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THE SCRIPTURES AND REVEALED RELIGION.

The Christian religion is not a mere system of ideas. It rests on a basis of historic facts. The great central fact of the Gospel is thus expressed by Jesus himself : " God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life ;" and by the Apostle Paul thus : " This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." With the appearance of God's Son in human nature were connected a series of mighty works, a body of Divine teachings, the appointment of apostles and the establishment of the visible church : all which are matters of historic record.

Nor is this all. It is the constant doctrine of Christ and his apostles that he came in accordance with the Scriptures of the Old Testament, and that his religion is the fulfilment of the types and prophecies therein contained : " Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets : I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil." " All things must be fulfilled which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me."

The facts of the New Testament connect themselves, therefore, immediately with those of the Old, so that the whole series constitutes an indivisible whole. The Bible is, from the beginning to end, the record of a supernatural revelation made by God to men. As such, it embraces not only

supernatural teachings, but supernatural facts also ; and the teachings rest on the facts in such a way that both must stand or fall together.

This basis of supernatural facts, then, must be firmly maintained against unbelievers, whose grand aim is to destroy the historic foundation of the Gospel, at least so far as it contains supernatural manifestations of God to men. They would rob it of its divine authenticity and reduce it to a mere system of human doctrines, like the teachings of Socrates or Confucius, which men are at liberty to receive or reject as they think best. Could they accomplish this, they would be very willing to enulge the character of Jesus, and extol the purity and excellence of his precepts. Indeed, it is the fashion of modern unbelievers, after doing what lies in their power to make the Gospel a mass of "cunningly-devised fables" of human origin, to expatiate on the majesty and beauty of the Saviour's character, the excellence of his moral precepts, and the benign influence of his religion. But the transcendent glory of our Lord's character is inseparable from his being what he claimed to be, the Son of God, coming from God to men with supreme authority ; and all the power of his Gospel lies in its being a message from God. To make the Gospel merely human is to annihilate it, and with it the hope of the world.

When the enquiry is concerning a long series of events intimately connected together, so as to constitute one inseparable whole, two methods of investigation are open to us. We may look at the train of events in the order of time from beginning to end ; or we may select some one great event of special prominence and importance, as the central point of inquiry, and from that position look forward and backward. The latter of these two methods has some peculiar advantages, and will be here followed. We begin with the great central fact of revelation already referred to, that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. When this is shown to rest upon a foundation that cannot be shaken, the remainder of the work is comparatively easy. From the supernatural appearance and works of the Son of God, as recorded in the four Gospels, the supernatural endowment and works of his Apostles, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, and their authoritative teachings as contained in their epistles, follows as a natural and even necessary sequel. Since, moreover, the universal rule of God's government and works is "first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear," it is most reasonable to suppose that such a full and perfect revelation as that which God has made to us by his Son, which is certainly "the full corn in the ear," must have been preceded by exactly such preparatory revelations as we find recorded in the Old Testament. Now Jesus of Nazareth appeared among the Jews, the very people that had the Scriptures of the Old Testament, and had been prepared for his advent by the events recorded in them as no other nation was prepared. He came, too, as he and his apostles ever taught, to carry out the plan of redemption begun in them. From the position, then, of Christ's

advent, as the grand central fact of redemption, we look backward and forward with great advantage upon the whole line of revelation.

We cannot too earnestly inculcate upon the inquirer, the necessity of thus looking at revelation as a whole. Strong as are the evidences for the truth of the Gospel narratives considered separately, they gain new strength, on the one side, from the mighty revelations that preceded them and prepared the way for the advent of the Son of God ; and on the other, from the mighty events that followed his advent in the apostolic age, and have been following ever since in the history of the Christian Church. The divine origin of the Mosaic Institutions can be shown on solid grounds, independently of the New Testament ; but on how much broader and deeper a foundation are they seen to rest, when we find that they were preparatory to the incarnation of Jesus Christ. As in a burning mass, the heat and flame of each separate piece of fuel is increased by the surrounding fire, so in the plan of redemption, each separate revelation receives new light and glory from the revelations which precede and follow it. It is only when we view the revelations of the Bible as thus progressing from "glory to glory," that we can estimate aright the proofs of their divine origin. Even if it were possible to delude men into receiving as miraculous a particular event, as, for example, the giving of the Mosaic law on Sinai, or the scenes of the day of Pentecost, the idea that there could have been imposed on the world a series of such events, extending through many ages, and yet so connected together as to constitute a harmonious and consistent whole, is a simple absurdity. There is no explanation of the unity that pervades the supernatural facts of revelation, but that of their divine origin. In contrast with this rational way of viewing the facts of revelation as a whole, is the fragmentary method of objectors. A doubt here, a cavil there ; a difficulty in this statement, an objection in that—this is their favourite way of assailing the gospel. If one chooses to treat the Bible in this narrow and uncandid way, he will soon plunge into unbelief. Difficulties and objections should be candidly considered, and allowed their due weight, but they must not be suffered to override irrefragable proof, else we shall land in universal scepticism ; for difficulties, and some of them insoluble, can be urged against the great facts of nature, science and natural religion, as well as revelation. To reject a series of events supported by an overwhelming weight of evidence, on the ground of unexplained difficulties connected with them, involves the absurdity of running into a hundred difficulties for the sake of avoiding five. If we examine the claims of revelation as a whole, its divine origin will shine forth like the sun in the firmament. Our difficulties we can then calmly reserve for further light here, or hereafter.

E. P. BARROWS, D.D.

Canadian and Domestic.

ANNIVERSARIES.

The Annual Meetings of the following Bible Societies have been held since our last issue, and we feel much pleasure in chronicling the interesting services by which they were characterized. The MONTREAL meeting, as usual, attracted crowds of ardent supporters. Why is it, that, while we contribute liberally, we do not, as a community, support by our presence the Annual Meetings of our Bible Societies, as do the Protestant people of Lower Canada? The Upper Canada Bible Society was ably represented at the Montreal Anniversary by the Rev. Mr. Punshon.

QUEBEC held its meeting in the Music Hall, one of the finest in the Dominion. We are indeed much pleased to hear that the spacious Hall was crowded to the door.

KINGSTON Anniversary was fully equal to that of any former year in attendance, enthusiasm, and the ability and effectiveness of the addresses delivered.

LONDON, this year, held its meeting in a House of Worship—St. Andrew's Church. The attendance, the spirit of the meeting, and the general satisfaction of the audience fully justified the change from the City Hall. The absence of the late President of the Society, the honoured and beloved Bishop Cronyn, was felt, and allusion was made to it by several of the speakers. It was however most gratifying to all to find in the chair, as his successor in the Presidency of the Bible Society, the Right Rev. Bishop Hellmuth, his successor in the Episcopal Office also. His address at the meeting, though brief, fully satisfied every one that the Bible Society would continue to find in him an able supporter and firm friend.

One cheering feature of these Annual Services, an epitome *only* of which is here furnished, is the increasing catholicity—oneness of Protestantism, as evinced at those gatherings. As one of the reports says:—"All the denominations were represented at the meeting." May the spirit of Union still increase.

MONTREAL.—The 51st annual meeting of the Montreal Auxiliary Bible Society was held on Wednesday, January 24th, in the St. James Street Wesleyan Methodist Church, the President, the Hon. Jas. Ferrier, in the chair. Among those present we observed the Ven. Archdeacon Bond, Rev. Prof. Cornish, Rev. Prof. McVicar, Rev. Dr. Burns, Rev. Dr. Douglas, Rev. W. M. Punshon, Rev. Canon Bancroft, Rev. Canon Baldwin, Rev.

Messrs. Lang, Gibson, Young, Potts, Chapman, Hunter, Wells, Sparling, Donovan and others, besides a number of laymen. After devotional exercises by the Rev. John Potts, the Chairman called upon the Secretary, Prof. Cornish, to read the Annual Report which showed that during the year four new branches had been organized by the travelling agent, the Rev. James Green, viz :—Maitland, Farmers' Point, Lyndhurst, and Como ; and two new stations had been occupied, viz.: at Hendersonville on the Trout River, and North Hatley on the Massawippi. The whole number of Branches, Stations and Depositories in connection with the Auxiliary was 191. The aggregate returns from the branches amounted to \$6,546.92, which included payments for Bibles and Testaments, free contributions, and donations to the Parent Society. The sum of \$2,152.51 had been paid on purchase account ; and \$4,394.41 has been received as free contribution. Of these sums the former exceeded the amount of 1870 by \$217.35, the latter by \$189.37, making on both items an excess in favour of 1871 over 1870 of \$406.72. If to this be added \$268.00 paid by branches in settlement with the Ottawa Auxiliary, and reckoned among the receipts of 1870, a total increase of \$674.72 was shown in favour of the past year.

