

copies of them. The demand in Canada is comparatively limited, yet in the five years previous to the issue of our last Report, 718 copies of Gaelic Bibles and Testaments were issued from the Toronto Depository.

2nd. *Irish*:—This language, once that of the whole of Ireland, is now chiefly confined to remote districts of the island, and is dying out more rapidly than its sister dialect, the Gaelic, in Scotland. Fifty years ago it was spoken by at least two millions of the people, but now the number of those using it is estimated at 850,000. Two editions of the Irish Bible are published by the Society, one in Roman, and the other in the original Irish characters; both being the translation of Bishop Bedell, who died in 1642. The number printed of that in Roman type (Bibles and portions) amounts to 30,000, and of that in Irish characters, to over 88,000. This letter, though now peculiar to the Irish language, is said to be what was used throughout Roman Christendom in the fifth century of our era, and has been retained religiously unaltered in Ireland, while new styles have been adopted in other countries. Though kept in stock in our Depository, the demand for Irish Bibles in Canada is very small, only one Bible and ten Testaments having been sold in the five years ending with March, 1869.

3rd. *Manx*:—This language is spoken only in the Isle of Man, and is a sister dialect of the Gaelic and Irish. The total population of the island is about 52,000, and many of the population speak English only, while of those using the vernacular there are very few who cannot speak English also. In all probability it will be extinct as a spoken language in the course of another generation, just as the Cornish died out towards the end of last century. The total issues of the Society in this language amount to 7,250 copies, and it has never been kept for sale in Canada.

4th. *Welsh*:—This language, now spoken only in Wales, is the direct representative of that spoken over all South Britain previous to the invasions of the Angles and Saxons. It is very different from the Gaelic or Irish, being quite unintelligible to those speaking the latter languages, and is more nearly akin to the Breton. The Welsh version of the Bible was the *very first* issued by the British and Foreign Bible Society; and, indeed, it was the strongly felt destitution of Wales in this respect which was the prime moving cause of the formation of that Society in the year 1804. This language, like all other Celtic ones, is giving way before its more aggressive neighbour; but a patriotic feeling tends to keep it alive, and it would be hazardous to predict for it a speedy extinction. The total population of Wales is about 1,112,000, of which number probably three-fourths speak Welsh. The total number of Welsh Bibles, Testaments, and portions, issued by the Society, amounts to over 1,500,000. The number issued from our Depository in the last five years amounted to only fourteen copies.

5th. *Breton*:—This language is spoken in that province of France called Bretagne or Brittany, and is closely allied to the Welsh. This fact is confirmatory of the statements of old historians that Brittany was mainly peopled by, and took its name from, the refugee Britons of the period of the successive Saxon invasions of Britain, in the fifth and sixth centuries. It is rapidly being displaced by the French language, and though the population of the province is over 2,000,000, it is not probable that half of that number speak the ancient Breton tongue. The Society has published the New Testament only (or portions of it) in this language, and the total issues amount to 16,000 copies. It is not kept for sale in Canada.

On next page will be found the Lord's Prayer in each of the above-mentioned languages. They will serve as specimens for the curious in these matters, and at the same time may gladden the hearts of some in our Province to whom these tongues are native.