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THE INFLUENCE OF THE BIBLE ON LITERATURE.

BY DR. WM. M. TAYLOR.

In a sermon lately delivered before the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, from the text—Ez. xlvii. 9—“And everything shall live whither the river cometh,” Dr. Taylor very justly and forcibly argued from the effect of the Bible on English literature, that missionary translators of the Scriptures were doing a great work for the literature in foreign tongues which men are to read centuries hence. We make room for an extract, exhibiting some of the incidental results of the work which the Bible Societies are doing.

“But look, in the third place, at the department of literature, and you will see how, when the river of the Gospel has flowed into a nation, it has quickened that also into richer growth. Take here the stores which have been garnered up in our own mother tongue, and when you come to look into the subject you will be surprised to discover how much the word of God has had to do with the character and quality of English literature. Up till the time when John Wickliffe sent his “poor priests” up and down England with his version of portions of the Scriptures in the vulgar tongue, there could not be said to be any English literature, and there was hardly any English language. Just at the very time Wickliffe was engaged in his great work, now precisely five hundred years ago, Geoffrey Chaucer was writing those “Canterbury Tales” which have charmed so many generations of readers and which bear on them certain indications that their author had come under the widening and ennobling influence of the truths which the parson of Lutterworth proclaimed. Nor was this in itself unlikely, for both of these men were protégés of him whom we know in another connection as “Old John of Gaunt, time-honoured Lancaster.” In any case these two between them laid the foundation of our language and literature; but as from the nature of the case the Bible went into more homes and hearts than Chaucer reached, we must attribute to Wickliffe the principal share in that literary revival which the succeeding centuries witnessed in the mother country. Nay, it is somewhat remarkable that just

as Chaucer's poems were contemporaneous with Wickliffe's Bible, so the age of the Reformation under Henry, Edward, and Elizabeth, the day, that is, of Tyndale's, Matthews', Coverdale's and the Geneva Bible, has always been regarded as the palmiest time of English literature; while again, the age which saw Wordsworth, Coleridge, Scott, Southey, and that whole band which made the early part of this century so renowned, was the successor and the inheritor of that in which Wesley, Whitefield, and their fellow-evangelists had carried religious revival over England and America. In more recent days Macaulay came out of the Clapham sect; Carlyle learned his volcanic earnestness in the most intensely spiritual of the Scottish denominations; and Tennyson has but sung to his matchless music the truths which his friend Maurice and he have learned together from the word of God as interpreted by their age. Read over again that paper of rare wisdom and still rarer wit, in the *Eclipse of Faith*, entitled "The Blank Bible," and you will be astonished at the extent to which, as there indicated, the influence of the Bible has gone into our literature. Avowedly religious writers, of course, have been indebted to it for their all; but even those who have had no directly spiritual aim have been largely beholden to its quickening power. Take from Shakespeare those passages of his writings which have been suggested or coloured by the word of God, and you rob him of some of the greenest leaves in his laurel crown. Milton might have been little better than an echo of Homer, and the "Paradise Regained" would have remained among "things unattempted yet in prose or rhyme." But for it where would have been the "Pilgrim" of John Bunyan, the "Task" of William Cowper, and the finest passages of Wordsworth's "Excursion!" Without it we might have had the passionate and misanthropic shriekings of Byron, but we could not have had the sweet music of his Hebrew melodies. Without it we might have had some of the songs of Burns, and perhaps, also, some of his patriotic odes, but the world would never have seen his "Cotter's Saturday Night." Without it we might have had the weird mysticism of Poe, but we could not have possessed some of the matchless lyrics of Whittier and Longfellow. But what need I more? Take the Bible out of our literature and you not only rob it of its glory, but you destroy it altogether, for if in the years of the past it has seemed to be like a tree bringing forth its fruit in its season, and having leaves for the healing of the nations, the reason has been because it has been planted on the bank of the mystic river which the prophet saw, and because it drew from that its nourishment and strength.

Now what the Gospel has done for the literature of our mother tongue it will do for that of every land to which it is sent. I am not unmindful here of the immense literature of China; even that will be purified and elevated, and more completely utilized when the Gospel shall have pervaded the land in which it grew. But that, like everything about China, is an exceptional case. For in the great majority of instances our modern missionaries have had to reduce language to writing, and have given to the peoples among whom they labour their first specimens of literature in the shape of portions of the word of God. What a wonderful part that book has played in the literature of nations! Luther's Bible first gave fixity to the German tongue. Calvin's writings about the Bible did more, perhaps, than most other things to mould the language of France, which was then in the process of formation, and the work of William Tyndale—for it is the aroma of his style that gives its fragrance to our English Bible—has given a standard to our noble tongue.

Now just what Wickliffe and Tyndale have done for us, in this regard, our missionaries have done for more than 150 different peoples; and who shall tell what the after results may be? Five hundred years ago, when Wickliffe was patiently writing out in his parsonage, on the banks of the Swift, his translation from the Vulgate, who could have foreseen that the literature he was then inaugurating should fill the libraries of England, America, and Australia? And who shall conjecture what shall be in those newly written languages five hundred years hence? The other day, at the unveiling of the

Livingstone statue, in Edinburgh, Moffat, his venerable father-in-law, said : " When Livingstone was led into the unknown regions of Africa, he had a future before him of which they had often spoken together. They had frequently talked with each other, when they imagined they could see vessels sailing on those magnificent lakes, and cities with churches rising on their shores." So I think our missionary brethren, when they see what the translation of the Bible has done for our language, may comfort themselves with the assurance that, as the centuries roll on there shall spring up out of the work they have accomplished, literatures which shall do as much for other nations as that of our tongue has done for those to whom it is vernacular."—*American Bible Society Recorder.*

Bible Society Recorder.

TORONTO, 15TH MARCH. 1877.

BOARD MEETINGS.

THE usual monthly meeting of the Board of Directors, was held on Tuesday, February 13th, at 7.30 P.M. Dr. C. B. Hall, in the chair.

After the ordinary routine business, reports were submitted from the following agents :—the Revds. W. W. Ross, J. Wood, Dr. Bell, E. J. Fessenden, W. R. Parker, W. S. Griffin, J. J. Rice, W. Shortt, R. Torrance, and S. Kappelé.