Messrs. McMillan, Rose, Calder, Gear and Patenaude, Colporteurs, had continued in the service of the Society during the past year.

The total number of copies of the Sacred Scriptures and of "portions" sent out during the year amounted to 13,848, being 447 in excess of the previous year. The receipts, including \$1,888.36, the balance from 1870, had been \$14,523.28 ; the disbursements, including \$793.48 remitted from the Parent Society as donation, amounted to \$10,429.27 leaving a balance in hands of the Treasurer of \$4,094.01. By way of protest, though it be ineffectual, the Committee would emphatically call attention to the money paid as duty on copies of God's Word, imposed by the Government of an enlightened Christian country.

The gratuitous distribution had amounted to 532 copies, of the value of \$249.62, being 175 copies more than were granted in 1870.

The Bible Woman's Mission had been continued in the past year with its usual efficiency and success. Five Bible-women had been in regular employment during the greater part of the year. The work in the jail had been systematized and improved ; and a promising work had been commenced in connection with the General Hospital. A larger number of Bibles and Testaments had been sold than on any previous year, and the special subscriptions had not only been more abundant, but had come in spontaneously.

Addresses in support of the first resolution were made by the Very Rev. Canon Bond, Rev. J. Donovan and Rev. J. Green. The second resolution was spoken to by Rev. Mr. Chapman and the Rev. Dr. Burns. The third was presented by the Rev. Mr. Punshon, from Toronto, who conveyed the greetings of the U. C. Bible Society. Mr. T. M. Thompson seconded this resolution. After singing the Doxology, the Benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Canon Bancroft, and the meeting dispersed.—*Montreal Witness*.

OTTAWA.—The seventeenth Annual Meeting of this Society was held January 31st in Metcalf Street Wesleyan Church. The attendance, as usual at their annual gatherings, was very large, and consisted of members from all the Protestant denominations of the city. The President of the Society, Mr. George Hay, occupied the Chair, and among the distinguished gentlemen present we observed Rev. W. Stephenson, Rev. Mr. Johnston, Rev. Mr. Moore, Rev. Mr. McLaren, Rev. Mr. Cameron.

The Rev. Mr. Stephenson opened the proceedings by giving out the 698th hymn. The XIX Psalm was read by the Rev. Mr. Johnston, after which the Rev. Mr. Moore engaged in prayer.

The Chairman then opened the regular business of the meeting by saying, it would seem a work of supererogation to attempt a set speech on this occasion.

As a matter of form, however, it was necessary to state that this was the seventeenth anniversary of the Ottawa Auxiliary Bible Society. He alluded to the work of the Parent Society during the past year. After alluding to the late war in Europe since the last meeting of the Society, and the good work that had been performed by agents of the Society, in the ranks of the German army, he concluded his remarks by calling upon the Rev. Mr. McLaren, corresponding Secretary of the Society, to read the annual Report of the Society. Extracts from the Report:—

COLPORTAGE.—This important department of the work has received careful attention. Three colporteurs have been employed. During the year 2,611 families were visited by our colporteurs, and 1,984 copies of the scriptures, to the value of \$602.91, were circulated by them. The following townships and villages have been visited more or less fully during the year by our colporteurs, viz:—Gloucester, Osgoode, Mountain, Templeton, Buckingham, Thurso, Papineauville, Marlborough, North Gower, Cumberland, Clarence, Cambridge, Hull, Eardley, Onslow, Aylwin, Hincks, Northfield, Ayles, Lowe, Admaston, Bromley, Horton, South Sherbrooke, Darling, Lavant, Bagot, Blythfield, Elmsley, Burgess, Montague, Clarendon, Huntley, Fitzroy, Thorne, Leslie, Beckwith, Ramsay, Pakenham, Macnab and Bristol.

One colporteur distributed 44 copies gratuitously, and the other two report gratuitous distributions, and reductions in price, amounting in all to the value of \$24.25.

Mr. Mackenzie reports an interesting tour among the lumbering establishment on the Upper Ottawa and its branches, in the course of which he visited 31 shanties, containing 984 men, and 13 depots and lumbering farms, where he found 130 men and 22 women. In this tour 224 bibles and testaments were sold, or given away gratuitously. Of the copies thus put in circulation 19 were in French. The colporteur received generally a kindly welcome, and had full opportunity of speaking a word in season to those far removed from the ordinary means of grace. Donations to this Society of the extent of \$83.45 were received during this tour, from the shantymen—a good indication of their appreciation of Mr. Mackenzie's visits.

Mr. Day made a similar tour among the shanties on the Gatineau and its tributaries, and was well received generally by the men. He went up the river about 200 miles and sold 82 bibles and testaments, 30 of which were in French. He also received donations for this Society to the extent of \$46.90. In a tour which Mr. Day subsequently made up the river Lievre he found a large proportion of Irish Roman Catholics among the men, and did not meet with so much encouragement in his work. Still he was able to sell 56 copies of the scriptures, 9 of which were in French.

ISSUES FROM THE DEPOSITORY.—4935 of which 1427 French, and 15 in German. The total number of copies circulated by the Ottawa Auxiliary up to the present date is 40,153.

FINANCES.—The Treasurer's account, which will be printed in full, gives the best idea of our exact financial position. It may, however, be stated that our income, including the balance of \$2,193.92 on hand at the beginning of the year, is \$5,936.14. The sum of \$1,992.75 has been received from our branches, and \$124.85 from shanties. Our city collections have amounted to \$739.91. The cash handed over by the Depository to the Treasurer, as the result of sales, after deducting expenses, is \$739.91. It is gratifying to observe that the receipts both from the city and from the branches show an advance on the preceding year.

The total expenditures for the year have been \$3,854.41. £450 sterling or \$2,198.74, were remitted to the Parent Society. £50 sterling were sent as a free contribution, and £400 sterling on purchase account. There has been paid for colporteurs \$1,045.00. For agency, printing and incidental expenses there has been expended the sum of \$523.44. The balance on hand is now \$2,131.73.

About the beginning of the year, the accustomed annual grant of £50 sterling towards the expenses of this agency was received from the committee of the Parent Society in the form of stock. For this seasonable aid our most cordial acknowledgements are due. We have also to express our renewed obligations to the Upper Canada Bible Society for their liberal grant of \$250.00 to aid us in our work of colportage.

Admirable addresses in support of resolutions were given by the Revds. J. Johnson, W. Stephenson, W. Moore, and A. A. Cameron; also by Messrs. Spragg and Johnston. Mr. Spragg, in seconding the first resolution said, he hoped it would not be out of place to say that His Lordship the Bishop of Ontario, who was requested to be present on that occasion, was unable to be so. He thought he might venture to say, however, that on some future occasion, as he was connected with the Bible Society, he would be able to co-operate with that of Ottawa. He knew of no man who loved the Bible, and revered its precepts, more than the Bishop of Ontario.

Mr. Hay, in putting the resolution before the meeting, said they would agree with him that they would have been glad to see the Bishop of Ontario present. They had representatives of all the Protestant denominations of the city on the platform, and they had great cause for thankfulness that it was so. The report of the Parent Society said that a marked feature this year was the spirit of union that appeared to be spreading amongst the Christian men of Great Britain.—*Ottawa Citizen*.

