FIFTY-FOURTH REPORT

OF THE

Nova Scotia Bible Society.

DECEMBER, 1882.

INSTITUTED 1818.

HALIFAX:

NOVA SCOTIA PRINTING COMPANY, COR. SACKVILLE & GRANVILLE STREETS.

1883.

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X. Hach member of the Society shall be entitled, under the direction of the Committee, to purchase Bible and Testaments at the Society's prices, with shall be as low as possible. X The a RADITALUDBE ONAL SWALE held on the first Veducator that when the Lessurer and Committee that he curem, the account wife to be covered on the proceedings of the proceedings of XII. The President Vice President and Treasurer, shall be considered a shall be considered a shall be considered a shall be considered by the Scoretaries for the time being shall be considered as members of the Committee as other person deriving any as members of the Committee between other person deriving any constances from the Society shall have that priviles FORMER BIBLE SOCIETY, of which the main object shall be to encourage a wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures without note or comment; the only copies in the language of the United Kingdom, to be circulated by the Society, shall be the Authorized Version.

II. This Society shall add its endeavours to those employed by other Societies, for circulating the Scriptures through the British Dominion; and shall also, according to its ability, extend its influence to other countries, whether Christian, Mahammedan or Pagan.

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III. Each subscriber of One Guinea annually shall be a objects of the S IVor Each subscriber of Ten Guineas at one time shall be a

Member for life. anall be signed by the Chairman, Each subscriber of Twenty-five Guineas annually shall

be a Governor.

VI. Each subscriber of Fifty Pounds at one time, or who shall, by one additional payment, increase his original subscription to Fifty Pounds, shall be a Governor for life.

VII. Governors shall be entitled to attend and vote at all meetings of the Committee.

VIII. An Executor, paying a bequest of Fifty Pounds, shall

VIII. An Executor, paying a bequest of Fifty Pounds, shall be a Member for life; or, of One Hundred Pounds, a Governor for life.

IX. A Committee shall be appointed to conduct the business of the Society, consisting of thirty six laymen, six of whom shall be foreigners, resident in London or its vicinity; half the remainder shall be members of the Church of England, and the other half members of other denominations of Christians. Twenty seven of the above number, who shall have most frequently attended, shall be eligible for re-election for the ensuing year.

The Committee shall appoint all officers except the Treasurer, and call Special General Meetings, and shall be charged with procuring for the Society suitable patronage, both British and Foreign.

X. Each member of the Society shall be entitled, under the direction of the Committee, to purchase Bible and Testaments

at the Society's prices, which shall be as low as possible.

XL The annual meeting of the Society shall be held on the first Wednesday in May, when the Treasurer and Committee shall be chosen, the accounts presented, and the proceedings of the foregoing year presented. XII. The President, Vice-President, and Treasurer, shall be

considered ex officio members of the Committee.

XIII. Every clergyman or dissenting minister who is a member of the Society, shall be entitled to attend and vote at all meetings of the Committee.

XIV. The Secretaries for the time being shall be considered as members of the Committee.

as members of the Committee; but no other person deriving any emolument from the Society shall have that privilege.

XV. At the general meetings, and at meetings of the Committee, the President, or in his absence the Vice-President first upon the list then present; and in the absence of the Vice-President the Treasurer and in his absence such member as shall be voted for the purpose, shall preside at the meeting.

XVI. The Committee shall meet on the first Wednesday in

every month, or oftener if necessary a lade very month, or oftener if necessary to the power of nominating such persons as have rendered essential services to the Society, either Members for life, or Governors for life on a consultar a

XVIII. The Committee shall also have the power of nominating Honorary Members from among foreigners, who have promoted the objects of the Society.

XIX The whole of the minutes of every general meeting shall be signed by the Chairman. Each subscriber of Twenty-five Cuineas annually shall

be a Clavernur. VI. Pauli subscriber of Fifty Pounds at one time, or who shall, by one addition of the life property of the life.

Idopted at the Annual General Meeting of the Society in VIII. An Executor, 17881, bus, 5881 of Fifty Pounds, shall

I. That the fundamental law of the Society, which limits its operations to the circulation of the Holy Scriptures, be fully and distinctly recognized as excluding the circulation of the

Apocrypha.

II. That in conformity to the foregoing resolution no pecuniary aid can be granted to any Society circulating the Apocrypha; nor, except for the purpose of being applied in conformity to the said resolution, to any individual whatever.

III. That in all cases in which grants, whether gratuitous or otherwise, of the Holy Scriptures, either in whole or in part, be made by the Society, the books issued be bound, and on the express condition that they shall be distributed without alteration or addition.

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purpose be neces occasion IV. That all grants of Scriptures to the Society which circuthe Apocrypha, be made under the express condition that they be sold or distributed without alteration or addition; and that the proceeds of the sale of any such copies of the Scripture be held at the disposal of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Elected January Sec. 18-3.

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Secretary Color Colors of Colors of

Aoba Scotia Bible Society.

I. This Society shall be called THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF NOVA Scotia and its Dependencies; the object of which shall be the same as that of the British and Foreign Bible Society, viz: to encourage the circulation of the Holy Scriptures without note or comment, and to furnish copies of the Scriptures gratis to the indigent, and at reduced prices to those requiring them.

II. The business of the Society shall be conducted by a Pre-

sident, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and a Committee.
III. In order to give effect to the designs of this institution, benefactions and subscriptions shall be solicited, and books

opened for receiving the names of benefactors and subscribers.

IV. Every person contributing annually ten shillings at one time, or a donation of ten pounds, shall be considered a member of the Society.

V. A general meeting of the members of this Society will be held every year, before which will be laid the accounts and pro-

ceedings of the preceding year.

VI. The whole of the subscriptions and donations, after deducting the incidental expenses, shall be remitted annually in

aid of the funds of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

VII. Every member of this Society shall be entitled to purchase, under the direction of the Committee, Bibles and Testaments at the reduced prices of the Society, which are as

low as possible.

VIII. The Committee shall be authorized to meet for the purpose of conducting the business of the Society as often as may be necessary, and shall have power to add to their numbers as occasion may require.

NOVA SCOTIA BIBLE SOCIETY,

INSTITUTED NOVEMBER, 24th, 1813. seconds of the sale of sear such copies of the Scripture be

OFFICERS:

Elected January 3rd, 1883.

PRESIDENT Hon, S. L. SHANNON. VICE-PRESIDENTS . WILLIAM PRYOR, Esq. Ex Chief Justice. TREASURER S. H. BLACK, Esq. SECRETARY JAMES FARQUHAR, AGENT JOHN TOLAND. COLLECTOR SAMUEL BOREHAM

COMMITTER

REV. P. G. MACGREGOR, D.D., "G. W. HILL, D.C.L.,

G. W. HILL, D. U.L.,
PROP. FORREST,
R. MURRAY,
E. M. SAUNDERS, M. H. JUT
ALLAN SIMPSON,
PROP. CURRIE
J. F. AVERY.
R. F. BURNS, D.D.,
F. HUESTIS,

REV. L. H. JORDAN, "W. S. WHITTIER, HON. JUDGE RITCHIE, JAS. F. AVERY, Esq.

