

REPORT.

1882-1883.

IN Apostolic times the Churches of Christ were not only organized through the marvellously successful labours of the first ministers of the Gospel, but they were sympathetically cared for by those who claimed them as seals to their ministry. In the writings and recorded travels and visits of St. Paul, the greatest anxiety is manifested by him to guard the new converts against all doctrines and practices adverse to holiness, and the most tender affection is shown by him for their growth and fruitfulness in all that appertains to the work of the Holy Spirit in their hearts and lives; hence in his affecting narrative of his personal sufferings, journeyings, and labours, he winds up by stating: "That which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the Churches;" and to Barnabas on one occasion he said:—"Let us go again and visit the brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do." A watchful oversight of Missionary Churches is provided by the Constitution of this Society, which, when carried out in all its details, shows how their souls are prospering in faith, hope, and love; or what discouragements and hindrances are checking the progress of the Lord's work.

It is due to those who so generously and constantly give of their substance to spread and maintain the Missions of the Methodist Church of Canada, that they should have authenticated records of the work which is in progress presented for their information. The General Board have pleasure in sending forth the Fifty-Ninth Report of the Society. The past year's labours present varied aspects of successes and disappointments; the former, however, far out-numbering the latter. As there is no metal, however precious, but has some dross,—no garden, however diligently cultivated, but has some weed,—no honey, however sweet, but has some dregs,—so there is frailty in all human plans and character. Yet this is our rejoicing,—“We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us.”