

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BRITISH AMERICAN
BOOK AND TRACT SOCIETY,

ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

HELD AT

HALIFAX, FEBRUARY 9th, 1882.

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye have love to one another."

DEPOSITORY: 133 GRANVILLE STREET,
HALIFAX, N. S.
1882.

Printed by the NOVA SCOTIA PRINTING Co., Halifax.

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COOK'S

Sunday School Publications.

THE BRITISH AMERICAN BOOK AND TRACT SOCIETY has made arrangements with Mr. DAVID C. COOK, of Chicago, to act as agent in the Maritime Provinces in taking orders for Sunday School Papers, Quarterlies, etc., published by him. The Society has also secured the EXCLUSIVE AGENCY for Nova Scotia. For a list of these publications with prices, see page 56 of this Report. The agency has been entered upon for the convenience of our correspondents, who can now obtain the publications referred to on the same terms from us as if ordered directly from the publisher. As to the quality, our friends can judge from samples which will be sent on application. We have every confidence in the soundness of the views of Evangelical truth presented in these publications.

Subscriptions can be made for a single quarter or for a year. Any correspondence relating to this branch of the business will receive prompt attention. No stock of these publications is kept on hand at the Depository. The prices quoted do not include the duty chargeable on the books and cards when imported from abroad. Printed books are subject to fifteen per cent., and S. S. Cards to twenty-five per cent. They are liable to be detained at the Post Office and sent to the nearest Custom House for collection of duty. The Society will not be responsible for delay, and the person ordering must be prepared to pay the duty charged. Sunday School Papers and Quarterlies are free of duty. No order will be accepted unless payment accompanies it. Remittances can be made in Post Office Order, notes in a Registered Letter, or for small sums, Postage Stamps. The publications will be forwarded promptly from the office of publication to the subscriber. Orders must state clearly with what month the subscriber wishes the papers or quarterlies to begin, and the period of time for which they are to be sent. To prevent disappointment, the date should be placed far enough in advance to permit the order to reach the office of publication, and the periodicals to be received before they are wanted.

In case there is an error in the extension or in the prices set down in the order, the number of publications will be reduced or increased as may be required, to make the correct value. Full name and Post Office address, plainly written, to be given in all cases.

PLEASE ADDRESS:

A. N. ARCHIBALD,
Secretary,
BRITISH AMERICAN BOOK AND TRACT SOCIETY.
HALIFAX, N. S.

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SOCIETY.

NOTICE RESPECTING BEQUESTS TO THE SOCIETY.

Friends of the Society are earnestly requested to remember the Society in their last will and testament. They can thus aid in spreading abroad a knowledge of the Gospel when they themselves shall have passed hence, and entered into the full possession of eternal life.

The attention of all persons who may contemplate making Bequests is respectfully called to the following section:—

I. VICTORIA, chap. 36, sec. 9.

"And be it further enacted, That no will shall be valid unless it shall be in writing, and executed in manner hereinafter mentioned (that is to say), it shall be signed at the foot or end thereof by the Testator, or by some other person in his presence and by his direction; and such signature shall be made or acknowledged by the Testator in the presence of two or more Witnesses present at the same time; and such Witnesses shall attest and shall subscribe the Will in the presence of the Testator; but no form of attestation shall be necessary."

N. B.—Wills executed prior to the first of January, 1838, are not affected by the new Act; but any alteration therein, or Codicil thereto, must be executed in the manner before mentioned.

FORM OF A BEQUEST TO THE SOCIETY.

I give and bequeath to the "British American Book and Tract Society," instituted in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in the year 1867, the sum of
Dollars, to be paid out of my personal Estate
to the Treasurer for the time being, whose receipt shall be a sufficient discharge for the same.

Bequests may be general, and left to the discretion of the Committee to be disposed of as they may consider best; or *special*, to be applied to any one of the following schemes, viz.:—Colportage,—Gratuitous distribution among the destitute,—the Publication Fund or Capital,—or for providing a Building for the Society.

REV. GEO. W. HILL, D. C.
 REV. E. M. SAUNDERS,
 REV. G. M. ARMSTRONG,
 LEBARON BOTSFORD, Esq.,
 HON. S. L. SHANNON, Q.C.,
 HON. C. YOUNG, LL.D., CHAIR
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Secretary and

JOSEPH BELL, Esq., S

JOHN S. MACLEAN, Esq., H
 REV. ROBERT MURRAY,
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D. BLACKWOOD, Esq.
 S. A. WHITE, Esq.

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D. HENRY STARR, Esq.
 REV. ALLAN SIMPSON,
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OFFICERS FOR 1882.

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THOMAS A. BROWN, Esq.

Vice-Presidents :

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Treasurer :

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Secretary and Superintendent of Colportage :

A. N. ARCHIBALD, Esq.

Auditors :

JOSEPH BELL, Esq., SHERIFF.	S. H. BLACK, Esq.
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T. A. BROWN, Esq.	REV. J. W. MANNING.

Finance Committee :

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W. S. STIRLING, Esq.	

Distributing (Colportage) Committee :

D. HENRY STARR, Esq.	W. H. WISWELL, Esq.
REV. ALLAN SIMPSON.	REV. E. M. SAUNDERS.
REV. R. F. BURNS, D. D.	

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FOURTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
British American Book & Tract Society.

The Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the British American Book and Tract Society was held in the Y. M. C. A. Hall on Thursday, February 9th, 1882, at 8 o'clock, P. M. The President, Thomas A. Brown, Esq., occupied the chair.

After singing "Stand up, Stand up for Jesus," the Rev. Thomas Duncan offered prayer.

An abstract of the Annual Report was read by the Secretary.

The Hon. S. L. Shannon, in moving the adoption of the Report, congratulated the Society on the good attendance at its annual meeting. He spoke of the great value of both branches of the Colportage work—the sale of books in the homes of the people, and the personal effort to do good. He referred to a period in the history of Halifax when there was only one book-store, and libraries were exceedingly small; also, to the great scarcity of books in country sections, where the Bible, "Fourfold State," "Crook in the Lot," "Saints' Rest," "Pilgrim's Progress," and "Cowper's Poems" constituted the best libraries. A book added each year was considered a very valuable acquisition. Many families were only supplied with reading from the minister's saddle-bags, as he made the tour of his extensive circuits. This Society had done much to scatter good books, at a low rate, in sparsely settled sections in these Provinces. People often purchase books when taken to their doors, who would not go to book-stores for them. The persistent efforts of the Satanic press in circulating pernicious literature by sending catalogues to the pupils in public schools and inducing them surreptitiously to purchase and read books which corrupt their minds and hearts, and the great

Little Dot, Hesba Struton and A. L. O. E. Series kept.

necessity of using every
were pointed out.

Rev. Allan Simpson
gratulated the Society
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last year, and expressed
Society's operations.
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necessity of using every effort possible to counteract this evil influence were pointed out.

Rev. Allan Simpson, in seconding the adoption of the Report, congratulated the Society upon the hopeful state of its work in every branch, as indicated by the Report just read, which he thought was one of the best yet presented for adoption. He referred to the energetic and successful labors of the Secretary during the half of the last year, and expressed confidence in the continued success of the Society's operations. In urging the "Special claims of the Society upon the public," Mr. Simpson enlarged upon the following heads:—

(1.) It is occupying a field that is not occupied by any other agency. Its work is home mission work, but home mission work outside that done by the several churches. Our agents go where there are no churches, no ministers, no lay readers and no local preachers. They go to the spiritually destitute, wherever they are, and to whatever denomination they belong. The Society has a field all its own.