R. MURRAY,
E. M. SAUNDERS, H. H. H.
ALLAN SIMPSON,
PROF. CURRIE,
J. F. AVERY,
R. F. BURNS, D.D.
S. F. HUESTIS,
A. L. WYLLIE,
J. W. MANNING,
R. BRECKEN,
ROBT, LAING,
J. J. TEASDALE,
W. G. BANE,
WM. MCARTHUR,
J. WATSON SMITH,
H. H. MOPHERSON,
M. H. RICHEY, ESQ.,
JOHN STARR, ESQ.,
JOH

occasion may require.

V. A general moeting of the members of this Section will be beld every year, held every year, held every year.

By donations of ten pounds and upwards, at and since the formation of the Society, or executors paying fifty pounds or upwards.

HON. SAMUEL CREELMAN, S. H. BLACK, ESQ., HON. P. C. HILL, JAMES R. LITHGOW, Esq., P. G. MACGREGOR, D.D., CHAS. ROBSON, Esq., ALEX. ROBB, Esq., AMHERST, DR. LEWIS.

Society's Depository, 133 Granville Street.

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Moveo G. LANE :

That t past year, the tokens of Divine goodness manifested to the Parent Society in the enlarged success that has strended its efforts for the current and the triXRASRAYINNAR HTVIINTXIX blieral support, and for their current may rest that the diffusion and perusal of the inspired word to feel may be accompanied in all lands by the illuminating grace and converting power and the title of the converting power and converting power and the title of the converting power and converting power and the title of the converting power and converting

The Nova Scotia Auxiliary Bible Society,

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HELD IN ST. JOHN'S CHURCH,

On Tuesday, 3rd of January, 1883.

an interesting account

The chair was taken by Hon, S. L. Shannon, President, at half-past seven, P.M.

The Rev. H. H. McPherson gave out a hymn read a portion of Scripture, and engaged in prayer.

The PRESIDENT addressed the meeting.

An abstract of the annual report was read by the Secretary, Mr. James Farqueire.

The Rev. Dr. Hill moved the following ressolution, which was seconded by Rev. J. F. Avery, and supported by Rev. Mr. WHITTIER:

That the report an abstract of which has now been read, be received, adopted and printed, with the usual appendages, and circulated under direction of the Committee.

Moved by Rev. R. Brecken, seconded by Rev. W. G. Lane:—

That this meeting, on a review of the operations of the past year, desires very devoutly and gratefully to recognize

the tokens of Divine goodness manifested to the Parent Society in the enlarged success that has attended its efforts for the circulation of the Holy Scriptures, and would appeal to the friends of the Society for their continued and liberal support, and for their earnest prayers that the diffusion and perusal of the inspired Word of God may be accompanied in all lands by the illuminating grace and converting power of the Holy Spirit.

The election of the following to act as officers during the new year was moved by Mr. J. S. HUTTON and seconded by Rev. S. T. RAND, missionary among the Micmae Indians, the latter in a lengthy address giving an interesting account of his work:

President-Hon. S. L. Shannon.

Vice-Presidents--William Pryor, Hon. Sir William Young, Kt., Ex-Chief Justice.

Treasurer-S. H. Black.

Secretary James Farquhar. Collector—Samuel Boreham.

Committee—Revds. P. G. MacGregor, D.D., G. W. Hill, D.C.L., Prof. Forrest, R. Murray, E. M. Saunders, Allan Simpson, Prof. Currie, J. F. Avery, R. F. Burns, D.D., S. F. Huestis, A. L. Wyllie, J. W. Manning, R. Brecken, Robt. Laing, J. J. Teasdale, W. C. Lane, Wm. McArthur, T. Watson Smith, F. H. W. Pickles, L. Jordan, and H. H. McPherson, Hon. Judge Ritchie, Jas. F. Avery, M.D., S. Selden, Thos. A. Brown, W. C. Silver, James Thomson, Chas. Robson, Peter Lynch, Hon. P. C. Hill, George H. Starr, Nepean Clark, John Starr, M. H. Richey, M.P., John S. Maclean, T. B. Aikins, D.C.L., John Grierson, David Allison, LL.D.

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In reviewing the year now closed and recounting the labors of the committee there are few new facts in the history of the Auxiliary. And yet there are some subjects for serious reflection. Time moves and the first founders of the Auxiliary have been all gathered to their fathers; and one by one the other persons who filled their places are being removed. This year your committee record the removal of W. S. Stirling from their number. He occupied a place on the committee since 1861, and his loss is severely felt by this, as well as the numerous other benevolent societies, of which he filled the office of Treasurer.

Your committee present the usual extracts from the abstract of the parent society's seventy eighth annual report, which gives a resume of the work of the parent institution throughout the world. But for special details we would refer to the work itself, which may be had by subscribers on application at the Depository:

Your Committee close their work for the year and give in their Report with the thankful and cheering conviction that the blessing of God has again been abundantly resting upon your Society at home and abroad.

They judge of this, and they ask their supporters to judge of it, in many ways. Able and dear fellow-workers have gone, but others have been given them, and brotherly

love continues. Hindrances have here and there arisen, but they are dwarfed by difficulties solved and by new lands opening. And as to circulation, considering the intense eagerness with which the Revised New Testament in English was expected and welcomed, it would not have been surprising, if your Committee had had to announce a considerable falling off in their circulation of the 'Authorised Version.' The fact is, however, that the home issues of Holy Scripture by your, Society have been 9,200, and the foreign issues have been 83,300, more than last year. The Testaments called for at home have been only 38,000 fewer, those called for abroad have been 39,000 more this year than last. And the whole demand for Testaments in every tongue has again not fallen far short of a militon. Could there be more wonderful testimony to the vitality of the Book itself in whatever version?

Understanding by copies Bibles, Testaments, and Portions taken together, the TOTAL ISSUES AT HOME have been 1,509,000, and those ABROAD 1,429,000, in all 2,938,000 copies, or nearly 10,000 a day for the working days of a year. These figures bring up the Bibles, Testaments, and Portions supplied by your Society since its formation to 93,953,000 copies.

The income looks somewhat less than it did last year, but it has been generous and large. It has enabled your Committee to listen to every important appeal, and to start some new undertakings, and yet to end the year with a surplus. The free income has been £104,837, which is less than that of the previous year by £9,500. But this diminution means nothing more serious than the temporary absence of a few of those princely donations, which come wonderfully often, but not in every year to just the same amount. Of the decrease the sum of £7,200 occurs in such donations, and the falling off in ordinary contributions is only £1,300. The sum recrived for Scriptures sold is £94,842, or only £173 less than in the year before. And, adding the Roxburgh Fund for colportage in North India, the TOTAL RECRIPTS come to £199,785.

The TOTAL EXPENDITURE has been £190,738, or nearly £700 in excess of that announced a year ago. Your Committee are as careful as possible to keep within their income.

