

for a year or more. It is one thing for an agent to know these things, and deal with them as best he may. It is quite a different thing for him to publish the names of the branches in which they occur and operate.

Many branches which show small returns and no advances, have really as warm and earnest supporters as those which show large returns and advances; but in the cases in which the results are unfavourable, those results have arisen from causes which the friends of the society could neither resist nor control.

For these reasons I must excuse myself from naming particular branches, and giving the names of particular supporters, and leave the proper measure of approval to be given by the consciences of those who have done their duty in the several cases; while, at the same time, I must be allowed to spare the feelings of those who have struggled heroically in the good cause, although with less success than others.

The work of the Bible Society has lost the charm of its novelty, but it has gained a substantial advantage instead. Its history and objects are now well known, and are appreciated more and more. The Society may depend upon a substantial and liberal support, and the general advance made for the past years will be maintained in years to come.

Judging by the experience my field of labour has given me, I am convinced that the present form of the agency is on the whole the best. It enlists the largest amount of sympathy, and secures the largest amount of confidence; and, while it is not without its difficulties and even its dangers, it at least includes certain elements which insure ultimate success if carefully conducted.

From the tables published, the friends will be able to see the rate of increase in the several branches, as well as the total advance mentioned in the Annual Report. The progress on the whole is most encouraging; and I trust our friends will not relax their efforts in the future. The rate at which the field of the world is opening to our efforts is still in advance of the rate at which the Word of God is sent forth. And the mighty struggle through which the world is pressing towards great changes, will become blessings just in proportion as the weight of the Word of God becomes an element in the contest. The friends of the Bible may well take heart; for never has a cause been more prospered than the work of the Bible Society. But they should at the same time be better organized, more active, liberal, and prayerful; for never was there a more critical time in the religious history of the world. Old things are passing away; and the world, wild with free thought, is adopting new opinions; and the friends of the Bible should make it possible for every man to form his opinion on the solid basis of Bible truth. Let us be up and doing.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours very truly,

Guelph,
September 19th, 1872.

W. S. BALL.

REPORT OF REV. E. BARRASS.

To the Directors of the Upper Canada Bible Society.

GENTLEMEN,—In giving an account of that part of the Bible agency field which you were pleased to assign to me during the year ending March 31st, 1872, I have first to speak of *Elgin County*, where I was informed that I would find *twelve* branches, *eleven* of which belonged to the London Auxiliary. It so happened that the time of my visit was somewhat inopportune, as the Western Fair was then being held. Owing to this fact, and on account of other circumstances, no meeting was held at either *Sparta* or *Aylmer*, but I met the Committee at the latter place, and preached on the Sabbath. At *Orinan*, *Kintyre*, *Iona*, *Port Burwell* and *Port Stanley*, the attendance was very small. The largest meeting was at *St. Thomas*, but the most enthusiastic was at *Aldborough*; *Fingal*, *Southwold* and *Wallacetown* were very in-