It was moved by Mr. A. Rattray, and seconded by Mr. S. Rogers, That the Secretaries be instructed to write to the American Bible Society, requesting them to send a delegate to the anniversary meeting of this Society in May, with a special request for the President of that Society.—*Carried.*

It was moved by Mr. James Foster, and seconded by Mr. J. McBean, That a Committee be appointed, consisting of the Secretaries and Messrs. Brown, Kennedy, Gillespie and Fraser (with power to add to their number), to make arrangements for the Annual Meeting and to confer with other Societies proposing to hold their anniversaries in the same week.—*Carried.*

The Directors met again on Tuesday, the 13th instant, Mr. McCord, Vice-President, in the chair. A letter was read from the Rev. Dr. Gilman, Secretary of the American Bible Society, stating that Dr. Allen, their President, had been appointed to represent their Society at our anniversary, and that they were encouraged to think that he will be able to attend.

It was moved by Dr. Geikie, and seconded by Mr. James Brown and carried, " That the Secretaries be instructed to request the Rev. W. S. Rainsford to speak at the anniversary meeting."

Reports were submitted from the following agents : the Revd's. John Gray, S. Kappelé, J. Bredin, Jas. Grant, and W. W. Ross.

Several grants were made to Sunday Schools, the Colporteurs' reports submitted, and other ordinary business transacted. The meeting was closed as usual with prayer.

MEETINGS OF BRANCHES THAT HAVE DONE WITHOUT AN AGENT THIS YEAR.

ANCASTER.—The Secretary writes (February 7th), as follows:—"Only three out of eleven collectors, have yet made their returns. We hope, however, by the end of this month, to be able to remit you the year's collections. * * * The three collections already sent in, somewhat exceed the amount collected in the same district last year; and therefore we hope to be able to send you, at all events, as large an amount as last year (\$74.91.) We find by appointing more collectors, and making the districts smaller, we get better collections; as it enables the collectors to do their work more thoroughly where the roads are bad and the houses long distances apart. The office-bearers are the same as for last year."

ANCASTER EAST.—The annual meeting of this Branch was held on Thursday, February 22nd, in the Rev. Mr. Black's Church, who was unfortunately unable to be present on account of illness. The meeting was well attended, and was addressed by the Rev. Messrs. Gauld, of Hamilton, and Ratcliffe, of Ancaster. Office-bearers were elected for the current year, and a vote of thanks given to the reverend gentlemen for their kindness in addressing the meeting. The subscriptions have been remitted, and amount to \$56.04, being an increase on the previous year.

BELLEVILLE.—The late Secretary writes (February 21st):—"Our annual meeting for this year was held Nov. 15th, and previous to taking up subscriptions, contrary to our usual custom, thus acting upon your suggestion. The Treasurer informs me that all the collectors have not yet made returns, but he expects that our contribution to the U. C. B. Society and the Parent Society, will be the same as last year. * * Our annual meeting was better attended, and altogether more spiritual and successful than what we have had for several years."

BETHANY.—The newly-elected President of this branch writes (February 20th):—"Our annual meeting was very small. Although we have three resident ministers in this village, not one of them put in an appearance. The Rev. Mr. Bennett, Presbyterian (from a distance of 10 or 11 miles), was the only speaker. * * I think we will let the agent visit us next year. * *

Our friends at Bethany have remitted us \$82.86.

CALEDONIA.—The Secretary writes (February 26th):—"The annual meeting of the Caledonia branch of the Bible Society, was held on Wednesday, 25th October, 1876, in the Presbyterian Church (Rev. Thomas Wilson). * * Considering the weather, we had a very fair attendance. The Rev. James Black, the Rev. T. Wilson, and Rev. W. Willoughby, made very able speeches on behalf of the Bible cause; and at the close of the meeting a collection of \$6.53 was taken up. * * I have urged the lady collectors to complete their collections with as little delay as possible, so that the Treasurer can make his remittance the latter end of this month, or early in the month of March. * * I fear the amount will not come up to last year's, for the crops of many of the farmers in this locality have turned out total failures."

CAMPBELLVILLE.—The Secretary writes:—"The annual meeting of the Campbellville Branch Bible Society, was held here on the 30th of January, and was well attended. There is no change in the officers. I gave the collector's their books that night, and asked them to be returned, with all contributions, by the first week in March."

CHESTERFIELD AND RATHO.—"At Ratho, on the evening of the 24th January, the annual meeting of the Chesterfield and Ratho Branch Bible Society was held. There was a large gathering of the people in the neighbourhood, and in every respect the meeting was felt to have been a decided success. There can be no doubt that a deeper interest in the operations of the Bible Society has been awakened by it throughout the district. Addresses were given by the Rev. Wm. Robertson, of Chesterfield, and the Rev. John Aull, of Ratho, the resident Presbyterian ministers."

This Branch has sent \$87.65 free contribution.

DUNBARTON.—“The annual meeting was held in the church here on the evening of Thursday, 1st February. * * * After suitable devotional services, John Parker, Esq., President of the Society, took the chair. Brief reports by the respective officers of the Society were then given. From the Treasurer's statement it appeared that notwithstanding the exceeding deficiency of crops, and the dulness of trade, the subscriptions for this year, amounting to \$49.30, were a little over those of last year, a result by no means expected, but which testifies to the unabated liberality of the comparatively few who thus give of their substance to the cause. The money was allocated as follows, viz.: \$24.50 to the B. & F. Bible Society, and \$24.50 to the U. C. Bible Society. * * * After the respective funds were thus disposed of, the chairman called on the following gentlemen to address the meeting, viz.: the Rev. Messrs. Peattie, of Claremont, Ross, of Duffin's Creek; Dunbar, of Dunbarton; Hogg, of Oshawa; and B. Bunting, Esq., of Duffin's Creek, who delivered excellent addresses, and most appropriate to the occasion. * * * The meeting was altogether of an exceedingly pleasant, and we trust profitable character.”

