

PREFACE.

THE CONGREGATIONAL YEAR BOOK again comes before its patrons, and asks for more than a passing glance. Where there has been progress and consolidation, we want to rejoice over it; and where there has been lack of progress, we want to know the reason of it. And we come to the YEAR BOOK, to study the figures, and the reports; that, knowing where we stand, we may also know how to shape our activities for another year. Every good teacher—whether Sunday School or other—will tell us he finds it of the greatest benefit to be continually “reviewing.” And here we do the same; for we cannot hope to be where we would, unless we know where we *are*.

There are still a very few churches which send in no statistics. In some cases the Secretary has fallen back on last year's figures; but in some cases there were no figures to fall back upon! So, knowing pretty nearly how the membership stood, we have added these, in the “General Congregational Statistics,” section one, by estimate. The whole number of members, thus added, does not exceed two hundred; and is under, rather than over the mark. Readers in other countries, want to have such a summary as is found on page 45; and we desire that it shall be, as nearly as possible, full and correct.

We present this year the Chairman's address in both the Congregational Unions of the Dominion; as well as the portraits of the respective Chairmen. We also present the portrait of Rev. John Morton, Chairman of the Ontario and Quebec Union last year, and the honored President of our Publishing Company.