

lence and labours of love. He was called to a "higher sphere" at a ripe old age, being in his eighty-fifth year.

Very shortly afterwards, our Parent Society suffered another loss in the person of their beloved Treasurer, Joseph Hoare, Esq., who was removed by death on the 21st of last January. He was gifted with a rare combination of qualities, rendering his services particularly valuable to the Society.

From a letter recently received from the Secretary, Rev. Wm. Major Paull, referring to the above losses, we quote :—

"Such grievous bereavements within so short a period would tempt us to despondency, did we not believe that the work in which we are engaged is the Lord's; and we know He will not forsake the work of His own hands. The Committee were grieved to hear that you had been called upon to endure a similar trial, in the death of your excellent Secretary, Robert Baldwin, Esq., a name familiar to us, and held in high respect. The Committee reciprocate the sympathy you so kindly manifested towards them, and they pray that the lesson may be learned by all, to 'work while it is day, for the night cometh when no man can work.'"

The Right Honorable the Earl of Harrowby has been elected President, and J. Gurney Barclay, Esq., Treasurer of the British & Foreign Bible Society, and we pray that God may continue to bless its labours in the future, even more abundantly than in the past.

AGENCY.

In response to a circular issued by order of the Board, twenty-one Branches agreed to hold their own Anniversary meetings without assistance, thereby saving the time of an Agent, and the funds of the Society; and we earnestly trust that many more of our strong and vigorous Branches will volunteer to do so during the years to come.

In this connection we desire respectfully to impress on the officers of the Branches the importance of replying promptly to such communications, so that the necessary arrangements may be made in sufficient time. Also, that Branches desiring the assistance of an Agent should make a point to hold their meetings, if at all possible, at the time that the regularly appointed Agent is making his circuit of the district assigned to him. In many cases, during past years, Agents have had to make a second visit, thus entailing additional cost to the Society, which it is hoped will be avoided as much as possible in future. We trust that our friends will pardon us in again calling attention to this matter. Indeed we feel assured that a realization of the importance of the sacred work in which we are mutually engaged, will overcome any feeling of offence, and on the contrary, induce a cheerful response and hearty co-operation.

The visitation of the Branches and depositories was performed by the permanent Agent, the Revd. J. G. Manly, and twenty-one Provisional Agents, each of whom took charge of a specific district, and we are thankful to be able to state that no accident or casualty has happened to any of our Agents while engaged in this work. Truly have they been blessed with "journeying mercies." The visitation was performed during the Fall and Winter, (as considered most convenient to the people of the different districts) therefore under difficulties, the winter being very severe, which has, we believe, tended to decrease the contributions.

Many of the meetings are reported to have been interfered with very much by various causes, such as the inclemency of the weather, social and congregational gatherings, municipal, political and other meetings, county and assize courts, &c., &c., all of which was beyond the foresight or control