

partments compares favorably with that of former years. Reference to our published statistics will show you that we record an increase of 18 Chapels, 7 Parsonages, 87 Classes, 83 Congregations, 5 Travelling Ministers, 11 Local Preachers and 439 Members. In the Sabbath School department also there has been a most gratifying advancement made during the year.

Our work continues to enlarge in almost all directions. Several circuits have been divided at this session of Conference, and three new missions have been entered on our list of stations, while other parts of our rapidly extending country are presenting us invitations to enter them, and supply the people with the Word of Life. To meet these growing demands, in answer to the prayers of the faithful, God is raising up within our borders, from among the youth of the families of our own people, men who offer themselves willingly for the work of the ministry, and six in addition to our former number have been admitted into our itineracy this year. And here, dear brethren, we would draw your attention to the action of our last Conference on the subject of an Educational Institute for the more effectual training of the young men whom our Churches have tried and recommended to be taken into our Ministry. It is scarcely possible to over estimate the value of such an institution to our Ministry and Connexion; such benefit, however, as it would be the happy means of supplying cannot be realized, unless you, dear brethren, give it your vigorous support. If it be said, "We can do very well without it," we urge in reply that the rapid advance of our fine country not only in material wealth and commercial activity, but also in educational facilities placing the means of a sound and even of a polite education within reach of all who desire to secure such advantage to their youth; the pleasing fact that our people are every year more extensively availing themselves of their rich privilege in this respect, thus increasing the intelligence of our congregations,—these, we think, demand a commensurate advance in the educational standard of candidates for our Ministry. Four young men have been under the tuition of the excellent tutor, Rev. W. McClure, during the past year, and one of them will receive an appointment to a circuit at this Conference.

Our Connexional Funds were never in a more sound and hopeful condition than at present, the Mission Fund showing an increase of \$653 over the returns of the previous year.

And now, dear brethren, in conclusion, we "commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among them which are sanctified."

J. H. ROBINSON, *President.*

JOHN HISTON, *Secretary.*

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