

raised during last winter session, by collections of members at the usual monthly meetings, and the remainder, viz., £119 18s 2½d., by collections and contributions received by members from different parts of the country, during the summer recess. (The particulars regarding the summer collections will be found on another page.)

The disbursements were,

For half year's salary to Mr. John Black, £50 0  
Blank book and stationery, . . . . . 0 10

Thus leaving, for the present, a balance in the Treasurer's hands of £4 7s. 6½d. If we subtract from the latter the sum of £50, the remainder of Mr. Black's salary for the whole of the current year, there will still remain a balance of £34 7s. 6½d. in favour of the society. This result is certainly a cheering one. It far exceeds the most sanguine anticipations which any of the members ventured to cherish at the close of last session. We hail it as a token that our glorious Head is regarding with approval our incipient efforts for the promotion of his glory. It is true that, in order to the effective prosecution of our mission, even upon the limited scale of operation at present contemplated, a larger sum than that realized this year will be annually required; but the experience of the past year is surely sufficient to convince us that the silver and the gold are not only owned by, but at the disposal of that "Lord and Christ" whose cause we seek to be instrumental in advancing; and if so, we may safely adopt, in regard to the future, the patriarch's watch-word,—*Jehovah giveth*.

The Treasurer's statement having been submitted,\* the Rev. Professor Esson next addressed the meeting. He noticed, at some length, the great object which the christian philanthropist ought steadily to aim at in every missionary effort,—namely, the conversion of souls to God. In the concluding part of his address, the Professor pressed upon the attention of members the importance of studying systematically the subject of missions, with the view of ascertaining the great principles upon which they may most successfully be conducted. Not a few of his excellent suggestions will, we hope, be carried into effect by the members of the society.

Mr. John Black having been called upon, next addressed the meeting. In the course of his remarks, he stated that his advantages for acquiring facility in the French language, while resident in the institute at Pointe Aux Trembles, were decidedly of a superior order; but that he would require to enjoy these or similar advantages for a few months longer, before, in his own opinion, he could be considered as qualified for entering upon the work assigned him in Canada West. He further observed that much gratitude was due, both on his own and on the part of the society, to the Committee of the French Canadian Missionary Society, and to the friends of our church in Montreal, for their kind attentions towards him during his stay amongst them.

After a few appropriate remarks by the chairman, upon the present state of the society, and the encouraging prospects of the mission, the meeting proceeded to the election of office-bearers for the ensuing year. The following are the gentlemen chosen:

**Vice-Presidents.**—Mr. Robert Ure, Mr. John Ross.

**Committee.**—Messrs. Wm. S. Ball, John Gray, George Wardrope.

**Treasurer.**—Mr. George Jamieson.

**Ordinary Secretary.**—Mr. James Nisbet.

**Corresponding Secretary.**—Mr. John Scott.

The meeting was closed with devotional exercises.

N. B.—A note was read from Dr. Burns, expressive of his regret at being unable, in consequence of a pastoral engagement, to be present at the meeting.

\* See this account amongst the receipts at the end of this number.

## SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF KNOX'S COLLEGE MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

In again coming forward with the Annual Report of the proceedings of this Society, your Committee have great pleasure in being able to state that its prosperity continues steadily to advance.

The past year is one which will, we trust, be ever looked back upon by all of us with peculiar interest and gratitude. It is true, we cannot yet speak of great things having been realized by us; but many of us, we believe, have been stirred up to "pray for great things," to "expect great things," and to hope that at no distant day we may be privileged—in common with the office-bearers and members of our beloved Church—to "attempt great things," in the field of missions.

The immediate objects which we contemplated in the formation of the Society, were the diffusion amongst ourselves of a livelier interest, and a higher zeal in regard to the success of God's work in the earth; and also the furtherance of that work by means of united and persevering prayer. For the attainment of these ends we resolved to meet, that we might together more fully learn *relieve*, and *love*, and *through whose instrumentality* the cause of our Redeemer was advancing. Knowing well that increasing information on these points is, generally speaking, necessary, in order to the sustaining and expanding of a healthful missionary spirit. It is only when influenced by such a spirit that we feel it sweet to gather round the throne, and beseech the Father to have respect unto his covenant. But a growing earnestness in prayer on behalf of the great work cannot in ordinary circumstances long remain dissociated from active effort for its promotion. The truth of this remark was soon felt and acknowledged by the members of our Association.

