

the review of another year, again to present to you the record of extension and prosperity. Although the past winter,—during which season most of our Branches are visited,—has been one of unusual severity, militating against the operations of our Agents and colporteurs, yet the results have been fully equal to our anticipations.

OUR FIELD.—The field of our operations includes most of our own Province, and has extended during the past year to Thunder Bay and Byng Inlet, Upper Lakes ; while many villages and settlements in the Province, not heretofore enlisted in the cause of Bible distribution, have been visited by our Agents, and new Branches organised. The number of Branches recently established is 17, making a total of 428. Among them we have special pleasure in including a Society or Branch at Victoria, Vancouver Island, and another at New Westminster, British Columbia. An interesting public meeting in connection with the latter was recently held, a condensed report of which has appeared in the *Bible Society Recorder*. Sixty dollars were remitted from this Branch to be applied in equal proportions to the Parent Society and to the Upper Canada Bible Society. You will learn that a liberal grant is, this year also, recommended to aid in colportage labours in these more distant sections. And we are happy to inform you that through the liberality extended last year, a colporteur, to distribute Bibles and Testaments, has been engaged in the new and interesting Province of Manitoba. In view of a similar agency being employed in British Columbia, correspondence has already been commenced.

AGENCY.—The Board have unabated satisfaction in recording their testimony as to the efficiency of the gentlemen engaged in this arduous and responsible work, and as to the success of their labours during the year just closed. Notwithstanding the unusual severity of last winter—during which period of each year much, perhaps too much, of the visitation has to be undertaken—they have with commendable fidelity accomplished the duty to which they became pledged. The system of a Provisional Agency has now passed through its third year of trial. In no other country has this plan been tried. It is one requiring much wisdom in the selection, and much prudence in its development. Your Board have no reason to regret its adoption. They still consider it to possess peculiar adaptation, especially for a country like ours. It possesses advantages which the permanent system could not furnish,—such as greater variety, a more thorough visitation of each district, and a greater facility for organising new, and for resuscitating old Branches. The actual expenses are less, in view of the aggregate number of Branches visited and work done by each, while the supervision is more thorough, as the agents undertake the visitation of a much more limited field than that which heretofore necessarily had to be assigned the permanent agents. While the aim of the Board has been to procure the services, for short periods, of those who possessed adaptation and ability, together with an interest in the work, they have endeavoured to get a repre-