

FROM THE COLPORTEUR.

TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE NOVA SCOTIA BIBLE SOCIETY,

Gentlemen,—As the Annual Meeting of the Nova Scotia Bible Society is about to be held, it is requisite that I should lay before you a statement of my labours as Colporteur for this City and its vicinity.

I commenced this important work on the 8th day of February 1848, and have continued it without intermission to the present time—being altogether Thirteen months and twenty-three days. During this period I have sold 1562 Bibles and 2552 Testaments.

These sales have been made chiefly amongst the middle and lower classes, such as Sailors and Fishermen whom I found on board of Vessels and about the Wharves—Farmers and others at the public markets, who have come from different and distant parts of the Province—and various descriptions of working people residing in every part of the City,—in Dartmouth, and along the principal roads leading to the Country. And these parties generally, it may be inferred, would have still remained destitute of the written word, had not this method been adopted of bringing it to their notice, and offering it on such reasonable terms.

That great and lasting good will result from this work cannot be doubted, though the amount must remain unknown except to Him who “knoweth all things,” and who “seeth the end from the beginning.” Had the times continued as favourable as they were wont to be, these sales would have been much greater,—for although the want of Bibles and Testaments has been in some good measure supplied, as far as the sphere of my labours extended, there were cases which presented themselves, where the temporal wants of individuals and families were such, that the desire for a Bible had to give place to the more pressing claims of hunger and starvation. Some of these however were supplied gratuitously by friends of the cause, but others were unwilling to allow their circumstances to be made known.

In carrying out these objects many interesting incidents occurred. One poor man from the country, whose family consisted of a sickly wife and nine children, told me he had sold his only cow to buy provisions, and had now but eighteen-pence left, which he desired to lay out in the purchase of two Testaments, as he had not one in his house. But on hearing his tale of woe, I procured for him a Bible and three Testaments gratis, for which he seemed very thankful. A short time ago I met the same man in the City:—He caught me by the hand which he held in both his, and said,—“your books have been blessed to my family—my oldest son, sixteen years of age, died, since I saw you, in great peace,—having been brought to true repentance, I have no doubt, by reading his Bible—and a great change has been wrought throughout my entire household.” Another person I met with said he had a wife and seven children, but had never owned a Bible. I remonstrated with him, on his awful neglect of duty to his family—He seemed to be sorry for his conduct and bought one. *And many other cases of a similar character occurred. Often I was told that I