(2.) Its field of work is the *neediest field*—a field that was not reached by the Churches before this Society was organized, and that is not being reached by them to-day, as the demand for our colporteur work testifies. It is to the bye-ways and back settlements of these Provinces that our agents go. It is the destitute they seek, and wherever they find them they provide them with leaves from the Tree of Life.

(3.) *The Society is doing its work economically.* Every dollar given to it goes as far in doing good as a dollar can be made to go. Our colporteur agency is the cheapest form of home mission work, and at the same time very effective.

(4.) *The Society aims at the moral and spiritual well-being of the masses of the people, regardless of the interests of any sect or party. It is undenominational.* It is Christian, but not sectarian, a helper to all churches because a worker for the glory of God and the good of men. Christian people who *pray* together should have enterprises at which they can *work* together. This is such an enterprise. Here all evangelical christians can meet. In this work they can all unite their efforts. There is room for all and need of all.

Good Selection of Magazines on hand

This work has a claim on all patriots, for it is for the good of the country. It has a claim on all Christians, for its one great purpose is to give the simple, pure, living Gospel to every creature in these Lower Provinces. These considerations should commend it to our hearts and to our benevolent efforts.

After singing "Our Blessed Bond of Union," the Rev. Dr. Hill spoke upon "Union in Christian work a characteristic of this Society." He said that "Union is strength" is far from being a dreary platitude. The expressions respecting the sunrise and the tide, with its ebb and flow, are not dreary platitudes. The sunrise illuminates and cheers the world; the tide bears to the broad Atlantic that which would cause disease and death and brings back health and life. These are important truths and this maxim, "Union is strength," is a truth that should be repeated until all feel its power. He was rejoiced that there was a platform upon which all could meet and work for a common object. He pointed out the grand essentials of our common faith as set forth in the Apostle's Creed, and these were the truths most surely believed among us. It is possible to have differences of opinion as to Church government and many minor points, and yet be fully in accord in circulating books which present the doctrines to which he had adverted. He paid a high tribute to the work of the Bible Society, and said that the work of this Society came next in rank and importance. The Bible is God's mind, the photograph of His heart. All other religious books are side lights and simply an effort to bring Bible truths within the comprehension of those not able to grasp them. He spoke highly of the Society's work because it was carried on where churches could not overtake it, and of the great blessings it confers upon persons in out-of-the-way places. He referred to the self-denial and toil of the colporteurs in their work, and urged upon Christians the duty of praying for them as well as giving of their means for their support. In closing he spoke of life's brevity and the great need of prompt, energetic effort in Christian work. His best wishes were with the Society in all its efforts to glorify God and benefit our fellow-countrymen.

After singing "Sowing the Seed," Rev. Dr. Burns spoke upon Colportage as a means of propagating the Gospel." He spoke of

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the early history of colportage in France and elsewhere, and quoted the opinions of D'Aubigne, Baxter, Cotton Mather, Dr. Duff and others, as to the inestimable value of good books, and of colportage as a means of distributing them. Baxter said "I would rather be the author of books *to be carried in peddlers' packs to the poor man's door,* than of books to stand in golden libraries. If men that in life or at death give a stated revenue for good works, would settle the one-half on some *suitable good books,* it might prove a very great means of reformation."

Dr. Burns then sketched the great need of colportage among the millions of the United States many years ago, and the wonderful work accomplished by Rev. R. Cook and the American Tract Society. He referred briefly to the work in Scotland and England. Spurgeon, who employs over 40 colporteurs, says of the colportage system, "*We know of no way of doing good so cheap, so necessary, so useful, as colportage. It is one of the best and cheapest modes of evangelization yet discovered.*" Dr. Duff also declared "*Colportage to be one of the noblest and worthiest of existing enterprises.*" Rev. Mr. Gillies, the Scottish delegate to the American Tract Society's Jubilee, told of from 400 to 500 colporteurs in the United Kingdom, and gave it as his matured judgment that "There is no agency or rather combination of two kinds of agency, the living voice of earnest Christian men, aided by the printed word, *so flexible and so easily adapted to the mission of saving men, no scheme God has so abundantly blessed as Christian colportage.*" Colportage is doing much to counteract the poison of the press, to counter-work those vultures of the mind that swoop down on the carrion of humanity, and to drive off those literary vampires that are sucking the life blood of the young. No stronger argument can be found for the continuance and extension of such a work as ours, than the huge and hideous dimensions attained by the Satanic press with its graduating scale of "bad, worse, worst," in the form of Periodicals, Papers, Pictures, and Dime Novels, crammed with blood and thunder adventures, and silly, sensual stories and songs that empty their fetid moral cesspools into so many homes, often unknown to parents and guardians, familiarizing our youth with doings of burglars, murderers, gambling hells, and dance houses; making virtue ludicrous and vice attractive, converting highwaymen into heroes and harlots into heroines. The flood of this

The latest "Sunlight amid the Shadows," 30 cents.

sensational trash is at our doors threatening to sap the foundation of religion and morality amongst us and bear away on its filthy bosom the scattered fragments of our most cherished institutions. Our special engine in opposing this is colportage.

Anthony Comstock is doing a noble work in seizing tons of vile literature; but prevention is better than cure. We can best fight darkness with light, foul air with fresh, and an impure literature by the cheap and easy supply of its opposite. This is what our colportage system is most calculated to do. By it the Society seeks to place in the homes the "Leisure Hour," "Sunday at Home," and the "Boys and Girls' Own Paper," instead of those vile, voluptuous sheets filled with police reports, divorce court proceedings, social wrongs and obscene pictures. The nets of the enemy are everywhere; too many are snared and taken. We would have the network of colportage spread over our land. The speaker here briefly sketched the work already accomplished by the British American Book and Tract Society. One hundred and thirty years' colportage work had been performed. Books sold worth \$128,000, and almost \$10,000 worth given away. Protestant families found without the Bible numbered 1320, and 2303 households without any other religious books. He then referred to the great and pressing demand for our work in all the Provinces, especially Newfoundland, with its 1200 miles of coast and its hundreds of islands, and Labrador with its long stretch of coast and numerous fishing harbors. Never was there a *field fitter for colportage* than ours or *needing it more*. Had we the means we could employ treble the number of men we have had for the past year. In bye-gone years we have had liberal friends who guaranteed the extra cost of a colporteur. How can \$350 be more profitably employed? As we sleep the enemy sows tares. It is surely now high time that we awake out of sleep. Our Master's words of sorrowful sarcasm may even now fall upon our ears, "Sleep on now and take your rest." Ere the irrevocable moment pass and the golden opportunity be lost "Rise let us be going," hastening to our field of labor under the inspiration of the Master's other mandate, "Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold I say unto you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And

Patronize the Depository, 133 Granville Street, Halifax.

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While singing "Lo
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On motion of Hon
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he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal; that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together."

While singing "Lord thou lovs't a cheerful giver," the collection was taken up.

On motion of Hon. D. McCurdy, seconded by P. P. Archibald, Esq., the officers for 1882 were elected unanimously. [For list of officers see page 3].

After singing "Lord dismiss us," Rev. J. F. Avery pronounced the benediction and brought to a close one of the most profitable and interesting meetings which the Society has ever held.

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All accruing profits are applied to Colportage work.