KINGSTON.—The Anniversary Meeting of the Kingston Auxiliary was held on the evening of the 16th January. The Rev. F. W. Dobbs, the President, occupied the Chair; and on the platform were the clergy of all the evangelical bodies in the city. Mr. R. Vashon Rogers, the Secretary of the Auxiliary, read the Annual Report showing the doings of the Auxiliary during the past year, and in it was the announcement of the pleasing fact that the late E. H. Hardy, Esq., had bequeathed \$200 to the Auxiliary. The Rev. F. W. Kirkpatrick, of St. James Church, moved the adoption of the Report and the appointment of the office bearers; the motion being seconded by the Rev. Prof. McKerras of Queen's College. Rev. F. W. Kirkpatrick also read the Report of the Kingston Ladies' Bible Association. The Rev. J. G. Manly of the U. C. Bible Society made an able address which was well received by the audience. The Rev. G. R. Sanderson and the Rev. Wm. Shortt also made impressive speeches. The attendance, compared most favourably with that of preceding years, and the attention of the hearers was retained until a late hour.—*Com.*

QUEBEC.—The Anniversary Meeting of this Auxiliary was held in the Music Hall, on Wednesday evening, the 14th February, and we do not remember having seen so large an attendance upon a similar occasion in Quebec. The spacious Hall was crowded to the door with an attentive and intelligent audience, representing the different Protestant denominations in our city, and a considerable number of our Roman Catholic citizens were also present. The Chair was occupied by H. S. Scott, Esq., senior Vice-President of the Auxiliary, in the absence of the President, C. Wurtele, Esq. In addition to several members of the Auxiliary, there were present on the platform, the Rev. Messrs. Housman, Bancroft, Doudiet, Cook, Powis, Marsh, Elliot and Weil. The Rev. W. B. Clark, of Chalmers' Church, opened the meeting by reading a portion of scripture and offering prayer.

The Chairman said he believed he would best discharge the duties of his position by not attempting to anticipate the addresses of the gentlemen who would speak during the evening. He therefore called upon the Secretary to read the Annual Report. The report includes an abstract of that of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and its work for the past year; a brief review of the work of the Parent Society since its foundation, and its work during

the past year ; reviews the work of the Quebec Auxiliary in the year which has just gone by, and concludes with sentiments of affectionate trust in Divine guidance, and hope for help in the time to come. The work of colportage is noted at length, and the beneficial results are regarded as cheering. The total issues from the Depository for the last year, shows a considerable increase on the year preceding. They were as follows :—English Bibles 635, English Testaments 626. Foreign Bibles 16, Foreign Testaments 143, parts of Scriptures 148 ; total 1568. Of these were sold by colporteurs, or distributed on *bona fide* grants, copies to the amount of \$289.00. Sales at the Depository \$115.23, total \$404.32. The amount of money realized in the city falls short of the previous year by nearly one hundred dollars, but this deficiency has been more than compensated by a bequest of \$100 from the late Donald Fraser, Esq., paid the Treasurer by the executors of his estate ; and by an increase in the Upper Canada Bible Society's annual donation. The total is \$1,684.37, being in increase for the past year of \$69.43.

Our limited space prevents us from giving the addresses which were delivered. The principal speakers were, the Rev. Messrs. Elliott, Bancroft, Cook and Doudiet ; and the hearty applause of the audience showed how cordially the sentiments they uttered were appreciated. Upon the whole, it was one of the most successful meetings of the kind, in every respect, which we have had the pleasure of attending. The collection taken up was upwards of \$145, being \$65 over that of last year. The proceedings were brought to a close by a vote of thanks being presented to the visitors, the Rev. Canon Bancroft and the Rev. Mr. Doudiet, followed by the Benediction.—*Quebec Gazette.*

LONDON.—The annual meeting of the London Auxiliary Bible Society was held in St. Andrew's Church on Tuesday evening the 19th March, in presence of a moderately large audience. The Right Rev. Bishop Hellmuth presided, and on the platform were Ven. Archdeacon Brough, Rev. Canons Innes and Huntingdon ; Revs. Isaac Brock, James Smythe and W. H. Tilley, of the Episcopal Church ; Revs. John Scott, Wm. Cochrane, of Brantford, and D. Camelon, Presbyterian ; Rev. Dr. Jeffers, Wesleyan ; Rev. Dr. Cooper, Baptist ; Rev. Geo. Richardson, M. New Connexion, Rev. Mr. Gemley, Secretary of the Upper Canada Bible Society, and Rev. J. Natrass, Secretary.

The proceedings were opened by devotional exercises, after which the Chairman gave a short address, and called upon the Rev. John Natrass (Secretary) to read the Annual Report, of which the following is an abstract. After speaking in highly commendatory strains of the wonderful successes of the Parent Society during the last year, it speaks of the progress of the Upper Canada Bible Society, with which body, he remarks, we have the great honour to be closely connected. We still more rejoice that the toilers in our western woods, in our settled townships, and our many villages and towns have the Bible, with its rich treasures put within their reach, and placed in their hands ; and the simple object of this Auxiliary is to provide every man, woman and child in these western counties with a copy of the Holy Word, and while doing this to assist sister societies in doing the same in other parts of the world.

THE OPERATIONS of this Society are confined to the counties of Middlesex, Elgin, Lambton, Kent, and Essex, in which district it has some 80 Branches established, all more or less in working order, where depositories for the sale of the Bible exist. Annual meetings are held and efforts made to raise funds whereby the Word may more speedily reach all nations. Several of these counties have been visited by the two colporteurs of this Auxiliary. One of these agents, Mr. John Crombie, has been at work the entire year, and the other, Mr. John Lowry, for two or three months only. The special work of these labourers is to circulate the Bible, but while doing this they have also, as they visit from house to house, to speak to the people about Jesus, encourage those who are faint by the way, and by pious and profitable con-

versations on all suitable occasions, seek to turn the hearts of your countrymen from earth to heaven.

COLPORTAGE.—Mr. John Crombie has visited in a most regular and systematic manner the townships of Howard, Harwich, Southwold, McGillivray, Bosanquet, Biddulph and Nissouri. He travelled during the year 1,110 miles, mostly on foot; visited 3,502 families, or near 10 families per day. He gave away 23 Bibles, and otherwise disposed of 316 copies, making a total of 639 copies of Holy Scriptures distributed by him in these townships. In this visitation of concession after concession, and house after house, he reports that he found 44 families without a Bible, entirely destitute of that precious Word which alone is able to making a man wise unto salvation.

Mr. John Lowry, the other colporteur, accomplished also a large amount of work for the short time he was engaged. He visited in succession, thoroughly canvassing each place, Petrolea, Sarnia, Point Edward, the Indian Reserve near Sarnia, and several other places in the townships of Moore and Sombra. During the two months he was in the field he travelled 475 miles, visited 1,100 families, and distributed 491 copies of the Holy Word. Of these 50 were sold to Indians, and one given to a French Roman Catholic, who promised to read it and pray for the colporteur. He found 9 families without the Word of the Lord, with which he at once supplied them. In referring to these labours we only record the visible—the scattering of the seed by the wayside, on stony ground, among thorns, and in good soil; but the result:—the rooting, the growth, the ripening, and the harvest gathering, will only be known in the day of the Lord.

On March 1st, 1871, the stock in hand consisted of 1,698 Scriptures; in addition to this 5,708 copies were received during the year, making a total of 7,406 copies, of which 5310, as stated above, have been sold, leaving the stock on March 1st, 1872, at 2,096 copies, an increase of near 400 Scriptures in amount of stock.

FINANCES.—The cash on hand at the beginning of the year was \$1,682.72, to which must be added cash from Branches for the B. & F. B. Society, the U. C. B. S. the London Auxiliary, and other objects \$2,891 15. Cash from Branches on account of stock, \$800 16. Proceeds of sales, \$734.47. City subscriptions, \$334. From interest on deposits, collections at annual meeting, and other sources, \$135. 16, making a total of \$6,576.66.

The disbursements were as follows:—For stock, \$1,696.72. To B. & F. B. Society, \$933.03. To U. C. B. Society, \$1,036 18. For Bible work in Spain, \$200. In France, \$200. In Italy \$200. In Mexico, \$200, and in our own Manitoba, \$100. Also for other objects, \$189.34. Salaries of colporteurs, of Depository, and compensation to Secretary, \$689. To expenses of annual meeting, 1871, printing annual reports, freights, insurances, postage, &c., \$73.94, making a total of \$5,577 62—thus leaving a balance in the Treasurer's hands of \$999.04. The assets and liabilities of the Auxiliary are as follows:—Assets—Stock on hand, \$984 07. Due by Branches \$536 01. Cash on hand \$999 04. Total, \$2,519.12. Liabilities—Amount due to branches, \$123.47. Leaving a surplus of \$2,395.65. Considering the population of the city, its increasing wealth, the influential position of its Protestant inhabitants, and the value, the inexpressible value of the Holy Bible, it is thought that this city of London should by all means raise more than \$334 per annum for this good cause.

SALES.—The sales or issues of the Society during the past year have been, by the agency and colporteurs, 1,033 copies of Scripture; sold at the Depository 1,394; supplied to branches 2,878, making a total of 5,310 copies sold during the year by this Auxiliary, an increase of 736 over the sales of last year.

