

OTTAWA BIBLE SOCIETY.

The Ottawa Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society at its annual meeting on Wednesday night in the First Baptist church was able to report substantial progress. The receipts and sales for 1907 reached high-water mark, and the outlook in all the 53 years' history of the Auxiliary was never so encouraging as it is at the present time. Gratitude, was therefore, the keynote of the meeting. The attendance was large and the exercises were most interesting. The chief speakers were Rev. Dr. Symonds of Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal, and Rev. P. L. Richardson, pastor of McLeod street Methodist church, Ottawa. The former, who is an eloquent and scholarly speaker, graceful, fluent and convincing, discussed the Bible as a book of great national literature, and the latter, who is a lucid and pleasing speaker, enumerated and elaborated four reasons why the Bible Society should be generously supported in its work. The choir was occupied by the president of the Auxiliary, Rev. Dr. Armstrong. After devotional exercises had been conducted by Rev. Dr. Cameron and Rev. Mr. Cousins, who offered prayer, the chairman delivered a brief but pointed address. He said that "the much good work had been done by the Bible Society, they could still exclaim in the words of the late Cecil Rhodes: "So much to do, so little done." Never in the world's history were the opportunities so great for sending the Bible to all parts of the world, and never was the encouragement so great. From all lands under the sun there came a cry for the Word of God. The chairman referred to the appointment of Rev. J. B. Cooper, of Bristol, Eng., to the position of general secretary for Canada, and described him as a worthy successor of Rev. Dr. Welsh, who so ably and acceptably filled the office.

A stimulating report of the year's work was then read by Mr. McElroy. Financially, the Auxiliary was in a strong and stable condition. There are now 166 branches holding 205 public meetings last year. In 1901 when Mr. McElroy, the present field secretary, took hold of the work, there were 92 branches holding 128 public meetings. Mr. McElroy travelled 3,720 miles last season during the seven months he was on the road. He is the only field officer of the local society, though his territory of twelve counties—9 in Ontario and 3 in Quebec—is no smaller than those of Montreal and Toronto, where there are practically three men doing the same work. The three new branches added last year are Sealey's Bay, Phillipsville and River Desert. The report was adopted on motion of Rev. P. L. Richardson, seconded by Mr. John MacMillan. The report recommended the following officers for the ensuing year who by its adoption were elected: Honorary president, Geo. Hay, Esquire; president, Rev. W. D. Armstrong, D.D.; cor. sec., Rev. A. D. Cameron, D.D.; treasurer, James Gibson; depositary, James Hope; rec. and field sec., David McElroy; auditors, Jas. S. Eagleson, William Whillans, vice-presidents—H. M. Anderson, W. C. Boles, H. W. Bowie, A. Chisholm, W. H. Eagleson, James Gibson, Wm. Glendon, James Henderson, Rev. John Higgins, Rev. George McRitchie, Rev. Wm. McIntosh, J. D. McLean, John Macmillan, M.A., Rev. Wm. Moore, D.D., Rev. Canon H. Pollard, Hiram Robinson, Dr. John Thorburn, and a large and representative committee.

Here are a few notes of Dr. Symonds' admirable address at the Bible Society meeting given in moving the following resolution:

"That this meeting rejoices in the unexampled enterprise of the British and Foreign Bible Society in promoting the translation and printing of the Word of God in 420 different tongues; that we recognize in its wide distribution one of the greatest factors in the awakening of China, Japan and Korea. Moreover,

that we record our conviction that the Bible today wherever its authority is owned, is the dominant spirit in our civilization and our richest asset in the development of national life."

"The Bible lives because it has life in it." The Hebrew literature was contained in the books of the Bible and these books were called literature because they contained marks common to other books of literature. They possessed grammar, syntax, philosophy, poetry and other elements of true literature. "There is something in the Bible that resembles the drama, and when it is remembered the large place that the drama occupies in literature, and that the greatest of all men in literature was a dramatist, it is not to be wondered at that God made use of something that resembled the drama to convey a great truth. The Bible was the outcome of the spirit of the Hebrew people. It expresses itself from the Hebrew point of view on the great subjects of life. The Hebrew mind was of such a character that it never saw anything as you and I see it. We look through the medium of second causes. The Hebrew knew nothing about second cause. He knew only one cause, and that cause was God. Should they not cease to think of the Bible as a book written by 20 or 30 people, and regard it rather as the outcome of the whole Hebrew people written by men qualified to give expression to the national mind of a people called and shaped by circumstances, so that it was possible for God to so present Himself to them and there should go forth from that people a knowledge of God which should cover the earth as the waters cover the deep? From the three great peoples of antiquity, the Hebrews, the Greeks and the Romans, modern civilization sprang. Law came from the Romans, beauty from the Greeks, and interest in man and his final destiny from the Hebrew people, through the medium of the Word of God.

