

almost tearful regret. To those, the limits of my report will not allow me to refer, farther than to make a single allusion to the present sad state of our neighbours of the American Republic. That a nation that has stood so high in the scale of nations for industry, intelligence, education and religion—that has always been so forward in everything that is enterprising and praiseworthy—and a people with whom we are so closely connected by the ties of commerce, and social intercourse, and with whom we have such strong religious sympathy, should be plunged into all the horrors and disgrace of a civil war, excites, I believe, in each christian heart here to-day, feelings of the deepest sorrow and regret. In viewing the disrupted and sad state of a country lying just beside us, and then turning my eyes over our own beloved Province, and seeing the healthy and peaceful state of our country, I cannot refrain from calling upon every soul within the sound of my voice to-day, to unite with me in offering to Almighty God one hearty and unmingled offering of praise and thanksgiving for the happiness and quietude of our own homes, and the many superior social blessings and religious liberties and privileges with which we are so abundantly blessed. Truly, we can exclaim with the Psalmist, "The lines are fallen unto us in pleasant places; yea, we have a goodly heritage."

In now proceeding to report to you the success and general state of our Churches, I may justly say, that during the past year we have enjoyed tokens of the Divine favour, and that there are among us unmistakable signs of prosperity. But that while this is so, there are burdens that embarrass, and trials that tend to weaken us. But before we shall separate from this Conference, I hope, however, that we shall succeed in our efforts to devise ways and means by which we may be freed from all such things as tend to cripple our usefulness.

With one exception the lives and health of our Brethren in the Ministry have been spared throughout the year. Our esteemed and lamented Brother, John Flewelling, who has for the last two years been wasting away under the hand of disease, has, within a few weeks, been removed from our number by death. The Master has called him to his reward. He has gone. And although he will no more mingle with us in our Annual gatherings, we rejoice to believe that he has already joined the company of the spirits of just men made perfect. Bro. Flewelling laboured in the Ministry some time as a Licentiate from this Conference. God blessed his labours. Souls were converted through his instrumentality. But his work is done. And although silently, yet forcibly, he now speaks to us who survive him, to "stand up for Jesus." Soon, and perhaps very soon, some of us here in health to-day, may follow his footsteps. Brethren, let us so live that we may secure from the lips of our Master that glorious benediction, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Last year we again adopted the Circuit System, by which we hoped to give every Minister a field of care, and each of our Churches the labor and oversight of some one of our Ministers. As far as I can ascertain, the appointments have been quite generally accepted by the Churches, and although not entirely, yet to a pretty full extent have been carried out. In some cases the change made by the Circuit Appointments have been satisfactory, in others it has not been so. The propriety of its continuation will doubtless be introduced for your consideration during the business session of this Conference.

One evident mark of our progress and prosperity is the number and style of the Meeting Houses that have been finished and dedicated to the worship of God during the year. Until within a few years the houses erected by us for the worship of God, have been built without much regard to either comfort or taste. And if the building of such houses was justifiable under the circumstances, and at the time when they were built, it is gratifying to know that a great improvement has been made in the style and comfort of our houses of worship. Within the last year seven Meeting Houses have been finished and dedicated to the worship of God, and a number of others commenced building. Among the