

Canadian and Domestic.

REPORT OF THE REV. THOMAS GOLDSMITH,

To the Directors of the Upper Canada Bible Society,

GENTLEMEN,—The close of another year of my Agency affords me the opportunity of laying before you an account of my labors, with some general statement of my impressions of the aspects of the work. The Bible Society is not a mere commercial enterprise, the extent of whose success may be determined by simply balancing the ledger; it partakes largely of a missionary character whose fruits are to be sought in the lives of men, and in a higher and more healthy tone of public morals, thus affecting by its salutary influence all the institutions of our country. It is difficult adequately to determine how far those influences have permeated the public mind, and by moulding public sentiment, shaped the destiny of our country. Nor is it a matter of indifference to the various sects of a common Protestantism. It forms the bonds of our Catholicity and the highest type of the Christianity of our age, while it is wondrously adapted to aid the gigantic missionary schemes of our day by affording the Holy Scriptures in so many languages and dialects in exhaustless supply, and at a merely nominal price, or, when necessary, without price; it at the same time forms the centre of our Christian sympathies and brotherhood, and is found to be no less necessary to *quicken our churches at home than to aid our missions abroad*. It is the manifest duty, and not more the duty than the privilege, of all our churches to guard the interests and administration of the Society with the most zealous care, to preserve it above all selfish or sectarian influences, and to support its claims with an adequate christian liberality so as to render it equal to its important mission.

I regret that the changes in the Agency field, deemed necessary by your board, in consequence of the reduction of the staff of Agents, has involved extra travelling expenses, and necessitated an additional draw upon your funds to meet those claims; but while this has involved a slight increase of expense to the society it has largely increased the labors of the Agency.

I commenced the work of the past fiscal year by leaving my home on the 13th of May, for a tour in the London Auxiliary, where I spent my spring and summer months, a report of which I have sent to the Board in London. Within the geographical boundary of London Auxiliary is the St. Thomas Branch, which I am happy to say is in a state of commendable efficiency. They gave us a good meeting, and are doing well.

In consequence of important and radical changes in the administration of the Board, involving among other things the re-distribution of the Agency field, my labors had to await the decision of the Secretaries in the matter, so that my work in the fall was delayed till the 13th of September. I commenced at Stouffville where we had a pleasant meeting, composed principally of those residing in the village. They had not as yet collected, as they deemed it too early in the season. I went next day over to Markham, and found a small meeting. This branch seems to be doing very well, but might do much more. At York Church, we had a total failure; no congregation out, and no funds. I found a small meeting at Cookville, they have done nothing for two years. They reorganized and promised to make a vigorous effort this year. South Etobicoke gave us an interesting meeting, though not large. The above meetings had been published by Mr. Brookman before the redistribution of the work, and as that part of the work was assigned to me I answered to the circulars. The following week was occupied by the Provincial Fair, when we could hold no meetings. The following week I passed up to Port Burwell, in the London Auxiliary, where I continued my labours until the 27th of November when I returned home.