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#### A NEW BUILDING.

With the New Year we wish for all the members of our Society individually all the good wishes of the season, and for our Society as a corporation we, of course, wish that the New Year may be one of marked growth in strength and increased usefulness. But our particular wish for the Society just now is that it may soon have a new building for its home. Not that we are carried away with a desire for ostentation in bricks and mortar, for we know that the true home and stronghold of the Society is in the confidence and affection of a Bible-loving people. But a new building or very extensive repairs will before long be an absolute necessity, and if the matter is left until one of these alternatives becomes an immediate necessity, the funds will have to be provided in some way, either as rent or interest, out of the ordinary income of the Society. The Directors are very anxious to avoid this if possible, and have therefore decided to appeal to the Christian public for subscriptions to a Special Fund to enable them to erect a building suitable for the purpose for which it is required. In making this appeal the Boards of the two Societies—for our friends will remember that in this matter we are joint owners and occupants with the Tract Society—are looking especially to the people of Toronto, who, they expect, will subscribe the greater part of the Building Fund; but they will be both gratified and grateful to receive donations from Branches or individuals who may wish to share the pleasure and honour of providing a home for these grand catholic Societies for many years to come. They are anxious, however, that such donations should not decrease the free contributions of any Branch or member to the ordinary income of the Society for its direct work of circulating the Word of God.

It may be interesting to many of our friends to know the past history of the Society as regards the premises it has at different times occupied.

The York Bible Society was organized at a meeting held on 3rd November, 1828, and Mr. E. Henderson, Jun., was appointed Depositary for the sale of Scriptures. Mr. Henderson, we believe, carried on a general business, and simply gave room for such small stock of Bibles and Testaments as was considered sufficient for the needs of the then town of York and vicinity; exactly as is now done in the numerous local depositories of the Society throughout the Province. His shop was situated on King Street; but we have not been able to ascertain its exact position.

A little more than three years after this date, the Upper Canada Book and Tract Society was organized (10th January, 1832), and Mr. Henderson, having meantime resigned the Depositaryship of the Bible Society, the two Societies came to an agreement and appointed Mr. Robert Cathcart as Depositary for both. Mr. Cathcart's place of business was at 147 King Street (there was no King Street East and King Street West in those days), at the corner of the old Post-Office lane, more recently known as Leader Lane, in fact in the building very recently vacated by Messrs. George Harcourt & Sons. The stocks of both Societies were comparatively small, and were simply given shelf-room in Mr. Cathcart's shop, along with his own goods, which were chiefly dry-goods. The present worthy Treasurer of the Upper Canada Bible Society, the Hon. William McMaster, was for a time in Mr. Cathcart's employment, and from that early date commences his intimate connection with the Bible Society, first as Minute Secretary, and afterwards as Vice-President and Treasurer, which has continued with so much advantage to the Society until the present time.

The business of both Societies continued to increase, however, and when Mr. Cathcart in May, 1839, resigned the Depositaryship, the Societies resolved to rent suitable premises and engage some person to give his whole time to the business. Premises were accordingly rented at No. 23, afterwards No. 47, Yonge Street, only a few doors south of the present premises, and Mr. James Carless was appointed Depositary. These premises were occupied by the Societies for fourteen years, but Mr. Carless continued in the Societies' service for nearly thirty years.

In 1852, the lease of the premises then occupied being about to expire, and a largely increased rent asked for any renewed lease—the business of the Societies, moreover, having greatly increased—it was resolved to purchase the premises now occupied, which were for sale, and refit them for the use of the Societies. The amount paid for the building was £750, which was at first borrowed; and in December of the same year an appeal for contributions was made by circular “to the friends of the Upper Canada Bible Society and the officers and committees connected with its various Branches,” setting forth the need that had existed for enlarged premises, the favourable bargain they had been able to conclude, and the fact that Mr. Jesse Ketchum, who was the owner of the ground on which the building stood, had agreed to grant a long lease at a very low rent. The Societies, at the next meeting of Parliament, obtained Acts of Incorporation.

poration, enabling them legally to hold property to a limited annual value.

The property thus bought then formed two shops, both in occupation of tenants; and the Societies got possession of one half of the premises in 1853, but were not in full possession until the year following. The building itself cost £750, but alterations and repairs cost £505 11s. 2d. additional, making a total of £1255 11s. 2d., or say \$5022.24, jointly borne by the two Societies. At the Annual Meeting of the Bible Society, held 2nd May, 1855, the Treasurer reported contributions received to date on Building Fund account as £303.8.11, or not quite half of the Bible Society's proportion of the expense; but in three more years the indebtedness was entirely met by special donations or otherwise.

Mr. Ketchum gave the Societies a perpetual lease of the ground at a very moderate rent, to be paid in Bibles and books to be distributed in the public schools of the city.

In the Annual Report for the year ending March 31st, 1869, appears the following:—"The growing business of the Societies having rendered it necessary to extend the premises, the work was executed last summer, under the direction of a joint committee of the Bible and Tract Societies." In the Treasurer's statement for the same year \$1278.82 is charged as the proportion paid by the Bible Society for these improvements. The Societies were enabled to meet this expenditure by the handsome bequest of \$1,000 to each Society received shortly before from the executors of the late Mr. George Michie.

