

During the past year the removal, by death, of three of our number has admonished us to be in constant readiness to render up our account, and to be diligent in improving our opportunities, and in prosecuting our work. At the same time we are greatly comforted by a review of the exemplary faithfulness of our departed brethren, and by learning that the religion they professed and preached was found to be gloriously sufficient in their last hours. And, it is not out of place to remark, the obituary notices of the departed members of the Church, which appear from week to week, furnish demonstration that the power of true religion is still experienced among us; for they present instances of the saving efficacy of the blood of Christ, as satisfactory as those exhibited in any age of the Church, since the days of the Apostles. While this shall continue to be the case, the glory will not depart from among us, nor our labour be in vain.

Though deeply humbled at our deficiency of zeal and success, in the work to which we have devoted our lives, we yet thank God for evident tokens of His presence and blessing, and for the growth and prosperity of his cause. The increase of the membership, for the past year, is over three hundred, which, though far less than it might have been, had we all been more faithful, is nevertheless a cause of humble gratitude, and an encouragement to look for more abundant answers to prayer, and for more abundant fruits of the various truly scriptural agencies employed by our Church. One most cheering indication of improvement and progress, is every year becoming more and more apparent. We refer to the delightful fact, that between two and three thousand of the children in our Sabbath Schools are members of the Church, and we trust truly partakers of the blessing of saving faith, being an increase of between two and three hundred during the year. We cannot have a greater cause of joy than the increasing conviction prevailing among us, that childhood and youth are the most proper seasons for the commencement of a religious

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