

of the Society during the past twelvemonth shew an increase over former years ; nor have there been wanting substantial proofs of the warm interest taken in the Society's work by some Christian friends among us.

Yesterday our Secretary received a letter from one, who has been a life member of the Society for many years, but now lying on a dying bed, informing him that in his will recently made, is a bequest of one thousand dollars to our Society ; and only this morning our Depositary received a legacy of one hundred dollars by a Christian lady who has lately gone to enjoy the eternal bliss which the Book promises.

Let us thank God for these proofs of Christian liberality, and pray that He may so dispose the hearts of many others to imitate their benevolent example.

And now my friends I will not detain you longer, except to express once more, my gratification in being permitted to preside over so large an assemblage of the friends of the Bible, as I see gathered here this evening. Our annual meetings are we trust both edifying and profitable, to all who take an interest in Bible work ; but to those who are more directly concerned in the operation and management of the Society, it is the great event of the year. I am sure I speak the sentiments of all our directors and officers, when I say that the presence and sympathy of such a gathering of Christian friends, as we see collected within the walls of this church this evening, are felt to be a most grateful support and encouragement, and serve to cheer us on to fresh exertions in the cause which you and we alike desire to serve.

There is one other subject to which I desire to allude for a moment and then I shall sit down. Many of you have doubtless seen and read a very interesting little work, now being published under the direction of the Bible Society, and very ably edited by our Secretary, Mr. Gemley, called the *Bible Society Recorder*. Those who have already made themselves acquainted with this little publication, will not I am sure, require any commendations of mine to induce them to continue to take it, but I would strongly urge its claims upon all who are interested in Bible distribution. They will find its pages full of most valuable information as to the progress of the work, not merely in Canada, but, throughout the whole world, and a perusal of the details which it furnishes of the labours of those who go forth bearing the precious seed of the gospel into all lands, cannot fail to be both gratifying and profitable.

My more immediate object, however, in referring to the *Recorder* is this. In the March number there is a very interesting article from the pen, I believe, of our senior honorary Secretary, giving an account of the first organization of a Bible Society in Upper Canada, and in connection with it, allusion is made to a venerable prelate, whose memory I am sure is held in honor by Canadians of all denominations, I mean the late Bishop Strachan. It is stated, that although the Bishop took an active part in the promotion of the first Society, that after the present Bible Society was fully organized, he