For some years back the Joint Committee on the care of the premises have from time to time reported to the Boards of the two Societies the serious need the building was in of considerable repairs. But as the Directors of both Societies felt the pressing need of all the funds at their disposal for the immediate wants of their respective work in the field committed to them, the Committee on Premises have had to be satisfied with the smallest possible amount of repairs being done. At last about two years ago this Committee submitted a report suggesting that an appeal should be made to the public for special funds to erect a new building. We do not know what kind of reception it got at the Tract Society Board; but at our Board certain ministerial brethren exclaimed "the churches are all in debt," and imagining that such an appeal from these Societies would help to keep the churches in debt, they managed to table the report in a very short time. Even if it should have this dreaded effect, we do not think it ought to be regarded as a valid reason for Christian men to withhold means so much needed by a Society to which all Protestant Churches are so much indebted, and upon which all their missionaries are so dependent. But we do not believe the erection of this building will delay the liquidation of one church debt for a single year or even a month. A few months later one of these gentlemen, coming in to the Secretary's office, found the water streaming down the sides, and learning something more of the real state of the building, wheeled around handsomely and promised to support the report of the Committee if it was brought before the Board again. The report was again brought up for reconsideration,

and was unanimously adopted. A large Joint Committee for Building was appointed, with instructions to get designs and plans from architects. Several were submitted, and the choice of the Committee, afterwards adopted by the two Boards, fell on the design furnished by Messrs. Gordon & Helliwell. The design for the front elevation and the plans for the internal arrangement of the Depositories, offices, etc., have been carefully considered; but the Directors, of course, do not wish to ask for careful specifications and tenders until they are in a position to sign contracts. We earnestly hope that the necessary funds will be liberally, cheerfully and promptly subscribed as an expression of the appreciation in which the Society is held.

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### CHILDREN'S MEETINGS.

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The unmistakable success which attended the special children's meetings in most of the places in which they were held last year decided the Board of Directors to continue, and, if possible, extend the experiment. The Rev. Mr. Botterill was again commissioned to carry it out. In a few places his overtures have not been so readily and heartily responded to as we hoped and expected. We think this arises from the officers of the Branches in these places not knowing how amply rewarded their trouble would almost certainly be; for of course we acknowledge that to make it a success they will have to put themselves to some trouble to bring the children together, and, if possible, to have some good hearty singing.

In our last annual report we referred to the testimonies received as to the benefits of these meetings. We might now refer to others, but will only give two, hoping that these will encourage our friends to be ready to help heartily in this effort. The first is taken from a newspaper account of the last annual meeting of one of our model Branches, and is as follows.—

At the meeting of the Fergus Branch Bible Society on Thanksgiving Day, a short report was read, which referred to the meeting for children and young people held last November, and to the collection taken up then, which had not apparently interfered with the contributions made in the schools by lessening the amount received from the scholars, leading to the conclusion that interest had really been felt and good accomplished by means of the Rev. Mr. Botterill's visit. The Society's Permanent Agent, the Rev. J. G. Manly, gave an interesting address in which he conveyed much valuable information about the work of the Society in following the settlers into the new districts, &c., &c., instancing the labours of its colporteurs in Manitoulin, Muskoka, Algoma, Manitoba and British Columbia.

The other from a letter received from a gentleman in Newmarket, who writes, "The announcement of a children's meeting in connection with our Branch Bible Society meeting received a very hearty response in Newmarket. I consider it the best Bible Society meeting I ever attended. I very much admire the commendable earnestness of the Agent, Mr. Botter-

ill. It is a true revivalism of Bible Society work. With the tact and energy of the speaker the work must go on. The Lord's blessing be upon it."

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## Bible Society Recorder.

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TORONTO, 1st JANUARY, 1883.

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### BOARD MEETINGS.

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The regular monthly meeting of the Board was held on Tuesday, October 17th, at 7.30 p. m. The Hon. G. W. Allan, President, in the chair. The Rev. S. J. Hunter read a portion of Scripture and the Rev. H. D. Powis led in prayer. The minutes of the previous meeting having been read and confirmed, a report was brought in by the Joint Committee on Building, submitting plans and rough estimates for a new building suitable for the joint use of this Society with the Tract Society. After a very full discussion of these plans and estimates, it was decided that the building should be in general accord with the plans submitted, and the Committee were instructed to get more accurate estimates as to the probable cost of the proposed building, and to take such steps as they might deem wise to get the Christian public to subscribe funds for its erection. The Rev. Hugh Johnston was appointed a Director in the place of the Rev. J. B. Clarkson, who had removed from the City, and the Rev. T. W. Jolliffe in the place of the Rev. Robert Cade. The Depository's cash account and the schedule of colportage for the month of September were submitted, and other routine business transacted, and the meeting closed with prayer led by Rev. W. S. Blackstock.

The Board met again on Tuesday, November 21st, at the usual hour. The Hon. W. McMaster in the chair. The Rev. Dr. Dewart read a portion of Scripture and the Rev. Dr. Reid led in prayer. After the confirmation of minutes &c., a report was presented from the Joint Committee on Building, which was fully discussed and fresh instructions given as to bringing the need of the Societies in this matter before the public. The Secretaries reported the steps that had been taken to get a collector for the annual subscriptions in Toronto, and recommended the appointment of the Rev. Mr. Botterill, which was unanimously agreed to. The Secretaries reported another handsome donation of \$100 from John W. Ball, Esq., of Niagara, and a liberal bequest of \$400 from the late Dr. McIlmurray, of Toronto. The Secretaries were requested to express the thanks of the Board to Mr. Ball for his repeated liberality. Mr. William Snyder, of Guelph, was unanimously elected a life member of the Society in consideration of valuable services. A grant of Ojibway Scriptures was made to the Mission among the Indians at Sutton, and other applications considered. Agent's reports were submitted from the Revs. J. G. Manly, S. Kappeler, W. H. A. Claris, E. Cockburn, S. L. Umbach,

Dr. Hodgkin, and A. A. Drummond, Colporteurs' reports were submitted from Messrs. Taylor, Jackson and Ness, and the meeting closed with prayer led by the Rev. S. J. Hunter.

