

is doubtless due to a considerable degree to the zeal of the auxiliary's present Secretary, the Rev. John Gemley.

The number of Branches in direct communication with our own Society is three less than last year, only two new ones having been added and five having been struck off. In this the loss is only apparent, but the gain real. As shown by last year's Report there were some fifty Branches in a very weak state, and the agents were instructed to endeavour to revive and strengthen these rather than plant new ones for the present. Not a few have been awakened to renewed life, but some which had been organized with more zeal than judgment, and were a cause of useless expense, have been struck off the list, and the Directors think that their successors may still pursue this pruning process in the coming year with advantage to the Society.

In answer to a circular issued by the Board to 110 of the stronger Branches, fifty-four undertook to hold their public meetings, collect subscriptions, and remit their contributions this year, without the help of a paid agent. When the accounts of the year were closed forty-five of these had, without expense to the Society, contributed \$5,210; the same Branches having last year sent \$5,071, at a cost of about \$400.

Since the closing of accounts several have sent in handsome contributions. We have heard from all the others, and with one exception, they will probably remit within a very short time.

In looking at the list of the Branches and their contributions, the friends of the Society will bear in mind that some of them have not been visited for the reasons before assigned; and that others could not receive the attention of the Permanent Agent until very near the end of the Society's year. They will perhaps notice that although Brantford still keeps the lead among our Branches, it has sent us \$250 less than the last year; but it is only fair to remark that the dulness of trade has been especially felt in towns of this kind. The Directors have been cheered by receiving \$30 as the first contribution from the Branch at Prince Arthur's Landing. They think this a very promising beginning. They also feel great pleasure in reporting the continued vigour of the New Westminster Branch which last year sent its first contribution of \$30 and has now sent \$50. A letter has lately been received from the Winnipeg Branch, which shews that its committee is alive to the importance of Bible circulation in our young Province of Manitoba. Although these far-off Branches can scarcely yet be classed among the sources of income, they carry on, whenever required in their interesting fields, the Society's most important work—colportage, under the head of which will be found more details of the good news lately received from them.

The Board has also been much pleased to hear from several of the Agents that some Branches have had their stocks placed in more prominent positions, and have otherwise improved their depositories; and the Directors consider that care in this matter, on the part of the committees and officers, will very greatly increase the efficiency of such Branches.