and the churches. To no little degree of brain, and muscle and headquarters of supply is Let it be the care of every possibility any reflection on missionaries occupy. In the pastor in our Convention. If, in any other way, we do which may still cling to the doing what is absolutely necessary on occasion before us. We wish to do Home Mission work as kept in view, and every one of us. While we acknowledge we wish to draw attention to the past kept in memory and used with confidence in mission work. Of the 280 churches reported, and receiving help from,