

that the influence of these meetings may be felt beyond the circle of the Society, and that those who kindly by their presence favour us with their support, may also feel a greater interest in the poor heathen, and more gratitude for the blessings we enjoy in this land of Gospel light and Christian privilege, and be induced to put forth greater efforts for the advancement of our Saviour's Kingdom.

### UPPER EGYPT.

Those who are not unobservant of the signs of the times cannot fail to notice the good results following from a dissemination of religious literature throughout various parts of the world. Though at times the work is carried on on a very humble scale, yet gradually it widens, and whole territories are now being brought in under the leavening influences of the Gospel. Spain, at one time almost hermetically sealed against the Word of God, now presents an open door for its reception; Italy, so long barred against the introduction of religious truth by the stern decree of the Vatican, now deems Bible circulation no great novelty; and Upper Egypt, in the Continent of Africa, is now yielding fruit, as a result of the seed sown broadcast on its soil. A few years ago all travellers who were visiting this country were asked to carry with them a few Bibles, Testaments, and religious publications, and either sell or distribute them among the natives. So successful did this movement prove that the American Mission in 1860 purchased a boat, which made semi-annual trips upon the Nile. By means of this agency upwards of 70,000 volumes of religious publications, including Bibles, have been scattered through Upper Egypt. The good seed thus sown is now commencing to take root, and fruit is appearing. A reformation has dawned, and in one place is making marked progress under remarkable circumstances, not unaccompanied with persecution. In the town of Kons, containing upwards of 9,000 inhabitants, a Presbyterian congregation has been formed, having a settled pastor, a Ruling Eldership, a communion-roll numbering 25, and a day school, with an average attendance of 25. The manner in which this little flock was formed was certainly most interesting. On one Good Friday night a large number of people assembled at a Coptic Church to witness the ceremonial of the year, which was a play. The actors in this play were clergymen; the drama, the crucifixion and burial of our Saviour. As the whole ceremony was moving on, the audience deeply interested, and the actors warming up, an

individual rushes out from the company, seizes the image, and hurls it into the corner, saying, "Out of this with your gods!" The Iconoclast, whose name was Fam, a tax collector, was soon left alone,—the crowd immediately dispersing. He never entered the church again; the light flashed upon his mind; and though surrounded by dangers and difficulties, yet his influence and teachings were soon felt, and finally he succeeded in gathering around him a small band of faithful followers. The little seed of evangelism kept increasing until a Mission Presbytery thought it wise to ordain a man and settle him over the town of Kons. This being done, Fam was immediately chosen one of his Ruling Elders. Persecution soon followed after the little flock was organized, and a deep plot was laid to banish Fam to the interior of Africa.—Through influences brought to bear upon his enemies, however, his life was preserved, and by the Divine interposition of Providence, he was brought back again to minister to those whom he was appointed an overseer. Saved from perishing in the waters of the Nile, he is now on his native soil prosecuting the good work more zealously than ever. How remarkably Providence is thus opening up doors to receive the Gospel; and how he is employing his own instruments to further his gracious designs. Barriers, which have heretofore existed as hindrances to the spread of God's cause, are being speedily thrown down, and men and means are the great desideratum. Let there be, then, a noble band of disciples throughout the land sending forth Timothy's to carry on the work; and let all contribute of their substance, as God hath prospered them, and then we shall go forth to the battle of the Lord and endeavour to occupy the fields now white to the harvest.

D.

## Home Missions.

### Report of Mission in Presbytery of Victoria and Richmond.

BY REV. JOHN F. FORBES.

To the Home Mission Board of the P. C. L. P.:—I began my labors at West Bay. Here I preached on the last Sabbath of March at the head of the Bay, and on the first of April at the Points. I preached every day during the week that intervened, with the exception of Saturday, giving Thursday to St. Peter's. The people of West Bay and St. Peter's are engaged in building churches. They feel the burden, especially those who are energetic and take the lead in this work. It is a pity that the