

## REPORT.

The Committee, in making their Annual Reports, have had repeated occasion to lament the influence which the pressure of the times has had upon the Funds of this Institution; and at present, the state of things in general, in this Province, exhibits increased deterioration rather than improvement. All classes of society have been, and are less or more involved in distress; and the hitherto continually progressive decline of Trade and Commerce, and the very great fall which has lately taken place in the value of the various articles of Agricultural Produce, have placed multitudes in a state of aggravated suffering. In such circumstances, it cannot be reasonably expected that contributions for pious and charitable purposes, should be equally abundant, as in seasons of prosperity. It would not have been surprising, though numbers of our Branch Societies had sunk under the multiplied discouragements with which they have to contend. That, in the midst of such formidable discouragements, they in general resolutely persevere, though with diminished means, in their endeavours to send the Bible to every nation and kindred, and people and tongue, seems to evince that they act under the influence of pure Christian principles, and furnishes ground of encouragement to hope that with the return of better times, which we still fondly anticipate, they will yet again display all *their former liberality and zeal*, or even exert themselves with greater energy, and manifest still richer munificence.

It has been intimated that the Branch Societies in general resolutely persevere, in their endeavours to promote the dissemination of the Scriptures over the face of the Earth. For to this general account of them there is an exception. The Branch Society at Dorchester has ceased to exist. But it is to be remembered that Dorchester is but a recent settlement, and so less able to bear the severity of the present pressure. And even at Dorchester the Society did not expire without a struggle. The Rev. Gentleman who filled, in that Society, the office of President, informs us that he made, though without effect, every exertion in his power to unite the wrecks of it into an association, that might live till better times; and signifies that, though some of its Members may have become tired of it, yet he is satisfied that the great majority of them have withdrawn in consequence of the general distress. It is to be hoped, therefore that the Dorchester Society will revive when the present severe pressure shall be removed.

But while other Branch Societies languish, the Hants County Society, in consequence of that new principle of life which has been derived from its late re-organization, and aided, more especially, by the very exemplary spirit and activity of some of its officers, manifests, notwithstanding the general distress, increasing energy and improving resources. The contributions of this Society, instead of being diminished, have been considerably increased. It is much to be wished that so illustrious an example may stimulate others to similar exertions. It may be reasonably hoped that similar exertions will, in other Districts, be in some measure productive of similar results.

The Committee are also happy to inform the Members of this Society, that the Branch Society at Horton, which like that of Hants County, previous to its late re-organization, had very much declined, or rather had been for several years, in a state approaching to absolute dormancy, has been at a meeting of a number of the Inhabitants of that Township, on the 11th day of February last, revived; and that hopes are cherished that it will now do well. May such examples animate other languishing Societies to go and do likewise.

Some of the Branch Societies, to obviate the difficulty of realizing in money the subscriptions of their Members, had resolved to accept from them an equivalent in produce: and the Committee in their last report, expressed approbation of the measure, and anticipated from it the most beneficial consequences. But the result whatever may have been the cause, has not answered expectation. Such a plan however, if vigorously followed up might still perhaps be found advantageous.

The Truro Branch Society have resorted to a peculiar method to meet the

difficulty of raising money. They have placed covers, upon those who are of casting such or more is collected year, the amount might be adopted.

Contributions bear no proportion to the claims of their endeavours crowned with victory to the common number to solicit. Such a measure at first formation of thought that it was that other ways. But the experience the efficacy of our Recourse, therefore account it indelible and has been upon.

Since the last have been received of the Institution now in the hands of the British and Foreign.

Since the last received from the distributed gratis Branch Societies prices; and their statements, chiefly in

The last supply a copy of the History of the Society, by the Rev. Mr. Ly presented by the to this Auxiliary.

The British and Foreign Society, and munificence for the instruction of the world. I of the Scriptures, and dialects: of very new translations have been rendered the preceding year, there had Testaments, making 3,200 copies for the Institution. 7 Province, and from benevolent progress waters cover the

It is worthy of the Roman Catholic