

all of these we must endeavour to bring, so far as it is possible, within the sphere of the Bible Society's operations.

It is very difficult for us dwellers in cities, or in the older parts of the country, surrounded as we are, so to speak, with the means of grace, who have churches to go to, Sunday Schools for our children, and Bibles in our houses, it is very difficult, I say, for us to realize the situation of some of our countrymen in the far off settlements—no sound of "the church-going bell" to summon them to worship on the Sabbath, no minister to teach them, and the Bible but too often a forgotten, if not almost an unknown book. To such as these, the visits of our colporteurs have proved, in many instances, an incalculable blessing. Through their instrumentality, some who once possessed the Sacred Volume, but first neglected, and then lost it, have been induced to provide themselves with it once more; and others, who still carefully retained their Bible, but rarely, if ever, consulted its pages, have been aroused to a sense of their duty, and been persuaded, first, to listen to the Gospel message, as read to them from the Sacred Volume, and then to "search the Scriptures" for themselves.

There is work, then, my friends, and most important work, too, to be carried on through the agency of this Society, in the districts which I have been describing; but we cannot stop there. Our country is rapidly enlarging its boundaries, and ere long we may expect to see the whole of the great North-West included within the Dominion of Canada.

When the present temporary difficulties, which have retarded the admission of the North-West Territory into our confederation, shall have been overcome, as I trust and believe they very speedily will, we may hope to see large numbers of hardy and industrious settlers from Ontario and other parts of the Dominion seeking out new homes for themselves in the valleys and plains of the new Territory. Let us see to it that they not only take with them the spade, the axe and the plough, but the Bible also!

Already, I am glad to say, a special sum has been appropriated, as you will see presently from the Report, to make a commencement in organizing branches in the Red River country, and for furnishing, also, to all the members of our Volunteer force, destined for that country, who may desire to possess it, a copy of God's Holy Word, as a free gift from the Upper Canada Bible Society. This is a right beginning, and we should follow it up. If we desire to see this Dominion of Canada a free, prosperous and contented country, we must labour and pray that within its boundaries the Bible may be open to all, be read by all, and observed by all. Upon this foundation only can we hope to build up a great and prosperous confederation.

Let me urge, then, upon you, my friends, and upon all who love their country and their Bible, increasing zeal and liberality in the Bible cause.

We have had, indeed, much to encourage us during the past year, for, as will be seen from the statements in the Report, the contributions to the funds