

Under the necessity laid upon them to share in and co-operate with the happy and growing missionary spirit of the times, the Committee have during the last ten years considerably augmented their staff of Missionaries, especially in such important centres as England, Palestine, and Persia. In fact the Agents now stand at 184, as against 134 in 1890.

This advance naturally increased the expenditure during that period. A debt of £1,570 in 1896 had increased in the following year to £5,055. Last year it reached the sum of £8,851, and thus on the 31st of last March the Committee were left to face the further serious deficit on the General Fund of £11,087, which has now been reduced by £2,693.

The expenditure for 1898-9 was the highest in the history of the Society.

It is almost needless to say that immediately after the Anniversary last May, this financial position received the most careful consideration of the Committee. They reluctantly felt compelled to contemplate retrenchment, which practically means contraction of the Mission. They decided, however, first to apply to the many staunch friends of the Society, who so lovingly co-operate with them, to try and extinguish this deficit and also to increase the standing Annual Income.

This general appeal is therefore made, in the hope that the Committee may meet with the generous and liberal assistance of God's people in this immediate and most important matter.

This deficit is a subject of constant and anxious prayer in the Committee room. Thousands are watching the movements, and praying with heart-stirring intensity, for the welfare of Israel, and the Committee very earnestly appeal for a large place in these petitions, believing that God will assuredly give the increase. Subscriptions may be sent to W.A. Treasurer, 15 Rose Avenue, Toronto, or direct to Secretary, Rev. A. J. Burt, Shediac, N.B.

Letters from our Missionaries.—Domestic

QUEBEC. *To Mrs. P. P. Hall, Que. Dio. Cor. Sec., from Archdeacon Scriven, Victoria, B.C., June 7, 1899.*

"DEAR MADAM,—I must apologise for the delay in answering your