

I rejoice to see such a gathering of Christians of all denominations assembled within these walls, to testify by their presence their unflinching interest in the work of the Upper Canada Bible Society, and their love and affection for that Book, which ought ever to be a blessed bond of unity among all Christian people. I trust that I may safely assume, from the increasing numbers which attend our anniversaries, that our people *individually* are becoming more and more alive to the value and preciousness of God's Word, and more and more persuaded that, in a *national* point of view, the dissemination of the Holy Scriptures is one of the highest and most sacred duties of every true lover of his country.

The Report—which will presently be submitted to you—will be found, I am thankful to say, to give a gratifying account of the progress of the Society's operations throughout the Dominion. Our income exhibits an advance of some \$3,500 over that of the preceding year, and the Report will shew, that we are endeavouring, God helping us, both to minister faithfully to the wants of our old established districts, and also to assist in sowing the good seed in the new fields now opened to us by the extension of our territories.

In furtherance of this latter object, the Society has contributed a sum of \$650 to the Branch which has been recently organized under its auspices, in Manitoba; and recognizing the same obligations in reference to the still more distant portions of the Dominion—the Directors have devoted the further sum of \$500 to assist in establishing a branch in British Columbia.

But while thus endeavouring to discharge our more immediate duty to our own land, and to those new territories so lately brought within the Dominion, it will also be seen from the Report, that the Upper Canada Bible Society has not failed to bear a part, in this as in former years, in assisting in the world-wide work of our glorious Parent Society; and I am glad and thankful to be able to state, that our free contributions to the British and Foreign Bible Society, amount to the sum of \$11,459, being an increase over last year of more than \$2,500.

May this be an augury of still better things to come! Each year, as Canada increases in wealth and material prosperity, may her sons be found contributing more and more of that wealth, to aid in sending forth the true riches, to those who are destitute of them, in every nation and race, throughout the length and breadth of the habitable globe!

Of the progress of the Bible cause in other lands, you will find a brief but gratifying sketch in the Report, and the tidings mentioned there as