But they very to have an liberality Your Comfriends purdo so with

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But they would beg their supporters not to allow that fact to have any other effect than to increase the confidence and liberality with which funds are entrusted to their care. Your Committee are ready to go forward, provided their friends put it in their power, and keep it in their power, to

do so without anxiety as to funds.

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There are large fields still to be occupied. There are others, in which the spread of education, or the melting of prejudice, or the extension of missions will each year bring fresh calls to advance, to which your Committee will, if able, gladly respond. They have already during the year taken steps considerably to extend their liabilities in India, and China, and Persia, and Japan. They have added two new Agencies one for North Africa and one for Malaysia-to their list of They still ask for an Agent for Siberia. They are arranging for work in Cuba, and elsewhere. A colperteur has again entered Turkestan. Onward steps like these will have made theniselves felt a year hence more than at present. Meantime your Committee ask attention to the work already being done. For they believe that the more the breadth and the depth of it are known; the more hearty will be the support given to it in money and in prayer, and the less will it lose through ignorance and misconception. Besides all that it does at home, and through others, your Society has a missionary host of its own. It spreads about 300 colporteurs over Europe, and sends 200 more to other parts of the world. The sales of Scriptures by these men are more than 600,000 copies a year: Other societies have their own work for Christ, and they do it widely and well. But most of them, wherever their sphere, generously own that they could do it neither so widely, nor so well, without your help. That help is daily sought at home in Christian efforts of endless variety. And it precedes, or it attends, or it follows the missionary abroads lques thousand and wholes

The history of an enterprise so wast must perforce be chequered. There will be clouds as well as sunshine. But the feeling which the year leaves paramount in the minds of your Committee is, that they have abundant cause once

more humbly to thank God and to take courage.

It is but a fragment of this world-wide work which can be mentioned in this Abstract; a little of the light, a little of the shade; a few of the workers, and a few of the lands Agency through all channels have been work work wherein they work need have FRANCE.—France changes fast. Fifty years ago the French Government called the New Testament the first and most salutary of books, and paid your Committee £400 for 20,000 copies for elementary schools. Now the Bible is proscribed in all schools.

On the other hand, the new law of colportage has removed vexatious restrictions. The men can sell their books in the streets of Paris, whence they were formerly chased like dogs by the police, and a policeman is an active promoter of the circulation of Bibles. An authorisation is no longer required. The colporteur has only to declare his will to colport, and the maire is bound to give him a written acknowledgment of his declaration. One maire who four times refused such an acknowledgment, was summoned, and was not only ordered by the Court to affix his signature forthwith, but also to pay 20 frances as costs to the colporteur. He had argued in his defence that he had only been obeying the priest. So the colporteur offered him a Testament as a better adviser. This was accepted, and they shook hands cordially on parting

Two colporteurs who were employed twenty years ago have lately returned to the work. They say that formerly every one fled at their approach, as if they were infected with the plague. Now people want to know what the colporteurs believe, and whether they are Christians.

No Christian can watch these changes without interest. The present liberty calls for prompt action, for perhaps it may not be lasting. Fear mingles with hope. The old dominant Romanism strives to reassert itself, and in some parts it still stabs a colporteur in the arm with a knife, or throws his books into the fire. Elsewhere the rebound from credulity has brought complete unbelief. A Councillor-General said in an official speech, We learned men can believe no longer in things from above. As there is no God from whom we may expect help, we will place our belief only on the earth. If heaven is shut, earth remains.

But the ontlook is by no means dark. You have sixty colporteurs in France, and they have sold 76,300 books, large or small, within the year. The copies issued by your Agency through all channels have been 19,000 more than

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They were over 131,000, or 420 a day. the year before. On one occasion a colporteur distributed 6,000 Gospels to troops embarking for the war in Africa. Not one was torn up or thrown away. "The country is ripe, says Lord Rad-Enlightenment is progressing, and France needs

the Scriptures, says your Agent.

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One day, after their meal, many men were assembled at a factory door. They were all Radical Republicans, and little inclined to listen to your colportent. So he said Do you take General Garibaldi for a Clerical or a Republican? Would that all Republicans were like him! they replied. Well, said the colporteur, I may tell you that General Garibaldi appreciates the Bible of for when he was in London and one was presented to him, he showed the volume to those with him and said, "This is the cannon which will make Italy free!" So you see that the General knows the difference between Jesuitism and Christianity. The Lords had given him the right word to say, and the man calls his sale on that occasion marvellous, and gaived of belove saw

BELGIUM. The battle between superstition on the one hand and worldliness and atheism on the other continues. Between these conflicting extremes it is the blessed office of your Society and of others to step in and ask a hearing for God's own words to manual year that regret there

The country is not twice the size of Yorkshire. Its population is about five millions and a half as You have now! supplied it with 674,000 Bibles, Testaments, or Portions, and you employ in it eight colporteurs. The fruit of their

work sometimes comes to light.

On the seashore is an old wooden cross, taking its name from an abbot of Furnes with whom a King of England found refuge, it is said. It is believed to heal fever, and has long been an object of veneration. Pilgrims took away pieces, till the cross got so small that it was often covered by the sand. A fisherman brushed away the sand, and added a piece of old oak to the cross. The pilgrims were pleased with his piety, and used to give him money. Last year he said to Delplace, 'You came this way one day some years ago, and I bought a Bible. I have constantly read it, and I have come to know the truth. I could no longer deceive the poor people. I took away my old bit of oak, and threw it in the fire.

HOLLAND.—Through ill-health Mr. Reesse was reluctantly obliged to resign your Agency at Amsterdam at the close of 1881. Your Committee lost his services with sorrow. But following, they believe, guidance from above, they have chosen Mr. Henry Grelinger in his place, another Dutchman to whose heart the object of your Society has been dear.

The direct sales from your depôt have increased. Ornée has colported for thirty-five years, and Smit for thirty-three. They grow weaker in body, but intend to work as long as they can. The Bible is shut out of public schools, but, besides paying for those schools through the taxes, Christians support many Bible schools of their own. As De Gues was colporting last summer, he heard from a teacher that Bibles were wanted, but that the village school committee had no funds to buy them. He at once got their permission to hold a public meeting in the village to tell the people about the work of the Bible Society. The collection, which was £2, was devoted to buying the necessary Bibles for their school.

GERMANY AND SWITZERLAND.—A year ago a sudden and heavy bereavement cast its shadow over your Agency for Germany and Switzerland. The warm heart which had sped the work had been taken away, and none could forget that they should see the workman's face no more. The memory and the name of the Rev. George Palmer Davies remain, and in the record of another year a chastened expression of how much he is missed occurs again and again.

No one quite his counterpart could be looked for in his place. Your Committee felt it best only to make a provisional appointment at first. For that appointment many circumstances seemed to point to Mr. James Watt as the best man. He had conducted your Agency in South Russia for fourteen years with marked ability and success. And your Committee have felt, at the close of a year's trial, that they could not do better for the prosperity of the German Agency than make Mr. Watt's appointment to it permanent, and relieve him as soon as possible of the extra charge in Russia.

