

well to the cause of moral and intellectual progress and enlightenment find therein a stimulus to increased perseverance and effort. Your Committee have been anxious to occupy as many of the districts of the Society's field as practicable, in order to a simultaneous and systematic prosecution of the work in them. But sickness or death, personal or domestic, has seriously interfered with the labours of several of the Colporteurs, and has caused this important branch of operations to be less thoroughly worked and less productive of results than they anticipated and desired.

BIBLE HOUSE AND ISSUES.—The leading event of the year has been the removal of the Depository from the building formerly occupied by the Society to the commodious store provided by the Young Men's Christian Association, in their handsome new building. And your Committee have much pleasure in reporting that the change promises to work well for the business of the Society, in that it affords increased space and facilities for Depository work, and that in a better locality for retail sales. A marked improvement in these lines already appeared.

The number of copies of the Scriptures and of Portions sent forth from the Depository during 1873 has been 12,661, being 1,746 less than in 1872; whereas the receipts on account of sales by the Depository, Branches, and Colportage have amounted to \$6,047, as against \$5,751 for the preceding year, leaving an increase of \$296 for 1873.

FINANCES.—An abstract of the Treasurer's Report is herewith presented. The receipts from all sources, including a balance of \$4,612 33 from last year show an aggregate of \$19,064 89; an increase of \$2,599 43 on account of 1873. The expenditure has amounted to \$13,762 66, being an excess of \$1,909 53 over that of the previous year. The extra expenditure is to be accounted for by the item of \$846 75, expenses of removal and fitting up new premises, and by payments to a larger number of Colporteurs. The receipts include the sum of \$266, a donation from the U. C. Bible Society in aid of French Colportage in this Province; and also \$300, a bequest to the Society by the late Stanley Bagg, Esq., for the payment of which the thanks of the Society are due to the executors of the deceased gentleman.

GRATUITOUS DISTRIBUTION.—Grants have been made, as usual, to institutions and schools of a directly missionary character, charitable institutions, hotels, and poor persons, amounting to some 550 copies, of the value of \$193 35.

LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATION.—Four Bible-women have been employed by the "Ladies' Bible Association" during the past year, with the exception of part of the summer, when the number was reduced to three. The work has been carried on with encouraging success. The city presents ample scope for its enlargement, but there is much difficulty in securing the services of suitable workers, and some of those employed have found the duties too trying for their health.

A part of the time of the Bible-women has, as usual, been devoted to the inmates of the Hospital and Jail, and it is believed with spiritual benefit in many cases.

"OBJECTORS AND OBJECTIONS TO THE BIBLE SOCIETY."

Extract from a Paper by the Rev. R. Gavin, Secretary, Ottawa Bible Society.

"The argument of these objectors is this: The Church existed before the Bible, and should, therefore, ever precede it. To the Church the diffusion of truth has been committed, and she alone, therefore, should undertake it;—that, in the hands of the unlearned, the Scriptures are dangerous, and the Church should therefore give along with them her authoritative interpretation.

"It is not, for the first time, that this argument is now employed against the Bible Society. As far back as 1812 it was used for that purpose in long and