The full particulars anent all these matters will be given in the Annual Report.

THE LATE PRESIDENT.—But amid these many encouragements, these signs of a better day, the Auxiliary has had to mourn, and still sorrows the loss

of its deeply esteemed and truly devoted President, the Right Rev. Dr. Cronyn, late Bishop of Huron, who in the fulness of his years and of his usefulness was taken but a few short months ago from amongst us. For many years in connection with this Auxiliary, he encouraged and upheld the Bible work in this Western Ontario, taking an active interest in the welfare of the Auxiliary, and ever seeking to promote its great ends among men, and the humble prayer of your Committee is, that in this work his successors in the chair of this Auxiliary may with still increasing fidelity follow in his steps—until all men shall know the Lord.

In the resolutions submitted to the meeting, the first was moved by the Rev. D. Camelon, seconded by Rev. Dr. Jeffers. The Rev. Mr. Gemley, of Toronto, proposed the second which was supported by the Rev. Canon Innes. The third resolution was moved and seconded respectively by the Rev. Mr. Cochrane, of Brantford, and the Rev. Geo. Richardson. The collection was now taken up, and exceeded that of last year nearly 40 per cent.

The Chairman then thanked the meeting for the high honour they had conferred upon him in electing him President of the Society. He hoped to be able to advance its interests, and anything tending in that direction would always receive his most cordial support. The Doxology was then sung: the Benedictus pronounced, and the meeting, which was most interesting throughout, terminated shortly after 10 o'clock.—*London Free Press.*

British and Foreign.

The following selections, under this heading, are from the last month's "Reporter" of the Parent Society. The articles are of more than usual interest. Among them the reader will find that the persecuting spirit of the Romish Priesthood is again evinced in the record below of the faithful and inoffensive Italian Colporteur Salvatori. But the record of this fact comes with the record of another, viz:—that "an *Italian Bible Society has been formed at Rome in connection with the Parent Society.*" In behalf of Rome and of all Italy we thank God for this.

THE EMPEROR OF GERMANY AND THE BIBLE SOCIETY.

It will gratify many of the friends of the Society to hear that His Imperial Majesty, the Emperor of Germany, has evinced very deep interest in the operations of the Society which were carried on during the late war amongst the German troops. Not only has His Majesty courteously received from the Rev. G. P. Davies, in a lengthened personal interview, a detailed report of all that was effected on behalf of the soldiers, but he has subsequently addressed to that gentleman the following letter, in which he records his sense of the great religious benefits conferred on the army, as the result of the extraordinary measures which were adopted by the Society's representative to furnish every man with a copy of the Holy Scriptures:—

"To the Director of the British and Foreign Bible Society for Germany and Switzerland, the Rev. George Palmer Davies.

"I have, with the warmest interest, taken cognizance of the information respecting the operations of the British and Foreign Bible Society during the war of 1870-71, contained in your memorial of the 1st of last month.

"It has filled me with agreeable satisfaction to see with what zeal, and with what circumspection, you, in the spirit of the Society which you represent, exerted yourself to give to the warriors of the German armies, by bringing to them the Holy Scriptures, the opportunity of strengthening themselves, by trust in God, for the fulfilment of their calling, and of receiving in the hour of suffering the direct consolation of religion.

"A magnificent result has rewarded your exertions. In consideration of this I cannot refrain from expressing to you, herewith, my recognition of the high merit which you have gained for yourself in reference to the spiritual welfare of the German warriors, and my thanks for the rich blessing which you have diffused among them.

" WILLIAM."

The entire work effected through the German agency of the Society, in connection with the war, may be summed up as follows :—

1. By direct operations, principally through colporteurs, there were sold to healthy soldiers, at reduced prices :—

7,730 Bibles.
174,661 Testaments.
7,403 Portions.
Or a total of 189,794 volumes.

2. Distributed gratis to the sick, wounded, and prisoners :—

314 Bibles.
237,144 Testaments.
260,908 Portions.
Or a total of 498,366 volumes.

3. Memorial volumes, consisting of the New Testament and Psalms, presented to the survivors of the fallen, through their Pastors, 12,660 copies.

4. Beyond the above numbers the following Scriptures were circulated through affiliated Societies and private persons, partly sold to healthy soldiers, and partly distributed gratis to the healthy, the wounded, and prisoners :—

515 Bibles.
120,233 Testaments.
138,898 Portions.
Or a total of 259,646 volumes.

Thus the grand total of copies issued from the Society's German depots, in connection with the war, amounted to—

8,559 Bibles.
544,698 Testaments.
407,209 Portions.
960,466 volumes.

AUSTRIA.

PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION AT VIENNA IN 1873.

The Austrian Government has determined to inaugurate a grand International Exhibition in May, 1873. No efforts will be spared calculated to give éclat and success to the enterprise, and it may be anticipated that much interest and enthusiasm will be awakened amongst the various nationalities composing the Empire. A large influx of visitors will doubtless throng Vienna to witness this first attempt to organize an International Exhibition in that country. The Committee feel that on such an occasion and in such

an important centre in Europe, means should be adopted to represent the work of the Bible Society in a conspicuous manner. They have, therefore, authorized their Agent, Mr. Millard, to open negotiations with the President of the Commissioners for the purpose of obtaining space, within the building itself, for exhibiting a collection of the Society's versions of the Holy Scriptures; and they have also directed that a suitable spot shall be secured within the grounds in order that a depot may be erected for the sale and free distribution of copies. The action of the Society will involve considerable expense, and the free distribution of the Scriptures must in great measure be regulated by the amount of liberality with which the friends of the Society shall respond to the proposals of the Committee. If the authorities shall concede the privileges requested there will be a most favourable opportunity for the circulation of the Scriptures, amongst classes very difficult of access under ordinary circumstances. Every contribution offered for the object will enable the Committee the more confidently and generously to entertain the plans now under consideration.

The subscriptions received for the Society's special work at the Paris Universal Exhibition in 1867 nearly covered the cost of the work, and it will be gratifying to the Committee if such should be the result in regard to their undertaking at Vienna.

ITALY.

It is not often that the colporteurs in Italy experience such brutal treatment as that described in the subjoined extract, and it is to be hoped that there are few Romish priests, inimical as they may be to the work of the Society, who would be guilty of so disgraceful and inhuman an outrage. The colporteur in question is an inoffensive and well behaved young man, and would not intentionally say anything calculated to cause irritation even to an opponent. He was pursuing a calling sanctioned by the law, and no one had a right to interfere with, much less to assault him. The priest was arrested by the police, and is now at liberty on bail, but probably through lack of witnesses willing to give their testimony, he may escape the punishment which he so richly deserves. Mr. Bruce states:—

“G. Salvatori, one of the Neapolitan colporteurs, was pursuing his calling at Fuori Grotta, near Naples, when he was assaulted by a savage priest.

The following is, I believe, a truthful account of the event:—

“When standing in the Piazza with my books, I heard some one call me, and turning to the right observed two priests who wanted me. I asked them if they wished to purchase a Bible, but they made use of very bad language, and one of them ordered me to leave the village immediately, I replied that I was pursuing my calling, and further, as he grew very insolent, I said I was not under a priestly, but a civil government. He quietly came near to me, asking various questions, and when I was off my guard he gave me a blow on my stomach which laid me breathless on the ground. Not content with that, he took a Bible and gave me a blow on my left eye, as he said to deprive me of sight, besides which he beat me so that I could scarcely rise. A woman who was passing, seeing the condition to which I was reduced, helped me and remonstrated strongly with the priest. My face was covered with blood and the bystanders wished to take me to one of their houses, but I preferred going with the woman, who accompanied me to the police, and they took me to the hospital, for I was in a pitiable state.

“The eye was much swollen, and I was sore all over from the injuries I had received. I found my watch broken in my pocket, and have been obliged to sell it for the value of the silver. From the Depository, and from different members of the church, I have received much sympathy and kindness.”

ROME.

AN ITALIAN BIBLE SOCIETY has been formed at Rome, in connection with the Parent Society. It is proposed to hold a public meeting in March to further its objects

MADAGASCAR.

