

The total cost of Colportage during the year has been \$1,860, being \$640 more than in the preceding twelve months. \$150 of this, as above shown, was spent in British Columbia.

The Directors would ask all Christians to pray that God will abundantly bless the copies of His Word thus scattered over our land by the persevering labours of the Society's colporteurs.

#### SISTER SOCIETIES.

A very full account was given in the March number of the *Recorder* of the operations of the New Brunswick Bible Society. We have since heard from Montreal and Quebec, but we regret that our Kingston, Ottawa and Nova Scotia friends have forgotten to send us the usual account of their welfare. The Committee of the Montreal Society regret that "the tone of their Report had to be pitched in the minor key," as the wonted prosperity of the Auxiliary had received a check through "the almost unprecedented commercial depression and confusion which had for many months prevailed." Their receipts in 1875 were \$2,200, and their issues 1,200 copies, less than in 1874; but in the Reports of their Agent and of the Bible women working in connection with them, there is much to cheer and to give reason for hope that in the present year they will more than recover their former standing. The Bible women especially speak of the encouraging increase in the demand for the Scriptures among our French-speaking fellow-countrymen, through the successful ministry of the Rev. Mr. Chiniquy. The report of the Quebec auxiliary has not yet come to hand, but in a letter received a few days ago, Mr. Lamb, the Secretary, says, in reference to the help given by this Society to their colportage: "We feel deeply grateful for these annual grants, not alone because they are so necessary to enable us to prosecute our work, but also because they prove that we have your sympathy and prayers." The French Canadian Missionary Society, although not a Bible Society, is doing much in this great work of placing the pure Word of God in the hands and recommending it to the hearts of our fellow-countrymen, and is more and more withdrawing from other work in order to give its chief energies to colportage.

It was natural to expect that our co-worker, the American Bible Society, would feel the almost universal depression in business affairs, and so we find it: for the total income of their fiscal year just closed is \$527,198, which is \$50,371 less than in the preceding twelve months, and \$220,000 less than their annual receipts six years ago. But we are glad to note that this annual decrease is lessening, and so we trust the ebb tide is nearly over with our friends, and that an abundance will soon begin to flow into their treasury, where we know it will be so well used. The issues of the American Society also show a decrease, being 684,428 copies, compared with 726,683 in the year before. But this number does not include those issued in foreign lands, of which part of their work we have not yet seen any Report, but we hope that perhaps it will show more marked spiritual blessings to be manifest in many parts of the wide-spread field of this great Society than sometimes when money is more plentiful.