

NEWFOUNDLAND

Monthly Messenger.

Edited by Rev. T. HALL, Congregational Minister, Queen's Road Chapel, St. John's.

NEW SERIES. VOL. IV. No. 5.

MAY, 1877.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

ST. JOHN'S AND NEWFOUNDLAND AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of this society was held in Gower-street Wesleyan Church, on Tuesday evening, the Hon. S. Rendell, president, in the chair. The opening service was conducted by the Rev. M. Harvey, secretary, who afterwards read the report. It appeared from this report that Mr. Scott, colporteur of the society, had visited Labrador last summer, and supplied forty-nine settlements on that shore with copies of the Scriptures, having distributed altogether nearly 500 copies. He next visited the North and South shores of Conception Bay, and during the season disposed of 1183 copies. The total distribution in Newfoundland, by sales and colportage, during the year, had been 2413 copies, making a total of 52,517 copies circulated since the formation of the society. The income of the society for the year was £256 18s., making the total amount collected since the society's commencement £8530 11s. The society is now in its thirty-first year. Harbour Grace Branch contributed last year £36 1s. 3d. to the funds, and the Ladies' Auxiliary £43 5s. 3d. Reference was also made to the last annual report of the British and Foreign Bible Society, whose issues for the year were 2,682,185 copies, and income £222,320. This society has now issued seventy-six millions of Bibles, Testaments, and portions, and spent eight millions sterling in printing and disseminating the Scriptures.

Able and interesting addresses were delivered by the Rev. Messrs. Harris, Hall, Milligan, Dunn, and Patterson; and by Messrs. Goodfellow, Ayre, J. Baird, Honourables R. Thorburn and J. J. Rogerson. A special vote of thanks was adopted to His Excellency Sir John Glover for his kindness in consenting to become patron of the society, and for his liberal contribution to its funds. There was a large attendance, and the whole proceedings awakened much interest.—*Morning Chronicle.*

OUR MEETINGS.

I.—THE DORCAS SOCIETY.

I know little or nothing of your land of cold and fog, and possibly some of your readers know little of this mighty London, of which we are so proud; this city of nearly five millions of people, in which, notwithstanding its enormous wealth, its deep poverty, its sins and its sorrows, so much, so very much, is done for Christ and His cause. But it is not of London I intend to speak, but of "Our meetings," by which I mean the meetings of that particular chapel to which, in God's providence, I am attached. I have not the slightest idea whether you in Newfoundland have the same kind of societies and meetings which we are privileged to have and to hold; if so, it may not be

uninteresting to compare notes; if not, you may be pleased to hear of such as they are conducted in the metropolis—the mother-city of dear Old England. And first let me speak of the "Dorcas."

These societies take their name from the good Tabitha, of whom we read in Acts ix. 36-42, who in the Greek language was called Dorcas, which means gazelle, or roe, or doe, and doubtless was a pet name, given unto her on account of her quietness and gentleness, and her soft, expressive eyes. That she was a good woman is testified by her life, and by the deep sorrow of the widows and orphans at her first death. Her life, so "full of good works and almsdeeds," seems to have been largely occupied in making clothes for the necessitous poor, and in relieving the wants of the widows and orphans who had lost their natural protectors and helpers; and so greatly was she beloved that to this day she is had in lasting remembrance, and the odour of her name perpetuated in the numerous ladies' working societies for the poor, which are called after her.

Our Dorcas Society has for its object the providing of clothes for the deserving poor of our own neighbourhood. It is managed by the minister's wife as president, a secretary, treasurer, a committee of about twenty ladies, and another who acts as collector, all of whom are annually appointed by the members. The members are ladies connected with the chapel, who may subscribe any sum from one shilling upwards, or give materials, or only assist the society in making the clothes. The regular subscribers—of whom we have about fifty, at 5s., 10s. 6d., and one guinea each—in the beginning of November receive tickets to the value of their subscriptions, which they give to the poor of whose cases they approve. The secretary buys all materials at a wholesale City warehouse, and cuts out the clothes at her own home, storing them in a large cupboard in the schoolroom until the time of sale. We meet for work in the schoolroom on the Wednesday following the first Sunday in the month, from three o'clock, till the evening service at 7.30, taking tea together at five o'clock, for which we each pay the small sum of sixpence. These monthly sewing meetings are very much enjoyed by the ladies. They are usually well attended, and a good deal of work is done by the hands as well as with the tongues, for as usual, where ladies are concerned, there is a good deal of pleasant social chat, and many inquiries made of each other as to the different cases of distress and need with which we are continually meeting. At tea-time we are usually joined by our pastor, who remains for some little time after, conversing pleasantly with one and another, and saying a little to all collectively ere he takes his departure to the vestry previous to evening services. When the time for folding up comes,