

Colportage has been proved to be an invaluable means of Home Evangelization. In order to reach the destitute masses, to supply our whole population with saving truth, and prevent the wide circulation of a pernicious, demoralizing and soul-destroying literature, Colportage, as conducted by this Society, is believed to be an absolute necessity for these Provinces. It must be union,—combining the resources and energies of Christians of every name. It must be missionary,—going forth into the “highways and hedges,” reaching the lowest and the poorest, the careless and ungodly, the ignorant and superstitious, the errorist of every class and degree in the most remotest corner of the land, and with singleness of aim, constrained by the love of Christ, presenting to them the truth as it is in Jesus, strive to lead them to Christ.

The Committee believe, inasmuch as this work has been carried on in some measure, in this spirit, and with these aims, that therefore the Great King and Head of the Church has prospered and blessed it far beyond the expectation of its friends.

Up to this date 49 Colporteurs have been employed, the aggregate of whose services are equal to those of one man for more than 50 years. They have made over 115,000 family visits. They had personal religious conversation, reading the Scriptures or Prayer in 50,000 of those visits, and took part in or conducted upwards of 3,000 Prayer and other Religious Meetings.

They distributed by sale over \$50,000 worth of Bibles, Religious Books and Tracts; and by grants to the needy more than \$3,000 worth.

From the Depository established in Halifax, there have been circulated through various channels, including Colportage, \$126,000 worth of Religious Publications, comprising over 60,000 Bibles and Testaments; 200,000 bound volumes of Religious Books; 160,000 smaller Books; 1,000,000 Tracts and other small publications, and 1,000,000 Sabbath School and cheap family Religious Periodicals. There have been distributed gratuitously to the destitute, and in Books at reduced prices to Sabbath Schools to the value of \$8,000.

Colportage is now extended to the four Lower Provinces, there being 13 men employed in Nova Scotia; 3 in New Brunswick; 2 in Prince Edward Island, and 2 in Newfoundland.

There are now greatly needed 10 additional Colporteurs for New Brunswick and 3 for Nova Scotia. Several applicants are offering their services. But we cannot commission any more for lack of funds. Not only so, but it will be necessary to decrease the present number, unless in the kind Providence of God means shall be provided more in accordance with the wants of the work. It is become too great for the present resources of the Society. The Committee therefore present this statement and an appeal to the Christian Public of these Provinces,—whose servant the Society is. Trusting in the Lord, to whom the silver and the gold belong, and whose are the cattle upon a thousand hills, we hopefully spread out the wants of this great work, believing that He in whose hands are the hearts