

furrowed cheek and silver locks, I discern the venerableness made by the majesty of Christian toil. These ripened experiences, hopeful anticipations and purposeful hearts, led onward and upward evermore by the guidance of Him who has given you this fair land for an inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for your possession, shall verily have their reward. Shall we note as we look back over more than half a century and behold the fathers of this denomination holding Bible-given doctrines sacred to them (and be it said in honor of their memories to-day, sacred to us) going over hill and dale with the blessed message of salvation, meeting persecution and opposition which was too real for the dry pages of history to adequately record; yet, with the blessing of God, sowing seed which has sprung up, until to-day we look at these fine churches and consecrated lives of our best citizens. I say shall we not, beholding all this, exclaim, "what hath God wrought?" And as we with tremulous hands reverently draw the curtain aside for a moment, to mark the great possibilities for our blessed mission which lie in the bosom of the future, together with the difficulties that would seem almost insuperable, we cry out almost in despair, "Who is sufficient for these things?" But as we listen for the echo of those words, it comes with such cadence out of the experience of the past, that we feel assured that the One who has brought us through the light and shadow of the days gone, will lead on safely and triumphantly until His will and purpose shall have been accomplished in us and by us, in such away as that we may be able to say "We have finished the work which Thou gavest us to do;" until then however, we must know no wavering or surrender, but seek the blessing of Him who on Olivét's brow lifted up His hands and blessed the disciples.

You will permit me, sir, by way of digression to say that in a degree, at least, I realize my position as I come before this Conference with my maiden budget, following as I do to-day one who had many years of experience and who proved himself worthy of this position, and served to the entire satisfaction of all this denomination. I shall therefore most humbly ask the kind indulgence of Conference as I attempt to bring before you, as best I may be able, a concise report, yet sufficiently detailed, so as to give an intelligent idea of the struggles and triumphs of this beloved denomination in all her ramifications during the ecclesiastical year just ended.

THE FIELD :

Our fathers went up the noble Rhine of America, the St. John river and its tributarial waters, and over the eastern sections of our Province, among which are the valleys of the Petitecodiac, invigorated by the tide of the sea, and down in Charlotte County with its crest-beaten isles of the deep, establishing interests, many of