

2. That this net increase has been mainly derived from the large increase in the *regular contributions* from both the Home and Foreign districts: proving not only the continuance, but the great and steady increase of the Missionary spirit among the supporters of this Society, and that, as to its ordinary income, its condition is healthy and vigorous, and its prospects highly hopeful. But it is our duty to state, as last year, that the Society's *expenditure* has again very greatly exceeded even its augmented income! and that the added deficiencies of 1838 and 1839 constitute an *ACTUAL DEBT* of more than TWENTY THOUSAND POUNDS!

For the stable and permanent augmentation of the funds of this Society, the Committee are led to look to its supporters for an increase in their annual subscriptions, and by no means the less to their friends the Collectors, for perseverance in their pious toil. To the ladies, your Committee has ever felt itself under great obligations—whose valuable agency, as Collectors, we hope still to retain. In the United Kingdom their labours are well known and appreciated, as for every charitable and benevolent object, they pursue the “noiseless tenor of their way,” successfully soliciting, weekly, monthly and quarterly, aid for those objects. In looking through the well appreciated agency of this District Auxiliary, as it is usefully employed at various stations in this Province, in aiding our Missionary fund, the Committee are happy to observe the continued operations of the Female Missionary Association in Montreal, while they would express the hope that those Christian ladies may be encouraged to persevere in their commendable course of benevolent aid to the sacred cause of Missions.

Your Committee feel that they cannot conclude their report without expressing their deep sympathy with the London Missionary Society, in the loss they have recently sustained in the lamented and tragical death of their excellent Missionaries, the Rev. Messrs. Williams and Harris. The removal by death of such Ministers from the Church militant, and especially of one so eminently qualified for and devoted to Missionary operations, as was Mr. Williams, cannot be regarded as a loss to merely an individual portion of the Church of God, but one in which every section feels a part. But the circumstances by which those valuable men were removed, are peculiarly painful and distressing—and we entertain the hope that the fact will prompt the friends of Missions to pray more frequently and fervently that the Great Head of the Church will throw around his Missionary Agents the ample shield of his omnipotence.

In the forcible and appropriate words of the late eloquent and tried friend of Christian Missions, Richard Watson, we close our remarks:—“Never did the powers of darkness present themselves