Information has reached the Committee from the Rev. W. E. Cousins, of Antananarivo, respecting the circulation of the Scriptures in this important sphere of Missionary labour. The Marginal Reference New Testament was received with extraordinary joy. The edition is in great demand, and promises to be an invaluable help to the Christian converts in leading them to clear and connected views of Divine truth. The cheap edition of the Malagasy Bible, with revised orthography, now printing by the Society, will soon be completed, and will prove, it is believed, an important facility in furthering the spread of Scriptural knowledge. Mr. Cousins remarks:—

“I should have written to you earlier, but have been waiting till the half-yearly report of our Mission Press was ready. I now enclose you a copy. The cases of Testaments &c. came to hand in good condition. When I wrote in August of last year asking for more Testaments with marginal references, we were not aware that large shipments had already been made.

“You will see from our report what has been effected in Scripture circulation. We have sold 1,882 Testaments with marginal references, and find them much prized by the natives generally, especially by the preachers. A steady demand for them still continues. The portions of the New Testament you sent us (Luke, Acts and Corinthians) have been extremely useful. We have considered the present circumstances of the country, and the liberal instructions you have given us, a sufficient warrant for distributing them gratuitously. More than 10,000 copies were given away during the half-year. The distribution has been made chiefly among the poorer of our converts in the country districts, and among our school children. They have been given, almost without exception, to those who could read; and chiefly to those who had only just learned to do so. This is a hopeful sign for Madagascar, and I have little doubt that the majority of those who have received a Gospel, or the Acts of the Apostles, will not rest satisfied until they become possessed of complete Testaments or Bibles. We thank you most heartily for having generously sent us such a useful supply, and we cannot but hope that great good will result from this increasing circulation of the words of eternal life.

“It was with great pleasure, too, we learned from the invoice of August 3rd, 1871, that 72 cases of sixpenny Testaments are on the way to us. These will meet the wants of many, both on account of their cheapness and their convenient size.”

LABRADOR.

The printing of the entire Bible in the Eskimo language is now happily completed, the concluding portions having recently passed through the press. The Society has thus had the privilege of providing the whole of God's Word for those successful Missions which have been conducted for more than a century, by the self-denying and laborious brethren of the Moravian Church, on the coasts of Labrador. The poor Eskimos, once so ignorant and degraded, have been elevated and richly blessed through the knowledge of Divine truth. The translation of the Scriptures is due to the efforts of the same Mission. The Secretary of the Moravian Missionary Society, in acknow-

ledging the great boon conferred on their work by the possession of the Bible in the vernacular of the people, remarks as follows :—

“ In the name of the Mission Board of the Moravian Church, I would herewith express our best thanks, on behalf of our Missionary brethren in Labrador and the Eskimo congregations collected on that coast, for the noble aid afforded them by defraying the cost of printing the whole Sacred volume in their language. A full century has passed since our Missions were commenced among the fierce tribes of the north, and who could say how many weary hours had to be spent by the Missionaries before they could with any confidence make the first attempts to translate the word of Divine Truth into a language which, though rich in terms relating to hunting and fishing, was utterly devoid of all expressions referring to the relation of sinful man to the God of holiness and truth and righteousness. Now the great work has, by the aid of the Lord, been accomplished, and though no doubt many imperfections and misconstructions and wrong expressions may be pointed out here and there, to be corrected in time to come, still the Eskimos on the rocky and ice-bound coast of Labrador can now say with the Cretes and Arabians of old : ‘ We do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.’ (Acts ii. 11.)

“ May the words of Divine Truth be gladly received by all who hear them ; also by the mostly unknown tribes of the far north, who cannot be evangelized except by a native agency and the printed Word of God.

“ To the sincere thanks of our Board for your generous co-operation in this work, I would add an especial acknowledgement for the promptness with which, but a few days before the sailing of the ‘ Harmony,’ 500 copies have been bound as the first cargo in the second century of this Mission. May this precious seed bear abundant fruit !”

THE BIBLE IN TURKEY.

The last *Bible Society Record* gives the following information respecting the spread of Christianity, by the circulation of the Bible, and other agencies, in Turkey : “ The extension of Christianity—Protestant Christianity—and with it necessarily, the circulation of the Holy Scriptures, call for our profoundest gratitude to God. Some notable evidence of it has recently come into our hands. We have before us a remarkable document, forwarded by the Rev. Dr. I. G. Bliss, of Constantinople. It is a report of Hagop Effendi, head of the Protestant community in Turkey, of a long tour in the Turkish empire, made at the expense of the Sultan. It is entitled “ Memorandum concerning Protestantism in the Turkish empire.” It is too long for our columns, and runs more into missionary affairs in general than is exactly appropriate to our pages. Still as showing the effects of the Bible, and of preaching according to the Bible, it is closely connected with the objects of this Society. This will justify us in stating, that while missionary work in Turkey was commenced only in 1818, the number of Protestants registered in the empire is 23,000, made up of almost every nationality in the empire. The document describes the social, moral, and educational condition of this community, which we cannot give ; but it interests us to know, that while the last year shows a distribution of 30,000 school books and 25,000 religious books, shows also, not less than 72,000 Bibles and parts of Bibles disseminated. This certainly is encouraging and gratifying for one year’s labor, and proves that our Bible societies have done, and are doing, a noble work in that country. We cite these facts to encourage our contributors, and stimulate them to keep giving to this good cause. Verily, your contributions in this field yield a blessed return.”

GIBRALTAR.—A fresh effort is about to be made to circulate the Scriptures in Gibraltar. The Society has voted the sum of £100 towards this object.

MALTA.—The translation of the Acts of the Apostles into Maltese has just left the press. A translation of the Psalms into the Nama language, spoken by a Hottentot tribe in South Africa, is being printed at the Cape.

Miscellaneous.

THE MOABITE STONE.

The following is a good review of Dr. C. D. Ginsbury's work on the Moabite Stone :—

This is the first and as yet the only independent work on the Moabite Stone which has been given to the English public. Several learned and able papers have, indeed, appeared on the subject in our Quarterly Reviews and Magazines—but these, from their necessary limitations as to size and character, cannot rank as complete treatises. The book before us, on the contrary, aims at meeting the wants alike of the philologist, the antiquarian, and the merely literary reader. It is called a second edition, but is, in fact, the only one that has ever been fairly accessible to the public. The former edition was privately printed, and circulated gratuitously among the members of the British Association, but was “withdrawn from the market” after a very short opportunity for acquiring it had been allowed. This was for private reasons, not because, as is carefully explained in the Preface to this edition, the author had seen reason to alter his mind on any important particular, much less had begun to have his doubts about the genuineness of the Stone itself.

The scholarship of the individual who should call that genuineness into question is, as Dr. Ginsbury says, “not worth a day's purchase.” The Stone is beyond all doubt of primary importance to the history and language of the Old Testament. It is a chronicle of wars and triumphs put on record by Mesha, King of Moab, who revolted from Jehoram, the son of Ahab, according to II. Kings iii.; and goes on to state also the various buildings and works of public utility which he caused to be executed after he had delivered his native land from the tyranny of the Israelites. It will thus bear date about B.C. 900. It supplements in a very remarkable way the fragmentary and widely separated notices of Moab found in the Old Testament, enabling us, e.g., to offer an explanation of the strange announcement made II. Kings iii. 27, that after the King of Moab found the allied Kings of Judah, Israel, and Edom too strong for him, he “offered his eldest son for a burnt offering;” that there was “great indignation in Israel,” and “they departed from him.” The inscription of Mesha renders it evident that the allies, though successful in the early part of the campaign, failed in the sequel. The Moabites, perhaps roused to frenzy by their King's act of desperation, seem to have again sallied forth from their city, and driven the invaders away. The inscription of Mesha gives a clear notion of the further progress of the war, which ended in the recovery by the Moabites not only of complete independence, but also of the whole district north of the Arnon, which had been wrested from the Amorites in the days of Moses by the transjordanic tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh, and a little earlier had been wrested by the Amorites from the Moabites. Thus Mesha restored the kingdom of Moab to the ancient limits and splendour which it had enjoyed

before the invasion of Sihon, recorded in ancient Hebrew poetry of the days of Moses, as we learn from Numbers xxi. 27-30 ; and the Moabites seem to have remained undisturbed and prosperous until the days of Isaiah. Hence is explained, what has always hitherto occasioned not a little perplexity to biblical scholars, the power, wealth, and prosperity which this Mesha, Isaiah, in his fifteenth and sixteenth chapters, declared "the burden of Moab."

