

committee have much gratification in being able to report that the operations of the past year show that the steady growth and prosperity which began many years ago have been maintained.

**BRANCHES.**—These now, number 195, organized with their proper officers and committees, in suitable parts of the society's field of operations. The hearty co-operation of the branches, under the able guidance of your travelling agent, the Rev. James Green, is of essential value to the success of this auxiliary. In his report of the year 1872, Mr. Green refers with expressions of devout gratitude to God, to the fact that, in all his varied journeys over many thousands of miles, and in a season more than ordinarily severe and fitful, he has been kept in health and safety, and has been enabled to perform the duties which have devolved upon him; and that more than "a common measure of prosperity in the work of the year under review" has been vouchsafed.

**COLPORTAGE OPERATIONS.**—In the report for 1871, reference was made to certain modifications in this department of the society's work, which seemed to be necessary. During the past year this matter has received very careful attention on the part of your committee. The results of Colportage during the spring and summer showed more clearly than ever the necessity that existed for some change, in order to secure more continuous and systematic labour by the colporteurs. The scarcity of labour during the busy season in the country districts, and the consequent difficulty of obtaining assistance, and that, too, at an enhanced cost, all combined to cause frequent absence of the colporteurs from the service of the society, in order to attend to necessary business at home. Thus the operations of the society were seriously interfered with in respect of their regularity and extent. To obviate these difficulties, your committee came to the conclusion (1) that it was expedient to leave it optional with the colporteurs to discontinue their labours in the service of the society during the period from March 25th to September 25th, that they might be able to attend to their home affairs; (2) to compensate for this diminution of work during the summer by an increased number of colporteurs employed through the autumn and winter; and thus (3) to be able to occupy during the season of operations a larger number of points in the society's field, and that simultaneously. A new code of regulations for colportage was carefully prepared and adopted for use, and the whole field was divided into twelve districts, the nationality and numbers of the population of which are severally given. And although a sufficient length of time has not yet elapsed to test the full value of these changes, yet your committee anticipate that they will prove advantageous to the work and interests of the society. In accordance with them, there are now employed in the service of the society eight labourers, of whom two speak Gaelic and English, two French and English; and the rest are engaged in the general work of colportage. The work among our French Canadian population has assumed a more hopeful aspect than it presented during the previous year; still the difficulties that beset its prosecution are many and great, and are such as can be overcome by nothing but well-devised and persistent efforts, attended by the favour and blessing of God.

**DEPOSITORY AND ISSUES.**—The number of copies of the Scriptures and of portions sent forth from the depository during 1872 was 14,407, being 559 in excess of that for 1871, and amounting in value to \$5,751 88.

**CASH TRANSACTIONS.**—The abstract herewith presented shows an aggregate of receipts amounting to \$16,465 40, including a balance of \$2,768 26 from last year; an increase of \$1,682 32 over the receipts of that year. The Upper Canada Bible Society remitted the handsome sum of \$598 92 in aid of the work of colportage among the French Canadians, for which the cordial thanks of this society are due and are hereby tendered. The disbursements of the year were \$11,853 17, in which are included \$485 55, a donation to the funds of the Parent Society, and \$254 09 paid as duty to the Government of this Dominion on Scriptures imported for circulation. In