

We are met together on this the 34th Anniversary of the Upper Canada Bible Society, to receive an account of the work done, and the progress made in the spread of Divine Truth, not only through the agency of this Society, but also of the great Parent Society, which has just entered on the 70th year of its glorious career ; and I trust that by what we shall hear, and what we shall have spoken to us by those kind friends who are assembled on this platform to-night, we shall be stirred up to greater zeal in working together for God and with God in the faith of that promise :—

“ My word shall not return unto me void. but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

In making the arrangements for our annual meetings, the Committee to whom such matters are delegated, are always careful to secure if possible each year, the kind assistance of one or more new speakers, as tending to increase the interest of our proceedings, and I am glad to say, that we have with us this evening, both old friends and new, who will speak to you with earnestness and eloquence on behalf of the Bible cause. Feeling well assured of this, and bearing in mind that, filling this chair as I have been privileged to do from year to year, I have of necessity trespassed very often on your kind attention, I am sure I shall best consult your pleasure by being as brief as possible in my remarks to-night. Not that on such a theme as the Bible cause, one could ever feel that he had not something to say, and so long as God shall spare me to preside on these occasions, I would not willingly forego the opportunity of at least declaring my steadfast interest in the work of the Society, and my unalterable, and I humbly trust, increasing love for, and attachment to, that blessed Book, which it is our object to send far and wide over the world.

Suffer me then to allude for a few moments to the Report which will presently be read to you, and which will not only compare favourably with those of past years, but will, I am persuaded, excite feelings of gratitude to Almighty God, that He has so greatly blessed the work, and that we have been enabled by the liberality of the friends of the Society, not only to spread abroad the knowledge of the truth, in the various parts of our own Dominion, but to co-operate with the Parent Society in conveying the same glad tidings to every part of the Globe. I find in referring to the figures given in the Report, that the receipts for the year ending the 1st of March last, from ordinary sources, amounted to \$31,509, being an increase of nearly \$2,000 over the receipts of 1872-3, and an advance also upon the largest income ever as yet received by the Society in any one year. As you will hear when the Report is read to you, this increase has taken place under a system of agency which has now been in operation since 1871, the success of which, the increasing revenues of the Society have, I think, fairly proved.

I am thankful also that we can report greater interest and activity in what may be called our home field of labour, as evinced by the number of new