

with this church. Reviewing those years brings to our minds the fact, that much of the Lord's favor has been with us, in that the labors of His servants and people have been divinely recognized in the salvation of hundreds of souls.

But we have also to notice that some unprayed for and unlooked for experiences have come to us. God has called several of His workmen home, among them some of the most useful and fatherly of our ministers.

But sorer trial than this has been encountered, by the estrangement from the Conference of brethren who adopted beliefs different from those held by the Denomination (causing much weakness and harm to the churches), and from whom, after years of patient and prayerful, but unsuccessful, effort to effect union, it was deemed advisable at the annual session of last year to withdraw fellowship.

In assuming the responsibilities and duties which were upon us at the beginning of the year now passed, all hearts were uplifted to God in earnest prayer for heavenly wisdom and direction, and to-day it is our greatest pleasure to record the blessed and memorable fact that the Lord has answered our prayers. That which for years had been a struggle in the minds of many has been overcome, the cloud has been dispersed, light has shone, and less than anticipated difficulty has been realized.

It has been a year of more than usual interest and care for the ministers and churches; but from information at hand, all things considered, we believe it to have been a year of more than average success. God planted the Denomination, and our faith lays hold of the promise, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

In submitting my report of the churches in the several Districts, I ask for the indulgence of all persons interested. If any omissions are made, attribute it to the scantiness of the information sent me.

### **FIRST DISTRICT.**

This District held its annual session with the Church at Lower Perth. It was a season of much interest and strength. Of its eighteen Churches, only nine of them reported. Rev. J. J. Barne, whose labors are highly appreciated by the people, has the pastoral care of the Lower Perth, Perth Centre, Arthurette, and Long Island Churches. These Churches are doing well. True, there have not been many conversions, but the good work is going on, the seed is being sown, and we believe that ere long it will spring up and bear fruit, even a hundred fold.

Brother Barnes has baptized three. Two of them were added