

publicity to the principles and operations, the more fully they are known, the more the sympathy and co-operation

is the salvation of souls. Two bases of its operations: 1st. Multitude of knowledge, living in ignorance of the one thing needful. 2nd. The Spirit of God, made effectual by tracts, the works of Baxter and John Angel James, Newman and others. These authors have been instrumental in comforting and edifying God's people. These facts Christians of the various ages, united by love, unite for the purpose of spreading the truths of the Gospel.

When they are actuated. Of the work by members of the Society, never returned either in principal or in the objects of the Society by the sale of books. Books are sold, but at a small price. Dollars are expended annually in the benevolent system of colportage, to the remotest and poorest families in the world. From the sales, are all expended in benevolent schemes. A common sense of God's people and His cause, to the glory of God, makes men free, is the grand object of the Society.

Men are employed—men of faith, willing to endure toil and hardship, by the spirit and providence of God calls them. They are sent to visit the poor and needy at what cost and bear to them the message of good everywhere, and to all entering broadcast the leaves of the Gospel, supplying every family, by sale of which they are freighted.

On an extended scale, the Society

seek to enlist Christians in the work of *voluntary* distribution of tracts and periodicals. Hundreds co-operate thus with the Society, in their respective neighbourhoods, and in connection with Sabbath Schools. Tens of thousands of tracts and cheap periodicals, full of gospel truth, are in this way put into circulation, by active, loving followers of Jesus, for no reward but that which the humblest service to the Master will bring sooner or later.

The work of this Society is thus a soul-saving work. It is, in a humbler sphere, the same in spirit, in aim, in object, with that of the ordained ministry. The great ends of the work of the ministry are promoted by the wide circulation of the word of God, and the truth in the printed page—by the distribution of tracts on Temperance, on the Sabbath, and on Systematic Giving,—enlightening the minds of the masses on the doctrines and duties of the Bible, enlisting and training workers for Christ, and helping Christians in their course heavenward.

The Committee desire to call attention to the facts of colportage, so far as they can be here recorded in statistics, and in the brief narratives given from reports of the labourers of what they are permitted to see of the results of their work. Besides their ordinary visitation of families, among whom such a large amount of religious publications were distributed, including about 28,000 Bibles and Testaments, souls have been awakened and led to Christ, Sabbath Schools organized in destitute places, prayer meetings held, hundreds of Roman Catholic families visited, who almost universally received the Colporteur kindly, many of them purchasing the Word of God and one or more good books.

Let the fact also be noted that while only \$1,820.74 were received for colportage in Nova Scotia, Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island, the sum of \$6,430.39 was expended in this work; and grants of Bibles, books and tracts, were made to the needy, to the value of \$974.17. Unless more liberal donations are received for these objects in future, the work must be considerably decreased, and several good men will be prevented from going forward in it.

Twenty-five Colporteurs were employed during the past year,—the whole or part of their time. The aggregate time of their service amounts to 14 years, 3 months and 4 days. They travelled 25,711 miles, and visited 31,610 families. They held conversation on personal religion, read the Scriptures or prayed with 16,096 families, and took part in or conducted 1,126 prayer meetings; 419 Protestant