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FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

In presenting the Fourteenth Annual Report of the British American Book and Tract Society, we record our grateful acknowledgments to Almighty God for blessing us richly during the year. The Society has prospered in its work: to His holy Name be all the glory. At the close of last year the prospect was not very bright; but clouds have been dispersed, Christian friends have shown their sympathy, and we trust God has been glorified by the work of the year just closed. We are constrained to say: "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." Our special mission is to reach the lost and by God's grace to save them; to win the erring and lead them into the narrow way. By a fitting combination of faithful personal effort, and the circulation of the Scriptures and practical, pointed truth contained in the thousands of other choice publications placed in the homes of our people, great good is certain to be accomplished. We are very glad to find that our Secretary, from his 3,500 miles of travel through the Maritime Provinces is able to report marked unanimity of opinion as to the value and efficiency of the Society's Home Mission Work. Our friends have given practical expression to their appreciation of our efforts in the shape of donations, so that we are able to report \$3401.53 received during the year, as compared with \$2374.55 for 1880. This amount comprises offerings from 1933 persons, only one large donation of \$200 being included. Our warmest thanks are due to the many friends who have aided us.

Although the staff of Colporteurs employed was smaller than in many previous years, yet in the aggregate a large amount of work has been done through their instrumentality. The saving in expenditure for Colportage, coupled with increased donations, has resulted, as elsewhere stated, in reducing the debt due by the Colportage account.

THE SECRETARYSHIP.

In our last report we alluded to the resignation of the Rev. A. McBean. For various reasons it was not deemed advisable to fill the

Catalogues and Price List of Books furnished free on application.

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vacancy until about midsummer. The Committee, after much prayerful consideration chose Mr. A. N. Archibald, who had been employed as Principal of Albro Street School in this city, and whose credentials were of the most satisfactory character. Mr. Archibald entered upon the Secretaryship early in July and has since discharged its duties in a most efficient manner. As most of the readers of the Report have had the pleasure of a personal interview with our new Secretary, it is not necessary that we add any further words of introduction. We trust that all friends of the cause of God and of the work carried on by this Society, will aid and encourage him in the discharge of his arduous duties.

LIBERAL GIVERS.

We regret that several large donations made last year to the Colportage work have not been renewed; but we rejoice to learn that equal liberality has characterized these good friends in promoting other important Christian work. We desire to make mention of the generous donation of \$200 made by the late Treasurer, George H. Starr, Esq., whose devotion to the interests of the Society, and Christian work in general, is well known. We have also pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of \$50 from Jairus Hart, Esq., of Halifax, whose generous donations for many years have materially aided us. We hope that others during the ensuing year will with equal liberality contribute to the benevolent work of the Society.

His Honor Judge Young, of Charlottetown, feeling the need of a depot from which to circulate the good books supplied by the Society, has aided us by a *loan* of \$100. This timely assistance has enabled us to continue a branch that otherwise would have been closed.

BEQUESTS.

We have been advised that the following bequests, applicable to the general work of the Society, have been made:

John Saunders, Burlington, Hants Co., N. S.,	\$500
Joseph Hart, Baddeck, Cape Breton,	\$100

The full amount of the former bequest we are not likely to receive, owing to shrinkage in the testator's estate. We trust that many other Christian men who are truly patriotic, will not only aid us by

For Reduced Price Books go to the Depository.

their annual donations, but remember the Society in the disposition of their property. Christian friends, nobly sustain this work that will exert a mighty influence for good when the monuments which mark your last resting place shall have crumbled into dust.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

For details we refer to the Treasurer's account. The total receipts for the year were \$20,761.18; and the expenditure a like sum. We note with pleasure that the donations are in advance of those of last year by \$1,026.98.

GRATUITOUS DISTRIBUTION.

By reference to the statistics of Colportage it will be seen that the grants to the needy amount to \$409.83.

There have been issued from the Depository grants of tracts and books amounting to \$495.

We have also circulated, free of charge, thousands of back numbers of Sunday School papers.

TRACT DISTRIBUTION.

The itinerant labours of a colporteur offer the best opportunities for the wide dissemination of the gospel to be found in the excellent Tracts published by the Religious Tract Society of London. Finding the grant of £100 worth formerly made, inadequate to meet the many calls for free distribution, application was made for £200 worth; this the Religious Tract Society has generously granted for the ensuing year, enabling us thus to keep our Colporteurs fully supplied and also to aid Missionaries and Young Men's Christian Associations in their work. Scores of Pastors and volunteer tract distributors throughout the Provinces have received grants of tracts, in addition to the tens of thousands handed to sailors, soldiers and railroad men by Committees of the Y. M. C. Associations.

The Tract Committee of the Y. M. C. Association of Halifax reports:—"That the members of the Association have distributed 20,000 English and Foreign Tracts, among 2,779 men, in 5 foreign men-of-war, 3 private yachts, 1 ship, 8 steamers, 59 barques, 19 brigs, and 103 schooners. Vessels at the wharves were visited every Sunday morning, from 1st of May till 30th November. All the vessels in

Pastors find them invaluable in their work.

stream were visited with reading matter. ledge the aid received Society in this good

HALF-P

The marked accep Society in the above the Books in increas that any school can illustrations are first attention of the Soci and instructive. W in want of a library. us can be had upon Tract Society for it remark made in last duced price, but upon cases in which the S

To have every hor at. Still there are God's Word. Turni Colporteurs, we find said "How is it th be any remaining in field of operations is homestead. Thus r old fields. Persons supplying themselves families coming from

But much has been Provinces. More th circulated by the Soc tional Bible Society us to extend our w

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stream were visited by the Association boat, and the sailors supplied with reading matter. The Association desires thankfully to acknowledge the aid received from the British American Book and Tract Society in this good work."

HALF-PRICE LIBRARIES FOR SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The marked acceptance with which the issues of the Religious Tract Society in the above form have been received, encourages us to import the Books in increased quantities. These Libraries are the best value that any school can secure. The binding is strong. The print and illustrations are first-class. The contents having received the close attention of the Society publishing them, may be relied upon as sound and instructive. We heartily commend these books to Sunday Schools in want of a library. Catalogues containing the selection imported by us can be had upon application. Our thanks are due to the Religious Tract Society for its liberality in this connection. We repeat the remark made in last year's report that duty is paid, not upon the reduced price, but upon the ordinary trade value. This is done in all cases in which the Society has secured special terms.

BIBLES.

To have every home supplied with the Scriptures is what we aim at. Still there are families, nominally Protestant, who are without God's Word. Turning to the statistics of last year's work of our Colporteurs, we find twenty-three families thus reported. It may be said "How is it that after fourteen years of such work there should be any remaining in this deplorable condition?" We reply that the field of operations is so vast that it is almost impossible to visit every homestead. Thus new ground may be broken up every year in old fields. Persons are married and begin to keep house without supplying themselves with such a necessary book, and there may be families coming from abroad who are unsupplied.

But much has been done already to meet the needs of our Maritime Provinces. More than 175,000 copies of the Scriptures have been circulated by the Society. We owe a debt of gratitude to the National Bible Society of Scotland for the liberal terms which enable us to extend our work of Colportage more widely than we could

Sunday School Libraries a Specialty.

otherwise do. May God richly reward the Managers and contributors of this noble Institution for the aid so cheerfully extended.

REDUCED PRICE BOOKS.

Mr. John Melrose of Edinburgh, Scotland, continues to aid the Society by furnishing, at reduced prices, a line of excellent books. These are found advertised in the Catalogue and are recommended for their cheapness and evangelical merit. They are especially valuable for families, and for pastors to distribute among their people. Such books as "Bonar's Christ is all," "Haughton's Precious Truths," "Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation," "Hodge's Way of Life," "Moody's Addresses," "James's Anxious Enquirer," etc., are sold at a very low rate, and thus brought within the reach of all.

COLPORTAGE.

At the date of our last report, the expenditure for Colportage had exceeded the sum applicable to that purpose by \$3234.26. We are glad to state that during the last year \$1516.23 have been applied toward the reduction of that adverse balance and at this date the over expenditure is only \$1718.03.

