

WESTERN ASSOCIATION.

In the Western Association we have had ten pastors and one student; here we have had sunshine and shadow, successes and reverses; yet, looking over the district as a whole, it is doubtful if any year during the past quarter of a century has witnessed such well-directed effort and such substantial progress. Windsor has shown extraordinary activity and devotion; and six months ago stepped into the ranks of the self-supporting churches. If this church were able to rebuild, they could double their congregation within twelve months. The town of Wallaceburg has lost in population during the past two or three years, and the Baptist church has suffered greatly through removals, but the pastor has very wisely reached out into the country, and the church to-day stands upon a firmer basis than at any time in the past. Dresden has dropped Florence, and entered vigorously upon work at Thorncliffe and Wabash, and, with a reduced grant from the mission funds, aims at self-support in the very near future. Florence has had student supply, and has enjoyed a summer of marked prosperity. Special services were held in Dawn Township, some four miles from Florence. A goodly number were converted, and a church has been or soon will be organized. Wilkesport has disappointed us. A chapel free from debt, a parsonage somewhat encumbered, large congregations and everything to encourage hearty aggressive service, and yet divided counsels and apathetic ease have hindered advance and happy development. Essex is another of the Western Churches that has been visited with showers of blessing during the past year. Through God's Grace a decided and very much needed uplift has come to our cause at this important centre. With perfect unanimity on the part of both churches, Essex and Brooker have entered into working fellowship. We predict a self-supporting field in the near future; for Brooker as well as Essex has enjoyed a year of large prosperity. Harrow and Colchester have not mustered their scattered forces, nor availed themselves of their large opportunities for aggressive work, as we hoped they would. Historic and long-occupied territory will soon know us no more, unless our brethren and sisters more vigorously address themselves to their God-given work. Oh, that the mantles of departed worthies, such as George Eede, might fall on those who to-day are entrusted with the work of building upon the foundations which those honored and godly men laid. Kingsville, distracted, divided and shorn of power, might well bring tears to eyes unused to weep; its future lies shrouded in uncertainty. Rodney, Palmyra