

settled localities, in the woods, and in the wilderness, as well as in towns, villages, and populous districts,—in cabins and school-houses, as well as in commodious and sacred edifices,—we have been carrying out our great commission, and seeking to save and gather into the fold of Christ the wandering souls of men.

The apparent results of these efforts have not been in proportion to our agencies or anticipations. We have been favoured in some parts of our work with outpourings of the Spirit of God; our congregations have been generally increasing; some two thousand persons have been received on probation for church-fellowship; and notwithstanding the discouragements arising from severe financial pressure, many departments of our work have been sustained and strengthened; yet we have, to our sorrow, to report the loss of more than three hundred names from the roll of our membership.

Though happily exempted from the direst and most disastrous effects of the war, which, "with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood," is still dividing and desolating the neighbouring Republic; yet the surgings of that unmeasured calamity have swept over our shores, and have seriously interfered with the prosperity of our work.

We have been humbled in view of the past; but, "as we have received mercy, we faint not." We have undiminished confidence in the faithfulness of the Redeemer, in the efficacy of prayer, in the power of the Cross, in the coming of the Holy Ghost, and in the suitability and sufficiency of our agencies and appliances.

One venerable minister, William Smith, has, during the year, passed from the militant to the triumphant Church. He was distinguished by theological attainments of no ordinary kind, by able and affectionate ministrations, by pastoral fidelity, and by earnest wrestlings with the Angel of the Covenant. He was a good man, and his praise is in all the Churches.

We regret that several of our beloved fathers and brethren are compelled to retire from the active work. We desire, on their behalf, the richest consolations of the Holy Spirit, and trust that as, with diminished strength, they seek, in a more secluded sphere, to fulfil the ministry which they have received from the Lord Jesus, their efforts may be crowned with abundant success.

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