

The Report was published very shortly after the Meeting, and is widely distributed, and details now withheld are before the Society's numerous friends. The delay in its issue has been as unexpected to them as it has been to the General Superintendent, and Board of Management; but when it is known that at the time the documents for the Report had to be adjusted for the press, more than eighty Lists, and as many Reports of Missions, had not been received, and that three or four months passed before some of the heaviest lists came to hand, and the printing could be commenced, it will be evident that the preparation of the publication has been hurried and perplexing, and its issue necessarily very late. The regulation of the Missionary Department is, that all Lists and Reports shall be presented at the May District Meetings; and this done the Annual Report could appear in October.

For years it has been well for the General Treasurer, and the valued Missionaries, that there has been a Balance in hand, and it will be seen that though large, £1,200 more than the balance of upwards of £3,000 has been paid on account of another year, in support of the Missions, before the returns could be made for 1858; for the Agents cannot be expected to wait for their stipends to the end of the year, even were all the moneys received in May, which they never have been; but considerable sums are usually paid up to the issuing of the Report. Punctuality on the part of all the Branch Societies, and an annual balance in hand, are indispensable for the regular and honourable management of the Society's affairs, more especially now that the amount passing through the Treasurer's hands in a year has reached the large sum of between sixteen and seventeen thousands pounds.

The Society has this year the extraordinary number of 145 Missions to support, and its responsibilities are proportionate. The times require an effort to be made; and we sympathise with our generous donors in their commercial and financial depression; but will not the effort be energetically made, and the Society be sustained with honour? To the Divine Source of all holy beneficence be the most devout acknowledgments rendered, and prayer continually offered; and to the tens of thousands of the Society's patrons, adult and juvenile—with the untiring Collectors—hearty thanks are given, for their having made the Society's Income, which was about £5,000 in 1852; more than £12,000 in 1857!

HUDSON'S BAY.

Extract of a Letter from the Rev. R. Brooking, Chairman, dated Rossville, August, 19th, 1857.

Your very kind letter of May the 2nd, reached me by the spring packet, it being the *quickest* that has ever come to hand. I believe that most of your letters have at last reached me, some of them more than a year after date,—where they were thus delayed, I cannot tell. I am very thankful that my proceedings have met with your and the Committee's approbation. I can assure you that it has always been my aim to do all I possibly can to secure it. I

may have sometimes erred in judgment, but in intention *never*; and by the grace of God I shall still endeavor to do all I can for the advancement of these Missions.

We left Jackson's Bay on the 22nd ult. and I can assure you, we all felt very deeply at parting; the poor Indians, as well as ourselves, were greatly affected. It was no easy matter for us to dissolve the connection which had been formed under such circumstances. A church