

## THE BOOK DEPARTMENT.

In the opinion of your Board there is as much need of Baptist literature in our Sunday-Schools as there is of Baptist preaching in our churches. There would be as much propriety in securing for our pulpits ministers who systematically avoid any reference to our distinctive doctrines, as there is in obtaining books the teachings of which are guided by that principle. The introduction of such books into our Sunday Schools is a concession to other denominations that is operating disastrously against our own interests.

During the past year your Board have distributed upwards of 1540 volumes of such literature as we could heartily recommend. About 13,800 pages of religious and temperance tracts were also gratuitously circulated. The cost of these books and tracts did not exceed \$600.00; whilst the receipts arising from volumes sold amounted to \$630.00. The balance of books on hand may be estimated at about \$200.00 in value. It gives us much satisfaction to state that during the past four years more than \$3,600.00 worth of wholesome Baptist literature has been spread abroad throughout our land by means of our Book Department. In order to lessen the expense of this department it was thought desirable to dispense with the services of colporteurs. Dr. Day has, without any remuneration, and at the cost of much labor, received the books into his own house, unpacked them, re-packed and forwarded them according to order. This has materially lessened our expenditures; and, as a result, the Book Department is not only wholly self-sustained, but it is of some financial advantage to the Home Mission treasury.

Your Board earnestly recommend the immediate establishment of a Book Room for the benefit of the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces. It will be for the wisdom of our denomination to decide upon the location of such a Room, and upon the most practicable method of conducting and superintending its business arrangements.

## FINANCES.

The present condition of our treasury is very satisfactory. The heavy debt of \$3457.44 which encumbered your Board at the beginning of the year has been gradually paid off; and at this date there are funds in hand not only to entirely liquidate that debt, but also to meet all our liabilities up to the present moment, leaving a considerable balance in our favor. This balance will be largely increased by the contributions from the Eastern and P. E. Island Associations. Your Board is thus in a position to commit to the care of their successors the important interests connected with this enterprise, free from all encumbrances and embarrassments.

The total amount of receipts may, at first sight, seem to compare very unfavorably with that of the preceding year. When it is borne in mind, however, that most of our missionaries have received subsidies during the past year, and that under such