

FORTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

UPPER CANADA BIBLE SOCIETY.

At the close of another year, the forty-sixth of the history of the Upper Canada Bible Society, we review its operations, and report to its members and all interested in the dissemination of the Holy Scriptures, the visible results of the work. We say visible results, because we believe that eternity alone will reveal the silent and invisible fruits of its work in scattering the "good seed" of the "Word" throughout the length and breadth of the land—these final results we confidently leave with Him who has declared, "It shall not return to me void."

On the whole, the labours of the Society during the past year may be considered as eminently successful. The good hand of God has been upon us, and although the ordinary revenue is somewhat less than that of the previous year, the deficit can be reasonably accounted for, in view of the continued commercial depression, which has been felt in all sections of the country; the severe winter; and the special efforts made in obtaining subscriptions to a large amount, principally in this city, towards the erection of a new Bible House.

The erection of this commodious, and we may say handsome building, which happily has been completed without accident, or any untoward circumstance, and the formal opening of which we have this day celebrated, with dedicatory services and thanksgiving to God for all His goodness to us, was *much needed*, and will mark a special epoch in the history of the Society. It is placed on the same site on which the old building stood, being the ground so generously dedicated many years ago to this Society, for this special work, by the late Jesse Ketchum, Esq.

During the past year, death has called away one of our Vice-Presidents—Robert Baldwin, Esq.—who for the previous ten years had been your efficient and esteemed Permanent Secretary. By his death, the Bible Society has lost one of its most devoted friends and supporters. We have this consolation, however, that "our loss is his gain."

This is the only breach in our directorate occasioned by death, but others have resigned, in consequence of their removal from this city, viz.: Revs. Dyson Hague, R. W. E. Greene, and H. D. Powis. All earnest friends, prudent counsellors, and faithful attendants at the meetings, their warm sympathies will still be enlisted in the work of this Society, in the respective locations where God in His providence has been pleased to place them.

We desire specially to refer to the loss sustained by the British and Foreign Bible Society (familiarily spoken of as the Parent Society), by the death of the late Earl Shaftesbury, who for thirty-nine years had been connected with that institution, and for the last thirty-five years had been its inestimable President, whom God had abundantly blessed in his many acts of benevo-