

The formation and visitation of

BRANCH SOCIETIES

next claims attention. This department of labor has been pursued with a success which is most cheering, realizing to a large extent the anticipations of your Committee. Their esteemed travelling agent, Mr. Blyth, has proved, in all parts of the country, a welcome visitor, as is evidenced by the testimony of ministers and laymen of various denominations, while his own report, which will be found in condensed form in the appendix, speaks of the cordiality of his reception in animated terms. The most convincing proofs of the interest felt in Bible circulation are afforded in the large gatherings at the meetings, although many miles of a heavy road had often to be travelled, the co-operation of ministers and others so cordially extended to your agent, and the sums sent in as free contributions, which have been subscribed with ready and cheerful zeal. From these combined circumstances, your Committee cannot but augur favorably respecting the future stability of these branches. Apart from the numerous advantages to be derived from their formation, your Committee look forward hopefully to a time when each one may become a centre from which the light of divine truth may radiate; and evidences may be found to justify this conclusion in the avowed intentions of the subscribers themselves, who seem fully alive to the importance of the subject. The agent has assisted in the establishment of ten new Branch Societies, namely, at Broughton, Gaspé Basin, Gaspé Bay, Gaspé N.W. arm, Kennebec Road, Lambie's Mills, Metis, New Liverpool and Etchemin, Stoneham and St. Sylvester, besides revisiting the others, with one or two exceptions. He has travelled over 2,400 miles by land and water, and visited 152 families, many of whom were not only destitute of the word of God, but of all other means of grace. In such cases especially he was joyfully received, and at their own solicitations, they enjoyed the benefit of his earnest exhortations and fervent prayers. One correspondent, an esteemed minister of the gospel, writes, in reference to Mr. Blyth's visit:—

"His heavenly conversation and earnest prayers have greatly refreshed my own soul, and I feel assured of a good many of my people; and if we can only hold on, we have reason to expect that the Lord will revive us. We have great reason to be thankful to your Society for having sent such a godly man amongst us."

Another says:—

"I think it due to your respected agent to say that the people of I—— feel grateful for his last visit, and beg through me to convey our best thanks to the Committee for sending him to visit us again."