On Tuesday, December 19th, the regular monthly meeting of the Board was held. The Hon. G. W. Allan in the chair. The Rev. Robert Wallace led in prayer. A Report was submitted from the Joint Committee on Building, recommending immediate steps to endeavour to get subscriptions for the erection of the new building. After some modification this report was adopted. The Rev. Canon Du Moulin was appointed a Director in the place of the Rev. J. S. Stone, who had removed from the city. A grant of Scriptures was voted for the inmates of the Mercer Reformatory. Agents' reports were submitted from the Revs. J. G. Manly, John Gray, Charles O'Meara, J. N. Douglas, R. D. Fraser. Dr. Hodgkin, and E. M. C. Botterill. Other routine business was transacted and the meeting closed.

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### EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

#### ENGLAND.

Mr. Edwards, Secretary of the Northern District, says in his report :—

“Last year, gifts to the extent of £3,500 within a period of about two years from one liberal hand were gratefully noted. The example of gifts on such a scale has not yet proved infectious in the district. But liberal givers, in proportion to their means, have not been wanting. In North Lancashire—outside his own district—Mr. Edwards called on a widow living quite by herself. He found her at work in her kitchen. She expressed her regret that her health had prevented her from being at the meeting, but she brought him a £5 note towards spreading the precious Book which was her own comfort. She wished her name not to be mentioned, but it is known to Him who noticed the widow casting into His treasury even “all that she had.”

One colporteur was employed directly under your Society in this district during the year. A grant of £25 enabled the Newcastle Committee to test the want of the Scriptures among working people. In about six months a colporteur made 28,579 calls. He received £46 19s. 9d. in payment for 1,272 copies sold, and the cost of the experiment was £24 2s. 1d. The Parent Society and the Newcastle Auxiliary have also united in special efforts for seamen. By river colportage 605 copies were sold on the Tyne, and 1,014 on the Wear, including Hartlepool. The Bible stall of the Tyne Mission Ship sold 757 copies.

“A large number of Chinese seamen and marines came to man a troopship, built for the Chinese Government. A special subscription was raised by a few Christian friends in Newcastle, and 240 copies of the New Testament in Chinese were distributed among these men, who were invited in batches to a social tea-meeting. Some of them could speak a little English. One who at first refused a book, afterwards took one, saying, ‘That book do the heart good. *Heart right, all right.* Another, calling it a ‘good book,’ said, ‘Me will always keep it : wherever me travel in China, me will show it.’ Some remarked, ‘If you will put down the opium trade, we will read your books.’ One, on being asked if he was a disciple of Confucius, answered ‘No.’ Of Buddha? ‘No, I am a follower of Christ.’ A quarter-

master, who acted as interpreter, and who had considerable intercourse with many Christian friends, said, 'In China we have idols everywhere, in every house. But no more idols for me. My God now is up above.' Some of the men were afterwards seen reading the books on board ship."

The two following extracts are from the report of the Rev. J. E. Symons, Secretary of the North Western District :—

The decision of the Committee to wait for a time before taking action as to the Revised Version in English has been approved of, though the wish that your Society may ere long sell both versions has been fairly general. The fall of over 10,000 copies in the books issued from the depots has, it is thought, been very much caused by the publication of the Revised Version of the New Testament. The reported issues of the Society's books were 85,018 copies. The payment for Scriptures has also considerably decreased.

Six colporteurs were employed in the district for periods varying from six months to a whole year. They have sold nearly 16,000 copies, and have realized for them almost £650. Trouble has been caused in some places about "the Versions question," but practical minds are unwilling to withdraw their support from the one Bible Society which is the chief granary of all the great Missionary Societies.

The Rev. F. D. Thompson writes :—

Returned missionaries added to the interest of two meetings. Such men can plead for the Bible Society, with an appreciation of its inestimable value to missions abroad, which a large proportion of the supporters of those missions do not realize. The Rev. J. C. W. Gostick spoke at Bawtry with twelve years' experience in South India; and the Rev. Thomas Adams at Thorncliffe, near Sheffield, described his labours in the Friendly Islands, and pointed to the complete Bible in the Tonga language, which the Bible Society had enabled him to revise.

**NORTH WALES DISTRICT.**—The Rev. W. Dickens Lewis opens his twelfth annual report with a grateful recognition of that "never-failing providence" which has preserved him in health and safety amid work more harassing and journeys more frequent than in any previous year. He has attended 197 meetings, 174 of them being in his own district. The need of bilingual speakers in such a large part of his district almost entirely precludes Mr. Lewis from obtaining any relief by exchanges with his colleagues. Twenty-one sermons for the Society raise Mr. Lewis's public engagements for this year to the goodly number of 218. Much of the unwonted burden has been caused by those who in their professed love for the Bible, and in their anxiety to spread it in their own way, seek to compass the result by placing every possible hindrance in the way of your Society. Surely the test of Gamaliel has been applied long enough to warrant the verdict that your work, whatever its shortcomings, is owned and blessed by God. Surely the time has come when Christians, who have forbidden the Society, (as they believed) through the Spirit, 'to work any longer in its old way, should now cease their opposition, and say, "The will of the Lord be done." Larger collections than ever have been granted to your Society in that part of the Principality where it was most assailed.

