

## REPORT OF REV. E. BARRASS.

*To the Directors of the U. C. Bible Society:*

GENTLEMEN,—On the 11th of March I received instructions from the Secretaries of the U. C. B. S. to visit some of the Branches in the County of Simcoe, and on the same day I despatched circulars to the Presidents and Secretaries of all the Branches included in my route, and also wrote to various Clergymen in the respective localities, desiring their co-operation, so that my visits might be as successful as possible. Some of these gentlemen very kindly responded to my communications, and promised me all the help in their power.

March 22nd, proceeded to Mono Centre. Found the roads in some places deep in mud, while in others, the snow was banked up on either side, rendering travelling by any mode of conveyance almost impossible. About a mile from Mono Mills I had the misfortune to break the axle of my gig, which detained me more than an hour. My friend in need, Rev. C. Hamilton, lent me his vehicle, and saw that mine was repaired against my return. Arrived at my destination just in time for the meeting. Found everything in excellent order. The Committee, with the Rev. Mr. Christie at its head, and the venerable Mr. Laidlaw, its Treasurer and Secretary, is very effective, and always holds its annual meeting whether the Agent is on hand or not. The congregation was small, but evidently much interested in the Bible cause. Received in all, \$56 74.

Next day, I proceeded to Rosemont, where I found matters somewhat discouraging. There had never been a good meeting, in consequence, it was thought, of the bad state of the road, when the Agent had visited the locality. The President, too, had removed, the Secretary had resigned, and the Committee had held no meeting for a considerable time. There was, as I anticipated, a small attendance at the meeting, only eleven persons in all, two of whom were clergymen; however, I delivered an address, took up a collection, which was good, for the number present, and endeavoured to re-organize the Committee, who promised to get some collecting done. Only received \$28 98. A minister who has recently arrived from Scotland, and my friend, Rev. J. Colling, aided me, and I hope that by their joint endeavours, a better report will be received from this Branch next year.

My next meeting was held at Mono Mills, where, I was told, there had been no meeting since 1867, and, as a matter of course, the attendance now was small, and the state of things far from encouraging. The Rev. Mr. Fessenden, recently from the Province of Quebec, gave us a good practical speech. The receipts were only \$16 42. The Committee promised to send collectors through the neighbourhood as soon as possible. I trust that they will do so, as the above amount is too small for a respectable locality.

On the 27th of March, I had a tedious journey to Thornton. From the state of the roads, I was assured by different persons that it would be impossible for me to get there, but, by occasionally resting to feed my horse, and persevering through all difficulties, I arrived in time to address the meeting. Rev. W. Hay kindly assisted me. The report of the Committee was somewhat depressing. The meeting was earlier than they expected, as their last was held in July '70, and various local matters had militated against the funds of the Bible Society. I received the smallest amount here of any place that I visited, only \$4 40. I think, with care, there might be a good Branch at this place, as the congregation was evidently much interested with the statements made respecting the Bible cause.

Next day I travelled through a dismal swamp to Innisfil, where I found the excellent President of the Branch, Rev. T. Wightman, waiting in Beulah-land, whence he has since taken his departure to the celestial city. The good man sent me his compliments, and stated that the truths of the Bible were now sustaining him, as flesh and heart were failing. I have known him