

THE CHURCH AT HOME AND ABROAD.

JUNE, 1892.

REPORT ON THE CHURCH AT HOME AND ABROAD FOR 1892.

The General Assembly's Committee, appointed to manage the *Church at Home and Abroad*, would respectfully report its work for the past year; and crave the thoughtful consideration of the commissioners to the statement that concerns one of the most important agencies of the church. We lay before you the account of what is indeed the great argument for our Boards and the monthly mouthpiece of them; and ask your attention to that common field where the review of our church forces and the display of church activities and discipline are regularly made. Here is the point where steadily are brought to a focus the scattered rays from our many lights to be poured out in one broad beam of interesting information upon the whole church.

Your committee have never been more strongly possessed with the conviction, founded on careful study and fortified by enlarging experience, that a very wise step was taken by our church in consolidating into one monthly magazine our various missionary publications, and thus jointly presenting our missionary intelligence to our ministers and members. This opinion has indeed been the one unchanged persuasion and unanimous judgment of our committee. But to-day we know the situation more thoroughly than ever; we realize better than before the many difficulties to be met; we have measured more ac-

curately and do now appreciate more correctly the various interests to be studied and conserved; we understand more perfectly the steady strain needful to awaken a lively zeal for missionary intelligence and missionary movements, and from a continued and extensive correspondence have been informed of the varying desires and demands of our fellow-communicants. Because of this larger information and widening experience, we come before you, brethren, to say more strongly, because more intelligently than ever that this consolidated magazine is a necessity, a large and growing benefit, and if duly guided and generously fostered will prove an increasing blessing to the church.

Hard and honest work during the year has been given to this enterprise. Between your indefatigable and experienced editor and your chairman there have been weekly, at times daily, conferences; and through them a regular and widespread correspondence has been carried on. The editor is in close and constant communication with all the Boards and Committees of the Assembly. The Chairman and the Business Superintendent of the Board of Publication meet twice a month and oftener when necessary to consult about the financial and other business matters. The members of the Philadelphia sub-committee advise together frequently.

Four full meetings of the whole commit-

wheels oiled to forget that there are more wheels than ever. Our students are doing nobly in the way of self support. They paid about \$7,500 last term toward meeting the expenses of an education. But still scholarship aid is needed, and needed more this year than ever as the low price of cotton is causing distress all over the South. We would ask the generous donors, treasurers of societies and others, each time they send money intended for our use, that they will be particular to mark it "scholarship;" since it is a rule of the Board that all specials not so marked shall go into the general fund to be used for paying salaries. This rule last year brought us out about \$600 in debt.

We wish also to call attention of the friends of our work to the fact that the Presbyterian church is scarcely keeping pace with some others in the matter of endowing its schools for this work. Scotia has now a permanent fund of about \$3,500. Biddle is a little better provided for. The annual donations are very pleasant, bringing much of sympathy etc., which we appreciate; but they make us a world of work and, as a financial basis, they are, to say the least, a good exercise for faith and patience. We have made provision in our charter to secure the property to the Presbyterian church so that we believe it cannot be alienated, and we appeal to the friends of Christian education to aid us in our effort to put the Seminary on a financial footing which will at the same time relieve the Board and allow us to give all our attention to our educational work.

THE WORK AT BEAUFORT, S. C.

Mr. G. M. Elliot writes:—

The school at this place numbers about six hundred this year. A slight increase on last year. It could have more were there facilities for accommodating them. It is the only public school in the place that is open for colored children. The town numbers about 4,000 inhabitants. Because of the poor school advantages in the surrounding country, many parents send their children to the school in town. More would send but they fear town influences, having to place their children in

private families. A boarding department in connection with Beaufort Academy would be a valuable addition and would be a source of strength in building up Presbyterianism in this section. It would place a large number of children and young people under the moulding influence of the Mission for the entire school session. At present we have the children with us during five, or at most six hours of the day, then they return to their homes where the influence of the school is either neutralized or altogether counteracted. These people need homes; that is, habitations where all the refining and uplifting influences of an ideal home will be brought to bear upon those whose minds and characters are developing. A girl or a boy will ordinarily get more benefit in eight months in a well-ordered boarding school than in three sessions in the ordinary public school. The school at Beaufort has scope for great improvement and enlargement. The grounds cover an entire block in the most desirable part of the town. As to the industrial feature of the school, all the industries, except agriculture, can be successfully carried on. A little has already been done in the line of carpentry and painting. We have on hand a fine collection of carpenter's tools that have been sent by friends in different parts of the church. These we are learning to use.

A church has been organized and numbers about twenty members. They are few and weak, but yet a church lot has been secured at the cost of four hundred dollars. It is all paid for, and the last payment left a few dollars in bank toward a building. This is to be erected during the summer. It will cost about \$2,000. One quarter of this amount is to be raised by the first of October.

All the members are pledging all they can possibly give, and there is a promise of help from without.

My predecessor in this field, Rev. W. F. Brooks, did a good work. His leaving was regretted by all. While the friends are glad to see him so happily located in Biddle, yet they were loth to give him up. We trust the good work which he began will continue to grow and flourish. We are greatly encouraged at the outlook of every feature of this work.