

BRANCHES AND DEPOTS.

Our Branches, we regret to be forced to say, are not, with one or two exceptions, doing what they might do in the cause of Bible circulation. Some of them are very dead. It is matter of painful astonishment that Christians should suffer such agencies to languish; nor can we easily believe that the Bible is much prized in those localities where there are no attempts to have it spread.

During the year the Rev. T. Henderson and Mr. Skinner, as a deputation from the Society, visited and addressed meetings in connection with the Branches at Picton, Demorestville, Wellington and Milford. They were ably assisted by resident Ministers, and other friends of the Bible. In their Report they write, "it will be gratifying to you to know that the friends of the Society of various Christian Denominations showed us no little kindness, and displayed much zeal in promoting our object."

The Branch at Napanee was also visited, and the deputation (the Rev. F. Dobbs and Mr. J. Paton) held a meeting which was respectably attended—over \$20 were collected in aid of the Society's operations.

The number of copies of the Scripture issued to the Branches and Depots is this year very small. Only 122 Bibles, and 204 Testaments—in all 326 copies. Picton and Napanee received these, except a few Testaments sent to the Portsmouth Depot.

The sum of £77:6:6 has been received for stock, from the Picton, Belleville, Napanee, Wellington, Gananoque, Milford, and Bloomfield Branches, which has considerably reduced their indebtedness to the Society. The other Branches are all in debt to the Society, some of them to a considerable amount, and that for several years.

COLPORTAGE.

The expense of maintaining the Depository efficiently, together with the other necessary current expenses, led your Committee at an early period in the year, to enquire into the financial condition of the Society, when after a careful examination it was found that to continue the Colporteur, would soon involve it in considerable embarrassment; with painful regret it was therefore resolved to limit the expenditure by dispensing for a time with his services. This was all the more painful from the fact, that Mr. McIntosh had discharged his duties with satisfactory fidelity; and that the field still required the culture which only an efficient Colporteur could give it.

Mr. McIntosh was in the work from January to May, during which period he visited several of the more destitute Townships, circulated 196 copies of the Word of God, and sold and distributed a considerable number of the publications of the London Religious Tract Society.

In his reports, he discloses a degree of moral and spiritual destitution, especially in the back Townships truly saddening—but occasionally the