

Canadian and Domestic.

REPORT OF THE REV. E. BARRASS.

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

GENTLEMEN—In accordance with the instructions received from your Permanent Secretary, I commenced my labours for the year in October 1872, and in one week visited *Hillsdale, Craighurst, Dalston, Painswick and Bell Ewart*. At the three first I preached on the 13th of that month, in the Presbyterian and Wesleyan Methodist Churches. The collection at Hillsdale exceeded all I have ever taken under similar circumstances. It would benefit the Society to let an agent spend a Sabbath annually at this place. I formed a Branch at *Hillsdale*, but *Craighurst* can hardly sustain a Branch, though there are some warm friends of the Bible cause there, who will always welcome the visits of your agents, and assist the funds of the Society. When the agent preaches on the Sabbath, in this neighbourhood, it is very convenient for him to take *Craighurst* in the afternoon and *Dalston* in the evening. I had a large congregation here on the Sabbath, but rather small at the public meeting, and the collectors had not been sent out. I was obliged to postpone the meetings at *Painswick* and *Bell Ewart*, in consequence of the severity of the weather at one place, and another meeting being held at the same time at the other.

My next tour was in December, to the County of *Bruce*. The following Branches were visited:—*Walkerton, Kincardine, Tiverton, Port Elgin, Southampton, Arran, Paisley, Teeswater and Lucknow*. I also formed a new Branch at *Armow*. The meeting at *Kincardine* was one of the best I ever attended. If all Branches were worked as efficiently, the duties of your agents would be very pleasant. At *Port Elgin* some of the officers of the Branch had removed, but I think that eventually we succeeded in getting things so arranged, that effective action will be secured for the future. At *Southampton*, discouragements such as former agents have mentioned, still exist, and no meeting was held. Late in the evening, I met the Rev. Mr. Tolmie, who promised me the use of his pulpit for next year, and I think that in this way the Branch may be reorganized. *Southampton*, as the terminus of the W. G. & B. Railway is becoming a place of importance, and a Branch should, by all means, be maintained. I preached at *Arran* and *Paisley* on Sabbath, the 8th, to good congregations, and took collections for the Society. An Orange Lodge, at the former, sent \$10 for the Bible cause. The meetings at *Paisley* and the other places were small, owing, in part, to other meetings being held at the same time. At *Lucknow*, a temperance agent and I occupied an hour alternately, each taking a collection. The novel proceeding excited considerable interest. The new Branch at *Armow* promises well. New branches should be formed at *Pilkington, Bervie, Blackhorse, Allenford and Stark's Corners*, the two last are convenient to *Southampton*. With some slight exceptions, I was much pleased with this, my first visit to the County of *Bruce*. During the same month (December) I visited *Painswick* again, and *Innisfil*. I have been at *Innisfil* three years in succession, and every time with increasing satisfaction, and to witness a deepening interest in behalf of the Society.

In January and February, 1873, I visited *Bell Ewart* (second time) *Thorn-ton* and *Victoria*, in *Simcoe County*; and *Thornbury, Meaford, North Sydenham* and *Owen Sound*, in *Grey*, all of which were more or less satisfactory. I also visited *Avening* and *Stayner*, and organized new Branches. I next went to *Cookstown, Rosemont* and *West Essa*, and pushed forward to *Durham, Priceville, Hanover, Flesherton, Cornubus, Eugenia Falls* and *Maxwell*, at all of which, the attendance was small. The weather was very stormy in