

A dispensation of the Word of God has been committed unto us—the time is short, there is much to be done, the field is the world; on every hand the doors are opening for the reception of the truth. The Lord's command, as well as the example of Christian fathers and brethren in the parent and sister Bible Societies, should animate us, and the promised presence of the Saviour, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world," should cheer and stimulate us to greater zeal and effort in the dissemination of the Holy Scriptures.

To many the present appears as a critical moment—the churches of the reformation in our Dominion have reached a crisis in their history, but while some are fearful, and are noting with serious apprehension the encroachments of ecclesiastical claims upon civil liberty, those who implicitly trust in the promises as revealed in the Word, while using every energy in defending the principle of religious liberty, calmly look for the gradual unfolding of the eternal purposes of God. One of these purposes is the drawing together of the evangelical churches in a closer bond of common sympathy and action, as foreshadowed by our Saviour's prayer, "That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us, that the world may believe that Thou has sent Me."

For the accomplishment of this great work, let the year upon which we are entering be one of more earnest and believing prayer, accompanied by a more steady abiding in Christ; then may we expect that the Word of God, which is the sword of the Spirit, will be mighty in our hands to the discomfiture of every form of opposition.

We are pleased to be able to state that no breach has been made in the directorate by death during the past year. We would, however, refer to the sudden demise of the Rev. Canon O'Meara, LL.D., of Port Hope, as announced in our January *Recorder*. Dr. O'Meara was an old and valued friend of the Bible Society, and rendered important service in the interests of Christianity among the Indians by his translation of the New Testament into the Ojibway language, which is still in circulation.

With regret we would also mention that in consequence of feeble health, Herbert Mortimer, Esq., an old and faithful officer of the Society, has resigned the position of Minute Secretary. Mr. Mortimer still continues a member of the Board, having been nominated as a Vice-President, and we hope soon again to see him at our meetings, and have the benefit of his counsel.

AGENCY AND VISITATION OF BRANCHES.

As in former years, those Branches desiring assistance in conducting their anniversary meetings were visited and addressed by one of the Society's agents.

Several Branches assumed the conduct of their meetings, and with a very few exceptions all have reported successful meetings and liberal contributions to the funds of the Society; and, with a view to economize, we would recommend that more of the stronger Branches should undertake the charge and make their own arrangements for holding their annual meetings, sending out their collectors, etc., etc.

It is very desirable that every Branch should make a report to Toronto at least once a year, if possible before the 31st of March, as our fiscal year closes at that date.

We regret the necessity of repeating that in some few cases communications have not had the attention desired, causing delay in completing

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