Setting aside figures connected with the Düsseldorf Exhibition of 1880, the circulation of Scriptures in Germany by

itself, the all show a sales to o atic suppl its jubilee assistance three-qua

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itself, the receipts for sales, and the contributions of friends, all show a gratifying increase. The total issues, including sales to other societies, were 321,800 copies. The systematic supply of Scriptures to the Prussian army has reached its jubilee. From the first it has had Royal favour and assistance. In fifty years the troops have bought nearly three-quarters of a million of Bibles and Testaments.

One feature of the year has been the completion of the standard edition of the New Testament translated into Hebrew by the venerable Dr. Delitzsch. Perhaps no version in any language was ever translated, revised, and printed with so much care, lest one jot or one tittle should be superfluous, or wanting, or misplaced. Your Committee have expressed to the learned Professor their warm congratulations on this crowning result of so many years of consecrated toil.

As one of your colporteurs stood by the grave of his children a woman came up and said, 'I have a Bible which I bought from you two years ago. You then said to me that the Word of God can be a source of comfort in every trial of life. Last winter my boy of nine years died, and I fret about it very much. I have often said, "If the man with the Bibles would only come round, he would know how to comfort us". Pointing to the grave, the colporteur said, 'I have only the same Word of God which you have, but has not our Lord said, "Because I live ye shall live also"? She asked him to call at her house, and this he did after a time. He found that the Holy Spirit had done His work in the soul, and he calls this "harvesting to the glory of God."

In Switzerland your Committee had the melancholy satisfaction of expressing their sympathy with the survivors of the terrible landslip at Elm, and of joining the Young Men's Christian Association of St. Gall in providing them with Scriptures. The number of books required for those who had lost everything but their lives was impressively small.

AUSTRIA—In the autumn serious illness endangered Mr. Millard's valuable life. Your Committee add their thanksgivings to his own for the renewed health now given to him for his thirty-sixth year of service. They also humbly

but thankfully record the entire preservation of a very large stock of Scriptures during the terrible burning of the Ring Theatre next door.

A fierce struggle is going on between light and darkness. Ignorance, indifference, intemperance, and hatred of the Scriptures by turns make the colporteurs' work one of difficulty and danger. Yet sunshine pierces the darkest clouds, and hope for the future brightens. Mr. Millard's report is rich in examples of the power of God's Word. His experience is that of the parable, 'So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground, and should sleep and rise, night and day, and the seed should spring up, he knoweth not how.' The circulation of the year shows an increase of 8,000 copies, and 6,000 of them are in the sales by colporteurs.

Last autumn the Protestants of Austria kept the centerary of that Edict of Toleration which first permitted them to worship according to their convictions. By a small grant of Testaments to each your Committee marked their sympathy with the 230 Protestant congregations, and gladdened their hearts. A wider toleration is still needed in Austria Proper; for in almost every part local authorities forbid real Bible colportage, and in the Tyrol even orders for Bibles may not be taken. But in spite of all troublesome restrictions one colporteur has sold 2,946 books, another 3,120. Six books were sold in a priest's house with his approval, and a hundred New Testaments were bought in a monastery.

In a military hospital two soldiers lying very ill each bought a New Testament, and begged the attendant to read a portion. This was done at once. One of the sick men confessed he had been an enemy to the truth, but he felt sorry for it. He thanked the colporteur for bringing the book and the attendant for reading it. Then he turned round and life was gone.

ITALY.—Very soon after your last anniversary there came the sad news from Italy that your Society had lost the Agent who had won himself such esteem there by twenty-one years of large hearted Bible work. In 1870, Mr. Thomas H. Bruce took care that on the very day on which the King's troops entered Rome, the Bible should be carried

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SPAIN one of those of peculiar began to con Agent asked so much in mittee now will be needed.

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It was very much owing to the generous aid of the Committee of the Religious Tract Society, and its late Secretary, the Rev. Dr. Manning, that your Committee were provided with such an able and suitable successor to Mr. Bruce as the Rev. Auguste Meille. Italy has thus become one of the countries in which your Society is represented by a native; and there is a special charm in the fact that the Bible Agent for Italy is a Waldensian. Within the year your forty colporteurs have sold 39,000 copies, which is considerably more than in the previous year. The Exhibition at Milan and the purchases of other Societies have also increased the circulation. And your Committee have undertaken an outlay of several hundreds of pounds to provide Italy with a cheap Bible of far better type and quality than it has ever yet had.

SPAIN.—The serious illness of Mr. Corfield has been one of those sad episodes which have made the past year one of peculiar anxiety to your Committee. When recovery began to come, it was at first only partial, and your veteran Agent asked permission to resign his post next June. But so much improvement has since taken place that your Committee now thankfully hope that no change in the Agency will be necessary.

The sales of your twenty-three colporteurs have increased by 1,000 copies, but the advance of nearly 12,000 copies in the whole circulation is due to increased purchases by the Scotch Bible Society. Two new districts have received resident colporteurs.

The Government have not yet amended any article in the Constitution, but their more liberal interpretation of the one upon religion has been productive of good. A colpor teur was summoned one night to a private house. He found the mayor, the magistrate, and others assembled. They stood up to receive him, and asked him to tell them something of what Protestants believe. He based his reply upon the Apostles' Creed. They were pleased, promised him protection, and provided a room where a neighbouring pastor might minister to all who chose to assemble for worship.

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PORTUGAL.—The Rev. R. Stewart reports a decrease of over 3,000 copies, but he is unable to assign a cause for this. A year ago the opening of a shop-front with a display of Scriptures in the public street of Lisbon was reported as a notable event. The opening of similar depôt shops in Oporto and Funchal is a yet more notable event in the past year.

A mounted highway man met Figueiredo and demanded his money. I am poor, sir, said the colporteur. What have you in that bag? said the robber. The Scriptures, sir, which are the Word of God; and if you will accept a copy; sir, I will gladly give one? The robber looked into the book, and, saying he would keep it, rode off. Some weeks after, when the King of Spain was expected in Lisbon, Figueiredo was offering the Scriptures for sale at the pier, and the robber, exquisitely dressed, landed from a steamer. The moment their eyes met he walked up, and invited Figueiredo to go with him to a café, promising to treat him to anything he liked. But this the colporteur politely declined.

DENMARK.—The land which sent out the first Protestant missions to the heathen of India in the East and Greenland in the West was itself till recently denied more than a very scanty supply of God's Word. It was a monopoly of the Royal Orphan House; and not ten years ago your Society was more hampered in printing the Scriptures in Denmark than in Spain, or in Rome. Now all is changed. Anti-Biblical influences lift their heads boldly, even in high places; but they seem powerless to stay the spread of God's Word. Last year notwithstanding a terribly severe winter and a scanty, harvest in the summer, your sales were the highest on record. In a population of only two millions you have within the last twenty-six years circulated more than half a million copies of Scripture, large or small.

