

41 The report of the Home Mission and Bible School Committee was read. The direction given by the Yearly Meeting last year to Monthly Meetings, in order to bring the work under notice of these Meetings, has been carried out, and has given satisfaction. The account of the work given by the report has been acceptable to us. We have released the present Committee at their own request, and desire to commend the work to the active interest and efforts of Friends, in conjunction with the new Committee to be appointed in Home Missions and Temperance.

Report of Home Mission Committee

The Committee on Home Missions and Bible Schools began its work immediately after last Yearly Meeting, by preparing a circular letter, and forwarding a copy of it to each Meeting. In this letter we called attention to, and explained the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting, requiring co-operating committees to be appointed in each Monthly Meeting, to report three times a year to the Meeting appointing them, and once a year to this Committee. We are unable to say how many of the co-operating committees have reported to their Monthly Meetings, but, in most places, they have been appointed and organized, and better reports than usual have been received by this Committee. This, in connection with the fact that in some Meetings Friends, stimulated by the discussion at last Yearly Meeting, have undertaken new work, which has been blessed by the Lord, marks the past year as one of progress. The determined effort which we have made to get in touch with the work in each Meeting, has shown us that in some places less is being done than the circumstances justify. It is not always the smallest Meetings, or those where the members live at great distances from each other, that do the least Home Mission work.

The uniform experience of the blessing that follows the undertaking of Home Mission work warrants us in urging upon Friends a careful and prayerful consideration of the fields surrounding them. Our Savior would have us hear this word to His earlier disciples: "lift up your eyes; behold, the fields are white already to the harvest." And he that loves the Lord of the harvest, can behold this vision unweary.

None of us would say frankly for the world around us; but with is committed to us, with the Spirit helping us, and the universal of going before us, to say that we do willingness. In the advance of last year, a marked feature has been the increased activity of the young

people. Shall we not, all of us, determine to increase our efforts in the coming year?

The following summary of the reports from the different Meetings will present the character of our work in each:

Summing's Creek. - This Meeting last year reported "no organization." This year a committee was appointed, and its secretary has reported to this Committee. They have distributed tracts and Bibles, paid family visits, and visits to the sick. Through the efforts of the Young Friends' Christian Fellowship Union, a Children's School has been added to the Bible Class: so that the enrollment this year is double that reported last year, and an increased attendance at the meeting for worship is noticed as a result.

Bellefonte. - Considerable Union Temperance work is engaged in, in addition to the Bible School, which is carried on all the year.

Courtenville. - In this small Meeting, with its scattered membership, no organized work seems possible, but it is believed that individual members are doing work, as the Lord opens it to them.

Baltimore. - The organization for Christian work being already in existence, and practically a Home Mission Committee, the Monthly Meeting requested reports from it, to conform to the direction of the Yearly Meeting. We believe the introduction of these reports was helpful to the Meeting, our members having an opportunity to hear of what was being done. The Boys' Meeting, Girls' Sewing School, Mothers' Meeting, Household School, First Day School and religious meetings are still carried on at Federal Hill, as in the past, and this autumn a free Kindergarten has been added, supported by voluntary contributions, aside from the regular funds of the organization, occupying a room in our Mission building. During the winter and spring, Children's Meetings were held once in two weeks, at Canton and Monument Streets, by the Young Women's Christian Fellowship Union, with a large attendance, most of the children not being connected with our Society. The subjects of Temperance, Foreign Missions, and Home Missions were treated in turn, the stereopticon being used to illustrate some of the talks.

Washington. - No organized Home Mission work here, a Bible Class is held during nine months of the year.

Deer Creek. - A committee was appointed and organized. Some of its members have been engaged in visiting poor families, reading the Bible to them, and distributing tracts. Two of the Committee visited the County Poorhouse, and gave the inmates a dinner. Quite a number of the