

COLPORTEUR'S REPORTS.

Your Colporteur, Mr. JOHN FINLAYSON, has labored diligently in his field, and has proved himself deserving of the entire confidence of your Committee. There is no agency, it appears to your Committee, so well adapted for carrying "the Word of God" to distant settlements as this. A suggestion of this worthy servant is well deserving of being carefully and prayerfully considered. It is his conviction that great good might be effected if a meeting were held once a year (at least) in the schoolhouse of each township, at which one or two zealous ministers, with other friends of the cause, should be present and address it in an interesting manner upon the character and claims of the Bible Society to their support; after which addresses, collectors should be appointed to receive donations *there and then*, and to canvass the surrounding country for subscriptions. In this way he is of opinion that a knowledge of the blessings to be derived from the perusal of Holy Scripture would be acquired where there is now *lamentable* ignorance, and a great increase of funds might accrue. At present it would appear that holding meetings only in towns and villages, does not draw together many, who, if this plan were followed, might probably be induced to attend.

The following extracts from Mr. FINLAYSON'S monthly reports will convey some idea of his mode of dealing with different classes of people under varying circumstances:—

CONSOLATION TO THE AFFLICTED.—"Visited an aged man of 80 years—found him willing to be instructed—read a portion of the life-giving word with him, and while pleading with God on his behalf he called aloud for mercy, bathed in tears! I hope he is in earnest seeking salvation."

A young man on a sick bed said, "O, how glad I am you have come to see me, no man to care for my soul in this place or give a word of comfort." Mr. F. read and prayed with him, and gave him as much comfort as warranted by God's word. He thanked him and asked him to return.

On another occasion he says: "I heard the other day of a man who said that he spent the best night of his life with me in his own house, and was wishing much for my return."

SABBATH SCHOOLS, &c.—He has frequently visited Sabbath schools and Bible classes, and given them good advice. Having been long a teacher, and a successful one, his counsels must be valuable.