NORWAY.—The recent mild winter has reduced the Norwegian farmers and woodmen to a worse position than ever. For ice and snow are essential to their welfare. The tide of emigration has not turned, and the circulation has decreased by above 5,000 copies. At Stavanger your Society has lost an old and warm friend by the death of Mr. Svendsen. Earnest efforts are being made to extend colportage.

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SWEDEN.—The Rev. R. H. Weakley has conducted the affairs of the Agency in a way that has left nothing to be desired. For he feels it blessed even to hew wood and draw water in the Master's service. The event of the year is the publication of the Gospel of St. Matthew in Swedish Lapp, prepared by Pastor Laestadius. A consulting and auditing Committee has been formed to assist your Agent. The issues have been 76,000 copies.

RUSSIA (North).—The Rev. W. Nicolson reports that he has reason to thank God for much blessing during 1881. With all the evil elements that are at work in the Russian Empire, culminating in the Nihilistic conspiracies and the anti-Jewish riots, there are other and blessed agencies at work. There is every reason to believe that there is a quiet growth and deepening of spiritual life amongst the common people, combined with increased attention to the Scriptures. Since the year closed, permission has been granted to your Society to circulate the whole Bible in Russ without the Apocrypha.

A Jew called a colporteur into his house, and bought a Hebrew-Russ Bible, and a Hebrew New Testament. He asked his workman, a Russian, what he would buy. The man said he liked the books, but could not afford to buy any. The Jew said, 'Choose what you will, and I will pay for them.' The man chose a New Testament and a Psalter. The Jew paid for them, and said, 'This book opens up to us the relation between man and God. We shall read them together, for I also understand Russ.'

The circulation in North Russia was 225,300 copies, which shows an increase of 6,000 on the previous year.

Something is being done for SIBERIA by your Society, as well as by some others. But it is altogether inadequate to the size and population of that vast region, and your Committee pray that a soitable Agent may soon be given them to enter the field with zeal, and self-denial, and faith.

RUSSIA (South).—The circulation shows an increase of 5,670 copies, notwithstanding the bad harvest. The regulations respecting the permits for colportage have been altered in a way which increases the liberty with which

your men can move about the whole empire. The show of Hebrew Scriptures in the window of the Kieff depot led the populace to believe it was a Jewish house of business, and it was three times threatened with destruction by the mob. But when the ringleader was convinced that it was a depot for the sale of Scriptures he kept his band of ruffians off.

THE CAUCASUS.—Brave efforts have been made by Mr. Morrison kimself and through his colporteurs to carry the Scriptures into hitherto unreached places, and 13,000

copies have been sold.

In May, Colporteur Musail crossed the Baku to Krasnovodsk, the place whence the Skobeleff expedition set out, and he sold 200 books in a fortnight on the fringe of Turkestan. The steamboat and railway officials conveyed him free, and when he travelled by goods train they made him comfortable in a horsebox.

After returning to Baku he boldly started for Daghestan, which in the minds of the people is still only the home of savage tribes delighting in violence and murder. Gradually Musail penetrated inland, selling books, till he reached the great rock fortress of Gunib, just twenty-two years after the heroic defence which gave it world-wide fame. With horrible grandeur the beetling cliffs overhang the road. For nearly thirty years Shamyl had defied the armies of Russia. Driven to his last resource, with 300 followers he occupied Gunib. Only a single mountain-path leads to the top. Two battalions were ordered up. After awful carnage they took Shamyl's mer. fell, cursing the Christian invaders of their country." That was in August 1859. In August 1881 Colporteur Musail climbed the same heights on his errand of peace, and sold twenty-six books in Gunib, and thirteen in Kumukh, a considerable town further south, where the commandant received him kindly, and bought some books. Altogether on this journey of hardships and dangers in Daghestan, Musail sold over 300 copies.

TURKEY.—Your Turkish Agency comprises several countries in which it is especially difficult to find men with the qualifications and character so essential to a Christian colporteur. Moreover, whole districts are still so overrun with brigands that colportage can only be prosecuted in them

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at the risk of life and property. In other parts the people are steeped in poverty, and are subjected to so many petty exactions that they cannot afford to purchase anything larger than a Portion. It is therefore a cheering fact that the circulation by your Society's own direct agency within the Turkish Empire has increased by 21,300 copies in the year, besides an increase in the number supplied by it to the American Bible Society. The amount received for books sold by your colporeurs and depots was £1,368, which is £280 more than in 1880.

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The colporteurs employed during the whole or a part of the year were, in Constantinople, 9, in Bulgaria 3: in Macedonia, 1; in Albania, 1; in Bithynia, 2; in Iona and the Archipelago, 5; in Cyprus, 1; in Crete, 1; in Greece, 5; in Syria and Palestine, 1; in Egypt, 4; total 33 men. Sales are also effected through depots, booksellers, correspondents, and missionaries at various centres. The preparatory work of the past is beginning to show itself in the frequent appearance of persons who take the part of your colporteurs in defending the teaching of the Bible, and the correctness of the text in your editions. But infidelity and violent opposition are also met with

Space will not permit a detailed reference to the numer ous and diversified countries included in this Agency. In Palestine 11,000 single Gospels in various languages were granted by your Committee for a distribution to the pilgrims at Jerusalem, intended to have been carried out under the direction of the late Bishop Barclay. Port Said is now occupied by a resident colporteur of your Society, who has laboured with much diligence and success, especially among the immense population which passes through the place on shipboard. In three months he sold 600 copies. In Greece a young man bought a bible, saying to the colporteur, 'Sir, I am very poor, and this money I give you I have borrowed. To repay it I shall have to take something from my daily food, but I do it cheerfully that I may study the Word of God.

Through the courtesy of the Palestine Exploration Fund arrangements have been made which will bring the maps in your Society's Bibles abreast of the latest discoveries in Palestine and the East.

AFRICA.—Your Committee have long been anxious to do more in North Africa. Through the kindness of the British Society for the Propagation of the Gospel among the Jews, the services of the Rev. J. Lowitz have been transferred to your Society. His high qualifications justify the hope that your new Agency will, under God, be a great blessing to a dark and disturbed region. And he has special facilities for access to the French troops in Tunis and Algeria.

Your Society is also vigorously assisting Bible circulation through the various missionary societies at work in other parts of Africa, East, West, Central and South. Several versions are undergoing careful revision, and some are in course of production for the first time. A special donation has been received towards the cost of providing the Scriptures for Dahomey, where no missionary can reside. The king of Abyssinia has permitted the Scriptures carried to his borders by Mr. Flad to enter his kingdom, though the missionary himself might not do so. The revision of the Malagasy Bible is making steady progress, and the reports from the Mauritius are very encouraging.

The South African Auxiliary Bible Society reports the gratifying fact, that the sales in its 35th year of labour have exceeded those of the year before by 1,861 copies, and that the amount paid on purchase account has advanced to £1,150. Since its formation this vigorous Auxiliary has remitted to the Parent Society £14,223 in Free Contributions. It includes about thirty branches, and many private correspondents.

in all the great countries of Persias India, Guina, and Japan.

