

of the Board have increased from an average per Branch of \$27.58 to an average of \$41.94.

Lastly. The Directors believe that the adoption of the proposed changes would lead to a considerable increase of unnecessary expense to be deducted from funds contributed for the circulation of the Scriptures.

On the other hand, the Board is convinced of the fact admitted by the Committee of the Auxiliary, that the present state of affairs is very unsatisfactory, and that some change of relationship is absolutely necessary.

In considering what that change should be, the Board of Directors cannot overlook the circumstance, that in eight years out of the thirteen during which the Auxiliary has existed, its field has yielded less than it did before, and that although the country has increased in population and wealth, and the total income of the Society has increased, the average of the total free contributions from the London field during the last thirteen years, including some of the most prosperous the country has ever known, is represented by exactly the same figure which shewed the total free contributions from the same district in 1864-5, \$1,726.

The Board of Directors is also reminded that when the Auxiliary was organized, a largely increased distribution of the Scriptures was expected to result therefrom, in view of which a free grant from this Society was made to the Auxiliary, of stock to the value of \$1,500. But when the Directors look at the payments on purchase account by the Auxiliary, they do not see any evidence of the large increase so confidently anticipated. They do not think the sales have been as large as might reasonably have been expected had the Auxiliary never been organized. They find, however, reason to apprehend that the organization of the Auxiliary has absorbed from \$700 to \$1,000 per annum which would otherwise have been available for promoting the circulation of the Scriptures. In 1875-6, the only year in which the contributions of the Branches to the London Auxiliary have been reported to them, the Auxiliary received from its country Branches \$611, and from the City of London \$410. There is reason to believe that in 1876-7 these contributions were larger, and the Directors suppose that as these have both been years of stringency, the same items have generally been quite as liberal. They find that with the exception of one year, 1871-2, the Committee of the Auxiliary has never voted any of the money thus received for work outside its own field: therefore, when the cost of colportage and gratuities is deducted, they think the balance must have been spent in maintaining the machinery of the Auxiliary in London. If the warehouse in Toronto was insufficient, or if there was any evidence of the organization in London stimulating the circulation of the Scriptures in its own district, or otherwise promoting the cause, the Directors would be the last to object to the necessary expenditure; but thus they fail to see.

Looking at these facts, and knowing that no inconvenience arises from the distance of many of its own Branches being greater than any in the London field, and that one warehouse can supply all the Branch Depositories with stock without adding materially to the expenditure, and with a saving in freight, the Board of Directors cannot resist the conclusion that the best interests of the cause will be most effectually promoted by the London Auxili