

APPENDIX.

Report of the Committee of the Branch Bible Society for the County of Hants.

NEWPORT, DECEMBER 30, 1820.

YOUR Committee have continued, as in former years, to circulate the Holy Scriptures; and the demand for them is not diminished. This is a young and rising country. Needy Emigrants are yearly arriving on our shores from Europe, many of them without Bibles, and without the means of procuring them. Early marriages among the natives, give birth to separate families, and oblige them to spread farther back into the woods. It is proper that they should carry to their new abodes the lamp of Divine Revelation. The Bible is the best companion in solitude, and a never failing auxiliary in the time of temptation. Many of the Irish Catholics, would accept of the Bible as a school book, and put it into the hands of their children. Some of the coloured people on the Windsor road, who, during the late war sought a refuge among us, are learning to read, and are very anxious to obtain a copy of "the white man's book." Even those who cannot read, wish to have a copy of the Holy Scriptures in their houses, that, when accidentally visited by some of their more intelligent neighbours, they may put the Bible into their hands, and hear them read a few passages. Upon these accounts, and others which might be mentioned, there will be an increasing demand for Bibles for a century to come.

Some people are so dim-sighted that they cannot see any good done by Bible Societies. But these people are not favourable to the interests of truth, and have not considered the subject with attention. Upon examination it will be found that the greatest portion of Bibles now in use in this country have been issued by the British and Foreign Bible Society. It is within the recollection of every one, that, before the establishment of Bible Societies, Bibles were every where scarce, and many families were without one. It has been the happy means of bringing many Bibles to the frightful wilds of Nova-Scotia. The very existence of a Bible Society in a township, brings the Bible into more notice. The Bible often cheers those who have no other joy. It holds out to us prospects which support us under the afflictions of life, and prospects which shall be realized when these afflictions shall no longer exist.

Your Committee have applied their charity to the best of their judgment. They have circulated copies of the Scriptures in Windsor, Newport, Rawdon and Douglas. Some copies have been sold at reduced prices, some have been sold at prime cost, and many have been given away gratis. Your Committee would prefer selling at reduced prices to gratis distribution, because it keeps alive a sentiment of virtuous independence, and cherishes a feeling of sympathy for benighted nations, who need our charity. We are not in absolute want of Bibles; but the deficiency is much greater than many are willing to believe. The wants of a Community can never be accurately known but by a close and patient investigation. The usual method of knowing the wants of the poor is to pay them a visit. Go into the log Hut, see how they live, inquire into their wants and talk familiarly with them; and in this way you will acquire a knowledge of their character. It is vain to wait till they apply for Bibles. The probability is they will never ask for them, or take any interest in the business. A person who really knows the value of the Bible will not be long without it; but they who have lived without the Bible, know not its value, and will not inquire after it. Yet, if a Bible were placed in a house of this description, it might catch the eye of some careless sinner, and his eye might effect his heart; and who knows but the Divine spirit might cause a flood of light to fall upon his mind, and he might become wise unto salvation? It is the wish of your Committee that a Bible should be furnished to every family in this country that is yet without it.