These few remarks may serve to illustrate the vast importance of this ancient lapidary monument in reference to history. Scarcely less valuable is it in other particulars. It is the only original document of times earlier than the Maccabees, which is extant in the ancient Hebrew ; for the language of Moab, as written by Mesha, presents but slight, though grammatically interesting, variations from the Biblical Hebrew. It is older than two-thirds of the Old Testament, and has come down to us without modification from transcribers and redactors, which cannot be said of any part of the Old Testament. It is by far the most ancient inscription as yet discovered in letters of this kind, and throws much new light upon the early history and palæography of the Phœnician and the Greek alphabets. But we must refer our readers to Dr. Ginsbury's work itself for able and copious statements and illustrations of the many-sided importance of this discovery. He has taken great pains so to write and explain as to enable the novice in these studies to understand and appreciate the deeply interesting and very important matter here brought before him. The book, by no means a large one, contains a *facsimile* of the Stone ; a reproduction of the inscription in the square Hebrew character ; a translation in English ; essays upon the discovery of the Stone, the present state of its text, the relation of its inscription to the narrative of the Bible, and on its importance and literature ; a very careful and elaborate commentary on its every word ; and the various translations in German, French and English, twelve in number, exhibited in a tabular form ; and, finally, a complete vocabulary, in which are marked all the words and forms of words peculiar to the Stone. Nor must we forget to add that a very good map of the transjordanic country is prefixed to the volume,—a map which exhibits the results of the most recent investigation, and gives much aid in understanding the statements of this ancient chronicle.

It will be, of course, familiar to our readers that the Stone was broken by the Bedouins in November, 1869. The endeavours made by the emulous Consuls at Jerusalem to gain this precious relic for their several States aroused the attention of the Mahometan authorities : the Governor of Nablous made an attempt to possess himself of this treasure for which rival Franks were bidding so high ; and the Bedouins, dreading the total loss of that which they had learned to prize through the eagerness of others to get it, broke the Stone and distributed the bits amongst their different families.

The Moabite Stone was originally nearly four feet high, two feet in breadth, and rather more than fourteen inches in thickness. It is hewn out of the black basalt of the country, out of which, perhaps, the famous bedstead of Og was constructed ; a stone which contains a large proportion of iron, and is, indeed, called iron by the natives. The inscription now in part lost had endured almost uninjured for twenty-five centuries. As the top and bottom of the Stone were rounded almost to a semicircle, the number of lines, and approximately that of the letters can be ascertained from the two large fragments which still remain, and which comprise more than half the entire surface, including much of the upper and some of the lower margin. Dr. Ginsbury estimates that there must have been about eleven hundred letters in the thirty-four lines of which the inscription consists, of which six hundred and sixty-nine have been recovered. An impression, unfortunately only a hasty and imperfect one, was taken of the Stone before its destruction ; and two or three independent "squeezes" of the other two large fragments have been taken, whilst a number of smaller portions, the most important of them containing thirty-eight letters, are also extant. Sufficient material exists, it will be observed, for ascertaining much of the text, and for restoring with toler-

able certainty very much more. And it is hoped that even yet some of the remaining portions may be discovered and saved.—*Church Herald.*

WHY NOT?

BY REV. N. D. WILLIAMSON.

Taking a seat in a railroad car at Pittsburg, the other day, my eye was soon attracted by an ornate little rack, with an inscription on it in raised letters, fastened on the end of the saloon, near the water-cooler. My first thought was that the conductor had chosen a strange place for his bills and memoranda. But looking more closely, I read:

“BIBLE.

REPLACE IN THIS RACK.”

Going forward to discover who was the doer of this good work for the Master, I read on the inside of the cover of a Bible of convenient size and print, “Presented to the Pittsburg and Cleveland Railway Company by the Cleveland Bible Society, 1871.” As I opened the sacred pages, the Book seemed intent on first telling its own story, for it opened determinately to the place where *holiness unto the Lord* challenged attention.

Why not? was the first and most natural inquiry that rose in my mind. If this inscription which was first placed on the breast-plate of the Jewish high priest, is to be, according to prophesy, “upon the bells of the horses,” why not place it on our swiftest mode of travel?

As my soul was refreshed with further draughts of the cooling waters from the fountain of eternal life, and received a blessed and much-needed impulse toward heavenly things, I blessed God for this work of the Cleveland Bible Society.

Afterward, having occasion to go into another car of the same train, in which the Bible had the presentation inscription on the outside of the cover in gilt letters, I was pleased to see one of two young men who had just come on the train, take down the Bible, and after a pleasant remark from his friend, read in it attentively for some time.

Whether the Cleveland Bible Society originated this plan, and whether it has pursued it extensively, I have no means of knowing. But this blessed evidence and result of its activity has caused me to revolve the query frequently, Why not?

Why cannot all the local Bible societies that have the opportunity, with the parent society at their head, carry out this idea of the Cleveland Bible Society in all the passenger cars of the country? Donations of money for the racks which would need to correspond in plainness or elegance with the internal finish of the cars, would doubtless be gladly given by many christians.

By proper management, through the officers of the American Bible Society and other gentlemen whose good offices can be secured by the local agencies, the assent and approval of the officers and directors of most of the railroad companies could be obtained. The rest of the work, the construction and putting up of appropriate racks, the inscription and presentation of proper Bibles, the supply of new cars, and the re-supply of others that have soiled copies, can easily be arranged.

On the same train, while stopping for dinner, a pleasant-looking gentleman offered for sale little Tract Society books, such as “Come to Jesus,” and, in answer to my inquiry, stated that he had been at the work several years. Why could not the Christian Association or tract society of a town where trains usually stop for some time, obtain permission to have their agents supply at cost the passengers who wish such literature?

As the movement to form a National Association to supply railroad trains with good literature failed, could not this mode of doing the work in part be made successful? Why not?

ARMED WITH THE BIBLE.

David F— is a very aged citizen of Western North Carolina. Ten or fifteen years ago he determined to travel through the trackless wilds of the great and sparsely inhabited West. His route lay along the borders of Missouri and Nevada, infested at that time with more numerous clans of highway robbers than at present. He knew all this very well; and, although urged by his neighbors to procure a couple of repeaters to defend himself, he only took his pocket Bible, and, armed thus, set out on the perilous journey. He had passed some of the clans on the Northern border of Missouri, and was nearing the residence of one of the most formidable ones, headed by a notorious desperado, Jim Stevens, when he met a gentleman who, by some *coup d'état*, had escaped the vigilant eye of the robber captain. The first question that he propounded to old David was :

“Are you armed?”

“Yes,” was the aged Christian’s reply, as he produced his pocket Bible.

The gentleman, who was almost weighed down with bowie knives and pistols, laughed outright at what he considered the old man’s folly, and with considerable ridicule in his tone, remarked :

“If that is all the weapon you have, you had better be saying your prayers. The den of Jim Stevens is about ten miles further on, just where you will get by night, and he cares as little for Bibles as a rattlesnake.”

They exchanged names, and each went his own way; the one surprised at the other’s apparent folly and recklessness; the other undismayed, and his faith in the protecting power of his Bible undiminished.

Night had thrown her dark mantle around the earth, and the chilling blasts had begun to pierce the somewhat feeble frame of old David, when he descried a light far down in a glen a short distance from the road. He was sure that it proceeded from a robber-den; but he must have shelter, and, impelled by almost boundless faith, he directed his course thither. He halted when within a few paces of the door, and being coarsely greeted by some uncouth, mean-looking men, was invited to alight. When he entered the humble habitation he saw significant looks pass between the inmates, and each chuckled to himself, and he knew that he was at the headquarters of a road committee, among a desperate, relentless, and murderous clan of banditti. Nothing daunted, he occupied the proffered seat. Having partaken of a rough meal, which they furnished him at his request, he began conversation, which was continued till far in the night, when it was interrupted by the return of the captain, Jim Stevens, and a couple of his *confères* in crime, from a plundering raid. Stevens, advancing within a few feet of him, asked jeeringly :

“Old man, aren’t you afraid to travel in this section among the robbers, alone and unarmed?”

“No,” was old David’s bold and fearless reply, as he again produced his Bible, continuing, “This is my weapon of defence. I always read a chapter, and pray, too, before I retire. I know you are robbers, but I shall read and pray here to-night, and you must join with me.”