ELORA.—The thirty-second annual meeting of the Elora Branch was held in the Methodist Church, on Tuesday, February 20th. The weather was fine, and the attendance good. In the absence of the President, the Rev. Mr. McGregor, one of the oldest Vice Presidents, occupied the chair. The Secretary, Mr. Joseph Carder, read the report, which was exceedingly encouraging. Sales at the Depositories, 147 Bibles and Testaments, value \$36.96. Number issued since the commencement of the Branch, 6,296. Income of the Society from collections and subscriptions, \$211.29. Received on purchase account, \$68.91. The Committee recommended the following appropriations: \$100.00 to the B. & F. Bible Society, \$65.00 to the U. C. Bible Society, and \$35.00 to the French Canadian Missionary Society for Colportage purposes, which appropriation was adopted by the meeting. The Rev. Messrs. Cobb, Denchfield, Middlemiss, Sparling, and Macdonald, and the Secretary, Mr. Joseph Carder, successively addressed the meeting, and an excellent choir added greatly to the interest. Elora, considering its population, is one of the very best Branches of the Society, very much of this success being due to our excellent friend Mr. Joseph Carder.

EMBRO.—The Secretary writes:—“The annual meeting of our Branch Society was held in the Methodist Church on the 5th February. The meeting, for several reasons, was not very largely attended, but the interest shown by those present was very marked. Addresses were delivered by the local clergy and others present. At the meeting all the collectors had not made returns, and there are one or two not yet heard from. When these report we will, I think, be up to last year's collections, notwithstanding that a section of our ground has, by agreement, been made over to Lakeside and Thamesford Branches this year.”

FERGUS.—The annual meeting of this Branch Society was held on the 4th December, 1876. After reporting the financial results of the preceding year, and the appropriations made thereof, the report presented at the meeting goes on to say, “only one or two collectors have yet been at work. However, their entering on their duties being considered by the Secretaries in Toronto better to be deferred till the annual meeting had been held, and then at once proceeded with, the Committee anticipates no unnecessary delay in the matter, and hopes by the beginning of February, as last year, to be able to present through the local papers a full statement of receipts and disbursements.” We are happy to find that this anticipation has been realized, as we find by an abstract statement to February 1st, 1877, sent us by the Secretary, A. D. Fordyce, Esq., this month (March). From this we learn that the total receipts for the year amounted to \$280.06, of which \$71.55 was paid on purchase account, and \$200.00 appropriated in equal proportions

to the Upper Canada, and British and Foreign Bible Societies. We are glad that Fergus has kept up to the mark of its usual liberal donations.

GEORGETOWN.—The Secretary writes as follows :—“The annual meeting of the Georgetown Branch Bible Society was held on the first Friday of December, 1876. The Committee had decided to hold the meeting without an Agent, and our Village ministers responded nobly by thoroughly preparing themselves, so that in reality they were each as good as an Agent, and managed the meeting to the entire satisfaction of the people, who responded, notwithstanding the rather hard times, with the fair free donation of one hundred dollars. Our Branch, though small, is all right, regularly giving its share.”

LAKEFIELD.—The Secretary writes (Feb. 24th), as follows :—

“We held the Annual Meeting, January 19th, which for some cause was very poorly attended, and hence a poor collection at the meeting. We had two good addresses from the Revs. Messrs. Welden and Ratcliff. The same officers were re-elected for the present year. We have two or three more collectors out this year than any year before, in places that have never been canvassed before; and, from reports received have good reason to believe that the total amount will not fall much, if any, short of last year. We will make our returns for the year about the middle of next month, when we hope to have all the returns in.”

LASKAY.—“The Annual Meeting of the Laskay Branch Bible Society was held in St. Andrew's Church on the evening of the 27th December. The church was crowded. Excellent addresses were delivered by the Rev. Mr. Aitken, of Vaughan, Rev. Mr. Reeves, and the Treasurer (Rev. James Carmichael.) The singing was very fine, and added much to the interest of the meeting. The Treasurer's Report showed a small falling off, owing chiefly to the fact that one of the divisions of the Branch had been insufficiently canvassed. The collection taken up at the meeting was larger than on any former occasion.” We have received \$53.35 as a donation from Laskay, against \$58 the previous year.

MONO MILLS.—The Annual Meeting of the Mono Mills Branch was held in the Methodist Church on the 25th January. The Rev. Messrs. Williams and Wilmot addressed the meeting, which was small, but pleasant and profitable. The interest in this neighbourhood, we are sorry to say, is reported as rather cold.

NEWMARKET.—The annual meeting of this Branch was held on Friday evening, February 23rd, in the Bible Christian church. The meeting was small. The Secretary read the annual report, showing total receipts \$156.15, of which \$80 had been donated to the W. C. Bible Society, leaving a balance on hand of \$71.94 after meeting sundry expenses. The meeting was addressed by the Rev. Messrs. Battersby, Hainer, Lambly, and Williams; and officers elected for the ensuing year.

NIAGARA.—The Treasurer of this Branch writes (February 26th), as follows :—“The annual meeting was held on the 31st October last, a fair audience being present. As Treasurer of the Branch, I have not got all my collections in, but I shall endeavour to have them in by the middle, or end, at farthest, of next month, and I shall then remit the amount, which I expect will be as much as last year; so that even in these very hard times, the good cause is not allowed to languish. The office-bearers are the same as last year.”

NORVAL.—We regret to learn from the Secretary of this Branch, that on account of some misunderstandings, collectors, though appointed, had not being sent out to collect, and that there is little likelihood of anything being done. This season we trust that Norval will not fall from the position it has occupied as one of our best rural Branches.

ONEIDA.—The annual meeting of this Branch was held on December 26th. It was somewhat later than usual, on account of the absence of the Rev. A. Grant, whose valued assistance at the meetings is always relied upon. The

meeting was rather thin, but Mr. Grant, in his usual happy way, gave an excellent discourse on the Bible, and the history of the Bible Society. The collections, amounting to \$82.00, have been received. Last year they were \$97 00.

PAISLEY.—The annual meeting of the Paisley Branch was held in Knox Church, January 18th, 1877. In the absence of the President, the chair was occupied by A. Lefroy, Esq. After the opening exercises, and chairman's address, the annual reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were read and adopted. The Rev. Mr. Wall delivered an interesting address on the work of the British and Foreign Bible Society in Europe. The Rev. Mr. Anderson followed with a cheering and comprehensive account of the spread of the Gospel throughout Africa, Asia, and Polynesia. During the evening the choir rendered several pieces of choice music, which served much to enliven the exercises. Votes of thanks were tendered to the retiring Secretary, the Rev. Mr. Smith, to the President, speakers, choir, and chairman, and the meeting was closed with the benediction."

