

bills. Mission agencies, some of them connected with congregations and others such as the Y. M. C. A., and Knox College Missionary Society, received free grants of Gospel literature for distribution. In pages the grants numbered 664,600. The good done by these silent messengers may not to human eyes be directly visible, but we know that God's Word shall not return void.

The financial showing of the report for the year is as follows

| RECEIPTS.                                |             |
|--|-------------|
| Balance from the previous year.....      | \$1,121 85  |
| Cash from sales this year.....           | 13,694 57   |
| Cash from subscriptions .....            | 2,499 40    |
|  | <hr/>       |
|  | \$17,315 82 |
| EXPENDITURE.                             |             |
| Stock (including freight and duties).... | \$11,499 38 |
| Colportage and agency.....               | 2,036 31    |
| Salaries of Depository, etc.....         | 1,879 00    |
| All other expenses .....                 | 1,581 03    |
| Balance in Treasurer's hands .....       | 320 10      |
|  | <hr/>       |
|  | \$17,315 82 |

The Upper Canada Bible Society is not quite so venerable as the sister institution, having only reached its forty-sixth anniversary. The annual meeting was held on Wednesday evening, and was much better attended than that of the previous evening. The chair was occupied by Principal Caven, and a number of the friends of the society, representing various evangelical churches, delivered brief and appropriate addresses. The principal speakers of the evening were the Bishop of Huron and the Rev. G. H. Wells, Montreal. The Bishop's speech was forcible, eloquent and earnest.

During the year considerable extension of the operations of the society has taken place. Recently it has been the policy to develop greater interest and activity among the various branches. This proposal has been cordially received in many districts, and efficient work has been done spontaneously. In Manitoba ten new branches and depositories have been formed and nineteen in Ontario. The total number of branches is now 420, and there are twenty-nine depositories. Winnipeg has taken an active interest in the working of the society, and is now not only in position to sustain its own branch, but to give in addition a handsome contribution to the funds of the society. That branch employed a colporteur, Mr. Waugh, who last year travelled 2,300 miles by buckboard and 800 by rail, visited about 3,000 families and distributed 1,450 copies of the Scriptures. The report also says:

We have just heard from our most distant branch, New Westminster, B. C., enclosing a remittance of \$155.50 to the funds of the society. Also a donation of \$25 to the Building Fund of the new Bible House. The detailed report has not reached us yet, but we cannot refrain from expressing our unfeigned satisfaction of the substantial proof of the spirit of our friends in New Westminster, and we may feel assured that the interests of the society are safe in the hands of our local agent, the Rev. R. Jamieson, who gives his time and services free of charge.

The issues of last year were 5,866 in advance of those of the year preceding, the total number of Bibles, Testaments and portions of Scripture reported this year being 41,591. It is explained that the increase is largely owing to the recent issue of the Penny Testament, and the gift to the volunteers who last spring went to the North-West. Included in the above are 2,142 copies of the Scriptures in foreign languages and in raised characters for the blind.

The following abstract of the society's finances was reported to the meeting:

| RECEIPTS FOR THE YEAR.   |             |
|--|-------------|
| Proceeds of sales.....   | \$9,087 22  |
| Free contributions, donations, etc.....  | 18,673 01   |
| Interest, ground rent, etc.....  | 252 29      |
|  | <hr/>       |
|  | \$28,012 52 |
| The contributions, as appropriated by the respective branches, were for the following objects, viz.: |             |
| Upper Canada Bible Society.....  | \$12,549 06 |
| British and Foreign Bible Society.....   | 5,826 97    |
| Montreal Auxiliary .....   | 131 03      |
| Quebec .....   | 165 95      |
|  | <hr/>       |
|  | \$18,673 01 |

The Board has also made its usual grant of \$500 to the Quebec Auxiliary in aid of French colportage work in the Province of Quebec.

It is very gratifying to see that the work carried on by this society is steadily growing in public esteem, and that it continues to receive a generous pecuniary support. To both it is eminently entitled. It is, in the best sense of the word, thoroughly catholic. It has

no ism to propagate, no sect to serve. It is an eminently practical evangelical alliance, on whose platform all who are devoted to the Gospel of Christ can cordially unite, its sole aim and object being the circulation of the Holy Scriptures without note or comment, so that none may be without a copy of the Word of God.

An interesting feature of these anniversary meetings was the opening of the handsome and commodious new Bible House, just completed, in Toronto. A number of representative clergymen and laymen met in the afternoon of Wednesday, and an interesting service was held, the Hon. William McMaster presiding. Appropriate addresses were delivered by Archdeacon Boddy, Principal Caven and Rev. Hugh Johnston. The erection of the building cost \$13,000, and there yet remains due upon it some \$3,000. It is hoped that this small balance will soon be wiped out.

#### SUPPLY OF VACANT CHARGES.

It is now apparent that the serious evils resulting from the chaotic state of affairs relating to the supply of vacant charges will not be permitted to remain much longer. It is not to the credit of the Church that they have been permitted to remain so long. The Church is not so destitute of constructive and executive ability that a practical remedy cannot be devised. Tentative efforts toward a rectification of abuses have been made, but the simple, practical and equitable scheme has not yet been submitted. A number of Presbyteries have had the subject under discussion, and have given it more or less serious attention. It has also been brought under the notice of the respective Synods, but for sufficiently cogent reasons they did not feel called upon to deal with the question directly.

It augurs well for a satisfactory and speedy solution of the difficulty that the Synods have with unanimity agreed to the appointment of a joint committee, which may be able to formulate a scheme to be submitted to the approaching General Assembly. The members selected to represent their respective Synods are all of them practical and experienced. They are entitled to the fullest confidence of all specially interested in the matter committed to their earnest consideration. Congregations and probationers need have no fear that their interests will be sacrificed. They can have no personal end to serve, and they are uncommitted to pet theories on the matter of supply.

