

to God. 2. They organized churches. 3. Their churches, as light increased, were found to be imperfectly constructed. 4. The next thing to do was to come into Gospel order. 5. When the churches were reconstructed they proceeded to organize their Association on a correct basis. Substantial work was done and valuable aid was rendered by the Massachusetts Baptist Home Missionary Society, which then covered what is now the State of Maine. The missionaries to the provinces were Elders Case, Hale and Merrill.

Growth in Numbers. The Annual Reports at the successive meetings of the Association show the growth of the body in number of churches and membership. In eleven years eleven new churches were received. In 1821 the membership had grown to 1,827.

Foreign Missions. At the meeting at Chester, N.S., in 1814, the first offering for foreign missions was made. Amount, £8 13s.—\$34.00. This may be regarded as the commencement of our Foreign Mission enterprise.

Home Missions. At this meeting also, Joseph Crandall and Samuel Bancroft were commissioned to preach the Gospel to the people on the shore to the eastward of Chester, each to receive five shillings per day, during three months, and the Association pledged itself to see it paid. This was the first systematic effort of the Fathers in the Home Mission Department. Prior to this, they had all been missionaries in turn, but under no direction by any organization, and no one was pledged to see them paid for their services; but from this time forward, men were sent forth to do mission work.

First Missionary Society. In 1815 it was voted that