PARIS.—The annual meeting of the Paris Auxiliary Bible Society, was held in Dumfries Street Presbyterian Church, on Wednesday, 31st January. The President occupied the chair. The Secretary read the annual report, which showed the amount collected for the current year to be \$181.38, against \$202.95 received the previous year. In the words of the report, "although the amount raised is not quite so large as your committee could have desired, yet, considering the hardness of the times, your committee is thankful that the amount collected is as large as it is." The Rev. Messrs. McLeod, Anderson, McDonough, and Allworth, the Hon. David Christie, and Dr. Clarke, spoke in support of the various resolutions, including a vote of thanks to the lady collectors for their valuable services, and the meeting was closed by singing the doxology, and the benediction by Rev. Mr. Allworth.

PORT HOPE.—The annual meeting of the Port Hope Branch, was held in the hall of the Young Men's Christian Association, on Monday evening, the 30th October, 1876. The attendance was fair, although not by any means what it should have been, and the report of the previous year's work, which was read by the Secretary, expressed "a feeling of regret in being obliged to record this year, not only no increase, but a very considerable diminution, in the contributions of our citizens for the great work of Bible circulation. This falling off can, undoubtedly, be in a large degree accounted for by the remarkable stringency of the times. * * * We trust this year will witness a renewal of that continuous advance which was maintained without interruption for five years." The Rev. Dr. O'Meara made a very interesting appeal in moving the adoption of the report, which was supported by the Rev. Mr. Shaw, and the Rev. A. H. Baldwin, of Toronto; and the office-bearers of the Society were re-elected.

Since the date of the meeting the collections have been made, and remitted as a donation to the U. C. Bible Society, amounting to \$147.96, just about same as the previous year.

PETERBOROUGH.—The annual meeting of the Peterborough Branch Bible Society was held in the Bible Christian Church on the 24th January, 1877, the President, Col. Haultain, in the chair. The Rev. Mr. Willoughby, opened the meeting with prayer. The Chairman then gave his address, which was effective and forcible, on the need and value of the Bible to mankind. The Treasurer's report was read, showing a balance of \$26.47 on hand. Resolutions were moved or seconded by the Rev. Messrs. Campbell, Mulhern, and Willoughby, in able addresses, and office-bearers appointed for the ensuing year. Peterborough has remitted \$200.00 free contributions, and \$120.00 on purchase account.

PRINCETON.—The annual meeting of this Branch was held January 21st. As the late President and Secretary had both removed from the vicinity since last annual meeting, the Branch was in rather a disorganized condition. The

Committee having decided to try the experiment of dispensing with the services of an Agent for this year, we had only the local ministers to depend upon. The Rev. Messrs. Masson and Straith attended, and happily succeeded in making an interesting meeting. This Branch has remitted \$50.00 on purchase account; last year it sent \$58.18 as a donation to our Society.

ST. CATHARINES.—The annual meeting of the St. Catharines B. B. S., was held in St. Paul Street Methodist Church, on November 30th, 1876. The attendance was better than formerly, yet the extreme cold doubtless kept many away. The exercises were very interesting. The Rev. Wm. Brookman was the first speaker, who, in an animated address, presented the aims, progress and success of the Bible Society in many lands. The next speaker was the Rev. Mr. Maxwell, who spoke of the unity of purpose on the part of Protestants in the work of Bible distribution, and closed with a tribute to the ladies for the zeal shown this year in their efforts to collect money for this noble Christian work. The Secretary read a short report referring mainly to the formation of the St. Catharines Ladies' Auxiliary Bible Society, through the instrumentality of which, it is hoped, that the City will in future, be more thoroughly canvassed than heretofore. The collection at the meeting amounted to \$13.50. The anticipations of increased subscriptions have been realized, and donations of \$300.00, as against \$200.00 for the previous year, have been since received, besides \$125.00 on purchase account.

ST. THOMAS.—The annual meeting was held January 11th, in the St. George St. Methodist Church. The Secretary's report showed that during the year the ladies had collected \$178.52. Part of this was included in the \$200.00 remitted to Toronto last April, and the balance now in the Treasurer's hands, including collection at public meeting, was stated to be \$149.45. Office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year. Since the date of the meeting we have received from St. Thomas \$140.00, as free contributions.

SOUTH CAYUGA.—The Secretary writes (October, 21st), as follows:—"Our annual meeting was held on the 11th inst. The meeting was good. It was addressed by the local ministers who did justice to the cause. Our choir was in attendance as usual. Both speakers and music were very interesting. Any falling off in the contributions must be attributed to other causes. Money matters were never so stringent here as at present." South Cayuga has since remitted \$50.00, as against \$73.00 last year.

SOUTH MONAGHAN.—The Secretary writes (February 26th), as follows:—"We had our annual meeting on October 26th last. We had but one minister, yet a very good meeting. The office-bearers were re-elected. We were not quite so successful as last year; still we can send you \$100.00, which our Treasurer will forward immediately. We will try and have an Agent at our next annual meeting; we have a good Branch, but hardly enough of steam." Last year South Monaghan gave \$130.00 as free contributions.

WHITBY.—"The annual meeting of the Whitby Branch Bible Society was held on Wednesday evening, Nov. 29th, 1876, in the Congregational Church, the retiring President, the Rev. J. S. Clarke, in the chair. After devotional exercises, followed by a very appropriate introductory address by the Chairman, the Secretary was called on to read the report, which showed a very successful nine months' work, and, which on motion was received and adopted. Short telling addresses were delivered in turn by the Rev. H. T. Miller, Rev. Mr. Carroll (of Toronto), D. Ormiston, Esq., Rev. J. Craig, and Rev. R. Chambers. The proceedings were enlivened with music, vocal and instrumental, Mrs. Miller presiding at the organ, and the audience joining in the hymns. The attendance was better than for some years past." Whitby has since the above date remitted \$75 donation, and \$36.50 on purchase account. Previous year the donation was equal, with \$51.94 on purchase account.