An interesting and enthusiastic meeting is the life of a Welsh association, but the greatest care cannot always provide deputations that prefer describing the Society's work to speaking eloquently upon some theological topic.

The meeting at Nuttall is one of the great occasions in the parish. On the last occasion, the Lord Bishop of Liverpool, Vice President, and the Rev. R. W. Fawkes were the deputation, and the income reported was over £73.

The Rev. Mr. Black gives Cambridge its due prominence in his arrangements. A place to which so many thousands of students come from all parts of the country, who afterwards disperse over the world, gives scope for

securing aid to your Society on a far larger scale than is represented merely by the population of the town.

At the evening meeting in the Corn Exchange, in addition to the speakers already named, the Rev. Rev. R. Bruce, the Society's Agent from Persia, powerfully pleaded for Bible work in Muhammadan lands. At the undergraduates' Breakfast 110 were present, and a committee of junior members of the University was formed with a view to secure a larger measure of support to the Society.

The Rev. Dr. Westcott, Regius Professor of Divinity, and Canon of Peterborough, has kindly consented to be President of the new Cambridge University Branch, and among the Vice-presidents are the Lord Bishop of Durham, and Professors Cowell, Babington and Kirkpatrick.

The Lord Bishop of Winchester, V. P., presided over the meeting at Farnham, and spoke emphatically of his high appreciation of the Society's work. For, his Lordship remarked that if the desired blessing of a truer and closer unity among all members of the Church was ever to be realized, it must be through the Bible.

The Rev. W. Major Paull, Secretary for the South Eastern District, closes by stating his strengthened convictions of the manifold blessing which your Society conveys to the world. He says :

"Very rarely do I attend a meeting without hearing of some benefit it has conferred. At one, a note was read from a clergyman saying, that nothing but illness would have kept him away, for he owed his conversion to a Bible meeting. The remarkable evidence constantly borne to the unabated power of the Scriptures must be helpful to faith and joy. At a recent meeting a doctor in large practice said, that from many years observation he could affirm, that whether the Bible were true or false, its presence and a belief in it made all the difference in a sick room ; devoutly read, its effect was to produce patience, submission, and happiness, and to impart a supernatural peace and hope to the dying, these characteristics he had not found where the Bible was wanting, or discredited. He added that he spoke simply as a medical man, bearing honest witness to what he had himself seen. Such public testimony must do good. Where care is taken to make meetings attractive and edifying, their usefulness is as great as ever. What is needed is a prayerful effort to give them a more spiritual tone making the love of Christ the mainspring of all service and gifts."

The report of the Rev. R. Perkins, Secretary for the South Western District, has many cheering details ; the following is an extract :—

Plymouth has doubled its offering since 1876, and shows very much more sympathy. At Stonehouse many soldiers were present at the meeting. Kingsbridge illustrated Christian revenge by a special donation for China, in memory of a relative murdered there, who had been trained in the Sunday-school room in which the meeting was held. At High Bray, notwithstanding the rain which poured all day, the meeting was crowded and enthusiastic. Tavistock, Newton Abbot, Teignmouth, and many other places had their own features of interest.

In the report of the Rev. J. J. Cohen, Secretary of the Metropolitan District, we find the following :—

"Colporteur Dorgan has unobtrusively carried on his work throughout the year. Amid much to discourage him, he sometimes meets cheering incidents.

One day as he was offering Scriptures for sale in one of the most thickly peopled parts of London, an elderly man, like an old sailor, hastily crossed the road and said, 'Have you the Bible Society's books?' Dorgan showed him them. 'I must buy one of these little Testaments for old acquaintance' sake,' he said, and then he told his story. A ship in which he was serving was lost. The crew, after suffering great hardships and privations, were rescued by a Dutch vessel and brought into an English port. There the men, who had lost everything, were hospitably treated, and the Bible



Society gave each of them a New Testament as a memorial of their escape. That was six or seven-and-twenty years ago said the old sailor, 'but I have got the book now, and I wouldn't take twenty, or five-and-twenty pounds for it. It has been the guide and comfort of my life ever since.'

## EGYPT.

The land of Egypt is so closely connected with the history of the Bible that the circulation of the Scriptures in it has a special interest. Its geographical position gives it another kind of interest, especially to Britain. And passing events are attracting to it the attention of the world, and making its immediate future uncertain. Writing of it, now some months ago, Dr. Thompson says:—

The sales effected by your Society through the American Mission may be considered as equalled by those effected by that mission for the American Bible Society, and bearing this in mind, as well as the much greater number of educational and religious works that are circulated from year to year, we may confidently rely on a great moral revolution in Egypt at no distant date.

The circulation last year was as follows:—

Sales from the Alexandria depot . . . . .	610
“ by four colporteurs . . . . .	1,437
“ by the American U. P. Mission . . . . .	782
“ To Miss Whately's Schools . . . . .	84
Grant to “ “ “ . . . . .	124

Total copies . . . . . 3,037

The increase of 531 copies over the circulation of 1880 is entirely due to sales effected in three months by Mr. Andrea Weinstein, the Society's colporteur at Port Said.

