

While thus glancing at the strange posture of our affairs, our attention is forcibly drawn to the condition of our Catholic fellow subjects, who form the majority of our population, and we are led to inquire how *they* also can be supplied with the Scriptures. A familiar and intelligent acquaintance with the principles and precepts of the word of God, and the adoption of them as their rule of conduct, would do far more to secure their loyalty, than pastoral admonition, however earnest and sincere, if unaccompanied with these powerful aids, could possibly accomplish. In some parts of the world, still under the spiritual jurisdiction of the Roman see, the restrictions against the circulation of the Bible are very much relaxed, if not entirely removed.—Would that it were so here,—that the word of God might have “free course, run, and be glorified.” We are confident the temporal prosperity and happiness of these Provinces would be greatly advanced by such a measure, to say nothing, at present, of the spiritual benefits which would flow from its adoption.

But we must not lose sight of the *higher* object. The temporal benefit was not the primary but the secondary consideration in the Divine Economy; and it is subordinate also in the intention of those who originally formed the Society, and of those who are at present engaged in conducting its operations. Their desire in furnishing their fellow creatures with the oracles of God is to make them “wise unto Salvation;” and from the manner in which the boon has been almost every where received, especially in the Eastern Townships, there is reason to conclude that its value has been appreciated, and that the blessing of God has accompanied both its circulation and its perusal.

The Annual Report of the Montreal Society, just now issued from

the press, contains the following remarks upon this periodical:—

“Societies of inferior importance to this, maintain their Periodicals, and oft times are eminently successful in the promotion of the cause they advocate by this means. It were useless to dilate on a subject so trite as the power of the press; all acknowledge and the majority feel it. Nor is it scarcely needful to remark, that such is the extent and such the diversity of the operations of Bible Societies—so numerous are the facts of absorbing interest which have been elicited by their movements in various parts of the world, and which are only very partially known—and so many and cogent are the motives and arguments for the increased study of the Holy Scriptures, and their universal diffusion; that lack of materials there can be none to fill in an interesting and instructive manner a monthly paper of eight pages. The experiment has been made;—on the first of May last the first number was issued;—successive numbers have contained, with much other matter, the details of the proceedings of the Society in endeavouring to supply the Province with Bibles;—the subscription is only 1s. 3d. a year;—and yet, after continuing the attempt nine months, such is the defect in the number of Subscribers, that the Committee have resolved to discontinue it at the close of its year, unless a very large increase of support is immediately afforded.

It remains, therefore, with the readers of the *Bible Advocate* to determine, whether, by additional exertions to promote its sale, they will endeavour to sustain it, or whether it shall close its brief existence at the end of “its year.” The decision, if favourable to its continuance, must be promptly expressed, or it may come too late to be of any avail.

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS.

COOKSHIRE BRANCH BIBLE SOCIETY.

In the Annual Report of the Montreal Auxiliary Bible Society, which is now in the course of delivery, the above-named Branch was accidentally omitted. The utmost care has been taken to make the report as complete as possible, but by some oversight the above was not included in the list of assistant Societies. The friends and supporters of this effective