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THE YEAR'S WORK.

The summary of statistics, 1860, published in our last number, presents a bird's eye view of results achieved through the prayers, contributions, and toils of the churches during 1859-60. These figures are very suggestive. The fact that they record the past awakens thought. Are there not twelve hours in the day? The life of an individual worker is as a day. A year embraces a considerable portion of the allotted working time. Work while it is day, the night cometh when no man can work. The shadow on the sundial of life has advanced considerably, while these issues have been developed.

The work of pastors, deacons, and all the members, passes in review before the Master's eye, who says, "I know thy works." We are not disposed to judge uncharitably of the work of others, nor to utter harsh opinions where the expression of our conviction, that a vast amount of faithful work has been performed, is far more in keeping with the circumstances. The impression, however, made on us when we first heard the statistics read at the public meeting of the Union was, that progress to the extent that should satisfy us had not been made. We confess to a solemn conviction stealing over us that we must feel more, pray more, work more for the salvation of souls. Perhaps, too, a feeling of hopelessness for the future started into being, if so, it was modified considerably by the remarks of the Missionary Secretary at the prayer-meeting on the following morning, who, from an extensive correspondence with the ministers and churches, could testify that the churches generally were in a hopeful state—that a desire for the outpouring of the Spirit of God was strongly felt—and that prayer abounded for the realization of that blessing. The promise of a faithful God may well dispel every fear. To thank God and take courage is our duty. Statistics are valuable, yet the results of faithful labour in the cause of Christ cannot, in all their aspects, be presented by them. Only on *that* day when every secret thing shall be revealed, will the account be perfect and the reward full. There is also a kind of labour which does not tell largely on statistical tables, and a state of preparation of which they can make no mention. A church numerically large may lack the vital element, while a few faithful ones may be undergoing the process of preparatory training, prior to the achievement of mighty results. Gideon's host was reduced, rather than multiplied, before victory.

We hold it to be a legitimate influence of the review of a year's work, that it stimulates the soul to holy diligence, and zeal for future effort. The fact