

REPORT.

The Toronto Ladies' Bible Association was formed on the 26th August, 1846, in the Rev. Mr. Jennings' Church, with the view, chiefly, of increasing the circulation of the Word of God in Toronto and its vicinity.

The city has been divided into twenty districts, to each of which two ladies (members of Committee) have been appointed, with liberty to employ as many assistants in the work as they shall find necessary; but being themselves responsible for the way in which it is performed.

The duty of the Collectors is to call upon every family in their district, to ascertain from the humbler ranks (in such a way as not to give offence) whether they have Bibles; and to offer, in case they are not sufficiently supplied, to receive subscriptions to the amount, and at such stated seasons as shall be found most convenient.

Some collectors find it necessary to call weekly; thus, the poorest can generally spare a penny; while double this amount might not be obtained, did a fortnight intervene. In other districts, monthly or semi-monthly visits are found sufficient. There are but few who cannot supply themselves with Bibles in this way, in a country where the price of labour is so high, and especially when a copy of the Scriptures may be obtained at so moderate a rate.

It is well known that most persons will prize more highly what they have paid for, than what they have received gratuitously. Many of the subscribers, however, state, that they could not have paid for a Bible at once, and, indeed, that they would not have thought of buying one, had not the visitors for the Association suggested it to them.

The Bible has, in a good many cases, by our means, been put into the hands of those who never had it before. "W. B.," writes a lady, "said he had never possessed a copy of the Scriptures, but was anxious to procure one. He soon increased his subscription, that he might the earlier receive it." "I have not," said another person, on being applied to, "had a Bible since I was a little child; but I will gladly subscribe for one now."

But a small proportion of Protestant families, however, are found without at least one copy of the Word of God. A good many have been supplied by the various Sabbath Schools of the city. In many cases, however, the type is too small for aged persons to read. "We have a Bible," said an elderly woman to the collectors by whom she was visited, "but it is too small for my old eyes. My children read to me; but, oh!