

except for two months previous to harvest, when, in consideration of greater scarcity of provisions, our contributions were more general. In view of the great losses, hardships and discouragements, the necessary incidents of war—through which our brethren of the South have had to pass, and especially in view of the repeated failure of their crops since the war ended, it is but just to express our admiration of the commendable spirit of effort and self-reliance, which they have generally manifested. At no time have they shown a disposition to lean heavily upon us, but rather, accepting for themselves, only such aid as necessity demanded, they have chosen to rely as far as possible, upon their own exertions—thus enabling the Board to extend its operations over a larger field.

BIBLE AND TRACT DISTRIBUTION.

Immediately after the close of the war, we made liberal shipments of Bibles, Testaments and Tracts, which were received by the Bible and Tract Societies of North Carolina Yearly Meeting of Friends, and were by them distributed to First Day Schools and the families and individual members of our Society, as well as to others not in membership.

Among our Yearly Meetings, that of North Carolina holds a high position for the completeness of its system of Scriptural instruction. Every Meeting within its limits has an efficient First Day School attached to it.

The Teachers and Superintendents of these Schools held a Normal School in 4th Month last, at Springfield, at which a week was profitably spent in mutually giving and receiving instruction as to the best modes of conducting First Day Schools and Bible classes. There are within the Yearly Meeting 30 First Day Schools, 151 Teachers, and 3,116 Scholars. Besides these, Friends conduct 16 First Day Schools, for the colored people.

These Schools are under the care of the Yearly Meeting, but our Association and its Superintendent aid the work as far as they can, and our Day Schools have added materially to the qualification of the corps of Teachers.

EDUCATION.

Soon after the commencement of our efforts to afford aid to the physical needs of our members at the South, it became apparent to us, that there was no less necessity to give relief to the educational destitution which everywhere prevailed, as a consequence of protracted war. As soon, therefore, as we had afforded the necessary physical relief, we turned our attention to the establishment of a system of Schools extending throughout the settlements of Friends in North Carolina and Tennessee, and to a very limited extent in Virginia. We commenced these labors near the close of 1865, by assuming the charge of 12 indifferent Schools, composed of about 600 pupils. The number of these has gradually increased to 38 Schools, with 2,143 pupils. The improvement in the character and efficiency of these Schools has been exceedingly gratifying to us. All but four of the Teachers are natives of North Carolina, who have had the benefit of two sessions at our Normal School. They have filled their positions to the entire satisfaction of the Board.

For a more detailed account of the condition and operation of these Schools, we refer to our Superintendent's report,—page 13.

It gives us great pleasure, however, to speak in commendation of the great brightness and natural intelligence of the scholars under our care, and of the avidity with which they drink in the knowledge presented to them. Under the judicious rules of discipline, and carefully graded system of instruction, so admirably carried out by our Superintendent and Teachers, they have