

and fall upon his face, and still he sleeps on. The minutes pass. The rays multiply, and things around become more clear, but he slumbers on undisturbed. The dawnlight deepens and falls full on the upturned face. There is a flutter of the eyelids, but he sleeps on. But now mysteriously the light begins to enter the land of sleep and invest the thoughts that flit there to and fro like fantastic shadows. At length the sun rises. The first rays like golden shafts, fall on that face, and now there is a long deep sigh; the limbs begin to stir; the muscles grow taut; the eyes at length open, and the sleeper is awake. It is just so with Italy. Into that chamber of darkness where, during its long night, Italy has been plunged into slumber so heavy that it seemed to be death, you have been pouring the dawnlight of God's Truth. As yet the sleeper stirs but little, and yet the light is fretting the visual nerve, and there are influences, Divine influences, at work on the soul. "Light, light, more light!"—pour it in unstinted, and ere long you shall see that face, so lovely even in its dull unconsciousness, begin to stir with life, and Italy—how near may be the time God only knows—shall waken from its slumber and gird itself to holy service in its new day.

Bible Society Recorder.

TORONTO, 15TH JULY, 1872.

THE QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS was held in the Board Room on Tuesday evening the 9th inst. The Chair was taken by the President, the Hon. G. W. Allan, at 7.30 o'clock. The Rev. W. Reid, M. A., Vice-President, read the 67th Psalm and offered prayer. The receipts for the past quarter—which is the first quarter of the current year—were reported as \$1818 00, being \$683 00 less than the corresponding quarter of last year. This is to be accounted for by the fact that very few, indeed, of the branches were delinquent in their returns when the accounts for 1871-2 were closed. A petition from the Board to the Hon. S. L. Tilley, Minister of Customs, praying for the removal of duties collected on the Bibles and Testaments imported, had been forwarded to Ottawa, and an answer received. The answer was courteous, but held out no hope that the reasonable prayer of the petition would be granted. A further consideration of the question by the Board will hereafter be made. The meeting closed with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Green, V. P., at ten o'clock.

Reports received from Sister Societies—want of space prevents a fuller notice in the present number.

Delay of present number—Our printers expect hereafter to issue the Recorder in due time.