

REPORT OF THE NEWBURGH BARNCH BIBLE SOCIETY.

The circulation of the Word of God ranks among the most benevolent enterprises of the age. Its influences on mankind, in a civil, social, and intellectual point of view, cannot be easily estimated; but we may see them strikingly exhibited by a contrast of the nations where the Christianity of the Bible prevails with those where its principles are wholly unknown, or where they are neglected or despised. But the most important testimony in its favour, and that which presents itself to every observer, is its effects on individual character, the comfort it affords to the Christian in circumstances of trial and affliction, and the triumph it secures for him in the trying hour of death. The spread of principles which are capable of such important and happy results must afford matter of satisfaction to all sincere followers of Christ, who daily pray for the coming of their Master's kingdom, in all its power and glory. To assist in this great work is the object of the Association with which we are connected; and much, very much indeed, has been accomplished by its operations, in various parts of the world; but that in which we are more immediately concerned is the circulation of the Scriptures within the boundaries of our own Branch.

Your Committee, at an early period of last year, divided the village and adjacent neighbourhoods into districts, and appointed persons to canvass each. The information which they were requested to collect would have given your Committee a correct view of the state and wants of each district, and enabled them to form an efficient plan for future operations; but, unfortunately, only three returns have been made. From these it appears that 182 families have been visited. Of these, 167 were supplied with copies of the Scriptures, and 15 were not. The copies possessed by each family varied in number from one to 15. Four destitute persons have since been supplied from our Depository. A feeling friendly to the objects of the Society very generally prevails; but one exception occurred, of so singular a nature, as to require mentioning. One man, of high official standing in a Christian church, refused his countenance, on the plea that increasing the circulation of the Bible increased the responsibility of the people. Such an occurrence needs no further comment.

It only remains to present a financial statement of affairs:—

The amount of purchase received since April 10th, is,	£24	0	9
Remitted to the Upper Canada Bible Society, Toronto,	11	0	0
Amount due Upper Canada Bible Society, Toronto,	£13	0	9
Value of stock on hand,	£16	19s.	3d.

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

Received for Sales,	£7	5	8
Collected, per Subscriptions,	5	11	9½
	£12	17	5½
Remitted, as above, £11; freight, postage £1 5s.	12	5	0
Cash in hand,	£0	12	5½
Subscriptions not paid,	£2	7	1½

Subscriptions received since, 12s. 6d.

During the nine months since our Depository has been opened, 125 Testaments have been sold, and 34 Bibles; and four Bibles have been given to the poor.

ALLEN CATON, Secretary and Depository.

Newburgh, 21st December, 1749.