PERSIA. Few countries outside Palestine possess a deeper interest for the student of Scripture than Persia, from its intimate connection with the history of the Jews, and the many references to it in the Old Testament. Christianity early made progress in Persia, but it was extinguished by terrible persecutions, and it was not till the present century that the distinguished missionary, the Rev. Henry Martyn, provided the Persians with the New Testament in their own tongue. For want, however, of a living agent in the country

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Two important steps have been taken in the past year, which will, it is hoped, greatly increase the acceptability of the Persian version of the New Testament, and extend its circulation. Martyn's translation has been thoroughly revised by the Rev. R. Bruce, your Society's Agent for Persia, with the scholarly aid of Professor E. H. Palmer of Cambridge. And the Church Missionary Society have undertaken to send a Missionary to Baghdad, part of whose time is to be devoted to Bible, work at the expense of your Society. The two colporteurs at Bagdad have sold some hundreds of copies during the year, and the depot has done good service. There are also depots at Ispahan, Burujird, and Kermanshah.

Geographically Baghdad belongs to Turkey in Asia, but religiously it is most closely connected with Persia. For Kerbela is to the Shia Muslims of Persia what Meeda is to the Sunni Muslims of Turkey. There took place the martyr-domi of Husain grandson of Mahomed, and every Shia is expected to visit it, dead or alive. Mr. Brace passed at might at a caravanseral along with 400 corpses en route for Baghdad, and about 4,000 a year are sent there from Russia and Persia for interment in the sacred spot. Most Persians visit it more than once in their lifetime, and thus the Scriptures may get carried back from Bagdad into all parts of Persia itself.

INDIA.—This country has such paramount claims upon Englishmen and Englishwomen, that your Committee are anxious to do more than has yet been possible, in the effective diffusion of the Scriptures among its 250,000,000 of, people. Their efforts are, however necessarily restricted by the small proportion of persons who can read, and who care to possess the Christian Book. They are dependent on missionaries and scholars for the translations required in a land where more than a hundred languages and dialects are spoken. And they cannot work without Christian agents available as channels of distribution in each part of the country.

The care of your Bible work in India is at present divided between six Auxiliaries—those of Calcutta, North India,

the Punjab, Bombay, Bangafore, and Madras. Ceylon has Auxiliaries of its own. All of these are assisted by grants in Scriptures, in printing paper, and in money towards the cost of translations and revisions, of printing, colportage, and general expenses. They also raise and expend money in the country themselves. Your Committee have again urged the judicious distribution of Scriptures by missionaries on tours as one of the most promising means for enlarging the circulation in India, and they have again expressed their readiness to aid in such tours both by books and money. They have also made offers of assistance wherever any circulation can be effected among females by the ladies who teach in zenanas, or in girls schools. About 140 colporteurs are employed by the Indian and Ceylon Auxiliaries, and their sales are some 120,000 copies, large or small, in a year. Colportage is also accomplished through such agencies as the Christian Vernacular Education Society Several important translations are undergoing careful revision, and a beginning has been made of providing the Scriptures for the first time in such languages as Brahul, Pahari, and Koi. The largest Auxiliary is that in Madras. Its sales were 26,000 last year, or 9,300 more than in the year before, and the demand for the Word of God in the Vernaculars of South India increases year by year, insurating nile are all is

are a moire than once in their lifetime, and thus the Scrip-MALAYSIA, By the Peace of Paris in 1815, the island of Java was restored to the Dutch, and British commerce was threatened with entire exclusion from the Asiatic Archipelago. To prevent that Lord Hastings, the Governor-General of India, obtained the island of Singapore from the Rajah of Johore, and Sir Stamford Raffles, who had governed Java from 1811 to 1816 with much success, established a settlement and free port there in 1819. It is now one of the most important centres for the shipping of all nations in the world, and has a mixed population of not less than 100,000 souls. Your committee has recently appointed Mr. John Haffenden as its first agent for Malaysia, to develop as he finds opportunity the distribution of the Scriptures in the shipping at Singapore, in the islands of the Asiatic Archipelago, and on the adjoining mainland of Siam and Anam. This agency will form a connecting link between India and -tween sta Auxiliance-these of Calcuta, North Land

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CHINA.—The year has been one of large issues from the various depots in China, 223,543 volumes having been sent out from Shanghai alone, as against 146,012 in the year before. The actual sales have in many cases not been reported, but they must have been large, though considerably less than the total issues. During the year 233,586 books have been received from the press, and many thousand more were in process of printing at its close.

A large number of native colporteurs are superintended by local committees, or individual missionaries. The staff of European colporteurs has been raised from one to tour, and more of the missionaries of the China Inland Mission have been engaged to give much of their time to the sale of the Scriptures on their tours. The testimony is general to the marked difference in the attitude of the people towards the 'foreign devils,' and native colporteurs, who sell the Scriptures. Opposition, abuse, pelting with stones and mud, and the like are comparatively rare. Persons who have bought books in former years, and who have evidently read them with care, are met with from time to time. 'I am more convinced every year, says the Rev. L. Lloyd, of Fachan, that the distribution of the Bible in China is a work of the highest value, and that the result in God's time from this precious seed so ving will be far beyond everything our weak faith expects.' A medical missionary has taken with him a Bible colporteur, and begun work in the Island of Hainan. His skill draws crowds around him. In one place, within a few hours, thirty came with bad teeth to be drawn. In another, the relief given to one man by a blister brought nearly the whole village begging to be blistered. They were offered the Gospel instead.

JAPAN.—The Rev. Isaac J. Taylor, your first resident Agent in Japan, landed in Yokohama on March 4, 1881. He received a cordial welcome from the corresponding committee, which had so successfully worked for your Society as to make the need of an Agent on the spot urgent. And a large increase in your circulation has followed his arrival, besides many other benefits. The circulation, which in 1879 was 1,718, and in 1880, 4,706 copies, has in 1881 been 7,909 copies. Your Society has published, in conjunction with the National Bible Society of Scotland, the first Japanese New Testament with references. The References to the

progress Las been made. A

number of about 12,000, were prepared with much care by the Rev. John Piper of the Church Missionary Society. Three editions of several thousand copies were called for in a few months. Among the Free Grants of the year were 30 copies of the parable of the Prodigal Son in Japanese raised type for the Blind. Four books of the Old Testament, translated by English missionares, are now in circulation.

AUSTRALASIA.—The Rev. J. T. Evans, M. A., is your zealous Agent for Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand. His report has not yet arrived, but the cheering character which the whole is likely to have may be gathered from what he writes regarding a portion of Australia in his last letter. There are ten Auxiliaries in New South Wales. All report increased incomes. During the year 110 meetings and 20 services have been held. Over 5,000 miles were travelled, and visiting the country districts occupied 170 days. A free contribution of £2,825 has been sent to the Parent Society. Twelve new Branches have been formed. The country Auxiliaries are worked most economically, and are likely in time largely to increase their contributions. They have done splendidly.

