

teresting. The ministers of different churches were very kind to me, and rendered me efficient aid, except in those instances when they insisted upon me occupying all the time at the public meetings. There were two evils of which I have to complain—one, that no collecting is done at some places until winter, and in several instances no collection was taken at the meetings. I regretted this the more, because I believe that, in some instances, a good sum would have been realized. With these little drawbacks, my visit to *Elgin County* will always remain a pleasing reminiscence.

I next visited *South Simcoe County*, to some of the branches of which I paid my first visit last year. I visited *Cookstown*, *Victoria* and *Bell Ewart* twice each, and succeeded in forming new branches in these places. During the same tour I visited *Nobleton* three times, but did not succeed in forming a branch. *Mono Centre*, *Mono Mills*, *Rosemont*, *Alliston*, *Tottenham*, *Thornton* and *Innisfil* were visited in regular order. As usual, *Innisfil*, even though it has been bereft of *Victoria* and *Bell Ewart*, far surpassed all the other places. *Rosemont*, however, was pronounced to be the best meeting ever held in that place. *Cookstown* and *Victoria* have made a splendid beginning, and will, it is hoped, render important aid to the Bible Society. Some of the other places, though small, are well organized, and always repay the visits of your agents. I formed a new branch also at *Painiswick*, but, not having heard from there since my visit, I am unable to speak more definitely.

On leaving *Simcoe County*, I called at *Mount Albert* and *Holland Landing* on my way home. I was much pleased with the former, but no meeting could be held at the *Landing*, which was formerly an important place. I fear the prospect there is not good for the Bible Society, though I think it should not be abandoned. During this tour of eighteen days, I travelled, by my own conveyance, three hundred and twenty-eight miles, and got \$103.28 more than was realized on the same ground last year, which increase has since been considerably augmented.

The *County of Grey* was next visited, where the ground was all new to me. Winter had also set in, and the snow was deep, so that the difficulty of travelling was very great. This county should, by all means, be visited either in the fall or early in the winter. *Thornbury*, *Meaford*, *Owen Sound*, *Durham*, *Hanover*, *Priceville*, *Eugenia*, *Cornabus*, *Maxwell* and *Flesherton* were all visited, but no meeting was held at either *Eugenia* or *Cornabus*, however I met the Committees of both branches. At some places there were regret that they had not been always favoured with the visit of an agent. At *Owen Sound* and *Meaford*, the ministers had not only held the anniversary meetings regularly, but had also held meetings at some adjoining places, which it was thought your agent should visit next year. I found a depository at *Flesherton*, but no branch. I succeeded in getting a few of the citizens together, and reformed the branch, of whose operations I hope to receive a good account.

During the month of February, I visited *Schomberg*, *Thornhill*, *Lloydtown*, and *Klineburgh*, which concluded my labours for the year. *Thornhill* meeting was the largest, but for such an important place it was small. *Klineburgh* is in a drooping state. The meetings at the other places, though small, were of great interest, owing to the activity of the respective Committees.

It has often occurred to me that if, on the Sabbath preceding the public meetings, the respective clergymen would call the attention of their congregations to the claims of the Bible Society, by preaching expressly on the Book of Books, that surely a greater amount of interest would be felt in the operations of your Society.

I must not omit to mention the fact that, with few exceptions, I was greatly encouraged in my labours by the assistance of ministers and friends of all denominations. I would gladly mention all their names, but space forbids.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD BARRASS.

Aurora,

September 20th, 1872.