At our first or second regular meeting it was resolved that thenceforth each should have an opportunity of steadily throwing his mite into the Lord's treasury. The amount raised in this way during the winter session of 1845-46, was voted to the Jewish Mission of the Free Church of Scotland. At the close of the above-mentioned session we agreed upon endeavouring to collect a small sum during the summer recess, to aid the Missionary Society of the New College, Edinburgh, in supporting Mr. Braidwood, their missionary in India. The amount realized for this purpose was twenty pounds c'y., which was duly transmitted to the Treasurer of the above society. Thus, the total amount of money raised by our Society during the year was (as stated in our last report) twenty-four pounds c'y.

With respect to the proceedings of the Society during last session, it is unnecessary to speak in detail. The monthly meetings of members were held as usual.—At these, essays on Missionary subjects, and abridged statements of interesting missionary intelligence were read. And here it becomes us to notice that the thanks of the Society are due to the publishers of the *Scottish Guardian* newspaper, the *Missionary Record* of the Free Church of Scotland, and the *Scottish Missionary Register*, for having supplied us with copies of their valuable periodicals free of charge.

Our correspondence with the Students Missionary Society of the New College, Edinburgh, has still been kept up. To our last communication a reply was duly received. The letter of our esteemed brethren breathed much of the spirit of Jesus, and told us how deep were their sympathies toward our infant Church in its present pressing circumstances. We trust that much mutual benefit will result from a continuance of this correspondence, and that many of our brethren (in addition to those whom we have already welcomed) may be induced to devote themselves to the Canadian field.

About the close of last session the Society resolved to support a Missionary of its own. The field selected for its operations was the French Canadian settlements in the Western Province,—a field possessing peculiar claims upon the evangelical Churches of our land. The French Canadians are our fellow subjects,—they groan under the same yoke of Papal domination which so long oppressed our own fore-fathers,—they are in our im-

mediate neighbourhood, and no one seems to be earning for their souls.

The gentleman selected as missionary by the Society was Mr. John Black. Possessed of high qualifications, and having nearly completed his term at College, he was unanimously chosen by the members. Mr. Black, though for a few days undecided as to his duty in the matter, was at length enabled to see his path clearly, and to state his concurrence with the wishes of the Society. It was resolved that his salary for the present be one hundred pounds c'y. per annum.

It was judged proper that Mr. Black should spend the summer at the Educational Institute of the French Canadian Missionary Society, in Eastern Canada, in order to acquire greater fluency in the French language, and to obtain information as to the mode of operation adopted by the Missionaries of that Society. How far these ends have been accomplished remains to be reported by our esteemed brother, who is now present with us.

In connexion with this matter your Committee have further to state that they have had during the summer additional communications respecting the contemplated field of future operations. It appears that the French Canadians are very numerous in the town of Amherstburgh, and Township of Malden, in the Town and Township of Sandwich, in the adjacent Townships, and also in and around Chatham. In the Township of Malden and Sandwich alone, there would be ample scope for the labors of a Missionary. The people are for the most part sunk in ignorance, and are very much under the power of their priests. It is however, the opinion of a gentleman resident amongst them, and one well qualified to judge, that a missionary able to speak with fluency the French language might have great success in that sphere of labour,—not in the way of holding public services or by engaging in discussions; but in visiting from house to house, and holding friendly intercourse with the people.

These particulars cannot but be interesting to us. They seem to indicate more and more clearly that the Lord has been directing our counsels hitherto, and that he seems now to be saying to us, "Go in and possess the land." Our brother will doubtless have his difficulties. He will be called to encounter the inveterate hostility of priests and jesuits, together with the prejudices of an ignorant people. But he goes forth at the command of the Lord. We believe that he has heard Jesus say to him, "Gird up thy loins and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them."—And we doubt not that many prayers will continue to arise in his behalf, that he may experience the protection promised in the passage which follows: "Behold I have made thee this day a fortified city, and an iron pillar, and brassy walls against the whole land, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land. They shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee, for I am with thee saith the Lord to deliver thee."

In accordance with the terms of a resolution adopted by the Society at its closing meeting in April last, a copy of its constitution, together with a statement of its proceedings, was laid before the last meeting of Synod. These, we are happy to state, received (as we anticipated) the Synod's cordial approval and countenance.

It is gratifying to be able to state, that while so many of the members of the Society have during the summer been engaged in Missionary labour throughout many sections of the country, those who remained in Toronto have not been wholly unemployed. Eight district prayer meetings have been kept in operation, and tracts distributed in various parts of the city.

Your Committee would respectfully suggest that the distribution of tracts, and the conducting of prayer meetings be henceforth carried out more systematically and under the auspices of the Society; they would further suggest that those members who may not be called upon to supply the country stations with Sabbath services look upon this as specially their work.