A gentleman in Queensland, speaking of the dearth of the means of grace, and the want of pastoral visitation says, I have ridden fourteen miles to a service, but I have only been visited by a colporteurs of the Bible Society. He read

and prayed with us'

SOUTH SEAS.—The value put upon the Word of God in the various groups of islands is proved by their remittances to be as great as ever. "The various sums mentioned as received during the year from South Sea Islands in payment for Scriptures amount to a total of £1,053 7s. 3d. The average sum thus received has been £1,000 a year for eight years, from a people who a generation ago were savages and in many cases cannibals."

SOUTH AMERICA.—The convulsions of nature, the havoc of war, and the darkness of heathenism, and of Romanism, make the condition of most of South America deplorable in the extreme. The Word of God is sorely needed there as a source of light, and peace. and spiritual religion. But it is little valued, and its diffusion is difficult, small, and expensive. Nevertheless, in Patagonia, in Chili, in the Argentine Republic, in Brazil, and in Guiana, some progress has been made.

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Dr. Joseph Jerusalem, were enroll WEST INDIES.—Among the steps taken to promote the circulation of the Hely Scriptures among the varied races in these islands may be mentioned a new Auxiliary and depot established in Jamaica; grants of Scriptures for Hayti, and for the Chinese in Antigua; and successful negotiations for Bible work in Cuba.

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BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.—A translation of St. Matthew in Qagutl is being printed for some of the Indians who live around Fort Rupert in Vancouver's Island, British Columbia, the most westerly province in the Dominion of Canada. The province of Ontario contains active Auxiliaries in London (Western Ontario), Toronto, Kingston, Perth, and Ottawa. The province of Quebec is divided between the Auxiliaries of Montreal and Quebec. Then come New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, each with its own wants, and its own contributions to the common fund. And outside the Dominion lies Newfoundland with its Auxiliary, and an active colporteur. The issues in Newfoundland for the year were 3,637 copies, an increase of 1,792 over that of the previous one, and bringing up the total circulated by this Auxiliary since its formation to 66,220. Its zeal illustrates that of the rest.

OTHER BIBLE SOCIETIES.—Your Committee rejoice in the circulation of the Holy Scriptures effected in all parts of the world by many other societies. They are cheered when a common object brings into intimate and friendly co-operation with the Bible Societies of America and Scotland, and they offer to the Hibernian Bible Society their warm sympathy in its noble endeavour to stem disorder and disaffection by a wider diffusion of God's Word.

OBITUARY.—The Society has lost four Vice-Presidents during the year. Twenty-seven years have passed since the announcement that the Most Rev. Frederic Barker, D. D., Bishop of Sydney and Metropolitan of Australia, had accepted the office, so that for the whole of his episcopate your Society was aided by the influence and advocacy of this excellent prelate abroad, as it had previously been aided during his ministry at home.

It is only two years since the name of the Right Rev. Dr. Joseph Barclay, Bishop of the Church of England in Jerusalem, and that of the Hon. Alexander Leslie Melville were enrolled among the Vice-Presidents of the Society, and

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It was with much regret that your Committee heard of their sudden removal by death. The Bishop was still in the prime of life. Mr. Leslie Melville was connected with some of the founders of the Society, and had been President of its Lincoln Auxiliary for some forty-two years.

Among those whose acceptance of the office of Vice-President was mentioned only at the last anniversary was William Coles, Esq. He rests from his labours, but his long service in your Committee and his deep attachment to the Society deserve most grateful and affectionate remembrance.

Death has also during the year deprived the Society of three of its Honorary Governors for life, all valued and warmhearted friends; John Finch, Esq., a member of the Committee for over thirty-one years; Macleod Wylie, Esq., late of Calcutta; and Mr. S. E. Svendson, of Stavanger, in Norway.

appointments.—Your Committee have much pleasure in announcing that the office of Vice-President has been accepted by the Right Hon. Earl Cairns, the Very Rev. the Dean of Peterborough, J. Hampden Fordham, Esq.; William McArthur, Esq., M. P.; the Rev. Dr. Lewis Edwards, of Bala; the Rev. Dr. Owen Thomas, of Liverpool; and the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon.

To the list of Honorary Governors for Life, having rendered essential services to the Society, have been added Maurice Schulhop, Esq., M. D. Mr. A. J. Reese, your late Agent for Holland; E. C. Williams, Esq., of Jersey; and the Rev. Professor Dr. Delitzsch.

A change in the arrangements for the county of Nortolk was announced last year. The formation of a new district for it in conjunction with Suffolk made it necessary to appoint an additional District Secretary, and Rev. R. G. Hunt, B.A., son of the Rev. R. Hunt, for many years a missionary of the Church Missionary Society in N. W. America, was selected to succeed Rev. G. Davidson as Secretary for the Oxford District.

Mr. James Franklin, for so many years the Society's Depositary, and Mr. Charles Finch, its Assistant Foreign and Financial Secretary, have both, to your Committee's deep regret, been severe sufferers by illness during the year. And the constantly increasing work at the Bible House has made your Committee feel it necessary to appoint an additional assistant Secretary. They have conferred this office upon Mr. J. J. Brown, of Lincoln's Inn.

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CONCLUSION.—The revision of a version of the Holy Scriptures is a matter with which your Committee have often to deal, and in which they always take the deepest interest. In no revision is that interest deeper than in that of the English version, of which the New Testament has been published since your last anniversary. But masmuch as the large constituency which they represent is divided in its views upon the part already published, and the work is still incomplete, your Committee have decided that the time has not yet come for discussing with advantage at a general meeting of the Society any modification of the rule which limits its circulation in the languages of the United Kingdom to the Authorized Version.

It was a solemn thing for men of old to speak to their fellowmen as the messengers of God. In so doing they were taking part with the Almighty in His work. And your Committee feel that their office has been grand and solemn too; for they have been delivering God's message to men, and that in many lands. And if they have been faithful in this service as God gave them guidance, and means, and opportunity, their Report of work done is a record of His working too. It unrolls to eyes that see one more page in the great scroll of God's dealings with man. It tells how, and where, the One Father of all has been speaking through His written Word to fresh circles of His children, box, should red

It also offers men the witness of another year to solve their doubts whether the Bible be God's Book, or no. Does it not still stand alone among books? When some asked Jesus of Nazareth, 'Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?' they were told to seek an answer in what their eyes saw of His doings, and their ears heard of His teaching. Apply the same tests to the Bible, and let the Reports of your Society testify to what it has done and taught. Some are hoping that this Book's day is over. Others are saying that its work is done. Each month your Committee have had proof that the saying is mistaken, and that the hope is vain. In every land men still ask for this Book as they ask for no other. They still own that it has spoken to them with the voice of God. Some own it 'of good-will.' The Book has brought them light and peace, and joy and hope, and love. The Divine Spirit is there, testifying of Jesus. Others, by 'envy and strife,' own it no less truly. Through the Book

some One pricks their conscience. It disturbs them in the peace with which they make their gains, or use their power. Their very hatred of it turns to it for a testimony. The Spirit is there convicting of sin.

