

mittee was appointed to examine the subject, who presented a report, the result of which was the modification of the provisional or local system by the appointment of one permanent Agent. Although permanent agency is more expensive than provisional, the Directors have reason to believe that in this step they were guided and over-ruled by God's Spirit, and that the combination of the two systems is likely to prove more advantageous than either of them alone. They also rejoice to feel that it was God, in His providence, who led the Rev. Mr. Ross to offer his services, and they congratulate the Society on having secured them. The success of the reverend gentleman in reviving some of the feebler Branches and stirring up others to renew their zeal has been most encouraging. The re-division of the field into smaller sections, and the revision of the instructions by the standing committee on agency, have also given very satisfactory results.

The total cost of agency during the year has been \$2,689 ; of this \$78 properly belonged to 1874-5, leaving \$2,611 which is \$1,100 less than the same item in that year. This difference, of course, would not have been so large had all the visitation been finished before the end of the year, or had the Permanent Agent been engaged throughout the twelve months. Had all the Branches however been visited within the year by provisional agents, the cost would still have been less than \$3000, shewing a saving of at least \$700, partly due to the stronger Branches doing without the help of paid agents, and partly to the rearrangement of the work, yet, doubtless, also in some degree to the agents meeting fewer travelling difficulties in a milder winter and at the earlier season when, the Directors are glad to say, most of them did their work. Last year twenty-six provisional agents were employed, this year one permanent and twenty-five provisional, the latter of course taking a smaller number of Branches than they did then. At the request of the Committee of the Elmira Branch, the Board decided upon employing one agent who could address meetings in either German or English. After some difficulty in finding a gentleman suited for the work, and at the same time sufficiently fluent in both languages the Directors succeeded in securing the services of the Rev. S. Kappeler, whose addresses have been very acceptable at the meetings which he has attended, and whose efforts have been very successful in their results. Although the agents have not been without their difficulties, and have in a few instances been unable to reach their destinations in time for the meetings they wished to attend, they have been mercifully preserved from any serious accident, and have met the same kind hospitality with which the friends of the cause throughout the country are ever ready to welcome them.

Extracts from their reports will be found on page 28.

#### AUXILIARY AND BRANCHES.

Thirty-nine of the Branches belonging to the London Bible Society have contributed during the year an aggregate sum of \$780 59 to the British and Foreign Bible Society, and \$810 12 to this Society. Although this leaves forty-four which have sent no free contributions to us or the Parent Society, it is a decided improvement on last year, which