

In introducing the business of the meeting, the Honourable Chairman said :—

I shall avail myself of the usual privilege accorded to the Chairman, of addressing a few words to you, before calling upon the Secretary to read the Annual Report. And in doing so, I would take the opportunity of expressing my continued interest and sympathy in the operations both of our own and the great Parent Institution, and also my strong sense of the honour—which I deem it to be—of being privileged to preside over a Society which has so glorious a mission as that of circulating far and wide the blessed Word of God; not only throughout our own country, but over all the face of the earth, wherever there are souls to be won to the love of Christ and the knowledge of His salvation.

The Report—presently to be submitted to you—will shew that the Society's income, for the year ending the 31st of March, 1871, is \$29,533 as against \$24,535 for the corresponding period in 1870, shewing an increase in favour of 1871 of \$4998. It is but right to say, however, that in the statement for 1871 is included a legacy of \$1,000 of the late John McCulloch, Esq., of Niagara, as well as two other smaller bequests of \$50 and \$22, an anonymous gift of \$100, and a life member's subscription of \$100; but even after deducting these sums, the improvement in our finances is such as to warrant us in concluding that an increasing interest is felt by our people in the Society's work and operations.

Although the present system of agency did not come into full operation until the month of October last, yet the large increase in the amount of funds collected, arising from the formation of many new branches, and the stirring up of old established ones to greater zeal and liberality, has been effected at a diminished expense to the Society as compared with former years; and I may safely aver, that to the zeal and energy of the several gentlemen who have been acting as our agents, including our indefatigable Secretary, Mr. Gemley, who has taken a large share of this work in addition to his duties as Secretary, are these favourable results under God's blessing mainly to be attributed.

In connexion with this subject I desire to mention the great liberality displayed by one of our branches, that of Brantford, which sent us no less a sum than a \$1000 free contribution to the Parent Society, and \$100 to the Upper Canada Bible Society! Such a cheering example