

able absence of the Clerical Secretary, who had been called to suffer the loss of one of his dear children. It was held in the Central Presbyterian Church, which then had no pastor. But the subscriptions of this vigorous Society were reported as being in advance of last year. On Tuesday I returned to Toronto, to attend the regular meeting of the Board. Having been invited to meet Mr. Ball, the Agent at Brantford, I found my way there, the next day, and had the pleasure of taking part in a most enthusiastic anniversary in the Wesleyan Church, which was well filled. Collection at meeting over \$300.00. Free contributions in all about \$1250.00. This Branch is chief among the chiefest. I endeavoured to get to Cobourg, to meet the Agent, the Rev. Mr. Manly, at the meeting there, next day. I started in good season, but detentions by the way prevented me from getting there in time. I learned with much pleasure that the meeting had been one of great interest. On the 11th and 12th, I took part with Mr. Manly in the St. Catharines anniversary. We each preached twice on the Sabbath in Presbyterian and Methodist Churches, and, together with the ministers of the town, participated in an excellent meeting in the Wesleyan Church on the Monday. On Sunday, the 25th February, I preached, in the morning, in the Presbyterian Church, Richmond Hill; and, in the evening, in the Wesleyan Church, Thornhill—on each occasion taking up a collection in behalf of the Society. The annual meeting in Richmond Hill was held in the Presbyterian Church. The attendance was large, and the proceeds in advance. At Laskey, on Tuesday evening, we had a very good meeting, with increased returns. Wednesday, the 28th, found me at Markham. The meeting was in the large Wesleyan Church; but the house felt—that is, we felt—that the night was terribly cold. This was a misfortune; but there are many warm friends of the Society here. At Uxbridge, on Thursday, we had a good meeting, excellent singing, and large contributions—in excess of last year. Stouffville meeting was held on Friday, March the 1st, in the Congregational Church, and was good in its spirit, and satisfactory in its results. Sunday and Monday, March 3rd and 4th, I was at York. Special services in progress here were a benefit to the Bible cause, resulting in an addition to last year's income. The Etobicoke North Branch held its meeting in the Methodist Church, Islington, and was fully equal to the excellent anniversary of last year. The Etobicoke South meeting took place the next evening, in the Primitive Methodist Church, St. Andrews. The attendance was fair. The officers of this Branch are earnest in its support. I am indebted to the Rev. Manly Benson for attending the annual meeting of the Scarborough Branch, on the 22nd. His visit was much valued. This is one of our very best rural branches. I attended, by invitation, the anniversary of the London Auxiliary. It was held in St. Andrew's Church, London. Heretofore it has been held in the City Hall. The much desired change was an improvement in every sense. The Right Rev. Bishop Hellmuth, the President, was in the chair. My last meeting for the year was at Weston. On Sunday, the 31st March, I drove out in a pitiless rain storm, and preached to what was a good congregation for such a day. The meeting, next evening, was satisfactory in proceeds, and in attendance. The net increase on the preceding year on the foregoing Branches—excluding those to which I was only a visitor—is nearly 30 per cent.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours very faithfully,

JOHN GEMLEY,

Secretary.

Toronto, Jan. 15, 1873.

BIBLE BURNING IN ONTARIO.

Is it the first time? In answering this question, we may say, the follow-