The work entrusted to this committee is not easy of accomplishment. The question of supply is a wide one. Mission stations and weak congregations have special claims to careful consideration. Large and influential charges will have no difficulty in receiving much more attention, it may be, than they wish, and there is an evident desire to do justice to preachers and ministers without charge. The time of the committee appointed by the Synods will not be taken up with arguments to show that the present anarchic state of things, for the Church's honour and safety, can no longer be suffered to continue. There will be no need for minute portrayal of the abuses inseparable from the present anomalous condition, in which preachers have to carry on an extensive correspondence to obtain a hearing in a vacant charge, while Conveners of Presbyterian Home Mission Committees, Moderators of Sessions, elders, office-bearers and private members are importuned that a minister desiring a settlement may have an opportunity to preach. It is high time that insinuations of wire-pulling and patronage were rendered impossible by the adoption of some plan that has regard to the welfare of the Church, the edification of the body of Christ, that conserves the rights and privileges of the struggling congregation equally with those of the influential city charge, and one that is fair and just to worthy men who have devoted themselves to the work of the sacred ministry.

The time at the committee's disposal for maturing a Scheme is rather short, yet crude results of their conference need not be feared. The time for deliberation may not be quite so long as might be desired, but they do not approach a new or strange question. It has been painfully present to their minds for years, and has been carefully looked at in all its bearings, so that it may confidently be anticipated that the Synods' joint committee will be able to submit a plan which the General Assembly, after careful consideration, will be able to ratify, and thus put an end to a state of matters that would, if permitted to continue, inflict serious injury on the Church.

## Books and Magazines.

THE ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE. (New York: Macmillan & Co.)—Seasonable and appropriate papers and fine illustrations of great artistic merit characterize the May number of this reasonably priced and popular monthly.

YOUNG FOLKS' SPEAKER. CHOICE HUMOUR FOR READING AND RECITATION. (Philadelphia: The National School of Elocution and Oratory.)—These are two little volumes containing carefully selected extracts from standard writers suitable for recitation.

THE BROOKLYN MAGAZINE. (New York: 7 Murray Street.)—Recent issues of this magazine, that has now established itself in the City of Churches, indicate growing prosperity and great adaptation to the requirements of readers. It announces its aim to be a monthly periodical for the entertainment and instruction of the people. Its specialty, in addition to short and crisp articles on important topics of present interest, is the reproduction of Beecher's and Talmage's sermons.

THE THEOLOGICAL AND HOMILETIC MAGAZINE. (Toronto: S. R. Briggs.)—It is doubtless generally understood that this is an English magazine of which Mr. S. R. Briggs is the Canadian publisher. It is conducted by Rev. Frederick Hastings and Rev. A. F. Muir, M.A. Among its regular contributors are to be found the names of the best known British, Continental and American divines. Its arrangement is good, and there is great variety of subjects ably and suggestively treated. The May number is unusually attractive.

POLITICAL SCIENCE QUARTERLY. (Boston: Ginn & Co.)—The vast importance of an accurate and thorough knowledge of political economy at the present time cannot be overestimated. There is a wide field for this new quarterly that aims at a scientific treatment of all subjects relating to this important branch of study. It is edited by the faculty of political science in Columbia College. The principal subjects discussed in the first number are "The American Commonwealth," "Collection of Duties," "American Labour Statistics," "Legislative Inquests," and "The Berlin Conference."

THE PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW.—This magnificent theological and literary quarterly worthily occupies a first place in the periodical literature of the day. It is receiving recognition in Britain as one of the best exponents of American religious thought. The last issue is very valuable. Professor Herrick Johnson, D.D., LL.D., has an elaborate paper on "The Silence of Scripture, a Proof of its Divine Origin"; Rev. Donald Fraser, D.D., of London, discusses the Salvation Army, and Professor Henry Green, D.D., LL.D., pays attention to "The Critics of the Revised Version of the Old Testament." The Reviews of Recent Theological Literature in their helpfulness to readers whose time is limited are most valuable and suggestive.

RECEIVED:—QUEEN'S COLLEGE JOURNAL for May. (Kingston: British Whig Printing House.) THE LIBRARY MAGAZINE. (New York: John B. Alden.)—This magazine now appears weekly in a neat and attractive form. FACTS. A monthly magazine devoted to mental and spiritual phenomena. (Boston: Facts Publishing Co.) CATALOGUE AND DESCRIPTION OF LAFAYETTE COLLEGE and Vicinity, Easton, Pa. NOTES FOR BIBLE STUDY, following the Course of the Bible Reading and Prayer Alliance. (Toronto: S. R. Briggs.) THE NEW MOON. (Lowell, Mass.: New Moon Publishing Co.) THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN. (Chicago: F. H. Revell.) WILLIAM T. STEAD. A Life for the People, with an Introduction by Miss Frances E. Willard. (Chicago: Woman's Temperance Publication Association.) THE KINDERGARTEN. A monthly paper devoted to the advancement of the new education. (Toronto: Selby & Co.) THE CONVERTED CATHOLIC. Edited by Father O'Connor. (New York: James A. O'Connor.) THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL CATALOGUE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER. THE RAILWAY SIGNAL. Published in the best interests of railway men. (Toronto: Thomas Clouston.) THE OLIO. (Published by the Whitby Collegiate Institute Literary Society.) REPORT OF THE FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LAW AND ORDER SOCIETY. (Philadelphia: Wise and Van Horne.) YEAST. By Pastor Joseph Denovan. (Toronto: S. R. Briggs.)