

in four hundred is a member with us. Of course, if we reckon the number who worship with us, but are not in actual membership, the numbers would be increased.

An average of the membership of the Churches would give a Church of sixty members in every 25,000 of the population, but they are not nigh so well scattered as that; over one-third of the whole membership being in Toronto City, and over one-fourth of the remainder in the Township of Haldimand, leaving thirteen small Churches with an aggregate membership of four hundred among a population of 350,000.

This portion of the Province has its share of growing towns, which must necessarily exert a great influence on the country around, but we would direct your serious attention to the fact that we are losing almost the whole of them. Oshawa, Bowmanville, Newcastle, Millbrook, Lindsay, Colborne, Belleville, and a great many smaller villages are without even a nucleus of a Church. Is it from supineness, fear, or positive weakness, that we go not up to possess the goodly land?

We would also call your notice to the lack of pastors. Elders Snyder and Gerrie have seen it their duty to go to another field, leaving a little band behind. The brethren in Peterboro', Whitby, Sidney, Huntingdon, and other places look for an under-shepherd, and there are none to go to them.

Such facts as these are not pleasant to dwell upon, but it is necessary that we should regard them, and make resolutions such as become us under the circumstances. What shall we do? Shall we become discouraged because of the difficulties and desert the ship? No! *This we must not do.* Shall we retrench? little as we are doing now, shall we seek to do less? The case is very far from being desperate. The cloud does seem dark when looked up to from the valley, but ascend the mountain, and faith will show you that Christ our Sun gives brightness to the upper side. The ground for our encouragement is, that we have truth on our side. We believe that Baptist order and Baptist doctrine are more scriptural than any other. We have embraced them because we love our Saviour. If this foundation were removed then would we be weak indeed. But it is not removed, Christ's