The roof of the shabby hut shook with loud taunting peals of laughter at this expression of the old man; but, nothing dismayed, he began to read. Gradually all became silent, and, when he knelt to pray, every knee was bowed. That was a strange sight—murderers and plunderers of their fellow-men kneeling and attentively listening to a prayer! Long and fervently the humble servant of God prayed; nor did their interest in the solemn scene and supplications abate. When he had finished, he was conducted to a hard pallet, where he slept the live-long night undisturbed, and even free from haunting fears.

He arose very early in the morning, and read and prayed before breakfast. They refused to receive aught for his entertainment during the night, and instead, cordially thanked him for the interest which he had manifested in

their behalf. Asking for them the light of Divine grace and the purification of their hearts, he bade them adieu and departed. He pressed onward, strengthened in faith and the goodness of God.

At the next settlement he learned of the death of the gentleman that he had met on the road, who ridiculed his Bible. This incident confirmed him in his belief of the superiority of the Bible as a weapon of defence.

He prosecuted his journey successfully, and soon returned safely to his home, family, and friends. Often now he gathers around him his grandchildren and the juveniles of the neighborhood, and relates to them his adventures among the robbers. With his face animated and his eyes glowing with superhuman light, he dwells upon the prayer scene in the banditti's hut, ecstatically exclaiming, "My Bible palsied their arms, unnerved their hearts, and bowed their knees." He always concluded his relation of the adventure with the solemnly-spoken exhortation: "Children, you need not fear the most perilous dangers of life, provided you are armed with the Bible, and have an abiding faith in its power of protection.—*Episcopalian*."

Bible Society Recorder.

TORONTO, 15TH MARCH, 1872.

ANNUAL MEETING.—The 32nd Annual Meeting of the Upper Canada Bible Society will be held (D. V.) on Wednesday Evening, the 22nd May, in the "Metropolitan W. M. Church," Toronto, kindly granted by the Trustees of that church—the Chair to be taken by the President of the Society, the Hon. G. W. Allan, Senator, at half-past seven o'clock.

The following gentlemen are expected to be present and address the meeting:—The Right Rev. I. Hellmuth,* D. D., Bishop of Huron; the Rev. W. M. Punshon, M. A.; the Rev. Professor Inglis; the Rev. Wm. Stewart, M. A.; and the Rev. J. A. R. Dickson, Toronto.

SERMON.—In conformity with the usage of the Parent Society whose Annual Meeting is preceded by one or more sermons preached in behalf of the Society, on the Sabbath immediately before the day of the Anniversary, the Board of Directors has decided to introduce the system here. We have much pleasure in announcing that the first sermon will be preached—God permitting—on Sunday afternoon in the Cathedral, through the kind permission of the Dean, by the Rev. S. J. Boddy, M. A., of Toronto. Service to commence at three o'clock.

* Since the above was in type, we received a letter from Bishop Hellmuth, in which he expresses deep *regret* at his inability to attend, and sincere *sympathy* with the work of the Society. He says,—“My engagements have so accumulated, and which require my personal attention, that I deeply regret to be obliged to forego the pleasure of advocating the cause of the U. C. Bible Society at its next anniversary. Assuring you and your committee of my hearty sympathy,” &c. We have much pleasure in stating that the Rev. Mr. Boddy, who preaches the sermon on the 19th May, has kindly consented to take part in the Annual Meeting.

BOARD MEETINGS.—On Tuesday Evening, the 13th February, the regular monthly meeting was held in the usual place. At half-past seven o'clock the Hon. W. McMaster, Senator, took the Chair. The Secretary read the Scriptures and the Rev. Mr. Rose offered prayer. The reports of Agents presented were very satisfactory; and the information furnished as to the labours of the colporteurs gave evidence of much usefulness amidst much toil and some persecution. A donation was made to the Rev. Mr. Warden to cover in part the pecuniary loss to which he has been subjected by the serious calamity which occurred to him when engaged in the Agency work of the Society. Allusion will be found to this in the last *Recorder*, page 18. The resolution authorizing the gift was very cordially adopted, and was accompanied by expressions of earnest desire that this able and faithful servant of the Society will speedily be restored to the work he loves, and soon again be found advocating the claims of this Society, whose interests he has advanced, and whose funds he has been instrumental in greatly augmenting within the limits of the field assigned him. The change of time for holding the meetings of the Board was again discussed, and finally disposed of. The views of all the members of the Board were solicited, and a tabulated statement of the information procured was presented. The decision arrived at was that the time remain as at present, viz. : the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30 p. m. The meeting closed with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Taylor at 8.40 p.m. The monthly meeting to review the Society's operations during the month of February was held in the Board Room on Tuesday, the 12th March, commencing at the usual hour. The President, Hon. G. W. Allan, Senator, in the Chair. There was a large attendance. After the usual devotional exercises, and the presentation of Reports, arrangements were made for holding the Annual Meeting of the Society; and gentlemen, representing the different sections of the church were selected, to whom invitations were to be forwarded requesting their presence and aid at the public services. After some additional routine business, prayer was offered by the venerable Bishop Richardson, and the meeting closed at 9 o'clock.

THE MAY "RECORDER."—The *Recorder* for this month, will be a "double number," and extend to 48 pages. It will contain a copy of the Annual Report of the Society; the speeches delivered at the Annual Meeting, and other items of general interest. All orders for additional numbers should be forwarded early. We are often compelled to inform those who apply *too late*, that we cannot supply them. We do so reluctantly; but the *cost of printing* will not permit us to print more than the number of our Branches, and the special orders received, will justify. Owing to the date of our Anniversary this year, it will necessarily be quite late in the month before we can be ready with the *Recorder* for May.—*For terms, see last page.*

NOTE.—Owing to the Printers' Strike the present number has been unavoidably delayed.

Remittances.

RECEIPTS AT THE BIBLE SOCIETY HOUSE, TORONTO, FROM
AUXILIARY AND BRANCH SOCIETIES, FROM 1ST JANUARY TO
15TH MARCH, 1872.

	On Pur- chase ac- count.	Free to U. C. B. Society.	Free to B.&F.B.S		Free to Sund- ries.
			General.	Rome.	
<i>January.</i>	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Richmond Hill Branch.....	10 92				
Ainleyville ".....	26 36				
Baltimore ".....	11 10				
Trowbridge ".....	5 00				
Bluevale ".....	6 00				
Lakeside ".....		25 00	25 00		
Ingersoll ".....	56 27	100 00	100 00		
London Auxiliary.....	284 81				
Southwold Branch.....		10 00	15 00		
Vienna ".....		12 50	12 50		
Ailsa Craig ".....		10 00	20 00		*1 10
Parkhill ".....		10 00	30 00		
Lambeth ".....		5 00	15 00		
Melbourne ".....		20 00	50 00		
Appin ".....		23 75	47 50		
Mt. Brydges ".....		5 00	5 00		
Aldboro' ".....		35 77			
Sparta ".....		11 00			
Port Stanley ".....		21 73			
Lucan ".....		8 00			
Port Burwell ".....		12 47			
Paris Branch.....		75 00	75 00		+75 00
Woodstock ".....	50 00	35 00	35 00		
Cobourg ".....	83 79	50 00	50 00	+100 00	
Tyrone ".....		4 82			
Enniskillen ".....		7 67			
Hampton ".....		2 30			
Grafton ".....	9 56				
Colborne ".....	47 00	1 75			
Castleton Branch.....		15 00			
Exeter ".....		50 00	100 00		
Eramosa ".....	2 10				
Ottawa Auxiliary.....	50 33				
Embro Branch.....	76 75	34 22	34 22		
<i>February.</i>					
Lynedoch Branch.....	\$1 50				
Fonthill ".....		5 00			
Hamilton ".....	341 91				
Brighton ".....	38 11				
Queenston ".....	17 50				
Beamsville ".....		13 33	13 33	***13 34	
St. Ann's ".....		4 90			
Smithville ".....	12 04				
Grimsbly ".....	52 56	8 00			
Collingwood ".....		43 98			
Mono Mills ".....	\$1 83	5 00	25 00		
Belleville ".....	167 96				
London Auxiliary.....					
Fingal Branch.....		20 00	25 00		
Ridgetown ".....	\$2 00	25 00	25 00	2 65	
Morpeth ".....	\$3 00	30 00	30 00	3 62	

