

The past year has been one of mingled gain and loss, calling on the one hand for devout thanksgiving to Almighty God, and on the other for serious self-examination. *Financially*, we are permitted to chronicle an advance. That we should be able to do so amid such general financial depression, has been a surprise even to our faith. The gain is slight, but all our denominational societies are out of debt, and each one has closed the year with a small balance on hand. For this result we thank God. We also thank you. "Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness."

*Numerically*, we are compelled to register a decrease. Many have been added to our churches during the year, but many also have been removed, and the net result of the year's work is a decrease of 80 members. This is a great sorrow to us. The Church's business is to win souls, and nothing can compensate for the lack of that. We trust the decline is but a temporary recession of the incoming flood. Churches whose general progress has been by leaps and bounds, have all had stationary or declining years. We must not despond. Nevertheless, even a temporary decrease should excite our concern, and be interpreted as a call of God to more effective preaching, more godly living, more prevailing prayer, and more thorough consecration to the work of promoting the Kingdom of God. Let us, dearly beloved, so interpret the significance of this year's decrease, and then, the temporary decline shall be the cloud before the shower, whose blessing will refresh all the churches, and bring us a hundred converts where hitherto we have had but one.

We exhort all our Christian Endeavorers, Sunday School workers, deacons and pastors to read in this a special call of God to them. Consecrate yourselves anew, dear fellow workers, to the sublime task of bringing souls to Christ, and building them up in all the elements of Christly character; refuse to be turned aside from this great aim. Let subordinate ministries be assigned a subordinate place, and make your effort a living testimony to those who are without, that you "seek not theirs but them." Aim for souls! Watch for souls! Pray for souls! In winning them we win all things, as in choosing wisdom, Solomon secured both that and all other choice and needful good.

Much time and thought have been consumed at this Annual Meeting in considering our method of managing the denomi-