"The whole Bible was not taken up with the history of the Hebrew nation. Beginning with the family in Genesis, it broadened its horizon until in the New Testament the whole human race was embraced. The development of a family into a nation did not mean the annihilation of the family. The nation was a group of families, and the stronger the individual families, the stronger would be the nation. The Bible is a blessing and gift to be sent through all parts of the world to be a source of blessing to all nations on the face of the earth."

The twenty-fifth annual meeting of the Lanark and Renfrew Presbyterian Women's Foreign Missionary Society was held at Carleton Place last week. The president of the society, Mrs. A. A. Scott, presided, and among those who took part were Miss Jamieson, a returned missionary from India, who gave two very interesting addresses. Mrs. W. A. Paterson, representing the local society, gave the address of welcome to the delegates, responded to by Miss McFayden of Burnstown. There were papers by Mrs. A. W. Bell on "Women's Work in China," and "Reminiscences of 25 Years," by Mrs. Neilson, of Arnprior. Rev. Mr. Coburn, of Smith's Falls, represented the presbytery in a cordial address of congratulation. There was special music by the choir of St. Andrew's Church, solos by Miss Crain, Mrs. Monds, and Miss McLaren. A duet by Miss and Mr. McLaren. The question drawer was ably answered by Mrs. Andrew Wilson, of Appleton, and the dedicatory prayer was made by Mrs. Shields, of Smith's Falls. The meeting throughout is said to have been one of the best in the history of the society.

The end crowns the work, but there is a good deal of satisfaction in the work itself before it is crowned.

EDUCATION AND RELIGION.

There has been a great deal of discussion and heated feeling evoked in New York by an attempt on the part of some people to "de-Christianise the Christmas exercises" in the public schools. The Christian Intelligencer says the results of such an assault, if it were successful, "would be such as only the most desperate and despicable enemy of his country—not to say of God—would desire to see imposed upon us." The paper quoted deals with the question in the following fashion: "In the first place, you cannot divorce religion from education. Education, as the word implies, is not the pouring into the child's mind and life of a mass of facts as you might pour water into an empty pitcher. It is the educating—the drawing out—of the faculties and capabilities of the child, the developing and training and guiding of those instincts and preferences which lie dormant in the youthful mind and heart, awaiting that opportunity and method of expression which is afforded by education. And chief among these natural faculties is the instinct of religion, the desire to know and worship, to be guided and protected by some superior power, to be loved and helped by some affection greater than that of parent or friend. These things are not taught to a child; they are developed and trained in him and are led to fasten themselves upon and mold themselves by facts instead of fancy, by the truth instead of the surmises of the untaught intellect and emotions. This religion is instinct within us; it is the inheritance alike of Jew and Gentile, of heathen and Christian, of savage and civilized. And to try to educate a child while ignoring one of the fundamental concepts of his nature is to attempt a ridiculous and impossible task."

Our contemporary buttresses this view by the following vigorous presentation of facts: "And the second fact is that the religion of this country is the Christian religion. There is not and never has been an argument that can contravene this statement. America was discovered by Christians, colonized by Christians, developed by Christians, brought from the inchoate condition of colonies to that of a strong nation by Christians. Christianity has been the fundamental though unwritten law of the land from its earliest origin to the present day. It is interwoven into the very thought of the land, into its literature, into its social life, into its education. Judaism and some other non-Christian faiths, atheism and many other anti-religious influences have, it is true, been factors in the life of our country, but it was the two great branches of the Christian Church, the Church of Rome and the Church of the Reformation, which laid the foundation of this land and which have wrought—not always with harmony of faith and method but with singular unity of purpose and result—to build up this wonderful superstructure which is the admiration of all the world."

Milk is suggested as a good extinguishing agent for burning petroleum. It forms an emulsion with the oil, and, by disturbing its cohesion, attenuates the combustible element as water cannot.

The curious fact is noted by Prof. Landau, of Breslau, that careful measurements of the intensity of gravitation in different parts of the globe show this to be greater on islands than on continents.

According to a German investigator a smoker sends into the air about four billion particles of dust at every pull.

The right hand, which is more sensitive to the touch than the left, is less sensitive than the latter to the effect of heat and cold.