	On purchase account.	Free to U. C. B. Society.	Free to B. & F. B. S.		Free to Sundries.
			General.	Rome.	
<i>February.</i>	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Mosa Branch.....		20 00	35 00		3 08
Wardsville ".....		10 00	10 00		2 06
Strathburn ".....	\$1 50	15 00	36 00		4 80
Warwick ".....		10 00	20 00		
North Plympton ".....		11 00	20 00		5 00
Forest ".....		20 00	20 00		7 86
East Westminster ".....		20 00	50 00		11 81
St. Johns' ".....		11 60	11 60		12 85
London, N. W., ".....		24 60	49 00		12 50
Thamesford ".....		33 00	44 00		
Delaware ".....		8 00	16 00		
Kingsville ".....	\$1 50	20 50			3 50
Colchester ".....	\$1 50	10 35			5 54
Tilbury East ".....	\$2 00	20 00			6 00
Buxton ".....	\$1 50	15 00			2 82
Dover ".....		20 00			4 80
Brooke ".....		20 00			1 69
Euphemia ".....		11 52			0 92
Thamesville ".....		15 00			
Corunna ".....		12 00			3 29
Birkhall ".....	\$1 50	40 00			15 38
Sombra ".....		4 50			0 81
Sutherland's Corners ".....		3 16			
Rutherford ".....		6 57			
Orford Branch.....					2 87
Dorchester Station.....					16 30
Adelaide Branch.....					5 17
Strathroy ".....					5 13
East McGillivray ".....					1 65
West McGillivray ".....					3 10
Siloam ".....					3 26
Parkhill ".....					3 12
Williams ".....					3 30
Klineburg Branch.....	5 00				
Lloydtown ".....	\$1 95	19 42	19 42		
Schomberg ".....	23 33				
Thornhill ".....			25 00		
Nobleton " (Collection).....		1 50			
Drayton Branch.....	21 50				
Elora ".....	62 00	70 00	105 00		35 00
Shakespeare ".....		9 85	18 00		2 34
Do " (Hampstead).....					6 73
Fullarton ".....		10 00	30 00		12 00
Mitchell ".....		11 15	22 00		2 98
Egmondville ".....		10 24	18 00		
Millbank Branch.....	9 13				
Elimville ".....	\$2 25	6 00	12 00		4 29
Georgetown ".....	25 00	25 50	51 00		**6 00
Norval ".....	13 43	38 89	38 89		**25 50
Cumminsville ".....	14 88	25 00	25 00		25 00
Nelson Middle Road Branch.....		27 35	27 35		
Wellington Square ".....	27 00	10 00			30 00
Cheltenham ".....			32 10		**32 10
Campbell's Cross ".....	16 34	36 00	50 00		
Malton ".....	\$1 50	20 00	20 00		
Campbellsville ".....	10 30	15 59	15 59		
Nassagaweya ".....	18 82	30 59	30 59		
Smithville ".....	3 47				
Brooklin ".....	27 98	10 00			
Lindsay ".....	30 00				
Oshawa ".....	7 7c	30 47	30 47		60 93
Darlington ".....		24 71	20 00		
Columbus ".....	11 00	25 00			50 00
Claremont ".....		50 00	50 00		

	On pur- chas ^g ac- count.	Free to U. C. B. Society.	Free to B. & F. B. S.		Free to Sund- ries.
			General.	Rome.	
	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
<i>February.</i>					
Dunbarton	15 00	15 00		30 00	
Pickering Central		1 23			
Culloden		30 00	30 00		
Otterville	19 38	50 00			
Richmond Hill	25 00	32 56	32 55		
Laskay		20 33	20 33		
Mono Centre	0 62	20 00	20 00		*5 00
Niagara, Bequest of late John McCulloch, (in addition to \$1,000 formerly paid)		400 00			
Markham Branch	69 73				
Uxbridge		25 00	50 00		§§25 00
Stouffville	32 00	5 34	5 33		§§5 33
Minden, "For mercies received"		15 00			
Washington Branch	30 04	20 00			
Chesterfield		39 00	40 00		
Innerkip		13 02	13 02		
Norwich	24 65	20 00	20 00		
New Durham	5 00	20 00			
East Oxford		7 75	7 75		
Crediton	26 32			11 42	
Port Rowan	44 72				
Waterford	19 87				
St. Williams	10 90				
Vittoria		32 73			
Lynedoch		38 67			
Port Dover	10 21	30 00	30 00		
Nairn		25 80	25 80		
Waterdown	24 42	25 00	25 00		
Lynden	23 68	2 50			
Ancaster			30 00		
<i>March.</i>					
Belleville Branch		150 00			
Minden (I.O.L. 1061, 1110, 1281)		§§3 47			
Brucefield Branch		15 00	32 00		
Woodbridge and Pinegrove Branch	18 52	20 00	20 00		*20 00
North Etobicoke Branch		3 11	40 00		** 3 11
South Etobicoke	3 50	36 79	36 80		
Beachville			5 00		
Peterboro'	16 70				
Simcoe	71 56	30 00			§ 5 20
Caesar's and Sandhill		22 74	22 75		
Brantford		150 00	1100 00		
Hamilton		100 00	609 72		
Erin	2 16				
Burford	14 14	33 96			
Hillsburg		36 00			
Eden Mills		34 00			
Hollin		19 07	19 07		
Glenallan		20 14			
Elmira		50 00			
Hawksville		66 96			
Fergus		100 00	100 00		
Princeton		30 00	30 00		
Burford		15 86			
Guelph		110 00	110 00	30 00	

* To French Canadian Missionary Society.

† To Montreal Auxiliary.

‡ For Spain and Rome. § On Recorder account. ¶ For France and Germany.

¶ \$17.50 to Montreal and \$17.50 to Quebec Auxiliaries.

** To Quebec Auxiliary.

†† To Ottawa Auxiliary.

‡‡ For Italy.

§§ For Manitoba.

*** For London Auxiliary.

Upper Canada Bible Society Communications.

1. All Communications relating to the *Bible Recorder* to be addressed to "The Rev. JOHN GEMLEY, Bible Society House, 102 Yonge Street, Toronto."

2. All Reports, Letters and other communications, from Branches, Agents, Colporteurs, and other parties, relating to the Bible Society work, and designed for the Board of Directors or for the Secretaries, to be addressed to "The Secretaries of the Upper Canada Bible Society, Toronto."

3. Remittances on Free Contributions to be sent in registered letters, or by other safe conveyance, to the "Rev. John Gemley, Permanent Secretary, Bible Society House, Toronto."

4. Remittances on Depository Purchase Account, to be sent to "Mr. JOHN YOUNG, Bible Society Depository, Toronto."

* * Parties desirous of communicating with the Bible Society, Toronto, on any of the matters indicated above, will greatly oblige the Secretaries by adhering to the foregoing regulations. Separate communications relating to any of the four subjects named, can, when necessary, be enclosed in one envelope, as it will be a great convenience to the Secretaries not to have the matters classified above, mixed together in one communication. They should be kept quite separate.

Stated Meetings of the Board of Directors.—Representation of Auxiliaries and Branches.

Quarterly and other Meetings of the Board. The Board of Directors shall meet for the transaction of business once in each quarter, and at any other time when called together by the Secretaries, or by any three of the Directors.

Quarterly Meetings of the Board shall be held on the second Tuesday of January, April, July, and October, of each year, at 7.30 o'clock P.M. Monthly Meetings are held on the second Tuesday in each month, at the same hour.

Appointment of Agents. No Travelling Agent of the Society, shall be appointed by the Board, except at one of these Quarterly Meetings.

Representation of Local Branches at the Board. The President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Agents of each Auxiliary and Branch in connection with the Upper Canada Bible Society shall be *ex-officio* Members of the Board of Directors, at Toronto; and as such, shall have the right to attend all the Meetings of the Board.

GRANTS TO SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

That in all applications for grants of Bibles to Sunday Schools, the applicant be requested to furnish the Secretaries with an account of the state of the School; the number of Scholars and Teachers; the amount of Funds at the disposal of the Managers; who are its officers, and why it is necessary to make such application; all which should in every case be certified by a Minister of the Gospel, or some other person of known respectability. And further, this Board recommends that the Secretaries make grants in future only to destitute settlements; reporting the same to the next Meeting of the Board of Directors.

PRICE OF THE "RECORDER."

Some of the Branches having expressed a desire to obtain a larger number of *Recorders* than those already forwarded to them, the Board recommends that a small price be paid by each Branch for any additional supply they may be pleased to order, viz. :—Single copies, 20 cents; ten copies to one address, \$1.50; over ten and under 50 copies, \$13 per 100; any quantity over 50 copies, \$12 per 100; in each case including postage.