

and women engaged in the translation of the Scriptures and the revision of translations already made.

Without doubt, the circulation of the Bible is greater at present than ever before in the world's history. Looking back fifty years, we find that in 1846, the aggregate circulation by all Bible Societies, so far as known, was about twenty-nine million copies. In the following twenty years, fifty-six millions were circulated; in the next ten years, fifty-six millions; in the following ten years, fifty-three millions; and in the last decade, sixty-three millions (63,000,000). From this we see that the Bible is not an antiquated book, but that there is a steady growing demand for its inspired pages. At the present time there are hundreds of Colporteurs and Bible women employed in the circulation of the Word of God, or portions of it, as issued from the printing presses of the British and Foreign Society in various parts of the world.

Indirectly the Bible Society accomplishes other important objects. It strengthens and promotes the spirit of Christian unity. It is an indispensable aid to missions. It honors Christ as the Great Teacher and brings the soul into direct converse with its God. Thus the British and Foreign Bible Society with its auxiliaries—and the Upper Canada Bible Society counts it a privilege to be numbered among the latter—are “doing a great work” which will extend until the Gospel story shall have been read or told in the darkest places of the world, and the “earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

#### OUR WORK (1896-97).

The work of the Upper Canada Bible Society has been carried on during the past year in the usual manner, and your Directors feel grateful to our Heavenly Father for the measure of success with which He has rewarded the efforts put forth. The success of the work in Manitoba and the North-West Territories is particularly encouraging.

Since the last anniversary, we regret to have to record the removal of three of our Directors by death, viz.: Rev. James J. Hill, Rev. John Mutch, and Mr. James Brown, a Vice-President, all of whom were earnest, active members, and their valuable services are missed at our Board and Committee meetings.

The continued depression of business and stringency of the money market, together with the special appeals to the Christian public for aid to the persecuted Armenians, the Indian famine fund, and other commendable objects, have all combined to reduce the amount of our free contributions, which are somewhat less than the previous year, as are also the sales of Scriptures; however, those shortages have been fully made up by legacies, and our total income for the past year amounts to \$32,572.77, which is nearly \$500.00 in advance of the previous year. Thus your Directors have been enabled to extend the helping-hand to our worthy parent, the British and Foreign Bible Society, also to our sister, the Quebec Bible Society, as in former years, and duly acknowledged in the following letters:

LONDON, 4TH MAY, 1897.

*John Harvie, Esq., Toronto:*

MY DEAR SIR—Your letter of April 22nd has been received in which you forward an additional £1,116 os. 1d., of which sum £616 os. 1d. is from the Branch Societies, £250, a special donation from your Board, and £250 on purchase account.

I have to send the best thanks of our Committee for this generous contribu-

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