1898 Annual

R. A. Reid

AN EXPLANATION.

Perhaps it would be better to say, a statement of fact. It is true that the year now closing has been the hardest of the three years that have passed since the calamity that betell us in the winter of 1894 and 1895. We feel it proper to make this statement, as explanatory of some falling off in our work and present embarrassment. We are, however, sanguine that the worst is passed, that reaction has set in, and that the coming will show improvement on the outgoing year

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION.

It gives us unalloyed pleasure to bear testimony to the efficiency of Secretary Spalding. Her wisdom, gentleness, energy and pious devotion to the work are admirable, almost marvelous. Subjectively or objectively, the work of our ladies and children, led by Sister Spalding, can scarcely be overrated or valued too highly.

IN MEMORIAM.

With a degree of sadness we must report the death of three members of your Board since it was appointed. Early in the year Brother R. A. Reid went to sleep one night and never woke again. A little later Rev. N. A. Bailey retired to rest in a sleeping-car and was found dead. Only a few weeks ago Colonel Walter Gwynn passed away, also suddenly. Brother Reid was serving his second year only, but gave promise of becoming a useful member. Brother Gwynn had been a member longer, was a regular attendant at the Convention, and took a deep interest in all its work for education and missions. The State Board of Missions, and its policy or plan of work, was proposed by Brother N. A. Bailey, and he served it faithfully from its origin till his death, his interest never flagging. He was as firm as a rock in his adherence to his conception of the truth, but his heart was warm and tender as a woman's. As a man, as a Christian, as a minister, he was faithful and true.

KINDLY MENTION.

We take pleasure in making mention of special favors shown your board by the F. C. & P. R. R. and J., T. & K. W. R. R.; also by Dr. Ives, of Chicago; to John B. Stetson; to the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention for Bibles and Testaments for sale and dona-