

total, \$9,554 has been received on purchase account, and \$21,992, as free contributions, including bequests, donations, &c., being the largest amount to which these items have reached in any year of the Society's history.

There have been several handsome bequests and liberal donations received during the year. The bequests have been \$1,650, from the late Charles Haslam Esq., of Elora; \$400 from the late Dr. McIlmurray, of Toronto; \$55 from the late Mrs. John Thom; \$60 from the late Mrs. Burns (widow of the Revd. Dr. Burns); and \$50 from the late Mrs. Margaret Johnson, of Bosanquet. The larger donations have been \$100 from J. W. Ball Esq., of Niagara, and \$50 each from D. Fraser Esq., Nairn, Charles Doan Esq., of Aurora; Mrs. Charles Doan; Walter Scott Esq., Blenheim; and Hugh Rose Ross Esq., Ripley. A donation of \$40 was also received from some anonymous friend through the Rev. Joseph Philp, of Belgrave; and a day or two after the closing of the accounts for the year, another handsome donation of \$100 was given by Henry A. Miller Esq., of Bridgport.

The Directors have to report that the issues of the Society during the year have amounted to 29,765, being a decrease of those of previous year. This decrease is chiefly in the issue of portions, and is accounted for by a very large purchase of these in the preceding year by the Branch at Victoria, British Columbia. The cause of decrease in the issue of Bibles and Testaments is almost altogether due to the hindrances to colportage, which will be more fully referred to under that heading.

During the year the Society had lost one of its Vice-Presidents by the death of the Hon. John McMurrich. His loss is felt not only by our Society, but by all kindred Societies, and by the community at large. His activity in Christian work was unceasing from the time he first came to Toronto, nearly half a century ago, until he was laid aside by his last illness. Mr. McMurrich first became connected with our Society as a Director in 1838, and had been one of its Vice-Presidents since 1876. He was remarkably quiet and unobtrusive in manner, but being very widely known for sagacity in council his name was a source of strength to any cause which he espoused.

The state of the building occupied by the Depository and offices of the Society, and owned by it jointly with the Tract Society, has for several years been a subject of very serious consideration by the respective Boards. The repairs needed are so extensive that neither Society could afford to pay for its share of the expense out of its ordinary income. But a new building, or very extensive repairs and alterations, will, before long, be an absolute necessity, and if the matter be left until one of these alternatives become an immediate necessity, the funds will have to be provided in some way, or a building have to be rented, and so either rent or interest will have to be drawn from the annual resources of the Societies. The Directors, being very anxious to avoid this if possible, made an appeal to the Christian public a few months ago for subscriptions to a Special Fund to enable them to erect a building suitable for the purpose for which it is required. This appeal has not yet been very largely responded to, but the Directors are glad to report that several handsome sums have been subscribed, and they hope that before many months, the friends of the Society will be led to see its need in this matter, and give liberally to the Building Fund. The following are the sums already subscribed:—The Hon. W. McMaster, \$500, John Macdonald Esq., \$500, Wm. Gooderham Esq., \$500, Ignatius Cockshutt Esq., \$500, Geo. Hague Esq., of Montreal, formerly one of the Honorary Secretaries, \$200, W. H. Beatty Esq., \$100, and Sutherland Stayner Esq., \$100.

The most marked events in the year have been the special mission to Manitoba of the Rev. W. W. Ross, the Society's former Permanent Agent, in February, and the very successful colportage of Mr. Taylor in Algoma and Manitoulin last summer. The zeal with which Mr. Ross undertook