

casion. The division of the City into wards was adopted, and these, according to their size, were sub-divided and apportioned to various members of your Committee, who were to associate with themselves in the execution of the duty any other members of the Society. In order that a uniformity in the plan of investigation might be pursued by all, it was agreed that every family should be visited, and notes taken according to the following statistics:—the number in the family, distinguishing who can, from those who cannot read,—the number of children attending School and Sunday School,—the Denomination to which the family attaches itself,—the number of Bibles in possession and the number wanted,—with any other general remark that might, from circumstances, suggest itself. Such inquiries as these, it was thought, would lead to various important results, and would exhibit a developement of the moral state of the community.

In the appropriation of this work, it was considered expedient not to make any division of the Village of Portland, but to commit it entirely to the Minister of the Parish, the Rev. Mr. HARRISON, who, with the utmost readiness, undertook it. The result of Mr. HARRISON's investigations, which are now completed, will be laid before you at a future time.

In some of the wards and sub-divisions of the City, the work has been commenced, but in none of them is it yet finished; so that your Committee have it not in their power to gratify you with a full report on this subject.

In Sydney Ward, fifty-six families have been visited, fifteen of whom, all Roman Catholics, were found to be entirely destitute of any portion of the Scriptures. Some of these gladly accepted of copies of the Word of God, while others resolutely refused it, on the ground that it was not approved of by their Church. In three several instances, labourers on the highway, Roman Catholics, not residing in the ward, came up to the visitor while distributing the Books, and solicited most earnestly a Bible, in such a way that he could not make a denial. Among the fifty-six families, twenty-six copies in all were distributed. The most of the Protestant families were found putting a high estimate on the Scriptures, and taking advantage of the ample means afforded them in the City of giving their children education both in the common and Sunday Schools.

In addition to the great number of Bibles and Testaments which the City and Portland will necessarily require, your Committee have made several very large and important appropriations for particular objects.