

ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

The forty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Society was held in the Metropolitan Methodist Church, on the evening of Wednesday, May 20th, beginning at half-past seven o'clock.

The chair was occupied by the Hon. G. W. Allan, President of the Society. After singing, the Rev. Hugh Johnston, B.D., pastor of the church, read a portion of Scripture, and led in prayer. The President then delivered the following address :—

MY CHRISTIAN FRIENDS :—

It is my pleasant duty to bid you welcome to this, the 45th annual meeting of the Upper Canada Bible Society, to receive a report of what has been done for the Bible cause during the past year, and to have our hearts, I trust, stirred within us, and we ourselves incited to greater and more persistent efforts in the good work, by the eloquent words, which I know will be addressed to us by the speakers, whom it is our good fortune to have present with us on the platform this evening.

The Society's year, which has just closed, is spoken of in the report as being upon the whole "satisfactory and progressive;" and that, notwithstanding "depression in commercial circles, low prices for agricultural products, and a winter of more than ordinary severity."

Under these circumstances, we may perhaps be satisfied to find, that the Society's income from all sources, is but a trifle below that of 1884; while the number of Bibles and Testaments issued from the Depository in Toronto, during the year, is between 4 and 5,000 more than during the last year. But, my friends, I put it to you whether \$30,000 or \$31,000 is such an income, as this great, wealthy, prosperous Province of Ontario, should be satisfied with contributing, to a Society, which should unite in its support, every Christian man among us, who loves his Bible, and who believes that that blessed book contains the precious message of God's love and mercy, which it is our bounden duty, to send far and wide, wherever there are souls to be saved.

Now, take the city of Toronto subscription list alone. It certainly seems to me, that barely 400 names can scarcely represent the sum total of those, out of the whole population of this city, who are willing to contribute out of their abundance to the dissemination of God's Holy Word.

My friends, this list ought to be doubled, trebled, and I do earnestly trust that one effect of this gathering here to-night may be that God's blessing may so rest upon the words, which shall be spoken by those on this platform, that each one in this large assembly, shall not only be stirred up to give more liberally themselves, but to use their influence with their friends, their neighbours, and acquaintances, to induce them also to help in the same blessed work.

Allusion is made in the report to a very timely and fitting gift of Bibles and Testaments to our volunteers, who have been so nobly doing their duty in putting down rebellion, and restoring law and order in the North-West.

Deeply as we must deplore the loss of valuable lives, and the sorrow and mourning brought into many a household, aye, and the suffering and death