HAMILTON.—The anniversary of the Hamilton Branch Bible Society took place on Thursday, 11th January, in the Wesleyan Church, John street, and it was very well attended.

The President delivered an address, in which he dwelt at some length on

the great work that had been done and was being carried on now by the Bible Society, and strongly urging the spread of the Bible throughout the whole world.

The Rev. Henry Sanders read the thirty-eighth Report of the Hamilton Branch Bible Society, from which we make the following extracts :

LOCAL OPERATIONS.

In presenting this report the committee would first express their sorrow for the loss of one of their members by death. Mr. Alexander Thomson was only placed in the committee last year, and had no opportunity of taking part in their proceedings, but he was a true friend of the Society, and the committee would express their deep sympathy with his widow and family in their sad affliction.

The local work of the year has been quietly done. As the last report recommended, a more extended canvass of the city was made, and resulted in a gratifying increase of contributions, and there is no doubt that more might be done in this direction with great advantages to the funds of the Society.

The issues from the depot during the year have been 1,264, a small increase over the issues of the preceding year. Of this number, 680 Bibles and 470 New Testaments, were sold, 14 Bibles were given away, and a grant of 100 Testaments was made to the prison. The cash value of the sales was \$429.98.

As a matter of honor and justice, all Protestant Christians should support this Society in its noble work. Let us do so with increasing zeal, earnestness, and prayer, with larger liberality and stronger faith. Our work in assisting to spread the Word of God will abide. The empires which men establish will crumble. The discoveries they make will lose their value and usefulness. Science and civilization, inventions and commerce, can only benefit men for earth and time. All human things are destined to pass away.

Our little systems have their day,
They have their day, and cease to be ;
They are but broken lights of Thee,
And thou, O Lord, art more than they.

And the Word of the Lord is more than they are. Let us help in its triumphs, for that Word and its results will endure for ever.

The adoption of the Report was moved by the Rev. W. Lumsden, of St. John's (Episcopal) Mission, seconded by the Rev. W. Herridge, of the Gore Street P. M. Church, both of which gentlemen made appropriate speeches.

The Rev. E. Lounsberry, the Rev. James Little, Dr. McDonald, and Dennis Moore, Esq., also addressed the meeting.

The collection amounted to \$25.48.

THE LONDON AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

The annual meeting of the London Auxiliary of the Upper Canada Bible Society was held Monday, 29th January, 1877, in the Congregational Church—the Right Rev. the Bishop of Huron, President, in the chair. There was a large attendance of members of the various Protestant denominations in the city. On the platform beside His Lordship were Rev. Messrs. Wallace, Kay, Dr. Cooper, Canon Innes, John Gemley, W. F. Campbell, Dr. Darneil and W. W. Ross. After devotional exercises, the chairman briefly addressed the meeting on the objects of the Bible Society. He earnestly pleaded for their support, their sympathies and their prayers, on behalf of the Society which had so laudable an object in view.

His Lordship, having another appointment, here left the chair, requesting Dr. Cooper to take his place—that reverend gentleman acquiescing.

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The Secretary (Rev. John Gemley) read the eleventh annual report of the Auxiliary—a long and interesting document, from which we append a few extracts.

LONDON AUXILIARY.

This is the only Auxiliary of the Upper Canada Bible Society: It includes five counties, viz., Essex, Kent, Lambton, Middlesex, and Elgin. Taking London as a centre, it extends northward to Tilbury West branch. Its most southern branch is Colchester. To the east we have the Vienna branch, and westward its furthest point is the branch at Sandwich. The year has been one of advancement, a small addition being made to the number of branches. Our income has been equally satisfactory, as is testified by the treasurer's statement.

FINANCIAL.

The treasurer's returns show that the income for the year ending 31st August \$3,400. The aggregate receipts from 1st March, 1873, to 31st Aug., 1875, (two years and six months) were \$7,630.63. The increase in last year's receipts may therefore be given at about \$250. We are hopeful that future efforts will be even more greatly blessed. The following is a summary of

THE DEPOSITORY'S STATEMENT:—

	Bibles.	Testaments.	Total.
Issues during year.....	2,485	1,936	4,421
Stock in hand.....	1,287	1,013	2,300

AGENCY WORK.

This important service of the Auxiliary continues to be performed in accordance with the provisional system. Five ministers of different churches have attended to the duties of this office during the past year, and have been faithful and diligent in carrying out the great trust committed to them. This system has been in operation six years, having succeeded a permanent agency, in which two, and sometimes three, agents were wholly employed in branch visitations. The provisional agents, who thus far have been ministers of different churches, give a limited portion of their time to this service—averaging 12 days each during the year. The economy in time, and consequently saving in salaries, has induced the Board in Toronto to continue this plan. But it is not free from disadvantages; and therefore the Board has during the past year made a partial return to the old system, by engaging one permanent agent, Rev. W. W. Ross—a gentleman of superior ability, and of great zeal in the work assigned him. The agents which visit the Auxiliary field are appointed by the Board in Toronto, and paid by them.

THE COLPORTAGE FIELD.

While your committee do not find that there is much necessity for colportage labour within the limits of your Auxiliary, yet there is some call for this description of service. Last year two colporteurs were employed—Messrs. Lowry and Crombie—the former for a portion only of the time. This year, the latter has been the only colporteur employed. His labours have extended to remote townships. He was engaged for time equal to eight months. His labours presented the following results:—Miles travelled, 1,400; visits made, 3,900; Bibles and Testaments distributed, 310. He found about 20 families destitute of the Scriptures. In addition, he has distributed several copies of the Scriptures with the metrical version of the Psalms attached.

The new premises in the second story of Edge's Block, Richmond street, which are occupied conjointly by the Bible and Tract Societies, are a very great improvement upon those previously held.

CONCLUSION.

