

which are strong and vigorous churches to-day. These sections constitute our denominational field. Well may we be proud that we are planted in such a beautiful part of the greatest empire in the world, one upon which the sun never sets and upon which it is ever rising. Surely if the Norwegian boasts of his home of rocks and the Siberian is pleased with his land of perpetual snow; if the Roman thought that the muddy Tiber was the favored river in the sight of heaven, and if the Laplander shines out in his eulogy of his native clime, and if the Chinese have pity for anybody born outside the flowery kingdom, shall we not, born under these fair skies, and standing day by day amid these glorious, national and religious liberties, be aroused to the very depths of our being and feel our spirits leap in their scabbards as we look upon the Old Union Jack, that has come through the blood and carnage of war and which signifies to-day the fullest protection and emancipation from great oppression.

Our denominational field over which these churches are scattered, like the stars which bedeck the etherial blue and which, like them, shall shine, we trust forever and ever is at present divided into seven Districts. Of these churches 113 reported to their respective District Meetings this year by letter. We had hoped that all would send a statement of their condition, so your secretary might have been able to have laid before you a full and complete report of the state and standing of your blest communion. This has come to my notice, however, that we have a number of churches which have no pastoral care and are therefore in a very weak condition, for the strengthening and encouragement of which something ought to be done and done at once. It is very necessary for us to maintain in as thriving condition as is possible all our churches. To the most casual observer a very marked improvement is noticeable throughout our denominational field, especially when you contrast the present condition with that of eleven years ago when our Conference met with the church entertaining us on this occasion. At that Conference only ninety-six churches reported, and the first district which this year reports \$460.00 for support of ministry, then reported but \$79.00, while the amount reported as contributed for support of ministry throughout all the districts was \$11,089.04 as against \$13,650.93 reported this year.

#### WORK AND WORKERS.

The ranks of our ministry have been depleted by one this year. Rev. F. Babcock is no more with us in the flesh. How well we all remember his manly form as he stood before us a year ago. He will be missed. A good man in Israel hath fallen. He rests! He rests from his labors and his works do follow him.

"Servant of God well done,  
Blest be thy new employ."