

from the Rev. R. Jamieson, giving account of colportage in British Columbia. A circular was ordered to be sent out to officers of Branches, asking them kindly to give prompt attention to the correspondence of Agents, etc., etc. Gratuities were reported, applications considered, and other routine business attended to, and the meeting closed with prayer, led by the Rev. Dr. Potts.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORT OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

INDIA.

LAHORE.—The most interesting effort made by the Punjab Auxiliary during the past year was unhappily checked by the death of the honoured missionary to whom the carrying out of the plan was entrusted. A thousand copies of the Gospels were sent into Afghanistan by the Rev. G. M. Gordon; but many remained undistributed, in consequence of his death while endeavouring to rescue some wounded men on the day of the fatal sortie from Candahar. The Rev. F. A. P. Shirreff, Acting Secretary of this Auxiliary, states that a distinguished officer bought some hundreds of Scripture portions for gifts upon his marches to those who could read. He reported that the people received him everywhere with delight, and treated him with the greatest respect.

The Rev. R. Clark, who has now returned to Umritsur, has resumed his position in connection with the Punjab Society. He writes under date Feb. 9 as follows:—

"I have just received your letter of January to Mr. Shirreff. I am glad to be able to answer it myself, as Secretary of the Punjab Branch of your Society. I have been very ill; but God has been very merciful to me, and has permitted me to return to the work in this land which I love; a work, I am thankful to say, which continues to prosper. Vernacular Scriptures were sold last year to the amount of 1,688, and many copies find their way to Afghanistan.

ALLAHABAD.—The Allahabad Committee first note with renewed thankfulness to Almighty God the marked interest that still prevails on the part of the peasant population of Northern India for the Scriptures in Hindi. From whatever cause this demand may arise, they feel assured that God's Word, which is finding an entrance into so many homes, will not return to Him void, but will accomplish that whereunto He is sending it.

CHANGES FOR THE BETTER.

The colportage work of the Society has been steadily continued. An opportunity presented itself during the year of visiting and examining many of the colporteurs, and the result has been satisfactory. In one large town of Northern India it was found that the colporteur was welcomed by leading Hindu merchants, and invited to take his seat in their shops. Where little more than twenty years ago all who bore the name of Christian were either massacred or for a season driven out by Hindu and Mohammedan in the terrible days of '57, the colporteur formed the centre of groups of the descendants of these same men, listening with marked interest as they heard him read of and dwell upon the Christ who then seemed so powerless to aid His servants. *As one looked on, the thought rose at once to the lips, "Ask of Me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance."*

From the report of another colportage centre, a missionary tells how in his interesting tour during the last cold weather he found himself welcomed on new ground, and that his message was not quite new. His pioneer had been