PORT SAID.—Your Agent sincerely rejoices that this important station is now occupied by a resident colporteur, and one who has already given ample proof of his diligence and tact. Port Said has rapidly grown into a town of some 15,000 people, and has a future of great importance before it. About 9,000 are Arabs, and the rest are French, Greeks, Italians, Maltese, English, Germans, &c. The circumstances which have brought this heterogeneous population together have been unfavourable to their religious welfare, and they have been too long neglected by Christian workers. Hence this place on the borders of the Holy Land is one of the worst moral plague-spots in the world,

Some good people could not see this religious darkness without trying to do something to remedy it, and they obtained a zealous Christian lay missionary in Mr. J. Whytock, who has done good service in selling the Scriptures, besides working as an evangelist. But your Committee were anxious that one whose whole time and energies would be devoted to the dissemination of God's Word should be placed in such an important maritime highway as Port Said, without weakening their little staff of colporteurs for Alexandria and Suez. And they have been much gratified by the high testimony borne to Mr. Weinstein's work by some who have personally watched it, as for instance, by the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Nelson, and by the Rev. Canon Scarth, of St. Andrew's Waterside Church Mission. Not a few passengers and others have encouraged Weinstein by their support, among whom special mention must be made of the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Singapore, her Majesty's Consul and Vice-Consul, and Dr. Robertson. He has received cordial aid from Mr. Whytock, who effected a distribution among Spaniards and Frenchmen who had refused to purchase. The inhabitants of the town have bought only a few copies, but among the passing population on ship-board Weinstein has had much success during the few months he has been at work. Out of the 2,727 vessels which passed through the canal in 1881,

2,256 were under the English flag, and of the 200,000 souls on board nearly 80 per cent. were British subjects. But of all others the Russians have been the best buyers, being heartily urged by their commanding officers, and even by their priests, who knew that the Bibles do not contain the Apocrypha, to purchase.

**ALGIERS.**—Your Committee have long been anxious to do more in North Africa. Through the kindness of the British Society for the Propagation of the Gospel among the Jews, and with their warm commendation of his faithful labours for many years, the services of the Rev. J. Lowitz have been transferred to your Society. His long experience and high qualifications justify the hope that your new agency will, under God, be a great blessing to a dark and disturbed region. And he has special facilities for access to French troops.

The great difficulty consists in finding suitable men to act as colporteurs. To work efficiently, a man must know several languages, for very few regions in the world have such a mixed population as Algeria. French, Spaniards and Italians are furnished to it by the European continent, and they find Jews, Arabs, Turks and Moors there before them, who have come from Asia and the neighbouring regions of Africa to mingle with the native Berbers. The great distance from one village to the next, and the intense heat in the summer months create difficulties of another kind. For some time none but French subjects could obtain the necessary authorization, but now a more liberal law permits the employment of foreigners. Settlers in the colony are mostly engaged in agricultural pursuits, and suitable colporteurs are very scarce. There are plenty of hirelings, ready to take any situation that offers, but men ready to work for the Lord and to work in His own spirit are required.

These considerations explain how, notwithstanding all the earnest desires of your Committee, it has not been possible to have more than two colporteurs at work. For the hundreds of French agricultural settlers which are springing up, colporteurs of experience and faith in the power of God's Word are urgently needed. But beyond them lie vast tribes of natives to whom the Word of God has yet to be given in the languages which they speak and understand best.

To one of these tribes, the Kabyles of Jur-Jura, who occupy the mountainous tract to the east of Algiers along the coast and for some distance inland, Mr. and Mrs. George Pearce have been earnestly calling attention.

They are the aborigines of Numidia. Although long exposed to the influence of the Arabs, and like them Muhammadans, they possess many valuable qualities. The Kabyle leads a settled life, and is passionately attached to his native land, which he carefully and laboriously cultivates. He grows corn and potatoes, rears fruit trees, and plants the vine. Neither is he inexperienced in the arts of life. The Kabyles enjoy a thoroughly worked out political and social organization on a democratic basis. In their villages individual property is recognised. The resort of the villagers is the open club-room, with stone seats ranged around it. Here they discuss the affairs of the village, of the tribe, and of the confederation (K'bila). Brave warriors themselves, they have remained the irreconcilable foes of the Arabs.

It was during the second Saracenic invasion under Akbar-ben-Nefa, with his 10,000 horsemen, in the seventh century, that the Kabyles were made to submit to the Mussulman yoke and religion, and were driven to their mountains. The Marabouts, or Muhammadan teachers, were sent among them, and these foreign religious emissaries succeeded in riveting upon them a system which has held them bound to the present day. Cannot Christian emissaries, though foreigners, bring them the tidings of the Saviour? When Genseric attempted to impose Arianism upon the conquered Africans, the Berbers refused to accept it. The Saracenic conquests swept

away all vestiges of the faith of Christ in those regions. Many Kabyles speak French and can read Arabic. Their own language is distinct, but it is not reduced to writing, and they have no books. Several Jesuit fathers have for many years conducted schools in Kabylia, teaching French and the Romish catechism. One has translated the Gospels and Epistles of the day into Kabyle in the Roman character.

Mr. Parse is doing all that he can to promote a similar translation of the whole New Testament. Your Committee are anxiously seeking a young Christian scholar with linguistic talents and willing to devote them in a missionary spirit towards the penetration of Africa from the north with the "word of the truth of the Gospel." Besides the Kabyles, there are other Berber tribes scattered in the mountainous districts of Algeria and Morocco; there are the Khroumirs of Tunis, the Touaregs and Mzabites of the Sahara, and all the unknown tribes in the interior of the dark Continent. East of Tunis and west of Oran lie the vast regions of Tripoli and Morocco. To them, too, your Committee would fain send the light of God's Word.