“The present may be regarded as a befitting occasion to review the way in which our God has brought us, and to recount the mercies of which we, as a

people, as churches, as families, as individuals, have been the possessors. Our personal indebtedness to the word of God which has been given us by His providence, and applied to our hearts and consciences by His Spirit, none who have been made partakers of the grace that purifies the soul can question, and the deeper the work of that Spirit upon the mind, the more earnest worker in the master's vineyard will be that man who is so blessed of God. We have from an eminent pen—upon a passage of Scripture already quoted—the following judicious observation:—"The advantages to the Jews were chiefly because that unto them were committed, or entrusted, the oracles of God. There may be here" (he remarks) "an intimation that those who have the Bible are to be regarded as stewards, just as are those who have large earthly possessions." This is a ground of appeal to which every Christian heart should respond. Here is another. We present it in a fact. It has been remarked:—"We always recur with great delight to the testimony of a Deist, who, after publicly labouring to disprove Christianity, and to bring Scripture into contempt as a forgery, was found instructing his child from the pages of the New Testament. When taxed with the flagrant inconsistency, his only reply was, that it was necessary to teach the child morality, and that nowhere was there to be found such morality as in the Bible. We thank the Deist for the confession." We have a third and final ground of appeal. This we find embodied in the prayer of our Blessed Redeemer:—"Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth." Combine with this sanctifying power of the Word, its manifold and gracious promises. Each of the three considerations named, especially the last, urges upon all the duty and the necessity of earnest exertion in spreading abroad the name of Jesus, as contained in the Holy Scriptures, that men may learn that He loved them, lived and died for them, and has gone to prepare a place for all who will receive Him as their God and Redeemer. May our prayers and givings increase—then may we hope to share more abundantly than ever in the rich blessings of that Gospel which by the Word is preached unto us. Then may we look for a perpetual Pentecost, not similar, yet grander than that which visited the Apostles in Jerusalem: for we know that (by the agency of Bible Societies) men are reading the Word of God in 211 or more languages; and it may be hoped that ere long it will be read by all nations and peoples, in the tongues wherein they were born."

In moving the adoption of the report, Mr. James Cowan referred to the valuable services rendered by the office-bearers during last year. He believed that with their indefatigable permanent Secretary, Rev. Mr. Gemley, assisted by Mr. Andrew Thompson, Hon. Secretary, the Society would continue to prosper.

Rev. Mr. Tupper seconded the resolution, which was unanimously carried.

Rev. Mr. Gemley here stated that Rev. Dean Bomer, who was to propose the next resolution, had written stating he could not attend, as he was severely indisposed; Rev. James Graham had also written, stating that a previous engagement prevented him from being present.

Rev. Dr. Darnell moved the next resolution, which read:—

"That this meeting recognises with devout thankfulness to Almighty God, the prosperity which has attended the operations of the Upper Canada Bible Society, and those of the London Auxiliary, during the past year; and it hopes that the section of the Province which is more immediately committed to the care of the latter Society (a section highly favoured in the abundance of its resources, and by a rapidly increasing population), may, year by year, furnish material for such an encouraging report as that an abstract of which has been presented; and it earnestly prays that all may feel it a great privilege to aid in the distribution of the Sacred Scriptures."

The resolution was put, and carried unanimously.

The Rev. Mr. Kay, the Rev. Mr. Wallace, the Rev. Canon Innes, and Mr. A. Thompson also addressed the meeting, which was a highly interesting one throughout.

QUEBEC AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY

ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

The anniversary meeting of the Quebec Auxiliary Bible Society was held in the Music Hall. The large hall was crowded with a highly respectable audience who evinced the utmost interest in the proceedings. Amongst those present on the platform we observed Rev. Leonard Gaetz, of St. James street Methodist Church, Montreal; Rev. John Nicholls, of St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, Montreal; Rev. Dr. Cook, Rev. G. V. Housman, Rev. C. W. Rawson, Rev. Ernest King, of Magog, Rev. W. B. Clarke, Rev. P. Wright, Rev. H. D. Powis, Rev. Mr. Eason, Rev. D. Marsh, Rev. L. Langei, and Messrs. H. S. Scott, President; N. N. Ross, J. Hossack, J. C. Thompson, H. Fry, Thomas S. Cole, H. W. Powis, and George Lamb, Secretary.

The President, H. S. Scott, Esq., took the chair at half-past seven o'clock. The first hymn was then sung, after which the President called upon the Rev. Mr. Clarke to read a portion of Scripture, and Rev. Mr. Marsh to lead in prayer. The Secretary, Mr. Laub, then proceeded to read the Forty-first Annual Report of the Society, from which we make a brief extract.

"With reference to the work in which this Auxiliary has been engaged during the year, your committee feel that they have cause for gratitude to God for the measure of success which has attended their efforts, and although they cannot but feel that, in the amount of work performed, other Canadian Auxiliaries have outstripped them, yet they would remind their friends that the field they occupy is one of peculiar perplexity, and from the very nature of the ground, the progress made must of necessity be slow. The report went on to refer to the loss which the Auxiliary had sustained by the withdrawal of its late agent, Mr. Hughes, and the gratifying success which had attended the labours of his successor, Mr. James T. Paterson, who had sold during the past summer, 694 books, which realized \$174.73, and had besides performed other services in the Society's behalf. Mr. Gildas, of Levis, was also engaged by the Society about the end of August, and had succeeded in distributing about 200 copies of the New Testament in whole or in part. The Committee had again to acknowledge a donation of \$500 from the Upper Canada Bible Society, and \$83.87 from some of its branches, both amounts to go towards the circulation of the Bible amongst the French Canadians. In November last, a letter was received from Rev. Mr. Chambers, of Magdalen Islands, asking for a grant of Bibles, and stating that the people there were very much in need of them. Fifty Bibles were forwarded in answer to this appeal. An old and valued member of the Committee had passed away since the last annual meeting, in the person of the late Mr. Daniel Wilkie, whose loss is deeply deplored by all with whom he was wont to associate. The issues from the depository during the past year had been as follows:—English Bibles, 508; English Testaments, 456; Foreign Bibles, 18; Foreign Testaments and parts thereof, 223. Of these, 307 English Bibles, 430 Testaments, 16 Foreign Bibles, and 202 Testaments had been disposed of by colporteurs. Total cash received from colporteurs, \$174.73. Sales at depository, \$18.20. The Treasurer's statement shows the receipts from all sources for 1876 to have been \$1,563.26, including a balance from last year of \$240.02. The collections in the city amounted to \$303.50, and receipts from the branches, \$83.97. The total expenditure for the year was \$1,226.09, leaving a balance of \$336.60 in the Treasurer's hands."

