

lishment, which is now nearly redeemed from its former embarrassments by the liberality of our friends and the prudent management of its conductors; so that should the debts due it be collected, and the same liberality and economy be continued, the "*Book Room*" may, at no distant day, be replenished and put into active and successful operation, as an important auxiliary to the ministry of the church. The publication of religious books, and their distribution by means of an itinerant ministry, are commensurate with the rise and progress of the Methodist societies, both in Europe and America, and they have proved, while increasing religious knowledge, a very valuable and important branch of revenue for the support of worn-out preachers, their widows and children,—the claims of whom are imperious, and must not be overlooked. Dependent as our connexion is on the free will offerings of the people (for we neither have nor desire to have any other means by which the allowance for the support of our effective ministry may be raised) we will be excusable in urging upon our beloved brethren the duty of contributing, in proportion as the Lord may prosper them, to the furtherance of the work. We desire this, not so much for our own sakes, as that "fruit may abound to your account." Where the spirit of liberality is cherished, there will the several christian graces be more conspicuous and matured, the loveliness of our religion show itself, the bonds of brotherhood be strengthened, the confidence and stability of the ministry greatly increased, and the voluntary principle more firmly sustained. And, above all, let us ever remember that "the Lord loveth a cheerful giver." A reference to our published annual Minutes and Missionary Report, will show the amount of our funds and the objects to which they are appropriated, and how inadequate they are to meet the several demands on the various departments of our work.

A wide field is open before us in the increasing extension of the back settlements of our country, and among the aborigines of the land. On you, dear brethren, depends the question,—Shall we go forth and cultivate it? Supply us with the means and laborers will be forthcoming, and the solitary places will be glad, and the wilderness bud and blossom as the rose.

While we would exhort you to liberality in behalf of the institutions of our branch of the great christian community, we would have you not overlook the claims to those that are more general in their character, and which embrace a wider field in their operations. Among the first of these stands the Bible Society. This noble and God-like institution commends itself to us by the simplicity of its object—the universal diffusion of the word of the Lord in the numerous languages of mankind, and