

Brantford Branch, which is and has been the most helpful,—the Banner Branch,—of this Society for many years past.

A list of the names of gentlemen who have given their kind services to this Society for periods of twenty-five years, and over, will be found on the eighth page of our Annual Report for years past.

The Board of Directors is composed of an equal number of clergymen and laymen—twenty of each besides the officers—representing all evangelical denominations. The election takes place annually. The regular meetings of the Board are held on the third Tuesday evening in each month, and are well attended by the members.

The Depository—which was re-built in 1886, by donations and subscriptions from the Christian people of Toronto, and some of our Branches—stands on a lot of land given by the late Jesse Ketchum, Esq., at a perpetual, nominal ground-rent per annum, which money is applied, by direction of the deceased benefactor, for the purpose of purchasing Bibles and books to be distributed among the pupils attending the Public Schools. The ground-rent of the adjoining lot is given for a similar purpose, for the pupils attending the different evangelical Sabbath Schools in the City of Toronto. Both of those gifts are distributed periodically, and are known as the "Jesse Ketchum Trust-Gifts."

The Depository building is conjointly owned and occupied by the Upper Canada Bible Society, and the Upper Canada Religious Tract and Book Society, but the business of each society is entirely separate and distinct.

In closing this retrospect of our work, it may be interesting for us to glance for a moment at the operations of the British and Foreign Bible Society, to which we are auxiliary. The parent society was organized in 1804. At that time Bibles were scarce and expensive, even in Great Britain. On the continent the dearth of Bibles was greater still. Half the population of Sweden and Holland were without the Scriptures, and in Iceland there was but one Bible to each thousand of the population. The Word of God had been issued in only two vernaculars in India, and the translators had but recently begun their labors in Africa and in the South Seas. God put it into the hearts of the few Christian gentlemen who comprised the first committee, to seek to provide the Scriptures, not only for Great Britain and Wales, but for the *World*. Thus the British and Foreign Bible Society was formed simply "to promote the circulation of the Scriptures, without note or comment, in all languages and in all lands." This it accomplishes in two ways,—1st, by endeavoring to produce the Scriptures in the common language of the people of the various nations and tribes of the World, which necessitates much learned study, labor, time and expense; 2nd, By circulating the books thus produced, as freely as possible among the people for whom they are intended. The great task of giving the Word of God to all peoples and tongues is only *well-begun*, but in its steady advance there is much to encourage the men of patient faith and ripe scholarship, who are engaged in this noble service. To-day, more than 100 languages and dialects are honoured with *complete versions* of the Bible. On the Continent of Europe, the complete Bible is issued in 40 languages; in Asia, 41; in Africa, 13; in Australasia and Oceania, 10; in America, 3. Portions of the Word have been issued in many additional languages, and it is estimated that there are now more than a thousand men