In view of this reduction and of the fact that the legacies referred to elsewhere can properly be applied in the same line, we are encouraged to hope that the entire debit balance will be met within two years.

TIMELY HELP.

Feeling keenly the vast wants of the Provinces in which our Colportage operations are carried on, we brought the facts to the notice of the Committee of the Religious Tract Society of London. The Society, with that liberality which has ever distinguished its dealings with us, granted terms for the supply of stock for this branch of the work which will most materially assist in future operations.

Encouraged by this concession, and strong in the belief that increased donations will be forthcoming for the ensuing year, we have resolved to increase the number of Colporteurs employed so that during 1882, ten years of labor may be performed. It is expected that these home missionaries will circulate by sale, books worth \$10,000, and by grants to the needy, publications valued at \$1000.

Golden Ladder and Pansy Series always on hand.

During the past year
Nova Scotia and Cap
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On another page w
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R. T. Society's N

During the past year we have had employed twelve men : seven in Nova Scotia and Cape Breton ; one in Prince Edward Island ; two in New Brunswick, and two in Newfoundland. Some of these were employed for only a part of the year. The aggregate time made is equal to the labour of one man for about six years. The sales amount to \$5942.44. This shews an average of \$990.40 per year.

SUMMARY OF COLPORTAGE.

On another page will be found a summary which shews that during the fourteen years in which the Society has existed, there has been performed labour equal to that of one man for about 130 years.

An aggregate of \$127,903.82 worth of books has been sold. A total of \$9,167.73 worth has been given away.

Protestant families to the number of 1320 have been found destitute of the Bible and 2303 households destitute of all religious books except the Bible. Those in want were in all instances supplied. We may add that in the item of bad debts there has been practically distributed \$600.00 worth of books for which the Society was never paid ; but it is hoped that the books thus circulated will do none the less good on that account. It is proof of prudent management that so small a sum has to be written off out of the many thousands of dollars' worth turned over.

RESULTS.

He alone who sees the end from the beginning, can mark the secret power of the words spoken in love to the wayward and erring one, or the divine light infused into the darkened mind and heart through the precious printed page. Christians have been edified and sinners converted, the sorrowing comforted and directed to the only source of true consolation ; the sick and dying have been cheered by the messages of love and pardon brought home to them, and "to the poor the Gospel has been preached." It is easy to reckon the tens of thousands of books circulated during the year, and the dollars expended ; but we rejoice that the influences of the work are immeasurable, running parallel with eternity. The choice publications placed in the homes of our people have done much to counteract the influence of pernicious literature and in many cases have forestalled such mental food. It is

R. T. Society's New Half-Price Books, Excellent Value.

the duty of every Christian to employ at least as vigorous efforts to circulate *pure* literature as is employed in the diffusion of the impure and if this were done, trashy and corrupt periodicals and novels would be rendered well nigh harmless. The measure filled with wheat has no room for chaff. In this day when almost everyone reads some book, it becomes a matter of supreme importance to place in every home in our land publications that are pure and christian, and that will point young and old to the Fountain of life and peace.

PROSPECTS.

We close the year with a good supply of publications in the Depository, comprising the very best issues from the press of Great Britain and the United States, and free from unsaleable and shop-worn stock. The books are fresh and well selected. Ministers and Sunday School teachers will find a good variety of Commentaries, Bible Dictionaries and Concordances, as well as Notes on the S. S. Lessons, Quarterlies, and Lesson Slips. Since our special mission is to furnish such supplies at a low rate, our patrons can, with great advantage, order from the Depository. Any publication not in stock can be promptly secured for them.

With confidence in God, whose glory we seek to promote, with the conviction that the publications are pre-eminently adapted to benefit our people, and with the fullest confidence in the generosity and sympathy of the Society's large and increasing circle of friends, we enter upon the New Year. The outlook in every department of the work is very cheering; and our highest ambition, in conducting the Society's operations, is to help every good work and hinder none, and especially to go out into the highways and by-ways and compel men to come in and partake of the Gospel feast.

We earnestly request every one who desires for his fellow-countrymen freedom from the delusive spell of highly imaginative and harmful literature now so widely diffused, who sincerely wishes for the cultivation of a sound intellectual, moral and religious sentiment, and especially for the saving truth to enter the heart and lead to God and heaven, to come to our assistance :

1. By pleading with the Lord to bless all the work undertaken by the Society.

They are well printed and strongly bound with Leather Backs.

2. By contributing to the extension of our work.

3. By extending their self-denying work to the most benevolent efforts for sympathy and good.

4. By purchasing and recommending your work.

We would like the work of 1881, to be increased respectively, in 1882, to be increased, work very pressing, smallest donation with mention some of those speakingable to some.

Our most cordial thanks for the Royal Mail of Liverpool free of freight of the Society ;

To the Religious referred to elsewhere, price books for Sunday.

To John Melrose, very excellent books.

To the National favorable terms for our Colportage work.

To the Intercolonial Western Counties and

To the P. E. Island Ship Line, the Inter-St. John and Maine, and Cape Breton Rail.

To the Representatives throughout the Maritime.

For Young Children

2. By contributing as God shall prosper, toward the continuance and extension of our Colportage work.

3. By extending hospitality and kindness to our Colporteurs in their self-denying work. As the servants of the Society engaged in a most benevolent enterprise, they have strong claims upon Christians for sympathy and good cheer.

4. By purchasing books, papers and magazines at the Depository, and recommending your friends and neighbors to do the same. *

We would like the nineteen hundred donors and \$3401.53 donations of 1881, to be increased to two thousand five hundred and \$4000 respectively, in 1882. The field is extensive and the demand for work very pressing. Every person can do a little to help. The smallest donation will be thankfully received, and will put in circulation some of those silent, but faithful messengers, that may bring joy unspeakable to some poor soul.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Our most cordial thanks are due to Messrs. Allan Bros., proprietors of the Royal Mail Steamers, for kindly carrying our packages from Liverpool free of freight, and thus greatly aiding the benevolent work of the Society;

To the Religious Tract Society, London, for valuable concessions referred to elsewhere, and for a bountiful supply of Tracts and half-price books for Sunday Schools;

To John Melrose, Esq., of Edinburgh, for an additional supply of very excellent books at low rates;

To the National Bible Society of Scotland, for continuing the favorable terms for supplying the Scriptures, to enable us to extend our Colportage work;

To the Intercolonial Railway authorities; to the Managers of the Western Counties and St. Martins and Upham Railways;

To the P. E. Island Steam Navigation Company, the Union Steam Ship Line, the Intercolonial S. S. Company of Portland, Maine, the St. John and Maine, New Brunswick and Canada, and the Halifax and Cape Breton Railways, for reduced rates of travel for the Secretary;

To the Representatives of the Press, both religious and secular, throughout the Maritime Provinces, who have, in the most courteous

For Young Children you can get 50 Volumes for \$5.

manner, accorded to our Secretary the privilege of making the people at large better acquainted with the object and claims of the Society's work. To such favors, with the blessing of God, we are largely indebted for the measure of success that has crowned the work of the year.

NOTICE OF THE WORK OF THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY OF LONDON.

