

no inconsiderable measure of ability for their management, and they will amply repay the most lavish expenditure of mental resources. They can, therefore, only be efficiently sustained by a circulation which shall place them above embarrassment, and even render them profitable. Unless subscribers are obtained, and subscriptions paid up, they must necessarily languish and become, instead of a powerful instrument of good, a feeble object of discredit. Impressed with these views, the Committee would earnestly recommend the purchase of books, the circulation of the papers which have the confidence of the denomination in both Provinces, under the conviction that much good is hindered by the limited diffusion of such knowledge as it is the province of these publications to spread.

COLPORTAGE.

Your Committee feel deeply solicitous to impress upon the minds of all connected with this Convention, the importance of the Colporteur system.

Whenever or wherever this system has been employed, a remarkable success has followed. It was Luther's right arm in extending his views and influence over Germany and the adjacent countries, and more recently has been more efficient than perhaps any other, or all other means combined to create that remarkable desire through the countries of Europe for the Scriptures, and for liberty of conscience to obey the Scriptures in all matters pertaining to religion.

So efficient has this agency proved in the United States, that during the past seven years the American Tract Society has increased their number of Colporteurs from two individuals, to three hundred and ninety-seven, and so apparent has been their success, particularly their efforts amongst Roman Catholics, hundreds of whom have been converted, and also of skeptics who seemed beyond the reach of religious influence otherwise exerted, that the means are most cheerfully and liberally furnished to sustain the work notwithstanding its rapid enlargement.

Our Provinces present a field over which this agency may be extended with as great a prospect of success and profit, as any other territory of similar extent. The vast number of our population, scattered over the Provinces beyond the reach of the regular ministry, and without means for sustaining it, make it imperative upon the Churches to provide some other agency through which the saving truths of Christianity may be communicated to them.

The experiment has already been tried with most flattering success in New Brunswick, an amount of truth has been disseminated, and families visited which could not have been effected in many years through the ordinary channel. More than 6000 volumes of select religious works have been put in circulation since August of last year, and the demand is constantly increasing, the Colporteur invariably finding his successive visits more and more favourably received.

The Depository at St. John is now assuming a permanent shape, there being some £150 or £200 worth of books always on hand. This might be made a central depot if desirable, or as the communication is now so easy between every Province and the States, Depositories