

"In 1826, the new religious books issued by the trade in this country, as noticed in the New York Observer, numbered 17. In 1835 they had increased to 24, and in 1841, the year that colportage was introduced, they amounted to 125. Since then their increase has been rapid.

"The systematic visitations of the colporteurs of this Society in every state and territory of the Union, carrying to the people its valuable publications, exciting their interest in them, and circulating among them nearly twelve millions of volumes, has had an influence that can hardly be estimated. Inquiry has been aroused, intelligence has been diffused, an army of readers has been created—the market for the books not only of this and other publishing Societies, but of the trade at large, has been widely extended, and to-day the demand for the issues of our teeming presses is coming from many a home in which the first desire for books was kindled by the visit of the humble colporteur to their dwelling. Not only do our religious publishing societies seek to meet this demand, but private publishers now issue largely most valuable and attractive books, which, going to the homes of the people, are developing their Christian manhood, fitting them for the duties of life and the joys of immortality.

"During the past year the Society has extended this evangelizing agency South and West as rapidly as means permitted, and has now an Agency and Depository in San Francisco, and a corps of missionary colporteurs on the Pacific coast, of which a full account is given elsewhere in this report. Such blessing has crowned the labors of colportage in former years and in this last year, that a vast expansion of the system is greatly desired and greatly needed, if the ten millions unevangelized in our land are to be reached savingly with the gospel of Christ."

From the Report of the "Religious Tract Society," of London :—
1870-71.

CIRCULATION.

"The issues during the year from the Society's depot in Paternoster Row have amounted to 40,727,471; of which 19,440,288 were Tracts and Handbills. If to these be added the probable issues from foreign depots, which cannot have been less than 8,500,000, the total will be somewhat over 49,000,000, raising the whole since the formation of the Society to 1,384,000,000.

"Of the Every Week Series, the total circulation during the year has amounted to 7,079,500.

FUNDS.

"The total receipts, including the balance of last year, were £119,790; total expenditure, £117,155, leaving a balance in the Treasurer's hands of £2,635."

"The sales have amounted to £102,927, being £640 over the past; and the benevolent income, excepting legacies, has amounted to £10,839, being an increase of £816. The deficiency in the legacies, however, amounting to £1,992, causes a total deficiency in the benevolent income of £1,117.

"This deficiency, and the larger expenditure caused by the war, has made the excess of grants over benevolent receipts little less than £5,500. This your Committee trust the receipts of the present year may enable them to recover; as it must be evident that in societies like the Bible and Tract Societies, which are business institutions requiring considerable capital, a reserve equal, at least, to one quarter's expenditure is indispensable to vigorous action.

"The reports of the Society are almost confined to details of its missionary operations at home and abroad; but these constitute a comparatively small part of the business of the house, or of the channels of distribution. The object of your Committee is, not only to provide for the wants of every district through the special depositories sustained and conducted by their auxiliary committees, but also to gain an entrance for the Society's publications into all ranks of the community, the higher and middle classes, as well as those who can be reached only by free gift. This object can be best effected through the ordinary channels of trade. While, therefore, the tract distributor has been urged upon his path by free grants, while Sunday and congregational schools have been induced to establish libraries both for older and younger readers, while depositories are encouraged especially for the sale

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