

"The total amount received from subscriptions and other contributions, part payment for grants, dividends, and legacies, is £28,083 14s. 9d., the whole of this sum being available for the missionary objects of the Society. The missionary expenditure has amounted to £36,266 5s. 1d. It consists of foreign money grants, foreign grants of paper, electrotypes, and publications, grants to emigrants, to congregational and individual applicants for tracts, libraries to schools, seamen, coffee palaces, prisons, workhouses, colporteurs, etc.

"*The amount of grants thus exceeds the missionary receipts by £8,182 10s. 4d.; which has been supplied from the trade funds.*

"There have been issued during the year 500 new publications, of which 201 were tracts.

"The total circulation from the Home Depot, including Books, Tracts, Periodicals counted in numbers, Cards and Miscellaneous Issues, has reached 52,783,265, of which 24,640,395 are Tracts. The Issues from Foreign Depôts may be safely stated at 10,000,000, making a total circulation of nearly 63,000,000, and of very nearly 1,783,000,000 since the formation of the Society."

While the Society does not engage directly in Colportage it renders valuable aid to those organizations which have adopted this system. They state the case as follows :—

"The acknowledged principle of the Society on this subject has always been, that the Society employs no part of its funds in the support of colporteurs in the United Kingdom. It does not provide the machinery for distribution. This it leaves to societies or individuals interested in this special work. It makes large grants of tracts free or at reduced price, and of books at reduced prices for permanent lending libraries : but otherwise it looks for circulation of its books and the development of its business to the ordinary channels of the trade.

"At the same time, the Committee have always acknowledged the importance of colportage, having for its object the circulation of evangelical Christian literature, especially in a country like Ireland, where the opportunities of purchasing books, except in the large towns, are so rare, and where the Protestants are in many districts so few and scattered.

"They have been very glad, therefore, to hear of the thirty colporteurs, under the direction of the Presbyterian Assembly, and of the extension of this branch of the operations of the Bible and Colportage Society for Ireland. Twenty new colporteurs have been lately added to their staff, which now numbers nearly seventy, who work from the three centres of Dublin, Belfast, and Londonderry. There is every reason to believe that these colporteurs are men who go not merely as agents for the sale of books, but in the spirit of gospel missionaries.