

protection of a national government, whose sound constitution, and the administration of whose wholesome laws, secure to us the glorious blessings of a civil and religious liberty, which, if not superior to, are fully equal to those enjoyed by any people on the earth. Proportionate to our liberties and opportunities to do good, are our responsibilities to God, and our obligations to our fellow man, which, we trust, will not be forgotten by us, either in our individual or associated capacity.

By the closing of our ecclesiastical year, I am reminded of my official duties in preparing and presenting to you another Annual Report of the doings and prosperity of our beloved denomination.

Although we may justly feel humiliated under a consciousness of our great lack of consecration to God, and the feebleness of our efforts to advance the interests of the cause of Christ; yet to His praise be it said, as in former years, we have been made the instrumentality of doing some good. Each year some precious souls, who have been converted by our labours, have passed away to be with Christ, which is far better; and others have become heaven-bound pilgrims. During the last year, a number of our Churches have been blessed with gracious seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord; and to quite an encouraging extent, we can say our efforts have been crowned with success. True, not so much as in some former years; but enough to cause us to "thank God, and take courage." There are some things amongst us yet, over which we feel to mourn and lament; but I am happy to be able to say, that one very grievous burden, to which we have had frequently to allude, has become very much lessened, and we hope will, ere we separate, be so annihilated that we shall feel it no more. I refer to our denominational debt. It is to be hoped, that by the providence and Spirit of our God, we shall speedily be purified from every thing that tends to hinder our usefulness and impede our progress as a body of Christians. We need to be kept humble and pure minded, to prove faithful to the important trust committed to us, else our light will grow dim, and our salt lose its savour.

During the year, the mercy of God has been towards us in preserving the lives of all our ministers; and while death has entered many of our households, it has not been permitted to remove from the walls of our Zion any of her watchmen.

Were it in my power, I would be pleased to present to you as full a report to-day as you have had on former occasions; but for the want of necessary information, I find myself sadly at a loss.

Of our First District, which embraces our most northerly Churches, I know but comparatively little. Last year, our interest and influence there were reported as steadily increasing, which I hope is still the case. Its Annual Meeting was held with the Church on the Tobique river, last August. Elder McMullin has spent a part of the year with a portion of these Churches. Elder Orser has also laboured with two or three Churches in this district. Elder Curry, who lives in this district, has also laboured some within its limits.

The Second District, embraces the Churches on both sides of the St. John river, from the lower end of the first district, down to Woodstock. It held its last Annual Meeting in October, with the Church in Upper Brighton. Several of our ministering brethren reside within the limits of this district. Elders Hartt, McMullin, Siprell, Orser, Doucett, White, and Parsons, all live there. Some of them have spent the whole year in labour with these Churches, while others have travelled more, and visited other districts. A number of the Churches of this district have been blessed with good seasons of revival, and large accessions. The first Church in Wakefield has had the labours of Elder White one half the time. This Church, though reported last year in a low state, has been much revived and blessed. God has made the labours of brother White of great good to them. Last fall they were blessed with a season of revival, when brother Parsons united with brother White, and the Lord working by them, reclaimed many backsliders, and converted many sinners. Twenty-four were baptized by brother Parsons, and added to the