

foreigners feel anything but the utmost indifference (except as an object of philosophic curiosity) about the religion of other nations ; and no portion of their national literature is regarded as more tedious or unattractive than that which treats of their theology. The elegant mythologies of Greece and Rome made no proselytes among other nations, and fell hopelessly the moment *they* fell. The Koran of Mahomet has, it is true, been propagated by the sword ; but it has been propagated by nothing else ; and its dominion has been limited to those nations who could not reply to that logic. If the Bible be false, the facility with which it overleaps the otherwise impassible boundaries of race and clime, and domiciliates itself among so many different nations, is assuredly a far more striking and wonderful proof of human ignorance, perverseness, and stupidity, than is afforded in the limited prevalence of even the most abject superstitions ; or, if it really has merits which, though a fable, have enabled it to impose so comprehensively and variously on mankind, wonderful indeed must have been the skill in its composition, so wonderful that even the infidel himself ought never to regard it but with the profoundest reverence, as far too successful and sublime a fabrication to admit a thought of scoff or ridicule. In his last illness, a few days before his death, Sir Walter Scott asked Mr. Lockhart to read to him. Mr. Lockhart inquired what book he would like. " Can you ask," said Sir Walter,—" there is but one ;" and requested him to read a chapter of the Gospel of St. John. When will an equal genius, to whom all the realms of fiction are as familiar as to him, say the like of some professed revelation, originating among a race and associated with a his'ory and a clime as foreign as those connected with the birth place of the Bible from that of the ancestry of Sir Walter Scott ? Can we by any stretch of imagination suppose some Walter Scott of a new race in Australia or South Africa, saying the same of the Vedas or the Koran ?—*Edinburgh Rev.* 2.

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## Canadian and Domestic.

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The Provisional Agency System of the Society, which continues to meet with general approval, and is accompanied with marked success, necessarily demands a larger number of labourers than did that of the Permanent Agency. On this account we have been compelled to request the agents to oblige us by presenting their Reports in a more condensed form than that in which they have heretofore appeared. The compressed Reports herein furnished will, we doubt not, give satisfaction, and be read with interest.

### REPORT OF THE REV. J. G. MANLY.

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

GENTLEMEN,—From May 20th, 1871, till April 2nd, 1872, inclusive, I visited all the Bible Societies, westward from Gananoque to the County of