This excellent Society was organized in 1799. It has, therefore, entered upon the eighty-third year of a prosperous and brilliant career. In the words of the Committee in its last report: "This Society has aided the laborers of every Protestant Christian Mission in the world, through whom 'the leaves of the tree of life' are widely scattered. The messengers of truth sent forth by this Institution find their way to many places which are altogether inaccessible to any other agency. They have passed the Wall of China and have entered the palace of the 'Celestial Emperor.' They have instructed the Princes of Burniah, and opened the self sealed lips of the devotee in India. The sons of Africa have received them in their bondage, and have learned the liberty of the Gospel. They have preached Christ crucified to the Jew and also to the Greek; and they have made known to savage as well as civilized nations, the peaceful truths of the Gospel. In our own land, the soldier has perused these publications with benefit in his barrack, the prisoner in his cell, the afflicted in the hospital, the indigent in the poor-house, and the coast-guard at his lonely station. Persons of all ranks have been instructed by them, and many, through the Divine blessing on these means, have been brought from 'darkness into marvellous light,'"

Below we give a summary of the work of the Religious Tract Society to March 31st, 1881:

1.—Publications.

The year's circulation from the London Depository	69,089,460
Total annual circulation, including the issues of Foreign Societies	81,089,460
Languages and dialects in which the Society has published	130
Total circulation in eighty-two years, about	2,012,047,900
New Publications during the year	627
Number of Publications issued in eighty-two years, about	16,221
Publications at present on Society's Catalogue, about	10,000

Choice list of English and American S. S. Papers at Depository.

About 33,313 Lib
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2.—*Circulating Libraries.*

About 33,313 Libraries have been granted, since 1832, at reduced prices, exclusive of those sent to foreign lands, the reduced prices gratuitously voted being £137,145, namely:

For Sunday and Day Schools.....	18,047
For Destitute Districts and Parochial Objects	10,625
Ministers, Students, National, British and other Teachers ..	1,598
For Union Poor-houses	586
Lunatic Asylums, Hospitals and Prisons.....	524
Miscellaneous	1,933
Total.....	33,313

3.—*Funds.*

Total receipts for the year, including the balance of last year.....	£193,580 10 2
Total grants for the year, for Great Britain and Ireland, the British Colonies, and Heathen and unenlightened lands.....	46,625 15 2
Excess of grants over available receipts	13,252 14 3
Total expenditure in trade and grant departments ..	189,042 14 4

The grants exceed those of last year by the sum of £6,562.16.9. The excess of grants over the charitable income, has been supplied from the trade funds, which have also borne the entire cost of management, both of the business and Missionary departments.

REV. C. H. SPURGEON'S "COLPORTAGE ASSOCIATION."

In his history of the Metropolitan Tabernacle, Spurgeon says:—
 "Although in order of time Colportage was our third work, we are very far from considering it to be of third-rate importance; on the contrary, we believe it to be one of the most efficient and economical agencies in existence, and, as education increases, it will be more and more so. The sale of vicious literature can only be met by the distribution of good books: these can only be scattered in rural districts by carrying the good books to the doors. Scotland has long had a grand staff of colporteurs."

"The work was forced upon us in 1866, by the earnestness of a generous friend at the Tabernacle. Six men were employed during

Send for our Book Catalogue.

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Religious Tract

69,089,460
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at Depository.

that year and the next, and it was not easy to find the means for their support; this enterprise seemed one plant too many in our garden, and had it not been for the persevering entreaties of the principal promoter of the work, we should have allowed it to die out. In 1872 the work began to grow, and God's good hand was with it, so that thirteen men were employed. In 1874, thirty-five men were employed, and the sales reached £3,000; and in 1876, *forty-five* men were employed.

"The Society is *unsectarian in principle*, after the same manner as the London City Mission. Each man costs £80 per annum, but on the receipt of £40 a year from any lovers of a full and free salvation, a colporteur will be appointed to the district which the donor may select. *Many churches find such a man to be the best and cheapest worker imaginable.*

"The colporteur not only endeavors to sell books, but he visits from door to door, and in doing so converses with the people about their souls, prays with the sick, and leaves a tract at each cottage. He is frequently able to hold prayer meetings, open air services and Bible-readings. He gets a room, if possible, and preaches, founds Bands of Hope, and makes himself generally useful in the cause of religion and temperance. He is in fact at first a *missionary*, then a *preacher*, and by-and-by in the *truest sense a pastor*. We have some noble men. Some have proved slothful; but a man's negligence is soon discovered, since his sales fall off, and the monthly report tells the tale.

"The book-hawker stands upon a vantage ground as a house to house missionary. His pack is a passport to every door, the attempt to sell is an opportunity for declaring the Gospel, and the book itself is a ready text. When we think of 300,000 visits paid in one year among a priest-ridden peasantry, we are encouraged, and give God the glory. But we cannot restrain the sigh, 'O that some rich stewards of the Lord would look on this work and help us to increase it.' Will no one employ a man? *No money can be more wisely expended, nor used more directly for the benefit of those who most require it.*"

Life Mosiac, Life Chords, My King, Royal Bounty.

Summary of Receipts and Expenditures for Fourteen Years.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURES.	
Cash received for Periodicals.....	\$ 40,014 43	Cash paid for Publications.....	\$207,698 50
" " Store Sales.....	124,934 51	" " Colportage.....	57,492 89
" " Colportage Sales.....	128,080 06	" " Duty.....	11,900 11
" " Donations.....	43,394 28	" " Store expenses.....	9,880 63
" " from other sources.....	2,751 84	" " Postage (including Periodicals).....	5,000 00

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Summary of Receipts and Expenditures for Fourteen Years.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURES.	
Cash received for Periodicals.....	\$ 40,014 43	Cash paid for Publications.....	\$207,698 50
" " Store Sales.....	124,334 51	" " Colportage.....	57,492 89
" " Colportage Sales.....	128,080 06	" " Duty.....	11,900 11
" " Donations.....	43,394 28	" " Store expenses.....	9,880 63
" " from other sources.....	2,751 84	" " Postage (including Periodicals).....	5,959 82
		" " Advertising and Printing.....	4,650 44
		" " Freight.....	3,436 09
		" " Stationery, wrapping paper, twine..	882 74
		" " Insurance.....	514 73
		" " Salaries and Travelling Expenses..	36,809 17
	\$339,175 12		\$339,175 12

Summary of Colportage for Fourteen Years.

PROVINCES.	No. of Colporteurs.		Time eharged to Society's service.		No. miles travelled.	Cash received for sales.	Value of grants of books, Bibles and tracts.	No. of public meetings addressed and prayer meetings held.	No. of families destitute of all religious books except the Bible.	No. of Roman Catholics.	No. of family visits made to Roman Catholics.	No. of families who habitually neglect attending evangelist preaching.	No. of families converted with on personal religion, or prayed with.	Whole number of family visits.
	Years.	No. of Colporteurs.	Months.	Days.										
Nova Scotia.....	72	87	11	88	116151	65842 70	6300 86	4303	1116	900	8609	1794	88847	202244
" " Cape Breton.....	18	21	6	21	3927	9828 72	1401	257	101	2160	205	17285	17285	31482
" " New Brunswick.....	18	7	6	7	28363	20153 39	1918 30	1401	104	1649	139	12173	12173	51850
" " Prince Edward Island.....	10	5	0	5	15184	4948 31	466 67	430	124	96	733	16500	16500	21862
" " Newfoundland.....	9	7	7	26	6660	9748 72	682 03	695	664	116	1351	17	4823	15631
	129	87	8	27	190668	127003 83	9167 73	7355	2303	1380	14524	2172	133138	828075

Kept for the Master's Use, Morning Star and others.

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Statistics of Colportage for the Year ending December 31st, 1881.

NOVA SCOTIA.

