

your regular wages and expenses ; but if you will take the risk of the sales to cover these, we will supply you with books, and allow you all the difference between the wholesale and retail prices ; except the necessary current expenses."

This plan they were willing to adopt ; and in good or even ordinary times, they would do very well with it. But in these hard times, when trade is dull, partly from the civil war raging in the neighbouring States, they have been making so little that they have all got very much discouraged, and some have partially and some wholly retired from the field.

Thus we may say that we have saved the credit of the Synod at the expense of the Colporteurs. Shall this scheme be carried on further at their expense ? or shall it be abandoned ? We can see no other alternative ; unless the Synod afford us some more efficient assistance than an almost barren resolution, such as has been passed these last two years. Therefore we earnestly entreat this Synod to afford us some real and substantial assistance on the ground here stated.

But there is at least another ground on which we would urge our claim for substantial assistance ; and that is the good *we have done*. Since left to our own resources, we have sold about 13,475 vols. for about £974 5s. ; and since we commenced operations about 60,000 vols. at a cost of about £5,000. And we stand this day, as we may say or have said, free of debt. For though there be £133 worth of books not yet paid for ; we have stock in hand to the amount of £203 to cover it. But at present the sale is so dull, that we are afraid that the patience of our creditors (already pretty well tried) will be worn out. And thus notwithstanding all the care that we have taken to support the credit of the Synod ; and all the sacrifices which the Colporteurs have made for the same object, it is yet in danger ; and that without any fault of ours, but owing solely to causes which human foresight could neither foresee nor prevent. On this ground also, then, we respectfully urge our claim for substantial assistance, at least to the extent of paying off our liabilities now, so as to leave us the stock on hand clear, and enable us to give some assistance and encouragement to the Colporteurs, who for their sacrifices and labours are very deserving. We would regret exceedingly if we have to abandon the cause, which we think has been and is still doing so much good, more especially as we have still liberal offers and great encouragement from various establishments, especially one lately from the London Tract Society, of which we have only this month availed ourselves, by forwarding a small order. We hope also to be able to do more in circulating both English and Gaelic Bibles, and Testaments and Confessions of Faith than we have done for some time ; especially if we obtain from the Synod that financial assistance and cordial patronage, to which the scheme in which we are engaged is entitled.

All which is respectfully submitted by your Committee.

JOHN I. BAXTER,

Convener Committee Colportage.

Onslow, 23rd June, 1862.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON POPERY.

In presenting this their first annual report to the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces, your Committee would take the liberty of briefly stating what has been the work entrusted to their care. We are a Vigilance Committee. We have been directed to stand as sentinels