

FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

UPPER CANADA BIBLE SOCIETY.

One of the most observant and thoughtful men in the Church Militant of the present day has lately said that future centuries will be amused at the unwarranted self-complacency of the nineteenth with its work in missions, and will sneer at our conceit and penuriousness. With such wholesome warning still ringing in our ears, it behoves all who are seeking to help missions to be very moderate in any jubilant notes they may feel inclined to raise as to any present success. Nevertheless, the Directors of the Upper Canada Bible Society do not wish to appear ungrateful either to God or to their co-workers through the country by speaking only of what ought to be, and not expressing their gratitude for the help they have received in their work during the past year, which has been in reality the most productive year of the Society's history, although with three apparent exceptions. The heartiness with which so many of the officers of the Branches do their work, the perseverance of so many of the collectors, and the spontaneous liberal donations now and again received from individuals, who have become deeply interested in this great work of disseminating the Holy Scriptures, cannot but cause the Directors to thank God and take courage.

Yet, to be candid, they cannot but admit that they feel that the Bible Society does not receive the support that it deserves. They are glad to believe that the Christian liberality of the people is advancing in some degree with the increase of the wealth of the country; but the proportion given for the spread of the Gospel among those who have it not is small compared with that which is devoted to the building of churches and otherwise multiplying the privileges of those who are already living in the midst of abounding means of grace. Moreover, the claims of Catholic undenominational organizations, such as the Bible Society, seem to be increasingly overlooked, if not ignored, although few venture to deny them. The authority before referred to lays down the proposition that "no church ought to call itself thoroughly aggressive and evangelical that does not expend for the support of missions at large at least one dollar for every five it expends on itself." This seems to be a sufficiently moderate standard; and yet if the churches of the present day approached it, and the Bible Society received anything like the proportion which its importance as an aid to missions should claim, its income would be multiplied several fold. The Directors of the Upper Canada Bible Society deem it right to state their conviction in this matter plainly; but at the same time they desire to express their very hearty thanks for the increased help they have received in the past year.

The total income of the Society during its financial year just closed has been \$31,546, showing an increase of \$2,693 on the previous year. Of this