

forth our hearty songs of praise to him that liveth, and was dead, and is alive for evermore.

You Brethren, are the representatives of the flocks over which the Holy Ghost hath made some of you overseers. We all are brethren in Christ Jesus. But in presenting our Annual Report to you, we have to regret again, as we did last year, that the information necessary for the work has not been derived from the legitimate sources provided for that purpose, that is, the clerks of Districts. Not having received a report from any of them, we have therefore been obliged to gather our materials from other sources, and if our report is not as full, and in every particular as explicit as it should be, you will attribute it to the difficulty of compiling a public document from such limited materials. This explanation we consider due to you and also to ourselves.

Our last Report chronicled the demise of a venerable father in the Gospel—with profound gratitude to Almighty God we are enabled to say to-day, that during this year death has not been permitted to enter the circle of our ministering brethren—we all live, although with much sorrow we learn that one of our number is prevented from being with us to-day in consequence of illness, which it is feared is of that character that will soon carry him to the grave. May divine grace and favour sustain him during his illness, and the presence of the Great Shepherd be with him, when he passes through the valley and shadow of death. A number of valuable lay brethren and friends have however been called to their reward since we last met. Some of our hearts have felt keenly, and the tenderest cords of earthly affections have been severed by relentless death. We are reminded by these things that this is not our home. "Our home is in the skies;" and beloved, ere our next Annual Meeting some of us that are here to day may be gone—where?—Let our holy lives and devotion to the cause of the Redeemer answer this when we lay low; while self examination suggests to our hearts now, the wise admonition,—*Be ye always ready.*

In now entering upon the progress of the gospel among us, and the state of our churches, we shall as before commence with the First District. This District embraces eight churches located on the Aroostook and St. John rivers, and are our most westerly fields of labour. They were represented last year as very destitute of ministerial care; only one preaching brother residing in that part of the country. Our Missionary Board with a laudable desire this year to supply the destitute, engaged Elder Hartt as a Missionary to labour himself in the denomination as he might conceive most conducive to the advancement of the cause, and also to provide as far as he might be able occasional pastoral oversight for such churches as would enter into an arrangement of that kind. He accordingly pushed his way into the wilderness on these upper waters of the St. John, in search of the isolated flocks that had been planted there. And after labouring a short time with them he aided in securing a