

show, may find us not prospering quite so much as in the previous year; and there are vacant places too in the society's ranks, for old and well-trying friends have been taken from us since we last met, and have entered into that rest which remaineth for the people of God. But though we may have to acknowledge a falling off in our receipts for the past year, and cannot point to the same number of issues, yet let us only look back to former years, and see how God has prospered us hitherto, and we cannot doubt that with His blessing on our renewed exertions we shall speedily recover any lost ground, and this temporary check will itself be only a fresh incentive to greater efforts in the future. Our lost friends we cannot recall, but they have left us the memories of their pure lives and of their love and zeal for the Bible cause; and we cannot doubt that the same God who in His Providence has thought fit to remove these His faithful servants will raise up faithful successors to them, who in their day and generation will prepare to spend and be spent in His service. And now as regards our receipts, let us look back for a moment, as I have suggested, and compare the position of the Upper Canada Bible Society in 1875 with that of the York Auxiliary in 1830. The subscriptions to York Auxiliary during the first year of its existence (1829), amounted to \$529.30, and its issues for the same period 152 Bibles and 390 Testaments. In 1840, when the change took place in the name and constitution of the Auxiliary Society, the total receipts from all sources amounted to \$2,055, and their issues 2,919. Last year, our report showed that from these small beginnings, the income of the Society had swollen to over \$33,000, and the issues had multiplied into 42,240 Bibles and Testaments issued by the Bible Society during the year closed in April, 1874. Now, the report this year will show a deficiency both in our receipts and our issues, but there are circumstances which in some measure account for this falling off, without supposing any lack of zeal or interest in the society's work on the part of our friends, and we all know that the unusual severity of the winter interfered with business of all kinds, and had, doubtless, an unfavourable effect on the society's operations; but it would be a faint heart that, looking back upon what has been done for us in the past, could be discouraged even for a moment. What an incentive have we to renewed zeal and activity in this glorious work, when we see how God by His providence is opening fresh doors for the entrance of the gospel message into every kingdom and nation throughout the world. When I look back even upon the period during which I have filled this chair, just fifteen years to-day, I cannot but marvel at the wonderful way in which the strife of nations, the political changes which have taken place in the various kingdoms of the world, have all fallen out for the furtherance of the gospel, and by degrees, in one country after another, hitherto almost sealed against the admission of the Book of Life, have the barriers been thrown down, and the agents and colporteurs of the Parent Society made good their entrance. True it is that, on the other hand, we have to mourn over the fact that in the very midst of Gospel light and knowledge there are dark spots of rationalism and unbelief, and it is inexpressibly sad to know that even in some of those grand old Universities in Old England, which for generations past have done so much for the formation of sound learning and true piety, there are now too many to be found who look upon the precious teaching of the Book of Life as carrying no authority with it, or reject all its statements which they in their pride of intellect cannot reconcile with their own preconceived notions and finite reason. It may be that in His infinite wisdom, and for a trial of our faith, God may see fit in these latter days to let the scoffers prevail for a time, and the way of truth to be evil spoken of. But what believer has any fear for the great issue? What Christian who knows his Bible but feels assured of the ultimate triumph of God's truth over every form of error by which that truth has been assailed? And who that

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