After the reading of the above, the report of the

QUEBEC LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR 1876-77

was read. The report was an interesting one, but our space will not allow of our reproducing it. It referred to the fact that the Association had had for the greater part of the year two workers in the field, whose efforts had been directed to family visitation, Bible reading, and the distribution of tracts and testaments. One of these workers, Miss Lwiner, had been for many years in

the employ of the Association, and her efforts had resulted in the reclaiming of some erring souls, the comforting of some troubled households, and also, through the private liberality of several friends, in the relief of many cases of poverty and distress. The other labourer in the field, Mons. Buessard, also laboured with much zeal in the charge entrusted to him. The Mothers' Meetings had also been continued during the winter months: donations, however, are much needed for their effective maintenance.

Rev. Dr. Cook then rose to move the first resolution as follows:—

“That the reports which have just been presented to the meeting be adopted, and published with an abstract of the Parent Society's report; and that the following gentlemen be the Officers and Committee for the ensuing year.”

President:—H. S. Scott.

Vice-Presidents:—Henry Fry, James G. Ross, John Ross, John Gilmour, N. N. Ross, John C. Thomson, and Ministers of the Gospel of all denominations, who are members of the Society.

Treasurer:—James Hossack.

Recording Secretary:—George Lamb.

Committee:—James Gillespie, James Woodley, W. H. Tapp, Joseph Whitehead, Thomas Morkill, Peter Mcnaughton, Alexander Woods, Henry W. Powis, William Marsh, James Hamilton, Jas. S. Crawford, William Cream, William Brown, Peter Johnstone, R. D. Dobell, Thomas S. Cole, W. C. Scott, A. D. Webster.

The reverend gentleman resumed his seat, after delivering an address which was listened to with marked attention by the audience.

Rev. H. D. Powis seconded the resolution without making any speech, and it was declared carried. The Revds. L. Gaetz, G. V. Housman, and J. Nicholls also addressed the meeting. The doxology was then sung and the benediction pronounced by the Rev. C. W. Rawson.

INCIDENTS FROM REPORT OF NEW YORK BIBLE SOCIETY.

The details of work in the various departments of the Society furnish many incidents of great interest, from which we quote a few. Speaking of the *marine work*, Mr. John S. Pierson says:

Vessels returning from Spain last winter reported a more than usual call for Spanish Testaments and tracts. In one instance, soon after the eighteen copies on board had gone, persons who had already received came asking, one for a Testament for “his father,” another for “his sister,” another for “his son,” etc. Possibly this special demand may be owing to the fear inspired by the reactionary tendency of the Government, that the Spanish Bible will presently again be a prohibited book, and hard to be obtained.

“No, sir!” was the reply Mr. Jones received from the captain of the brig —, bound to Spain “we want none of your Spanish books. Take them ashore. I had trouble enough with them last voyage, at Cadiz. A crowd of Spaniards covering the deck, and quarrelling for the Testament, so that I had to drive them ashore. And then all the rest of the time I was there, numbers of them coming every day and bothering us with their begging, as if the ship *was* loaded with nothing but Testaments and tracts.” Striking testimony this, though roughly given, as to the interest of the people in the Scriptures, and the demand which our distributions have awakened.

A captain describing a distribution in a Brazilian port says: “One man fifty years old states that he had *learned to read* from the Portuguese Testament I had given him. He had been waiting for me, and now wanted a good lot of Testaments and tracts to take into the interior, where he had organised a class of a dozen, and was teaching them to read also.” How the good seed sows itself!

A pleasant looking, neatly dressed young man, of about twenty-three, called one morning at the office and made the following statement:—“In the

fall of 1872, I was keeping ship on the brig A——, of Thomaston, Maine, as she lay at a pier on the East River, when a package came on board for the captain, containing Portuguese Testaments and tracts for distribution at the Brazilian port to which the vessel was bound. With these was a Bible, which, as I carelessly looked over the contents of the parcel, struck my fancy as a nice-looking book; so I took possession of it as a good piece of property, of possible use some day; for I was a perfectly godless fellow then, never going to church, and never having looked into a Bible since I was a boy. I did not sail in that vessel, but next spring I shipped as mate in a bark bound to Havre; and when at sea, being put to it for something to read, I took out my Bible, became interested, and soon was praying for mercy. I will not enlarge on the scene in that cabin, but I shall never forget the spot. When I returned to New York I united with the church and began to work among seamen. I have been attending Dr. Talmage's college, in Brooklyn, and hope soon to preach the gospel from the pulpit; indeed, I have done so twice already." He had brought with him the Bible to show me (our cheapest duodecimo), and pointed to the passage, "I am the door," etc., as one of those which he had found most precious.

In a rear basement I found a poor coloured widow, a Christian woman, who wanted a larger print Bible than the one she had, and wished to pay for it, but said money was very scarce with her, and was delighted and deeply thankful when I allowed her to buy it for a merely nominal price. I told her how sincerely I respected her disposition to buy the Bible, and gave a New Testament to her little granddaughter to the great joy of both.

Found a family living in quite comfortable apartments, yet destitute of the Bible; the wife being a Virginian and the husband from New York. Though not professing Christians, they seemed glad of the opportunity to buy the Bible for their home, and were evidently thoughtful and sincere respecters of God's word, which I trust will be a blessing to them.

In the times through which we are passing, very many worthy families have been found without the Bible, and pleading inability to buy it because the husband and father had no work, or had but just begun again after having been long out of employment. To two such families, each having five children, I gave the Bible to-day.

Having a while ago sold a Bible on credit to a worthy Christian German, I called to-day for the price, and he brought it in his hand, but said with seeming hesitancy and diffidence, "Don't you sometimes sell it for less to the poor?" Sure that I understood him aright, I replied: "Yes, and I will sell it to you for half that." With an expression of thanks that I shall not soon forget, he paid me, he and his worthy wife thanking me again and again. At the same low price I sold the Bible to a German widow and mother, whom I felt sure would rather buy it than receive it gratuitously; and by buying it at any price, individual self-respect is preserved.

