

COMMITTEE FOR 1879-80.

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R. SOUCH, Lay-Treasurer.	J. HARRIS,
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W. R. ROACH,	W. C. BEER,
W. KENNER,	R. B. ROWE.
W. JOLLIFFE,	

Laymen.

J. Hull,	C. R. Tamblyn,
Jas. Pickard,	J. F. Cunnings,
T. Bowden,	T. Courtice,
S. Collings,	J. Southcott,

REPORT.

The first Bible Christian Society was organized in the parish of Shebbear, Devonshire, England, Oct. 9th, 1815, and was composed of 22 persons,—most of whom had been awakened to a sense of sin through the agency of Rev. Mr. Evans, a Church of England clergyman,—and who were desirous of meeting to confirm each other's faith, and to persuade men to be reconciled to God. The good work quickly spread, hundreds of souls were saved, other Societies were formed, and several Circuits were soon organized.

The want of systematic Missionary effort was soon felt. A pressing call came from Chatham, for two missionaries. There being no Missionary Society, the late James Thorne, travelled through the Denomination, to obtain funds wherewith to open the Mission. On Feb. 21st, 1820, Jas. Thorne and William Lyle, the two Missionaries, met at Exeter, and started for London, by stage. About a month after their arrival at Brompton, near Chatham, they formed two classes, four persons in each class; a few were added every week, until, in June, the two classes numbered 69 persons. In 1821, the Bible Christian Missionary Society was formed, and many of the friends took a deep interest, and manifested considerable zeal in the good work. A Mission was commenced in London, April 29th, 1821, by a preaching service in the open air, in Webb Square. The work

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