

garding the various lessons God would have had us learn from the manifold experiences of life. It is an indisputable fact, demonstrated by history, as also by the records of Divine truth, that as men have met with adversity or prosperity, success or failure, they have been differently affected. The ark, which was the symbol of the Divine presence, was the occasion of disaster to some and blessing to others—the blessing or disaster being determined by the view entertained of God's relation to it, and the consequent treatment accorded it. So it is the view we take of God's relation to our lives and the purpose of providential dealing, that determines whether or not we shall become stronger and better persons from the contact. May the varied circumstances which we meet in the prosecution of our work as a denomination, be so interpreted and utilized by us, as that we may become more efficient for our task. It is said that after the great battle of Dunbar, in which a victory was won for constitutional freedom, that Oliver Cromwell and his men waited a time on that glorious field to sing to the praise of God the 117th Psalm: "O praise the Lord all ye nations; praise him all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us; and the truth of the Lord endureth forever. Praise ye the Lord." And as your Secretary has gone carefully over the records at his disposal, touching the work of this ecclesiastical year—a full account of which is given in this report—he believes that in view of the blessings bestowed, you have great reason to praise and magnify the Father of Light, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift. For the present purpose we cannot do better, perhaps, than to look at our work retrospectively, introspectively and prospectively.

RETROSPECTION.

In order that you may have a detailed report of the progress and condition of the various churches comprised within our communion, I have prepared the subjoined statistical table: