

The genius of man has brought to the assistance of the Church much that materially aids her in the prosecution of her work of love; but the human will is as stubborn as ever. The carnal mind is and ever will be "enmity against God." This will is not to be regulated, but subdued; not educated by the use of outward ordinances, but brought into sweet submission to the sovereign will of God. Our work is not the cultivation of the carnal, but the implantation and the nurture of the divine in man, by instrumentally effecting his regeneration and growth in Christian life. Willy foes are seeking to prevent this. Mighty forces are contending against us; we cannot hope for success in the mere use of human instrumentalities. Now, more than ever, in humble consciousness of our own insufficiency, should we seek the divine presence and blessing, "for it is not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord." We do well to dwell with honest pride upon the victories won by our fathers, and inspiration can be gathered by pleasant retrospects of past success; but the work of the present is upon us. The untried scenes of the future are before us. We need an uncompromising faith in an ever present and all powerful God. We should be able to say now, "The Lord is my strength and my song; He is my God, and I will prepare Him a habitation, my father's God, and I will exalt Him." Then, if the details of your Secretary's report should fail to give the inspiration which is born of the outward appearance of success, we shall be enabled to go forward, in the sure hope of pushing on the work committed to our hands to a prosperous issue.

We have to record, with sorrow, the loss, during the year, of two of our active workers in the Ministry—Rev. J. R. Shaw, who died at his father's residence, Middle Simonds, in April last; and Rev. William Brown, who has been prostrated by sickness the most of the time during the last year, and is now fast nearing the portals of his father's house.

FIRST DISTRICT

Held its Annual Meeting with the Church at Perth. Reports were received from twelve of the twenty Churches which compose the District Meeting; and two new Churches were regularly admitted, one at Long Island, the other at Birch Ridge. A marked improvement was manifest in the state of the Churches, when compared with the reports of last year. Rev. J. Henderson is the only ordained minister residing in this District; he is reported as Pastor of Salmon River, Valley Settlement, Andover Portage, California, and Fort Fairfield Churches. Six have been baptized at Salmon River, and two added by letter.