#### INDIA.

It is not always remembered how large a part of the surface of Europe the area of India would cover. Nor again, that its inhabitants differ as much as the various continental races, and speak languages equally distinct. India has attracted successive immigrants and invaders, entering it by various paths and at different times, and bringing with them fresh languages, or dialects. Sometimes the new comers pushed their predecessors before them into various corners of the land, or into hills and jungles. Sometimes they intermingled with them, modifying the language of their neighbours by intercommunication, or even dropping their own language in its favour. India thus forms a great museum of races, in which man in every degree of culture, and languages of every complexity of construction, are found. And thus the various parts of the country present widely different facilities to the Bible translator and the Bible distributor. In his work on the "Modern Languages of the East Indies," Mr. R. N. Cust bears handsome testimony to the scientific as well as missionary services which your Society has rendered by its readiness to encourage translations of the Bible, and by its providing for their printing and dissemination. He says:—

"One great corporate body has done more than the State, more than private individuals or servants of the State, and has sustained the missionaries in their efforts. I allude to the British and Foreign Bible Society. To no other book of any kind whatever, at any period of the world, has it fallen to be translated into such a variety of Oriental languages."

Much has been done, but much more remains to be done in translating, revising, and circulating this unmatched Book. In 1871, the latest census of which the results in detail are yet available, there were in India and Burmah 186 millions of people under British rule, and 54 millions more under native feudatory princes and chiefs. The former may be divided into four great classes, (1) 18 millions of aborigines, non-Aryan in race, and only Hinduised to some extent by contact with their neighbours; (2) 16 millions of Brāhmins and Rājputs, the purest representatives of the Aryan or Sanskrit-speaking race; (3) 110 millions of Hindus, the mixed population in which Aryan and (in a larger degree) non-Aryan elements have been blended; and (4) 41 millions of Muhammadans. One million remains for foreigners.

There are 128 languages and 257 dialects, or, in all, 385 varieties of living speech, irrespective of such dead languages as Sanskrit, Magadhi or Pali, Hebrew, Syriac, etc., and such foreign languages as Persian, Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Armenian, Chinese, etc.

During the present century translations of Scripture have been provided in all the most important and widely diffused of the languages enumerated

above. Additional translations are in progress, and steps have been taken during the past year to stimulate and encourage a wider circulation of the Scriptures by your Indian Auxiliaries at the cost of the Parent Society, wherever this can be done wisely.

The care of your Bible work in India is at present divided between six Auxiliaries—those of Calcutta, North India, the Punjab, Bombay, Bangalore, and Madras. Ceylon has auxiliaries of its own. All of these are assisted by grants in Scriptures, in printing-paper, and in money towards the cost of translations and revisions, of printing, colportage, and general expenses, as they require. They also raise and expend money in the country themselves. Your Committee have again urged the judicious distribution of Scriptures by missionaries on tours as one of the most promising means for enlarging the circulation in India, and they have again expressed their readiness to aid in such tours both by books and money. They have also made offers of assistance wherever any circulation can be effected among females by the ladies who teach in zenanas or in girls' schools. About 140 colporteurs are employed by the Indian and Ceylon Auxiliaries, and their sales are some 120,000 copies, large or small, in a year. Colportage is also accomplished through the 158 men of the excellent Christian Vernacular Education Society.

The Rev. Robert Clark writes from Umritsur, 'The Bible Society is a blessing to every mission of every society in every land;' and the Rev. J. Cambridge, from Karachi, 'I write to thank you very heartily for your very liberal and welcome gift of Bibles to our branch. After the receipt of your grant, I preached a special sermon in our mission church on behalf of the Society. It is really very good of you to help us so materially.'

ALLAHABAD.—Encouraging reports have been received from Mr. G. E. Knox, C.S., the zealous secretary of your North Indian Auxiliary, indicating fresh and increasing opportunities.

New fields are opening and will require help. At Jabalpur, colportage is gaining ground, and from Cawnpore comes the news that two men are barely sufficient to carry on the work where a few years ago one man found an entrance with difficulty.

More recently Mr. Knox writes:—'From the way in which Scriptures have been sold there, it is evident to those who know Northern India that *Bibles have found their way in numbers where neither missionary nor Gospel messenger, save the colporteur, has been.*

I hope that the Parent Society will be able to come to our help with their usual liberality both under the head of colportage, and in the revision of the Hindi New Testament, which has been definitely begun.

For our general work your ordinary grants will suffice, but if you can come to our aid with £600 for colportage, and £300 towards revision and printing of Hindi-Scriptures, be assured that none of the money will be wasted. I could ask for more; but I know what demands you have to meet. India, however, has been, and is aroused by education; missionaries, by their Sunday schools for heathen children, and steady labours, are awakening deeper interest in the scriptures, and we feel the importance of being prepared to meet that interest as far as possible.

CALCUTTA —The sixty-ninth report of the Calcutta Auxiliary, presented at its anniversary in March, 1882, opens with a tribute of gratitude and regard to a member of its committee on his retirement from India.

For more than a quarter of a century R. B. Chapman, Esq., C.S.I., has heartily given time and thought to the interests of the Bible Society. His personal knowledge of the Word of God, his experience of its power, his knowledge of men, and of the people of India, his wisdom, and his power to give expression to his convictions, rendered his services of incalculable benefit to the committee. His high position in Government service, the respect cherished for him by those in power, his devoted Christian life, his well-known interest in the well-being of all classes of Her Majesty's subjects, and his

strong desire to render even justice to all, enabled him during his long and honourable Indian career to use much influence on the Lord's side.

In acknowledging the above, Mr. Chapman wrote :—

I look back to my connection with the Bible Society with more complete satisfaction than to any part of my public life in India. In so far as I have contributed in the smallest degree to the circulation of the Word of God, I am sure that good and not evil must have resulted. It is not possible to feel so confident about anything else.

