

granted. The Secretaries were instructed to examine into the application of the Rev. J. B. Roberts, of the African M. E. Church at Oakville, for a pulpit Bible, and if the circumstances warrant them to make the grant. The usual routine business was attended to. The Permanent Secretary informed the Board that the ground lease of the premises north of the Depository will expire in March, and the matter was referred to the Committee on Premises. A Committee was appointed to draft an appeal to Branches and agents for funds to help the Board to increase its grant in aid of the extension of Bible colportage in Quebec among the French population, through the Quebec Auxiliary. Rev. W. S. Blackstock closed the meeting with the benediction.

CIRCULAR.

To the Officers and Members of Branches :

The Board of Directors has had under consideration a special appeal for increased aid in support of more extended colportage work in the Province of Quebec. The appeal comes from the Quebec Auxiliary Bible Society, and is supported by facts which leave no doubt as to the necessity of the work, and we cannot ignore the claims of our French Canadian brethren. The Board has been deeply impressed with the call for help, and will be glad to respond to this cry of "Come over and help us," if in its power to do so.

It must be evident to all persons who accept the Scriptures as God's Word, and believe in the power of the Truth to enlighten and save, that the extended circulation of the Scriptures among the French Canadian Roman Catholic population of the Province of Quebec must be followed by results of the highest possible value. The following facts should stir up a deep interest on the part of Protestants in Ontario in the spiritual welfare of those French Canadians on whose behalf the appeal has been presented.

The field covered by the Quebec Auxiliary extends over twenty counties, with a population of over 500,000, of whom only about 27,000 are Protestants. This great disparity will at once be recognized as sufficient reason for the appeal, and unless the Province is to be left wholly in the hands of the Propaganda, and to the untiring energy hourly exercised by the Church of Rome in the effort to make the entire population even more subservient to priestly influence than it is, the Word of God, which is the "Sword of the Spirit," must be given to the people.

From the limited resources at its command, the Quebec Auxiliary, even with the grant of \$500 a year usually made by this Society, has only been able to keep two colporteurs in the field. May it not be truly said, "But what are they among so many?" May He, who in the exercise of His Divine Power, while at the same time He manifested His infinite love to lost sinful men, increased the bread with which the multitudes were fed, increase in the hearts of His people in this Province that sincere Christian charity which will lead all to recognize that we are the keepers of our French-Canadian brethren, and come "to the help of the Lord against the mighty."

The Branches can help in this work by increased contributions, either donating a larger part of their money to the work, or leaving funds free, so that the Board will have means from which grants may be made. In the case of those Branches which have already remitted, it might be possible to give aid by an extra collection, and in the case of those which have not yet remitted, a special effort might be made to add to the funds in hand. The Branches are earnestly requested, in one or other of these methods, to make it possible for the Board, by a largely increased grant to the Quebec Auxiliary, to aid in giving the Bible to the Roman Catholic French-Canadians in the Province of Quebec.

TORONTO, January, 1889.

WARRING KENNEDY,
J. BURTON, B.D.,
JOHN HARVIE, } *Secretaries.*