

Branches formed within it during the past year, and you will find also gratifying mention made of the Branches which this Society assisted in planting in our far-off Provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia. So that across the whole continent from ocean to ocean, the Upper Canada Bible Society is sowing that good seed of the word, which we may trust will, with God's blessing, bring forth much fruit to the praise of His name and the salvation of many souls.

While thus pushing on the circulation of the Scriptures to the furthest confines of our own land, the Upper Canada Bible Society has, as in former years, assisted in the world-wide work of the Parent Society. Some \$10,500 have been contributed by our Branches to the general and special objects of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and thus we may feel, that while we have not neglected the claims of those near home, we are in some measure sharing in the blessed privilege of sending forth the Gospel of Life, alike to the centres of civilization and the strongholds of heathenism—to combat with infidelity and false religion in Europe, and with ignorance and superstition in India or China, in Africa or the far off-Isles of the Pacific.

In this glorious work, the great Parent Society, now in its 70th year, is going on "prospering and to prosper." Its income for the year just closed, has reached the magnificent sum of over \$1,000,000; let us try in our degree, and according to our ability, to imitate the liberality of the Christians of Britain in the support of the Bible cause. But cheering as it is to hear of the prosperity of the Parent Society, and the wonderful success which has attended its efforts in attacking the strongholds of infidelity and superstition *abroad*, it has exercised a species of home influence also, which is felt and acknowledged not only by its friends but even by its enemies.

From the time of the Reformation, England might properly be termed the land of Bibles, but, I think, it may be asserted, without fear of contradiction, that notwithstanding the scoffs of the few infidels, and the insidious attempts of some so-called Christians to undermine its authority, and explain away its precepts—the Bible, in all its integrity, never possessed so strong a hold upon the national heart as at present, and this has, in no small degree, been brought about by the influence of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

There is a little incident alluded to in our Report, and well known doubtless through the pages of the newspapers to all whom I am addressing—the presentation of a magnificent copy of the Holy Scriptures, in the Russian language, to Her Imperial Highness, the Grand Duchess Marie, on the occasion of her marriage with the Duke of Edinburgh, and it is cheering to every lover of God's Word to know, that amidst all the festivities, the addresses, and rich gifts which were poured in upon the royal pair, this precious offering of the British and Foreign Bible Society, was most gladly welcomed, and graciously received.

May we not hope that, under the blessed teaching of God's Holy Spirit, the contents of these precious volumes may find as abiding a place in the heart of the youthful Duchess, and have as great an influence upon her future life, as they have exercised over that of the royal lady who has just welcomed her daughter to her English home, and whom we delight to call our *good and gracious Queen!*

I pray God that in this Dominion His Holy Book may ever be regarded as the most prized possession, among high and low, rich and poor!—Not to be looked upon as a sort of talisman, the mere possession of which can do any good, but as a precious storehouse of light and truth, whose pages we should diligently study, with the Psalmist's prayer in our hearts, if not upon our lips:—"Open thou mine eyes, O Lord, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law."

Let us pray, also, in this Dominion, that the Bible may make the living voice of God's ministers more eloquent, while it renders them the more careful of