

fully submit that our proposals are not open to suspicion of such purpose. Our aim has been, and still is, to co-operate in the most fraternal spirit, both with the Society in Toronto and the Branches within our jurisdiction. Our object in opening the correspondence now in progress was to have a distinct and kindly apprehension of the result of the changes we seek. We have feared that disadvantages have flowed to the cause under our jurisdiction from sudden changes made by the Directors. We may specify the important change from the employment of permanent to that of provisional agency,—a change largely affecting our field, and yet effected without any consultation of our views, or, as far as we know, of any of the Branches.

III. In the third paragraph of the memorandum it is denied “that the present unsatisfactory state of the Society’s interests in the London field has been caused by any lack of freedom accorded to the Committee of the Auxiliary to prosecute its plans,” and it is alleged that “the Board of Directors has never interfered with any action of that Committee in the management of its distribution of the Scriptures, nor yet in the management of its Branches.”

In regard to the question of “any lack of freedom in the prosecution of its plans,” a wide difference of opinion between the Board and this Committee manifestly exists. The Committee cannot but feel that the mode in which Agents have been appointed, and in some instances the time and manner of prosecuting their work under the immediate instructions of the Board, or the Secretaries in Toronto, of whose sincerity and zeal we have no doubt, have seriously interfered with the management of the Branches of the Auxiliary. This Committee has not been suitably consulted, either as to the number of Agents required, the allotment of their respective fields, the times most suitable for visiting the Branches or holding the annual meetings, the best method of raising funds, or other matters of importance.

It is no unwarranted assumption for this office, as an Auxiliary, to claim greater competence to decide on such matters affecting the Branches in its allotted field than can be possessed by the Board or Secretaries in Toronto. And we think it unkind and unjust that public censure should be inflicted on us for alleged mismanagement and want of success, when the control of the main proceedings upon which, under God, success depends is thus withheld. Under the system of which we complain, and which we seek to improve, this Committee has often no means of knowing when the Agents are to be at their posts at the respective Branches, or whether many of them are or are not visited.

It has indeed come to our knowledge, but in some cases too late for remedy, that Branches have failed to receive the services of the Agents, as the direct effect of instructions given to Agents, compliance with which was impracticable. Our opinion is firmly fixed that the Auxiliary should be empowered to take such steps, and give such direction to Agents as would secure effective oversight of existing Branches, and the organization of new Branches where new or augmented populations are found. And we are painfully convinced that under the existing system these objects can only be effected on a very limited scale, and that the disorganization of the Auxiliary, contemplated by the Directors, would still further narrow those limits.