Said a man I met coming by the steamer "England:" "Sir, will you be so kind as to give me a copy. I got one in this place thirteen years ago. I carried it with me to Lake Superior, and had it twelve years. It was the only book I possessed. I made my living by boating and fishing. I lost it a year ago. I have spent many a happy hour in reading the story of Jesus, how he came into this world to seek and to save that which was lost, and, thank God, I know Jesus is my Saviour."

About the middle of January last, I was asked by the secretary of the German Society of New York if I could find time to call on a poor family in Brooklyn. The next morning I went and was admitted. There were in the cellar two wooden chairs, a little iron bedstead with a straw mattress and a thin, unclean quilt, a stove with a teakettle on, but no fire. The young wife, only eighteen years old, was very thinly clad. The only ornament I noticed on the mantelpiece was *one of our small German Testaments*. I said to her, "Where did you get that Testament?" "In Castle Garden, where we landed, a gentleman gave it to me," she said. "How long ago is that?"

said I. "It was in the middle of February last." "How often do you read in that book?" said I. She took the Testament from the mantelpiece and showed me that she had been very diligently reading the good book. "You may believe me, sir," said she, "if it had not been for this book, I don't know what would have become of me and my poor husband—we might have drowned ourselves; but I have learned through this book again to trust in the Lord. The Lord's sermon on the mountain has given me great consolation, for he bids all to come to him that are heavy laden. Many tears (said she) have fallen on these pages, sir. As long as I had clothes I went regularly to church in Henry Street; but every piece of my clothing is now in the pawnbroker's shop, and for this reason I hope you will excuse me for standing here before you so poorly clad. I have worked in a shirt manufactory till I broke down. I suffered very much for the want of proper food."

RECEIPTS AT THE BIBLE SOCIETY HOUSE, TORONTO, FROM AUXILIARY AND BRANCH SOCIETIES, FROM 1st JANUARY TO 28th FEBRUARY, 1877.

JANUARY.	On Purchase Account.	FREE CONTRIBUTIONS.		
		U. C. B. S.	B. & F. B. S.	Sundry.
	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Laskey Branch		33 35	20 00	
Luther do	11 78	7 85		
Preston do		50 00		
Tiverton do	11 31			
Nairn do	54			
Vittoria do	11 20	13 00	13 00	
Listowel do	35 18			
Oncida do		41 00	41 00	
Mount Pleasant (Brant) Branch		47 23		
Goderich Branch		16 41		
Dungannon do		23 85		
Georgetown do	27 29	25 09	50 00	(1) 25 00
Eramosa do	1	50 00	50 00	
Rockwood and Everton Branch	16 53			
Cheltenham Branch	6 72			
Uxbridge do	30 00			
Caistorville do		10 00	10 00	
Eden Mills do	1 03			
Cayuga do		38 85		
Selkirk do	17 80			
Norwich do	60 00	15 00	25 00	
Campbellford do		30 00	20 00	
Elmira do	5 00	31 00		
Kingston Auxiliary B. S.	201 08			
Milton Branch		30 00	120 00	
Duffin's Creek Branch	16 54	8 70	7 00	
Mill Point do		12 60		
Tyrone do		31 85		
Yorkville do	13 31	26 68		
Port Hope do		147 96		
Mount Forest do	15 97			
Foxboro' do	18 44	9 78		
Whitby do	36 50	65 00		(2) 10 00
Burford do		47 17		
Blyth do	20 21	24 72	24 72	
Drumbo do	11 07	17 93	17 00	
Orono do		42 00		
Port Rowan do		17 69		
Culloden do		37 00		
Copetown do		37 72		

RECEIPTS AT THE BIBLE SOCIETY HOUSE, TORONTO.—Continued.

FEBRUARY.	On Purchase Account.	FREE CONTRIBUTIONS.		
		U. C. B. S.	B. & F. B. S.	Sundry.
Baltimore Branch	3 00	27 00	15 00	(3) 15 00
Pinkerton do	2 80	30 00		
Hamilton do	366 31			
Orchardville do	14 00			
Paris do		63 33	63 34	(1) 63 33
Grimsby do	19 99	15 01		
Chesterfield and Ratho Branch		29 88	59 77	
Crediton Branch	34 51	15 37	15 37	
St. Catharines Branch	125 00	150 00	150 00	
Armow do	2 00	12 00	11 00	
Dunbarton do		24 50	24 50	
Vernonville do	8 05	41 95		
Walkerton do	32 05			
Greenwood do	1 00	20 00	15 00	
Fergus do		160 00	100 00	
Nelson do		31 00		
Centreville do		14 80		
Cannington do		20 00		
Sunderland do	13 22	5 87		
Orillia do		40 00	40 00	
Cherrywood do	88	14 07		
Princeton do	10 73			
Molesworth do		33 22		
Mount Pleasant (Brant) Branch		3 00		
South Etobicoke Branch		15 76	31 51	
Rockwood and Everton Branch		40 00	40 00	
Hillsburgh Branch	24 72	19 86		
Guelph do	99 05	200 00	300 00	(4) 20 00
Hollin do		34 92		
Powmanville do	35 00	40 00	60 00	(1) 20 00
Caistor do	8 00	10 00		
Ingersoll do		100 00	100 00	
Port Dover do	65 52	18 00		
Cheltenham do	9 22	53 28		
Elora do	18 15	65 00	100 00	(2) 35 00
Manchester do		16 50	16 50	(2) 33 00
Bolton do	28 00			
St. Thomas do	5 00	70 00	70 00	
Clinton do		95 00		
Coldsprings do		62 50		
St. Anns do	2 12	10 00	7 88	
New Durham do			38 00	
Peterboro do	120 58			
Coboconk do	2 90	19		
Cooksville do		40 25		

(1) To Montreal Auxiliary.
(3) To Quebec Auxiliary.

(2) To French Canadian Missionary Society.
(4) For Turkey.

PRICE OF THE "RECORDER."

From six copies upwards of the *Bible Society Recorder* are furnished gratuitously to each of the Branches. Extra numbers are furnished at the following rate per annum:—Single copies, 20 cents; ten copies to one address, \$1.50; over ten and under 50 copies, \$13 per hundred; any quantity over 50 copies, \$12 per hundred; in each case including postage.