NAME.	COUNTY.	Time devoted to Society's service.		No. miles travelled.	Cash received for sales.		Value of goods sold, Bibles and tracts.		No. of public meetings addressed and prayer meetings held.	No. of families destitute of all religious books except the Bible.	No. Protestant fam. destitute of the Bible.	No. fam. of Roman Catholics visited.	No. Prot. fam. who habitually neglect attending evangelist preaching.	No. of persons converted with on personal relation, or prayed with.	Whole number of family visits.
		Months.	Days.		Dols.	cts.	Dols.	cts.							
W. S. Marsters	Lunenburg, Queens and Shelburne.....	11	22	869	559	27	47	92	73	35	20	26	18	1616	3260
Malc'm McLeod	Cumberland.....	2	10	741	191	73	15	92	8	4	1	18	2	190	1099
J. H. Peirs	Guyborough.....	2	18	338	213	24	24	32	4	..	..	8	..	174	526
E. Bryner	Hants.....	1	15	100	97	26	50	18	..	..	..	..	..	132	330
Gardner Tufts	Kings & Annapolis.	7	15	56	39	23	2	24	..	..	..	..	..	25	186
*Henry Sterns	Halifax City.....	25	20	2729	1602	98	101	15	103	39	21	52	20	2137	5401

CAPE BRETON.

Malc'm McLeod	Cape Breton Island.	7	19	1643	454	47	14	81	98	..	1	79	11	571	1510
John Campbell	Inverness.....	1	18	102	30	45	4	75	4	..	..	..	..	60	75
		9	7	1745	484	92	19	56	102	..	1	79	11	631	1585

* Mr. Sterns made a large number of visits to vessels in the harbor.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Henry Secord	P. E. Island.....	8	..	1182	913	41	21	10	..	1	1	20	..	863	1453
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NEW BRUNSWICK.

Jos. Tweedie	Northern Counties..	11	17	1921	1631	46	123	93	10	449	9597
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Malcolm McLeod	7	19	1643	454	47	14	81	98	..	1	79	11	571	1510
Cape Breton Island.	1	18	102	30	45	4	75	4	60	75
John Campbell.	9	7	1745	484	92	19	56	102	..	1	79	11	631	1585

* Mr. Sterns made a large number of visits to vessels in the harbor.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Henry Second..	P. E. Island	8	..	1182	913	41	21	10	..	1	1	20	..	863	1485
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NEW BRUNSWICK.

Jos. Tweedie ..	Northern Counties...	11	17	1921	1631	46	123	93	10	449	2327
Job Wade.....	Charlotte & St. John	..	12	50	30	90	4	00	..	..	..	8	..	28	90
		11	29	1971	1662	36	127	93	10	..	..	8	..	477	2617

NEWFOUNDLAND.

H. J. Ferneaux	Harbors and Islands.	4	7	415	346	21	45	98	50	..	..	27	..	18	459
*T. R. Miffen .	Harbors	12	..	750	742	14	94	11	38	..	..	326	2	93	1312
		16	7	1165	1088	35	140	09	88	..	..	553	2	111	1771

Summary of Colportage in the Four Provinces for 1881.

Nova Scotia.	25	20	2729	1602	98	101	15	103	39	21	52	20	2137	5401
Cape Breton.....	9	7	1745	484	92	19	56	102	..	1	79	11	631	1585
P. E. Island	8	..	1182	913	41	21	10	..	1	1	20	..	863	1455
New Brunswick	11	29	1971	1662	36	127	93	10	..	..	8	..	477	2617
Newfoundland.	16	7	1165	1088	35	140	09	88	..	..	353	2	111	1771
	71	3	8792	5732	02	409	83	303	40	23	512	33	4221	12829

* Also visited many vessels in St. John's.

ordances.

Bibles and Testaments in great variety.

EXTRACTS FROM COLPORTEURS' REPORTS.

M. writes: "In C. I had a very refreshing season in speaking to the people of things pertaining to Godliness. I had a meeting every night I was there. They had no minister, and the people seemed to hunger for the bread of life. In S. I could not sell many books, owing to the scarcity of money; but we had some very good meetings. It was with difficulty I got away from the people so soon. I found the people in both places very anxious to buy books. In B. I found the people anxious both to purchase books and attend meetings. I came to a house one evening about dark, and was asked by my host after tea, if I would address a meeting if he would call in the neighbors. I hesitated, as the night was dark and it was difficult to get the people together; but very soon we had a room full of attentive hearers, and God was present to bless. In the same place was a young man who was converted in a meeting we had previously held there. At — I addressed the Gaelic people, and found it good to speak to them of Jesus, in their mother tongue. I have addressed a large number of meetings, all of which (weather permitting) were well attended. The tears shed and hearts made glad bear witness to the power of the simple story of a crucified Saviour. If we had not many conversions, we are sure that God's people were refreshed and made joyful in the house of prayer. I hope that when the good Shepherd, who said 'Feed my lambs,' shall appear, many will lift up their hands and bless the Lord for the Society's work of faith and labor of love."

"I find the people of C—d more anxious to buy books than before. I find where I have previously sold books, the people are anxious for more now. A woman said, 'I saw some of your books in such a house, and they are splendid. I must buy some from you this time.' Another said, 'That little book you left with me last fall is the best book I ever saw. I kept it out ever since; and now I am awaiting its return to give it to a sceptic in the neighbourhood.' The people begin to appreciate good books for Sunday reading; for as a general thing the Lord's day is taken for reading their newspapers. The people are so anxious to buy in some cases, that they will search the cupboards, drawers, and the children's boxes for cents, to buy a good book. I meet with some discouragements. Not long since a woman told me she did not read anything but novels; and she threw a tract I had given her, at my feet in great anger. Many, both old and young, are demoralized by reading trashy novels. Wherever I went the people received me gladly and treated me kindly. They always look upon the colporteur as a messenger of peace, carrying his load of the leaves of the 'tree of life,' which are for the 'healing of the nations.'

Bagster's Flexible Morocco bound Bibles from \$5 to \$9.

Many a wounded sinner, Society, soothed, comforted, spoken in season, with sorrow,—'eating and weeping.'

H. S., writing from and the people seem to offer prayer with the prize very highly a value day for God's blessing. It seems that I am sinners to Christ, and strengthening Christ, prized highly. I was bought 18 years ago, the means of the conversion that a few words spoken before, were the means her children for God. the conversion of several expand and become in

M. reports: "This and mountains, and from the mountains it is a track between the hills of the neighbouring hills of giving tracts to all books. The people have money. In the house of dying of consumption all," and a number of

"Last week I visited are two families that I took a friend and with these I visited was very I asked the children in one in the house—a sinner so black and finger with them if there was any 'There was one with McLean's song-book. many tracts. The ne I asked for a Bible to for it. At last they

Revised New

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Many a wounded soul is thus reached through the efforts of the Society, soothed, comforted, and refreshed by a tract, book, or word spoken in season, which otherwise would have to feed on his own sorrow,—'eating ashes like bread, and mingling his drink with weeping.'"

H. S., writing from P. E. I., says: "In my work I am looked for, and the people seem glad to welcome me with books, and to have me offer prayer with them. I often meet with the sick and dying, who prize very highly a visit and the tracts distributed. I pray night and day for God's blessing upon the good books sold and given away. It seems that I am every day in the way of doing good, by leading sinners to Christ, rejoicing the hearts of the aged and poor, and strengthening Christians. Books are often treasured up for years, and prized highly. I was shown a good book not long since that was bought 18 years ago. "Doddridge's Rise and Progress" was made the means of the conversion of a young man in E. A lady testified that a few words spoken to her at her father's house, eight years before, were the means of her conversion. Now she is training up her children for God. One tells me of a book being the means of the conversion of several now living good lives. Thus good influences expand and become infinite."

M. reports: "This month I am trying to visit the back settlements and mountains, and find it very difficult on account of the snow. On the mountains it is constantly drifting, so that I cannot make out the track between the houses. I called a meeting, and the people from the neighbouring hills and corners came together, so I had a chance of giving tracts to all. Those of them who were able to do so, bought books. The people are very kind, and willing to buy if they have money. In the house where I held the meeting, a young man is dying of consumption. I left "Gleaning for invalids," "Christ is all," and a number of tracts with him."

