

on the number last year, besides a larger number of the Bibles with the metrical Psalms, which, as they are supplied from the Tract Society's Depository have not hitherto been shown in our Reports. This increase is not so large as the Board would like to be able to report; but it is to be noted that the time of two of the colporteurs, Messrs. Badger and McIntyre, has been wholly occupied in very far back townships, where these faithful labourers had sometimes miles to travel in going from one house to another. Part of the time, Messrs. McPhail and Strain were also working in similar sparsely populated districts. The Board has thus taken care not to neglect the wants of our hardy pioneers in the back woods, although the work among them demands more money from the funds of the Society, and more zeal, endurance and patience from our devoted Colporteurs. But, while recognising that the back townships have the first claim upon their attention, the Directors also saw that there is much to be done by Colportage in even the oldest and most settled parts of the Society's field. In addition to the experience of the Parent Society in so old and settled a country as England, the marked success of Mr. Lowry's labours in and around the City of Toronto, and of Mr. Stephenson in the Counties of Waterloo and Wellington, has proved that they were not mistaken in this. They would, therefore, strongly recommend their successors to continue to occupy such districts. The sales of Messrs. McIntyre and Rothwell, the two newly engaged colporteurs, look small in the schedule, which will be found on page 37. It is only fair to them to state that they have both been labouring in sections of the country where the large majority of the settlers are Scotch, and therefore generally buy the Tract Society Bibles, which have the Metrical Psalms bound with them.

Besides what has been done in the field more immediately under the care of the Board, the first effort in Colportage in British Columbia has been made during the past year. A grant of \$300 for this purpose was made by the Board to the New Westminster Branch, the Committee of which express in their report very hearty thanks for the liberality of the Society, and state that they had employed Mr. James McFarlane during parts of July and August, and that he had been very zealous and faithful in the service. He had travelled over all the settlements and logging camps on both sides of the Frazer River from Cheam to the Gulf, and had visited the ships and saw-mills at Burrard Inlet. He had sold sixty-two Bibles and one hundred and seven Testaments, and had given away five Bibles and four Testaments. Extracts from his reports will be found among those of the other colporteurs on page 37. The Committee consider that Mr. McFarlane has been very successful, and it is confidently believed that much good will result from his labours, though it may not be seen before the Great Day; but as the expense of Colportage there is very great, and the population of the further parts exceedingly small and scattered, they did not think it wise to spend the whole grant, but have offered \$150 of it to the Victoria Branch, in whose district they think a large amount of good can be done at less cost than in the more distant parts of their own.