

1891

A. B. C. F. M.

THE MIDDLE DISTRICT.

[Including Connecticut, the Middle and South Atlantic States, and Ohio,
with office at 121 Bible House, New York.]

BY

REV. C. H. DANIELS, DISTRICT SECRETARY.

(From the Report of the Home Department, 1890.)

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[Including Connecticut, the Middle and South Atlantic States, and Ohio, with office at 121 Bible House, New York.]

Rev. C. H. Daniels writes as follows:—

“The report from the Middle District for the past year calls out the following points of interest:—

“1. We were kept in patience and hope during the extended repairs on the Bible House, as also were our friends who visited us and bore with our necessarily untidy condition. We now enjoy the new rooms in the same building, Nos. 120 and 121, located on the sixth floor and easily accessible by elevator.

“2. The calls for missionary service during the year have been exceptional and have tasked the Secretary to the full of his time and strength. Churches and Associations have given cordial invitation to the Secretary and missionaries. As a consequence a large number of meetings have been held in the nature of a conference or ‘rally.’ It is the usual testimony that they have been influential for good. In sections of every State these have been held, save in the South Atlantic. By such means the large churches have welcomed us, and the feeble churches have had equal privileges.

“3. In the conduct of these meetings it is proper to mention the valued assistance of the pastors, who have made it a matter of personal concern. We cannot recall a single instance where interest has been withheld, save for reasons self-evident and naturally arising in church-life.

“Of equal value has been the assistance of missionaries, nor can it be named too strongly the favor with which they have been received by the churches. A great mistake is made by some in thinking the missionary cannot interest the people. This year’s experience proves that the churches are waiting their message. Hardly a week during the year but from one to seven missionaries, and the Secretary, have been among the churches. Many calls have been declined from necessity. The Rev. Robert Chambers has been with the Secretary constantly, while a large number of calls have been answered by Rev. J. E. Tracy, Rev. M. L. Stimson and wife, Rev. G. F. Herrick, D.D., and Rev. W. P. Sprague. Not less hearty has been the occasional assistance from Rev. Messrs. Tyler, Guttersen, Chester, Richards, and Noble; also, Mrs. Rand, Mrs. Newell, and the Misses Newton, Chandler, Burrage, Kimball, and Lawrence. It would encourage them could they know the testimonials received of interest in their work.

“4. During the year we have sent to the churches and Sabbath-schools circulars and leaflets containing our hopes and suggestions concerning the work. Judging from the unusual number of responses we may believe that they have been kindly received. The calls for literature have been largely increased, and we welcome the desire of many pastors to be better informed, and that their people also have the information.

“The statistics are appended in a simple form, under a new division of the district. They are worthy our study. The number of new churches added from the Southern Atlantic States may lower somewhat the average and yet we expect to hear from these States in the year to come. We have a new interest among the churches of Pennsylvania. We speak of these sections of our field because of their new efforts in the lines of Congregational benevolences. Last year we reported 944 churches in the district, of which 586 contributed to our work. This year we report 1,087, of which 640 have contributed. We still plead for a contribution from all the churches as the need. It is the unwrought problem.

“The Sabbath-schools and Endeavor Societies have shown added interest in this work, and have given your Secretary the pleasure of no little work in the line of their calls. The real need among the youth is that they be given the occasion to know and love foreign missions and they will be our staunch helpers.

“Your Secretary would take this way to acknowledge the courtesy and help received from the officers of the Board and Prudential Committee without exception, and also to thank the pastors and officers of the churches for making him welcome in their counsels and pulpits. It will be our greatest desire the coming year to merit still more the fellowship of the brethren, and to be called into their service as a fellow-servant.”

MIDDLE DISTRICT. STATEMENT FOR 1889-90.

	No. of Churches.	Contributing.	Non-contributing.	STATES.	Donations.	Sunday-schools.	W. B. M.	Legacies.	Totals.
I.	302 with 50,876 resident members.	280	22	CONNECTICUT.	\$33,072.31	\$1,236.90	\$20,459.18	\$9,140.48	\$63,908.87
II.	275 with 37,287 resident members.	147	128	NEW YORK.	30,821.20	1,038.64	7,169.98	40,401.30	79,431.12
III.	33 with 4,142 resident members.	18	15	NEW JERSEY.	1,885.53	193.30	2,214.54	42.06	4,335.43
IV.	102 with 9,129 resident members.	32	71	PENNSYLVANIA.	1,362.54	145.42	481.62		1,989.58
V.	13 with 1,700 resident members.	9	4	MARYLAND, VIRGINIA, W. VIRGINIA, DIST. OF COLUMBIA.	798.35	2.00	588.83	5,000.00	6,389.18
VI.	122 with 5,004 resident members.	12	110	SOUTHERN ATLANTIC.	709.39		183.41		892.80
VII.	239 with 27,586 resident members.	142	97	OHIO.	7,454.29	557.17	5,883.57	5,300.00	19,195.03
	1,087	640	447		\$76,103.61	\$3,173.43	\$36,981.13	\$59,883.84	\$176,142.01

NOTE.—The average per resident member, excluding legacies, was: in Connecticut, \$1.08; in New York, \$1.05; in New Jersey, \$1.04; in Pennsylvania, \$0.22; in Maryland, Virginia, etc., \$0.82; in Southern Atlantic \$0.18; in Ohio, \$0.50.

Total of last year’s gifts apart from legacies, \$109,832.76.
Total of this year’s gifts apart from legacies, \$116,258.17.
A gain of 6 per cent.

Almanac of Missions for 1891.

THE annual Almanac of Missions, published by the American Board, is growing in favor year by year, and needs only to be known to find a place in multitudes more of Christian homes. The issue for 1891 is beautiful in form, containing over a score of illustrations, and is packed full of valuable information in regard to all foreign missionary work. It is an attractive ornament for the mantel of every Christian home. The price is only 10 cents a copy, postpaid. \$1.00 per dozen.

In quite a number of churches, both East and West, a single individual, believing that the distribution of this Almanac was the best thing he could do in aiding foreign missions, has, at his own expense, placed a copy in each pew. It is a gift which will be heartily appreciated and unquestionably will greatly aid the cause.

Many Mission Bands among the boys and girls, also Sunday-school classes, have been made happy in selling these books at a good commission and thus replenishing the supply of pennies for the Lord's Treasury.

To those who wish to distribute the Almanac, or to canvass a parish, having it for sale, it will be sold at the Rooms, No. 1 Somerset Street, Boston, or the office of the Board in New York, 121 Bible House, or delivered to any express in packages of not less than fifty, at the rate of \$5.00 per hundred. If sent by mail, postage at the rate of \$1.00 per hundred copies must be added.

Will be ready December 1, 1890.