"Last week I visited — Mountain. On the side of the mountain are two families that cannot be reached easily by horse and sleigh. I took a friend and went on foot through the woods. The first of these I visited was very poor. The father and mother were not home. I asked the children if they had a Bible. They shewed me the only one in the house—a small pocket Bible sewed up with strings, and so black and finger worn that I could not read much of it. I asked them if there was any other good book in the house. They said 'There was one which they called my mother's book.' It was McLean's song-book. I left them a Bible, "Follow Jesus," and a good many tracts. The next one I visited was a little better off. When I asked for a Bible to have worship with them, two got up to search for it. At last they found it on the top of a door. When it was

Revised New Testament from 25 cents to \$3.

removed from its quiet resting place, I saw a cloud of dust, and I had to remove a coating of dust before using it. I rebuked the father for not reading his Bible, but he excused himself by saying 'I have no talents for that.'

F. writes from Newfoundland: "After a few months' experience I was in a position to judge of the value of the work, having during that time travelled over a large stretch of the southern shore of Newfoundland. In most of the small communities there was a dearth of books. I found the people (with few exceptions) anxious to buy books. Parents appeared grateful for the opportunity afforded of buying books for themselves and children; spoke of the loneliness they felt during the fall and winter months, when the wind was high, or when the bays were packed with drift ice, and they were thus prevented from receiving a visit from their missionary, or any of their relatives or friends. Would say to one another 'what a treat it will be to hearken to the reading those ere strange books, when the boy and maidens be at home.'"

A missionary's field of labor often extends for fifty, sixty or eighty miles along the coast, his flock being widely scattered, and frequently two or three families dwelling in a cove, eight or ten miles from another small settlement. I have been told by men that the parson could not manage to visit them oftener than once in three or four months, and then only have time to preach one sermon."

"It is impossible to ascertain the amount of good that families and thereby communities have received by the introduction, into households, of such works as your Society furnishes to the Colporteur. This branch of Christian enterprise being like all others, the casting of bread upon the waters, which will be found after many days."

"The head of a household was brought to see his need of pardon for sin and peace with God, through listening to the reading of Bonar's "God's Way of Peace." Men hardened in sin and old in years, have had their hearts softened and been led to trust in a crucified Redeemer, by hearing read, sermons preached by D. L. Moody. Mothers in Israel who had grown weary with the burthen and heat of the day, have had their spiritual strength renewed by meditating on some of the passages in "Baxter's Saints' Rest," getting glimpses of the glory land and the rest that remaineth for the people of God. Streaks of spiritual and moral light have entered the humble cabin of the fisherman, situated in some wild cove on the storm-swept shores of Newfoundland, through a "Child's Magazine," a "Bible Picture Book," or a "Band of Hope Review." Parents have bought books from me who could not read, with the intention of getting their children to read them aloud when the day's toil was over and young and old gathered around the hearthstone."

Peloubet's Select Notes on S. S. Lessons, \$1.25.

"Besides such books as "Strange Tales," and "Bible Works," which are all such periodicals as "The Friend," "Old Jermans," "Old Jermans and Artizan," "Old Jermans pleasant and profitable," "toilers of the sea" &c. I heard of one copy given to the master of a craft to work at, and sat up till two o'clock in the morning, and portions of it by heart, and quaint sayings, and a sharp feller. He knew some of the women who were doing business on the coast, similar to "John Ploughman" he was a young man in the fortune. Economy in the "John Ploughman's T" of sobriety and thrift. men who, when sickened sometimes of eighteen

"I close with the words, When I consider what they are doing, how they soothe the pain, give an idea and bring down truths, and gift and pray that we may

W. S. M. reports, re "My visits during the hearts of the people. were sick persons, some Some that I visited a the spirit land. As I second time, she exclaim with me before you go. neighbors present, and I visited a man who had hope in Christ; although I talked and prayed with good will result. In confessed religion before him with him, and gave him so good to have Christ

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"Besides such books as "Dairyman's Daughter," "John Ashworth's Strange Tales," and Bunyan, Baxter and Philip Doddridge's immortal works, which are all appreciated, I must not omit to mention that such periodicals as "British Workman," "Family Friend," "Cottager and Artizan," "Old Jonathan," and "Welcome Hour," which contain pleasant and profitable reading, also gave great satisfaction. The "toilers of the sea" were delighted with "John Ploughman's Talk." I heard of one copy going the round of nearly thirty families. The master of a craft to whom I sold one, remarked to me that his lads sat up till two o'clock in the morning reading it. He, himself, had portions of it by heart, would laugh heartily at some of the proverbs and quaint sayings, exclaiming now and then, 'John Ploughman be a sharp feller. He knows what he writes about. Don't he give it to some of the women and lazy chaps?' A merchant who has been doing business on the shore for some years, told me that if a book similar to "John Ploughman's Talk," had fallen into his hands when he was a young man it would have been better to him than a small fortune. Economy not being the ruling passion with fishermen, "John Ploughman's Talk" is a most suitable book to inculcate habits of sobriety and thrift. "Till the Doctor Comes," is highly prized by men who, when sickness occurs in their families, have to go a distance sometimes of eighteen or twenty miles for medical assistance."

"I close with the words of Clarke: 'Let us thank God for books. When I consider what some books have done for the world and what they are doing, how they inspire hope, awaken new courage and faith, soothe pain, give an ideal life to those whose homes are hard and cold, and bring down truths from heaven, I give eternal blessings for this gift and pray that we may use it right and abuse it never.'"

W. S. M. reports, respecting his work in L., Q. and S. Counties:—
 "My visits during the past two years gave me a warm place in the hearts of the people. I have visited many families in which there were sick persons, some of whom were very near the gates of death. Some that I visited and prayed with last year, have since passed to the spirit land. As I entered the sick room of a lady at —, for the second time, she exclaimed, 'I am glad to see you; you must pray with me before you go.' I was glad to bow with the large number of neighbors present, and ask God to bless the afflicted one. Near — I visited a man who has not long to live. Until lately he had no hope in Christ; although for years he has been a church member. I talked and prayed with him. He seemed to be affected, and I hope good will result. In — I visited a young man who had not professed religion before he was taken sick. I talked and offered prayer with him, and gave him "Precious Truths" to read. He said, 'It is so good to have Christians talk unto me.' When I saw him again,

s, \$1.25.

Golden Ladder and Pansy Series always on hand.

he spoke of the great comfort that the book afforded him. Soon after he passed away to the upper home. Visited another young man, read and prayed with him shortly before his death. A lady told me that her daughter died very happy not long after my visit to her a year ago. Then she had no hope of heaven; but God had blessed the prayer offered and the good book left, to her conversion. Since my visits, six or eight of them—several lately married—have gone to their long home. I find that many of the books have done much good. I find that one man has almost worn out "Precept upon Precept," by reading it. He bought "Baxter's Saints' Rest." I prayed with a woman who had not been in Church for four years. Find many careless ones that seldom attend church. As I pray the tear of penitence courses down the cheek, and I hope God blesses the work. I find many without any saving knowledge of Christ. My visits to two very wicked families in — were blessed. The father in one case thanked me kindly for books and tracts given him. Many persons in — bought books because my visit last year proved a blessing to them; others bought them on account of their love for the Society and its benevolent work. I have to thank the ministers for their kind support in my work. Rev. J. A. encouraged me to address a meeting appointed on a week evening. Brethren were present to assist, and we had a good time. I have taken part in 73 religious meetings during the year, and hope that much good has been done, for which I give God all the glory. During the year I found 20 families without Bibles, and 35 without any other religious books. Many manifest utter indifference to personal religion, and never have prayer in their families, although they have a place in the church. On the east of — Island I found 6 families without Bibles, and 16 families without any other religious books. I visited a family lately in which quarrelling was very common. The husband had just been beating his wife. I talked with him, gave him "Come to Jesus," and some suitable tracts, and prayed with the family. Hope that some good was effected. Such books as "Come to Jesus," and "Line upon Line," have given the people a desire for good books. They are fond of books with large print. Scores of them can barely read, and the large type books are eagerly seized by them.

