

that in such a time of continued stringency the receipts of the Society from ordinary sources shew an actual increase of \$1,025. The bequests received during the past year were \$40 from the late John Thom, Esq., who was for several years a Director of the Society, and always a very liberal contributor to its funds; \$1,000 from the late James Cerswell, Esq., of Tecumseh; \$40 from the late John Munro, Esq., of Grafton, and \$50 from the late Miss T. Galbraith, of Princeton.

The Directors are glad to report that the issues of the Society in the year have amounted to 38,769 copies, being 595 more than in the preceding twelve months. This is a very slight increase; but there can be little doubt that it would have been larger had more prosperous times set in. The Colporteurs' reports have almost uniformly shewn that there has been a great demand for Bibles; but at the same time an almost unparalleled scarcity of money among the people. Special attention has been given to Colportage, the number of copies circulated through this channel is much larger, and the work in some parts, especially in Manitoba, has been both interesting and encouraging. More will be said of this hereafter (see page 5). The total number of copies of the Scriptures issued by the Society since its formation is 1,049,486.

AUXILIARY AND BRANCHES.

In the report adopted at the last annual meeting, the Board of Directors was recommended to take into its careful consideration the relationship existing between the Society and its London Auxiliary. The working of the Auxiliary from the time of its formation has been examined, a deputation of the Directors has visited London to discuss the matter with the Committee there, one from London has advocated its views at a meeting of the Board, and there has been a lengthy correspondence which was published in full in the November *Recorder*. There has been no difference of opinion as to the need of some change. The committee of the Auxiliary have asked for extended powers and entire control, which would practically lead to the complete severance of the five counties from the rest of the Society's field. The Directors, after carefully considering all the communications of the London Committee and weighing the arguments advanced by the deputation, have been unable to come to any other conclusion than that at which they had unanimously arrived in July, viz; that the Auxiliary system had failed at London as it had at Kingston; and that the proposed reorganization and the extension of the powers of the London Committee would only have the effect of still further increasing an expense, which was already quite disproportionate to the amount of real Bible work accomplished by the Auxiliary. Under these circumstances the Directors felt that they could not remain responsible for the continuance of a system which absorbed a considerable amount of money intended to go as directly as possible to help in the circulation of God's Word. Having communicated the facts to the Branches in the Auxiliary's field, and having received answers which gave good reason to believe that the large majority of the friends of the cause in that section of the Province endorsed the judgment of the Directors, the Board has rescinded the resolution of August, 1864, by which the Auxiliary was created, and has requested the Branches to resume direct connexion with the Upper Canada Bible Society after the close of the Auxiliary's current year on the 31st of August next.

The Directors regret to have to report that the London Committee has taken upon itself to send a circular to the Branches in that part of the Society's field to induce them to sever themselves from the bulk of the Province and form a separate Society. The amount of injury that this may inflict upon the good cause it is difficult at present to estimate; but it is hoped that they will, before very long, recognise the desire of the people for unity and economy, and withdraw from the position they have taken.

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