

intend to increase it as usual in the fall, but were providentially prevented, and we see now that this was for the best. Our stock was adequate to the demand, which has been gradually diminishing, since the American revolution has brought on hard times and a scarcity of the circulating medium.— Had our stock been increased, therefore, we would only have increased our liabilities without increasing our ability to meet them. As it is, we have been enabled to devote all that we could command, to reduce them to a minimum.

The number of colporteurs and their spheres of labour have been continued much as before. John Faulkner has been the most persevering, and has kept up his rounds pretty regularly in the County of Colechester and Hants, with occasional visits to other Counties. John Maxwell has done what he could in the County of Pictou, and James Gordon along the North Shore.— David A. Steward has completed his trip to Cape Breton, under rather discouraging circumstances, and John Dickson has been sometime in Cumberland. We have had none in P. E. Island. As a specimen of their diligence, perseverance and fidelity, we may mention one or two of the statistical reports which we receive from them at every settlement, before receiving a new supply of books.

John Maxwell reports 64 days' labour; during which time he visited 633 families; with 76 of whom he had religious conference or prayer. He sold 255 vols. of religious books, and distributed 300 pages of tracts.

John Faulkner reports 141 days' labour; during which time he visited 1,521 families; with 184 of whom he had religious conference or prayer.— He sold 692 vols. of religious works, and distributed 500 pages of tracts. He has worn out one waggon in the service, and did not feel able to provide another. To encourage him a little, a private subscription was set on foot to provide another, which has been nearly successful. But Mr Maxwell and perhaps others would need similar assistance; for they have incurred debt in fitting themselves out, which they have not yet been able to liquidate. But the eager enquiries which are sometimes made for certain books, and the sales which they have made, still encourage them to persevere as far as possible; more especially as their visits are generally welcomed, particularly to the house of mourning. The general hospitality extended to them also is another source of encouragement. And being occasionally instrumental in doing good, by instituting or visiting sabbath schools or prayer meetings, is not without its cheering effect. In like manner, when they visit a secluded settlement or an isolated individual, "The blessing of them that are ready to perish comes upon them, and they cause the widow's heart to leap for joy." And they would have more of this gratification if their means were not so limited.

Why then, you may ask, are we not more liberal? Because, we reply, we have not the means, you have supplied us only with credit, not with funds. And our aim has been not to abuse that credit by involving you in debt.— As long as we were supported by the Board of Publication, on the liberal terms of their own offer, we had no difficulty; but when they withdrew these terms, in consequence of more liberal offers being made by other parties in this Province, we were thrown upon our own resources, and were reduced to the necessity of commencing the *per centage system*. Some have doubted the propriety of this course; but we considered it unavoidable. Responsibility for wages and expenses must rest either upon the Synod or upon the Colporteurs. To save the former, it has been laid upon the latter. We were therefore constrained to say to them, "We cannot any longer promise