"Last year I organized a Sunday School at —, and I believe it has done much good."

"May God grant the Society great prosperity in its good work."

H. S. reports from Halifax:—"By steady perseverance I have sold 417 Bibles and 719 Testaments and other books, amounting in all to \$502.25, to sailors and others, who have taken them to their homes in different parts of the Provinces. I distributed a good number of

Gaelic Bibles and Testaments from 13 cents to \$2.25.
Also other Gaelic Books.

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J. T. writes from N during the past few ye Instead of having sup find that reading one long as the country is for good literature. settlements on the ea and a number in the 1 in the County of Yor \$1631 worth of books \$123.93, and address thrilling incidents to r good books circulated, for the glory of God. undergone in my work to which I have Sometimes I cross a I ford the stream. N to lodge for the night, to appreciate the Soci would not bother se entirely forgetting the members of the Societ to supply the poor wit

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J. T. writes from New Brunswick: "Wherever I have sold books during the past few years, I notice an increased desire for good reading. Instead of having supplied the people with all the books they wish, I find that reading one book gives the desire for another, so that as long as the country is inhabited, there will be an increasing demand for good literature. During the year I have visited most of the settlements on the eastern shore, from Richibucto to Campbelltown, and a number in the Province of Quebec. I also visited many places in the County of York, at the first of the year. In all I have sold \$1631 worth of books, and made grants to the needy to the value of \$123.93, and addressed 10 meetings. Although I have not many thrilling incidents to report, yet I hope that the tens of thousands of good books circulated, and the family visits made, will do very much for the glory of God. Some hardships and much self-denial have been undergone in my work, but these are counted as nothing in the good work to which I have devoted so considerable a portion of my life. Sometimes I cross a river with my waggon in two canoes, and again I ford the stream. Now and then I find difficulty in securing a place to lodge for the night, but as a rule I am kindly treated. Some fail to appreciate the Society's benevolent work, and say, 'The Society would not bother sending men out unless it paid it to do so,' entirely forgetting that no pecuniary dividends ever accrue to the members of the Society, and that the chief object of its existence is to supply the poor with the Bible and good books.

"They entirely forget the \$9000 worth of books supplied gratuitously to the needy, and the 1300 Protestant families found without God's Word, and in scores of places supplied without charge. I am more determined than ever to work faithfully in distributing the good books that will exert untold power when I am dead, and hope that the Society may have marked prosperity in its good work. I am happy to say that I find the interest in the Society's work increasing, and am sure that if the Secretary repeats his visits to the chief places in New Brunswick there will be increased donations."

HOW TO AID COLPORTAGE.

TO THE CHRISTIAN PUBLIC.

The Colporteurs of the Society are laborers in the cause of the Gospel, disseminating in the families and neighborhoods they visit, by printed truth and personal effort, a knowledge of Christ and His salvation. They are sent forth by a religious, benevolent and unde-

Presbyterian, Episcopal, Methodist and Baptist Hymn Books.

nominal Society, whose single aim is to promote the highest welfare of those among whom its agents labor. The work is supported by the free contributions of the friends of the cause. While many thus contribute, the great majority of those for whose benefit the work is carried on have not the opportunity of aiding in this way; but you can often render equally important service by extending your kindness and hospitality to our Colporteurs, cheering their hearts, helping them by your prayerful co-operation in promoting the beneficent objects of the Society.

In the name and on behalf of the Directors of the Society we tender our warmest thanks to all who have thus helped us in the past. May Heaven richly reward you! Our Colporteurs come to you in the name of our blessed Saviour, and what you do for them, you do for Him. We commend them to you in His name. Brethren, aid the Colporteur in every way you can in his labor for the Master, remembering the highest of all motives in every good work—"For My sake." "In as much as ye did it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye did it unto me."

D. HENRY STARR,

Chairman.

ALLAN SIMPSON,

Pastor Poplar Grove Presbytertan Church.

W. H. WISWELL,

E. M. SAUNDERS,

Baptist Minister

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Distributing (Colpor-
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Year ending December 31st, 1881.

THE BRITISH AMERICAN BOOK AND TRACT SOCIETY in account with W. S. STIRLING, Treasurer.

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Dec. 31.	To amt. received for Periodicals.....	\$1755 46	By amt. paid for Publications	\$12276 47
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"	" " Donations	3401 53	" " Advertising & Printing.....	258 90
"	" " Other Sources.....	225 75	" " Store Expenses	865 16
			" " Postage, including Post- age on Periodicals ..	371 47
			" " Duty	1080 80
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			" " Gratitude to Rev. A. McBean	1000 00
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			" " Travelling Expenses..	160 31
			" " Freight.....	203 31
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S. H. BLACK, }
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1 Halifax,
2 Antigonish,
3 Barrington,
4 Billtown,
5 Blue Mountains,
6 Bridgewater,
7 Brooklyn, .....	...
8 Chester, .....	...
9 Great Village, .....	...
10 Hantsport, .....	...
11 Jordan River, .....	...
12 Liverpool, .....	...
13 Lockeport, .....	...
14 Lunenburg, .....	...
15 Mahone Bay, .....	...
16 Milton, Queens Co., .....	...
17 New Glasgow, .....	...
18 Pictou, .....	...
19 Port Mulgrave, .....	...
20 Sheet Harbor, .....	...
21 Shelburne, .....	...
22 Stellarton, .....	...
23 Summerside, .....	...
24 Truro, .....	...
25 Westville, .....	...
26 Windsor, .....	...
27 Wolfville, .....	...
28 Yarmouth, .....	...

NEW BRUNSWICK

29 St. John, .....	...
30 Bathurst, .....	...
31 Campbellton, .....	...
32 Chatbam, .....	...
33 Dalhousie, .....	...
34 Douglastown, .....	...
35 Fredericton, .....	...
36 Galloway, .....	...
37 Kingston, .....	...
38 Milltown, .....	...
39 Moncton, .....	...
40 Newcastle, .....	...
41 Richibucto, .....	...
42 Saint Andrews, .....	...
43 Saint Stephen, .....	...
44 Shediac, .....	...

Great care has been taken Should there be any omission that due acknowledgment ma

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 2 10 0
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3 Barrington, 17 25
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9 Great Village, 4 60
10 Hantsport, 21 10
11 Jordan River, 1 75
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17 New Glasgow, 87 47
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24 Truro, 61 00
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26 Windsor, 60 75
27 Wolfville, 20 00
28 Yarmouth, 78 11

\$1,686 28

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35 Fredericton, 107 07
36 Galloway, 4 50
37 Kingston, 26 00
38 Milltown, 61 00
39 Moncton, 31 00
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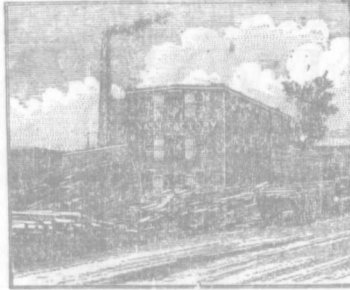
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