

in printing. Whether they succeed in curtailing this item of expense or not, it is certain that the Secretaries of the Branches, or at any rate many of them, can do most in effecting a real economy in this matter. Economy has been well defined, we think by Ruskin, as "not the mere saving of money; but the best use of the means at our disposal." Now the principal item in the printer's bill is for the RECORDER, which is issued for the purpose of keeping the friends of the Society, especially the Officers of the Branches, the members of the committees, and their collectors informed of what is being done in this great work, about which it is most important that they should not be ignorant. Therefore if the increased expenditure of even several hundred dollars would help materially to secure this end, it would be more true economy than cutting down the item, if such curtailment should hinder the spread of Bible Society news. But we do not apprehend that any increased outlay will be found necessary; on the contrary we hope the committee will be able to reduce the item in some degree at least. As we have just said, we believe that the Secretaries of the Branches can effect the best economy in this matter. It is not for us to pronounce whether the matter supplied in the RECORDER is well selected or not. We can only say that we do our best to have it so, and although not rash enough to promise to follow the advice of every one of our friends, we will gladly receive and carefully consider any suggestions as to its better management. We have been encouraged, however, by being told by an Agent who knows the Society's field very widely, that when it is distributed it is read. But if it contain the most thrilling matter that our Post Office authorities are privileged to convey to Her Majesty's subjects, it can hardly do much to quicken or support zeal, to awaken thankfulness, or inspire prayers, if its numbers lie uncirculated, perhaps even in the waste paper baskets of some of the Secretaries. We hope this is not the destination of the RECORDER in many places; but we are sorry to know that in some places it is not distributed. We do not write thus because we are disappointed that our editorial flowers waste their sweetness upon the desert air. Our readers are aware that the RECORDER was always intended to be filled almost entirely with clippings, and therefore our work does not rank with that of a gardener, but is merely to cull bouquets, or rather to gather substantial food that will support the zeal of our people in Bible Society work. But we do feel that when the Society goes to the expense of having these extracts printed, we should all do as much as we can to make this outlay useful. Even where there is no such negligence as above referred to, probably more could be done than at present to get the RECORDER read, by seeing that it is distributed promptly, by speaking to others about the news contained in it, and by getting them to read it.

We do not ask for more orders for extra copies, although we have no objection to sending them where they are useful. We would rather decrease than increase the number of copies that have to be printed, unless they are more widely circulated and read. With most periodicals the greater number of copies issued, whether read or not, produces a greater amount of income