

His circumstances were such, however, that he could not enter upon the duties of the agency until about the beginning of February. This left a very short time in which to visit the churches and perform the vast amount of work which was necessary to be done before the close of the fiscal year. We are nevertheless well assured that during the three months of labor spent by Bro. Robbins in the service of the Board a valuable work was done for Home Missions, the results of which must conduce greatly to the future prosperity of our Union. The financial receipts have not hitherto been large; yet they have much exceeded the expense of the agency whilst the labors of our Agent, considered simply in their missionary character, have been vastly greater and more fruitful in good results than those of almost any other missionary connected with our Board. The methods adopted and the work accomplished by Bro. Robbins will be most intelligently understood by a careful perusal of his own Report:

"I herein forward the first quarter's report of my work as General Agent.

I entered upon the work on Jan. 29, and continued until April 23, when I returned to make arrangements for the removal of my family to Yarmouth. I was at home one day on business of my own. The period of my services has thus been about twelve weeks.

During that time I visited 43 churches, delivered 42 lectures on Home Missions, preached 56 sermons, attended 117 meetings and addressed in all 9393 persons. I travelled 1325 miles, baptized 11 converts, and collected \$314.47.

I started subscriptions or circulated cards to gather funds for the Associations in a number of churches, and urged others to press forward as energetically and promptly as possible. From several churches I did not receive returns where some money had actually been collected.

I have as carefully as possible inquired into the circumstances of every church visited by me in relation to Home Missions, in order to ascertain their disposition and ability to contribute, or the need in which they stood of assistance. I also sought to ascertain at what season of the year it would be best to visit each place either to gather funds or to do evangelistic work.

It has been my aim to encourage and help pastors in their work, to increase their interest in Home Missions, and to induce them to visit occasionally destitute fields within their reach.

My constant purpose has been to present the claims of our great work not merely as an appeal from the Board or from man, but as a demand from the Lord to aid in carrying out the lost command, and as an imperative duty resting upon every Christian. Each church is accustomed to say, "We are poor;" but I ask every member of each church to give something, and I endeavour to persuade them to give on principle and intelligently. There is reason to hope that some converts have been gained.