Under *New Translations* the Auxiliary has printed the Gospel of St. Luke in Pahári for 100,000 people of the Rajmahal hills near Bhagalpur.

It is the very first book printed in this language. The translation is by the Rev. E. Droese of the Church Missionary Society. He has also completed a translation of the Gospel according to St. John, which the Auxiliary committee have cordially accepted. It is the fruit of labours extending over a good part of a quarter of a century among the Paharis. Mr. Droese is the only European who knows much of this language. He hopes to see this Gospel through the Press.

In 1873-6 the Auxiliary interested itself in providing Scriptures in their own tongue for the Kóls of Chutia Nagpur, and selected Mondari as the most useful language.

The translation of St. Mark by the Rev. C. A. Nottrot, of the Gossner Missionary Society, was published in 1876. The Gospels of St. Matthew and St. John have been printed during the past year, and that of St. Luke is ready for the press. When this is out, the Society will have provided the four Gospels in their mother-tongue for the 25,000 Christians of the Gossner Mission, and the 10,000 Christians of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel's Mission, as well as for the still larger number of non-Christians who use this language.

There have been fewer itinerancies. One cause has been the small number of missionaries who were available for such work. The reports of tours made show that the reception in most places is more cordial year by year. Dr. Morison, of the Presbyterian Mission, Rampore Bauleah, says of a tour in eastern Rajshayee :—

Three years ago, we gave away Portions, and found few who would accept them even gratis. Each year we have observed an increasing demand for books for which the people are willing to pay. This year we sold nearly seven hundred Portions. We saw and heard many things to make us hope that among a few at least here and there our message had disturbed the apathy to religious matters in which the people are steeped, owing to gross ignorance and darkness. Some we met who had heard us last year, and read our books. These evinced a desire to know more of the way of salvation, and asked for some guide to show them how to understand the things they had read. Though we cannot say the books were purchased in order to know more of 'that way,' yet generally the motive seemed to be to possess a book, and to know what it contained.

On a three weeks' tour along the river Ishamuti, the Rev. T. K. Chatterjea reports :—

"Wherever we went, the people received us kindly, and sometimes asked us to visit them in their homes. We found two men who frankly told us that they had faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We learnt that some three years ago both of them purchased copies of the Bible, the reading of which convinced them of the blessed truths of the Christian religion."

**BOMBAY.**—A spirit of inquiry as to the Divine origin of the Bible seems being awakened in the Parsee community. During the past year several Parsees purchased copies of the Bible in English, and one bought a Bible in French.

Several missionaries have kindly undertaken to make tours for the purpose of selling and circulating the Scriptures in the districts which ordinary

missionary labours do not reach. A few extracts from their reports follow :

Rev. G. T. Rea, Surat.—In this locality there have been several copies of Scripture sold to Mussulmans since the colporteur began work. Formerly no Mussulman used to buy any portion of the Bible. The change I attribute to the conversion of a Moulvi, in Gujarat, who is now an effective and devoted evangelist. His conversion caused a great commotion among the Muhamadans in Gujarat, and seems to have induced many of them to consider the claims of the Bible as they had never done before. It is worth adding that the Moulvi himself was convinced of the truth of Christianity almost entirely by reading and studying the Scriptures by himself and comparing them with the Koran. He had no intercourse whatever with any missionary, and only a little with native Christians before he decided to be baptized, and when we conversed with him for the first time, he had already carefully read over the whole of the New Testament four times and the Old Testament twice, and was quite familiar with all the leading facts and doctrines of the Book. In this case the Bible proved to be its own witness and its own expositor.

BANGALORE.—The reports of missionaries and colporteurs afford evidence of encouraging results from the work of the Auxiliary.

A Brahman, living in the village of his ancestors, is not ashamed to appear before all as a seeker of life through Christ. He was formerly an opponent of any preachers that came to the village, though he seems to have had uncomfortable times with his conscience afterwards. But what upset him altogether was reading one of the copies of Scripture placed some years ago by the Auxiliary in all such village schools as would receive them. The silent book produced a terrible storm. "I am quite convinced," adds the communicator of these facts, "that if all the good people in the country knew of the constant occurrence of these reminders that the seed sown by Bible and Tract Societies grows even while men sleep, contributions would be much increased."

MADRAS.—The largest Indian Auxiliary is that of Madras. Its sixty-first report gives its total issues since 1820 at 3,043,894 copies. The demand for the Word of God in the vernaculars of Southern India is greater than in any previous period. There is an increase of 16,440 copies in the issues, and of 3,316 copies in the sales over the previous year. The total issues were 79,116, and the total sales were 16,813 copies. There are thirty-one branch depots.

The Committee of the Auxiliary gratefully acknowledge the sympathy and generous aid they have received from the Parent Society. A new proof of this has been given since the close of the official year in a further grant of £300 towards a new edition of the Telugu Bible. All vernacular Scriptures are sold very much below the cost price, and it is more than ever certain that it will be impossible to meet the increased demand for God's Word in the South India vernaculars without either increasing the selling prices, or getting a greatly enhanced income.

The interim edition of the Telugu Bible was issued. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Psalms and Proverbs are a new translation; the New Testament is a tentatively revised version; the rest of the book is the old version.

