

me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereunto I sent."

Mr. Robert Gausby, Secretary, then presented his report as follows :

In appearing before you with this, the Fortieth Annual Report, your Committee feel that it is time for special thankfulness to Him who has blessed the Society in its work through the past years of its existence.

During the forty years which have elapsed since the presentation of the first report, what changes have taken place ! Some yet in our midst can remember it, but many are absent now of those who were present then and participated in the joy which filled all hearts, because God had accepted the work begun in His name, and vouchsafed such blessings as to encourage those who had devoted themselves to it to persevere in their labour of love. But although many of these are gone to higher and nobler service than even this, and the place which once knew them now knows them no more, the work they commenced has not slackened, but has been carried on with God's help, and the Guelph Branch Bible Society, now forty years old, after all the varying vicissitudes through which it may have passed, is still going on increasing in strength as the years roll by, and can report to-day that the Lord is yet owning and crowning with success its efforts to help in disseminating that Word which maketh wise unto salvation.

This year the suburban meetings, though in one or two instances they were from force of circumstances omitted, have had a fair measure of success, and interest in the Society's work has been fully sustained. How far the appeals of the collectors both in town and country have been responded to, the Treasurer's statement will reveal. One interesting incident connected with the suburban meetings should not remain unnoticed. At the meeting at Scotch Block a box was handed in containing \$6 09, chiefly in coppers, collected and contributed by the scholars in the Marden Sunday School. It is surely an example worthy of imitation, that those who enjoy the advantage of studying the Scriptures in the Sunday School should seek to do what they can to scatter the Book amongst those who have not the same opportunities.

The meeting was also addressed by the Rev. Messrs. Wardrope, Maxwell, Kilgour, Torrance, Hogg, and Howie, and by William Heather, Esq.

HAMILTON.—The Thirty-seventh Annual Meeting of this Branch was held on the evening of the 7th of January, in Knox Church, which was crowded. The Chair was taken by James Watson, Esq., who was afterwards elected President in the place of the late Tristram Bickle, Esq. After the Report had been read by the Rev. Henry Sanders, Corresponding Secretary, the meeting was addressed by the Revs. Wm. Stevenson, J. B. Richardson, the Bishop of Niagara, and James C. Smith. We have been told by an old friend of the Society who has lately moved to Hamilton, that the speeches were particularly good, and the newspaper says they were marked by eloquence and practical knowledge, but unfortunately does not report them, or we should have been glad to give our readers some extracts. We cull from the report the following just tributes to the memories of two of the officers of the Branch, whose deaths are regretted by many outside their own city.

1. With local operations.—Since the last annual meeting, two of our office-bearers have been removed by death. They were old, tried and honourable members of the Society, and the Committee record with sorrow the great loss they have sustained in being deprived of the sympathy, counsel and hearty support which they had always received from our deceased friends. The first to receive the call "go up higher" was our late venerable President, Tristram Bickle, Esq., who entered into rest on the 23rd of April, 1875, at the age of seventy-four. He was for many years the senior Vice-President of the Society, having been elected to that office in 1839. In the year 1856 he was chosen President, and he worthily filled this office for nineteen years, till summoned from his earthly labours. He loved the Word of God. It was the joy of his own heart, and his earnest desire was that all men should listen to its teachings, cherish its holy principles, and rejoice in its blessings, and he gave