

## ABSTRACT OF THE FIFTY-THIRD REPORT, 1857.

year amount to 4677*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* The sum of 710*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* has been remitted as a Free Contribution, and 2207*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.* paid for the purchase of Scriptures.

**CANADA EAST. — MONTREAL. —** The French-Canadian Missionary Society have applied for a grant of 650 Bibles and Testaments, to be circulated amongst Roman Catholics.

The issues for the past twelvemonths have been very considerable, amounting to 5705 Bibles, 6149 Testaments, and 116 portions, or a total of 12,015 copies. This circulation is greater than any previous year, except 1854, and makes the entire issues, since the period of the Society's organization, 200,005 copies.

**NOVA SCOTIA. — HALIFAX. —** The Auxiliary has ordered 3812 copies, and remitted as a Free Contribution, 100*l.*, and for purchase of Scriptures, 200*l.*

**DOMESTIC. — FUNDS. —** The entire receipts of the year have reached the unprecedented amount of 138,749*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.* It will be seen, however, that this amount includes the sum of 993*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.* added to the Chinese-Testament Fund during the year. The receipts of the year therefore, from ordinary sources, are 137,756*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*, being an advance on the previous year of 9031*l.* 4*s.* 10*d.*

The sum applicable to the **GENERAL PURPOSES** of the Society is 68,381*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.* viz.—

Free Contributions from	£	s.	d.
Auxiliary Societies	43,934	11	1
Legacies - - -	11,394	12	5
Donations - - -	7868	14	5
Annual Subscriptions	2579	16	3
Dividends - - -	2436	19	0
Collections - - -	167	2	1

The **EXPENDITURE** of the Society has amounted to 138,985*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* being an increase in the total net payments of 4172*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*

**ISSUES. —** The circulation from April 1, 1856, to March 31, 1857, has reached ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTY-EIGHT COPIES.

The increase of circulation, as compared with last year, amounts 43,464 copies.

The **TOTAL ISSUES** of the Society now amounts to THIRTY-TWO MILLIONS, THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-NINE COPIES.

The **ENGAGEMENTS** of the Society amount to 73,000*l.*, including 12,000*l.* for Bibles and Testaments preparing in this country.

The **DOMESTIC AGENTS** report the number of local Societies, in England and Wales, to be as follows—

Auxiliary Societies	-	512
Branch ditto - - -	-	393
Bible Associations - - -	-	2560

Total - - - 3465

**COLPORTAGE. —** In connection with the colportage of last year, so far as under the superintendence of your own immediate Agents, there were not fewer than 250,000 direct personal applications, in which the Scriptures were offered for sale, and 60,154 copies were actually disposed of.

The **MANCHESTER CITY MISSION** has received a ninth grant of 1000 copies of the New Testament and Psalms to be employed by the Agents for loan purposes.

**SCOTLAND. —** The Committee are indebted to the kind offices of the Rev. W. Swan, who investigates, by correspondence or otherwise, the applications that are received, and in accordance with his suggestion or approval grants have been made during the past year to the extent of 3199 copies in English and Gaelic, and other languages.

**IRELAND. —** The total issues of the Hibernian Bible Society for the year amount to 95,155 copies.

The Sunday-School Society for Ireland has as usual participated in the liberal aid of your Society. To this most valuable Institution grants have been made to the extent of 34,000 Bibles and Testaments. An additional supply of 8300 copies has been voted on Purchase Account.

**CONCLUSION. —** The Report of this day is one which your Committee cannot present without emotions of holy joy. The unprecedented success which has been realized both at home and abroad, demands from every friend of the Society a fitting tribute of praise to God, who still so richly honours the instrumentality employed for the promotion of His truth, and the advancement of His glory in the world. And let His name be praised for the operations and results of another year; for the new and promising spheres of labour entered upon—the increasing desire so generally manifest for the possession of the Scriptures—the enlarged income placed at the disposal of the Committee, the circulation effected, surpassing that of any former period—the zeal and attachment which have borne the Society forwards in its mission of mercy. It goes forth in devout reliance upon the Eternal Spirit, by whose inspiration all Scripture has been imparted, and resting with unflinching confidence upon the infallible truth of that promise, which is as fresh, beautiful, and appropriate this day as ever, "My word that goeth forth out of my mouth shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."