Circumstances entirely beyond his control made it impossible for the Rev. J. Hay, the chief reviser of the Telugu Scriptures, to meet the delegates last year, but he has been diligently at work providing further translations for his fellow-labourers to examine with a view to the meetings which will take place, it is hoped, in 1883. The London Missionary Society, in whose service Mr. Hay has laboured with conspicuous ability for forty-two years, having secured a missionary to take charge of his important school at Vizagapatam, he will now be free to give his whole time to this most important revision which your Committee anxiously desires to see completed.

## RECEIPTS AT THE BIBLE SOCIETY HOUSE, TORONTO, FROM BRANCH SOCIETIES, FROM 1ST OCTOBER TO 30TH DECEMBER, 1882.

	On Purchase Account.	FREE CONTRIBUTIONS.		
		U. C. B. S.	B. & F. B. S.	Sundries.
	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Rheinland (Man) Depository.....	20 00			
Adelaide Branch.....		10 00		
Mara do.....	5 20	20 10		
Minden do.....		2 25		
Dunsford do.....		1 40		
Underwood do.....	20 35			
Mador do.....	22 29	5 45		
Cumminsville & Lowville Branch.....		6 49	6 19	
Norwood Branch.....	108 00	40 00		(1) 40 00
Temperanceville do.....		39 78		
Shelburne do.....	9 82	12 46		
Owen Sound do.....		78 50		
Caledon East and Mono Road Branch.....		2 67		
Mono Mills Branch.....		1 00		
Sonya do.....	4 30			
Alberton do.....		10 00		
Deseronto do.....	23 53	18 41		
East Westminster do.....		40 00	60 00	(1) 20 00
St. Helens do.....	1 66			
Port Hope do.....	19 80	212 84		
Zurich do.....	61 79	48 82		
Sebringville do.....	27 65	30 77		
Hibbert do.....		25 00	25 00	
Tavistock do.....	18 95			
Newtonville do.....	11 98			
Markdale do.....	18 46			
Bond Head do.....	4 75			
Keene do.....		4 16		
Unionville do.....	7 56	3 00		
Mount Albert do.....	6 84			
Coboconk do.....	1 02			
Kinlough do.....	1 36			
Oneida do.....	1 80	45 50	45 50	
Watford do.....	23 21	9 45		
Amherstburg do.....	36 00	25 00	40 00	
Stouffville do.....	20 00	14 63	14 64	
Niagara (Donation J. W. Ball, Esq.).....			100 00	
Whitevale Branch.....	5 00	2 28		
Brougham do.....		2 35		
Waterloo do.....	20 84			
Colborne do.....	7 15			
Hespeler do.....		19 07	19 60	
Elmira do.....	35 22	49 31		
Berlin do.....	12 46			
Preston do.....	2 01	32 45		
New Dundee do.....	24 30	10 00		
Trenton do.....	15 00			
Walsingham Centre do.....	9 05			
Mearford do.....		16 00	16 00	
Molesworth do.....		37 69	25 88	
Port Perry do.....	26 86	18 40		
Little Britain do.....		12 18		
Fenelon Falls do.....	14 02	17 50		
Cambay do.....		8 44		
Woodville do.....		35 00		

(1) For Quebec Auxiliary.

## RECEIPTS AT THE BIBLE SOCIETY HOUSE—Continued.

	On Purchase Account.	FREE CONTRIBUTIONS.		
		U. C. B. S.	B. & F. B. S.	Sundries.
	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Newcastle Branch.....	10 00			
Camachie do.....	10 37	11 70	23 40	
Bervie do.....	17 90	1 42		
Oakville do.....	6 45			
East McGillivray do.....		10 50	10 50	
Drummondville do.....	3 60			
Streetsville do.....		4 65	15 30	
Bowmanville do.....	57 31	33 26	50 00	
Napanee do.....	23 33	51 86		
Beamsville do.....	13 91			
Frankford do.....		7 07		
Coldsprings do.....		7 40		
Sarnia do.....	100 00	28 00	57 09	
Princeton do.....			26 36	
Drumbo do.....	7 56			
New Durham do.....	18 67	38 60		
Scotland do.....	10 25			
Dunbarton do.....		21 54	23 00	
Appin do.....		40 00	40 00	
Plattsville do.....	11 67			
Alliston do.....	18 50	12 32		
Rosemont do.....	7 59			
Beeton do.....	13 00			
Lloydtown do.....	23 53	25 47		
Erin do.....		37 40		
Cheltenham do.....	1 59	2 29		
Armow do.....	1 39	3 14		
Glammis do.....	8 23	2 36		
Ashfield do.....		2 15		
Highland Creek do.....		3 00		
Stirling do.....	6 50			
Kirkton do.....	5 52	20 00		
Pine River and Amberley Branch.....		15 72	15 72	
Cherry Valley Branch.....		18 08		
Uxbridge do.....	44 15			
Newmarket do.....	7 10			
Lakefield do.....	6 72			
Laskey do.....	6 65	37 60	30 00	
Churchill do.....	87	26 85		
Niagara Falls (Clifton) Branch.....	1 88	5 40	5 00	
North Pelham Branch.....		4 00		
Welland do.....	28 32			
Font Hill do.....		10 00	9 42	
Chippawa do.....	3 00	2 13		
Niagara do.....	1 73	5 00		
Hollin do.....	60			
Forest do.....	35 36			
East Williams do.....			(2) 3 00	
Hawksville do.....	9 50	1 06		
Brantford do.....	168 50			
Delhi do.....	20 09			
Lynedoch do.....		22 00	20 00	
Port Rowan do.....		6 91		
St. Williams do.....	15 05	2 10		
Port Dover do.....	40 00			
Downsview do.....		32 25		

(2) On Recorder Account.