

named as such in the letter before us. For when urging the want of Scripture authority for calling an incorporation of churches *a church*; civil and political church organizations did not happen to be the evil then contemplated, but one much nearer home; see Art. III. of the constitution of the "*Regular Baptist Denomination in Canada*," in which the churches viewed collectively, are called the "*Regular Baptist Church*." This was the type of evil intended to be "*rebuked*," and not the friend who thinks he was intended. Indeed, to rebuke him would, in the judgment of the writer, be a palpable violation of Scripture; for, if he is not an "*Elder*" who must not be rebuked, but simply "*admonished as a brother*," it will certainly be exceedingly difficult to find any such Elder in our day.

COLPORTAGE IN CANADA.

This important department of Christian labour is happily beginning to attract a large share of public attention. Religious Bodies generally seem inclined to look favorably upon the work, while a few of them have entered into it with spirit. In the minutes of a recent meeting of the Presbytery of London, as published in the *Missionary Record* for October, we find the following paragraph:—

"The quarterly report on the work of Colportage was given in, from which it appeared, that there had been obtained from the American Presbyterian Board and other publishing establishments, books to the value of £694 15s. 11d.; that there had been sold of these, books to the value of £247 11s.; that there had been engaged in the sale of these—some for a longer and others for a shorter period—five Colporteurs, whose salaries, at the rate of £52 a-year, each, and necessary travelling expenses, amounted, altogether, to £72 4s. 9d.; and that discount allowed by publishers on the quantity of books sold, with freight and charges deducted, amounted to £49 10s. 2d., which, being subtracted from the sum of expenses, leaves deficit to be paid from the Presbytery's fund, of £22 14s 7d."

It is thus seen that the members of the Presbytery of London have done well, still the deficit of £22 14s. 7d. must be a drag upon their movements, as upon their present plan of procedure, they will be obliged to take into the account a constant drawback of some 9 per cent on the whole value of all their sales; and as the more they sell the greater will be the charge upon the Presbytery's fund, they will be under the necessity of keeping their transactions within the limits of the ability of that fund to meet the constant deficit.

As the Presbytery of London, and other Bodies similarly engaged, must be pleased to know that Colportage can be rendered self-supporting; their attention is called to the following Report, presented by the Superintendent of Colportage of the Canada Baptist Union, at its recent meeting in Toronto.

To the Canada Baptist Union, as represented in Toronto, September 26th, 1855:

BRETHREN,—

Your Superintendent of Colportage, anxious to pre-

sent in this, his first Report, a full and correct view of the capabilities of the simple machinery of our Colportage scheme, as embraced in the constitution of the Union, craves the privilege of being allowed here to sketch an outline of the conception and gradual developement of the plan of present operations.

Having, more than twenty years ago, been deeply impressed with the overwhelming evils growing out of the divisions which distract the Christian church; the purpose was then formed of some day publishing in Canada, a journal, the conceptions of which now find an embodiment in the "*Gospel Tribune*." The work so early planned could not be entered upon with propriety, till a personal acquaintance had been formed with the various aspects of denominational religion—the manner in which the different sects were connected together—the extent to which they were prepared for mutual co-operation, and the points where their divergences appeared.

The knowledge thus conceived to be necessary to the successful management of an alliance journal was neither to be acquired in a day, nor in any one locality. Travel became necessary, which was met in part by an occasional change of residence—more fully by traversing Canada preaching and lecturing, publicly and privately, from city to hamlet, in behalf of temperance and religion. Still, however, the end sought was not fully attained; details much more minute were felt to be necessary, and which, it was considered, could be most efficiently reached by devoting a few years to colportage labour; and inasmuch as an opinion had long been cherished, that this important branch of Christian enterprise could be rendered self-supporting; it was determined to test the soundness of the conception practically, while gathering the desired knowledge of denominationalisms. Accordingly all the requisite arrangements having been made, the work was entered upon in May, 1851; and while the work was found to be all that was anticipated, in relation to its facilities for affording the careful observer an accurate knowledge of the minute details of the workings of denominational peculiarities; it was also found to afford the most satisfactory proof that the work itself is susceptible of being so conducted as to render it in the fullest sense perfectly *self-supporting*. Since entering upon the work in May 1851, the cash sales, in the four years and four months which have transpired, have amounted to the sum of \$18,424, which gives a rate of \$4,174 per annum, equal to £1046 currency. The volumes thus sold, make in the aggregate a mass of moral, religious and Scripture reading equal to 12,725,190 pages of the average tract size, in addition to this quantity sold, 120,000 pages have been distributed gratuitously, the cash value of which is \$300, making the entire value of the works distributed \$18,724, (£4,681) and the whole number of pages 12,845,190. Enough to furnish about 12 pages of profitable reading to every man woman and child in Canada West; or 60 pages to every family. This