REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE STANDARD PUBLISHING COMPANY (Limited).

To the Baptist Committee of Ontario and Quebec, meeting in Woodstock, October 16th, 1890.

The Directors present this audited statement, showing the condition of the Company as on the 31st of July last, from which it would appear the *Canadian Baptist* has made a profit for the past year of $609.16, and there has been received from interest on investment $709.16. On the other hand the Book Department shows a loss of $1,690.68, so that the result is a loss on the year's business of $312.36, which, deducted from $1,470.75 at credit of Contingent Account July 31st, 1889, reduces the amount standing at credit of that account to $1,158.39.

The smallness of profit shown on business of *Canadian Baptist* compared with the former year is chiefly accounted for by increased cost of editorial work, discount made from estimated value, arrears due by subscribers, and a reduction in receipts for advertising.

Although the Book Department shows a serious loss, as usual, this must not be taken as a direct result of last year's business, but, in part, from selling at less than cost, books and other articles which had been on hand for years, and, therefore, much reduced in value. It is, however, a satisfaction to be able to report that the stock has been reduced from $15,024, in 1888, to $9,505, in 1890. The removal of the business from Yonge Street to Richmond Street, while it materially reduced expenses, has not so far tended to reduce sales. The amount of merchandise sold in 1888 was $14,491, and in 1890, $14,770.

It is the opinion of the Directors that a discharge of duty requires them to present to the Convention some facts, which will show more clearly than the General Statement the present condition of the Standard Publishing Company, and the following are submitted :—

1st. There remains upon the shelves of the Book Department a considerable quantity of stock, the accumulation of years, which, in the audited statement, is taken at cost price, while such goods will have to be sold at a great sacrifice before they can be turned into money.

2nd. The book accounts, owing to both departments, which are shown in the audited statement to be nearly $8,000, have only been subjected to a slight discount in view of bad debts, while the fact must be stated that some of the accounts have been standing on the books from two to six years, and certain of them may be looked on as hopelessly lost, all efforts which have been made to collect these amounts having failed,