

York,—northward, within the same meridians, from Lake Ontario to Minden, and north-westerly to Bracebridge in Muskoka,—with five exceptions; and also all the Societies in the three counties of Lincoln, Welland and Haldimand; besides forming some new branches, and revisiting new places or out-stations for sermon or lecture. The usual work has been a lecture every week-day evening, with the exception of several Saturdays, the transaction of annual business, and usually three sermons on the Lord's day. The resident ministers, unless absent on duty, have generally given hearty assistance. The attendance—depending partly on the season of the year, the weather, and counter engagements or attractions—has generally been encouraging; and the recognition of the Society's character and claims has been prompt and cordial. Want of knowledge of the Society, in some cases, accounts for want of interest; but unquestionably the Society needs only to be better known to be better supported. Some of the remoter branches are least productive, and others appear to have lacked culture and visitation. Such contributions as eight dollars, purposely accumulated from a working-man's earnings, ten dollars to the collection from a farmer's son, and fifty dollars from a lumber merchant, evince earnest and growing liberality. Indeed the whole country, so far as I have visited it, is a noble field for ardent and augmented effort in the universal circulation of the Bible. Doubtless here, as everywhere, the heart is sometimes deadened by worldliness, and contracted by sectarian selfishness, so as to prevent due appreciation of the lofty and comprehensive spirituality of the Bible Society, but the progress that has been made since only one Agent traversed the field is sufficient to denote the abundance of the harvest that may yet be gathered for the world's evangelization and the honour of God. Bible Society visitation has its difficulties and drawbacks; but there can be no nobler work than the diffusion of revealed and written truth, and the summoning of Christendom to take part in it. The fields that have been sown are white with the harvest; the fields still untilled are everywhere opening to the sower; and in due time our reclaimed and renovated world shall smile with fertility and beauty, amid the accordant songs of men and angels, and in the eye of the great and glorified Lord of all.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J. G. MANLY.

Toronto, September, 1872.

#### REPORT OF THE REV. W. S. BALL.

*To the Board of Directors of the Upper Canada Bible Society.*

GENTLEMEN,—There are few duties of the agents more difficult to discharge than making out the Annual Report of our visits. The correct figures state the exact amounts of money received. We are thus able to ascertain the precise increase or decrease, as the case may be. But to give the causes is often a matter of difficulty, and, oftener still, a matter of extreme delicacy.

To speak of a branch like Brantford is easy. Its history is one of yearly progress. It has long been favoured by the most systematic management, by the most liberal support, and works in the midst of a population growing in numbers and in wealth. It also enjoys the active cooperation of the Protestant ministers of all denominations. Could we combine all these circumstances in the case of every branch, we might have a similar record in every place. But, in many branches, a small circumstance may change the standing of the branch for a whole year. The death or removal of a prominent and liberal supporter; the removal of a certain minister favourable to the work, and the coming of another of an opposite opinion. A stormy night that spoils a meeting, or, perhaps, the rise of an antagonistic feeling; any or all these causes may paralyze a branch, and reduce the results of its efforts