A year ago the hard winter in Denmark had brought a devoted colporteur very near his end, and he wrote this in his report:—

il storic straig solt to I am still very weak, and the weather is unusually trying. During the last fortnight I have not been able to work more than three days. But if it be His will that I continue my blessed work, I hope that God will give me strength to do so. I meet now and then with unbelievers and scoffers, but only as an exception. What makes me wonder much more is, that in this trying winter poor people often give up small comforts to get money to buy a Bible. Many have expressed to me their feelings of thankfulness to the good men yonder in England, who do so much for the circulatiotion of the Bible in Denmark; and when I told them that the best part of the money came from voluntary contributions of rich and poor, the brightening of their faces told me better than words how much they appreciated what was done for them! Cod's dealmer wit

Tet once more, then, your Committee ask you to strengthen their hands, and to go forward, to thank God and to take courage.

Referring again to the work of the Auxiliary, there is little new to report. In the city we have not much encouragement from the attendance at meetings, but have resolved in the strength of the grace given from on high to keep before the public the claims of an institution which has been so much honored of God during the past period of its history, both in Nova Scotia and throughout the world. One thing is specially noteworthy—that in the past history of this Auxiliary no mention has ever been made of the entrance of the demon of discord into its ranks.

Whatever world are far as the oldest man into the This factor church evangeling Halif Scotia.

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Whatever controversy took hold of any ecclesiastical world and for a time fanned the flames of bigetry, so far as the minutes of meetings or the memory of the oldest members testify, no entrance was ever effected into the committee or general meetings of this Auxiliary. This fact speaks volumes for the unity of the Christian church as far as it is represented by this branch of evangelistic work for the past seventy years at least in Halifax, and so far as we know throughout Nova Scotia.

The circulation of Scriptures during the past year has not been equal to former years, but we account for this from the fact that the sale of Scriptures through other channels has stocked the market, and we are not called upon to hold such a stock on hand as was common a few years ago. It may not be out of place here to reply to some communications from branches enquiring as to prices and facilities for purchasing for depets. We repeat that the books ordered by branches are given to them at the prices charged in London, upon which the Auxiliary pays duties, freight and insurance, and then the branches have their own option to sell at what they please or give gratis to benevolent institutions or individuals, as they may deem best.

The parent society in a recent communication notices that: "Too often applications are received from persons who say they have no funds to buy bibles, when it is clear they are able to purchase other necessaries, but have fallen into the way of thinking, that they should get their supplies of bibles for nothing.

This the committee feel to be an unhealthy way of thinking; and they believe they are best fulfilling their duty by helping those who show a readiness of help themselves. It should be added that the reduced prices apply only to schools or other benevolent institutions which are supported wholly or in part by voluntary contributions.

In reference to the last statement we may remark that your committee have gone beyond the practice of the parent society. We have sold indiscriminately to all at the reduced rates.

During the year 1881 the circulation was as follows:

From Depository 9 33 and 31 bod 61 and Bibles of Testaments.

229 103
To Branches 1 9 33 and 31 bod 61 and 62 dd

The parent society's last report, 1882, contains the credit to Nova Scotia as follows:

Roya Scotia, at Halifax plood add ta 300.0 of a 120.0 of New Glasgow (1881).

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sha To analayse the Nova Scotia Auxiliary section of those receipts we have a fair increase over the previous year's, but inasmuch as it contains the bequests of Mrs. Binney (\$1,000) and other sums which we cannot expect every year. yet we have reason for gratitude to our Father that He has enabled us to do so much Several other legacies are maturing for payment and some have been paid in this year which will be duly acknowledged; The society's income for the year 1881 may be classified Nova Scotia and the other balf in New Eswellot as Lugacies of Mrs. Binneyortond . szoV. . adt. ad. atto \$1,000.00 Halifax Subscriptionagraper agr. glad aiertt aredw. er 238cp5 Branch Societies, per Treasurer 101.31 per Secretary...... 328.43 per Agent..... 463.00

The Halifax subscriptions are not what they were some years ago. But it is encouraging to see that there are some places where the interest is apparently increasing, as subscriptions are largely increased. Dartmouth was last year (1881) the largest branch contributed, which may to some extent account for the diminution in the Halifax list. While at the same time we miss from the list such valuable auxiliaries as Yarmouth, Maitland and even Truro, which very nearly closes up all the early associations connected with those places, where the fathers of the settlements held sacred the meetings of the Bible Society as well

as the regularly contributed subscriptions to its funds There are names and families in those places whose works of faith and labor of love in connection with this institution we would not willingly forget, and your committee trust that a new interest will be manifested among them with another year and and off tedd to the a In conclusion the committee have much pleasure in certifying to the diligent and perserving labors of the agent, Mr. Toland, who employs half his time in Nova Scotia and the other half in New Brunswick His reports for the Nova Scotia section which are always interesting will be submitted herewith. And the committee would tender thanks to the officer of the various branches who have assisted him in the different spheres where their help was required addressed and the I see ch deciedte, per Transmer 101.31 par Secretary 328.43 C. h Sales as Depot.....

The Marifax subscriptions are not what they were some years ago. But it is encouraring to see that there are some places where the interest is apparently increasing, as subscriptions are largely increased. Datements was lastly at (4001) the largest branch continuously, which may to seem extent account for the diminution in the Hullax list. While at the same time we note from the list such valuable at the same nonly as connected with these places, where the futhers of the sections connected bull access the fathers of the sections as held seered the meetings of the tible Society as well

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Mer, M. G. Henry, President, in the chair. Seven

To the President and Committee of the Nova Scotia Auxiliary Bible Society.

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I began my labours, as the Agent of the Auxiliary, for the year 1882, at Brookfield, Colchester County, where on Wednesday, March 22nd, I addressed a fair meeting in the Presbyterian Church, and obtained a small collection. Went next day to Middle Stewiacke. The meeting here was, as usual, well attended, and \$15.00 handed to me as the first instalment of the contribution from this Branch.

The next evening, at 7.30, addressed the Upper Stewiacke Branch, Rev. E. Grant in the chair. The amount received from this Branch last year was larger than during several years past, and it is to be hoped, it will be still more increased this year.

At Spring Side, there was the usual turn out at 3 p. m., on Saturday, 25th March. Rev. J. Meek presided, and rendered good servive to the cause. The Treasurer, J. McGill Johnston, Esq., handed me \$15.08. The collectors will go round in September.

Next day, at 2.30 p. m., went to South Branch and laid the claims of the Society before the friends there; a collection was taken, and much interest in the Bible Society, as usual, manifested.

The friends of the Lower Stewiacke Branch met in the Presbyterian Church, at 7.30 on Monday, 27th. Rev. M. G. Henry, President, in the chair. Seven collectors were appointed at the meeting, and \$3.00 handed to me.

Went next day to Upper Musquodoboit, and though the evening was very stormy, there was a fine meeting in the Presbyterian Church. Since last meeting a Juvenile Society was organized, and the children had collected \$8.93. This sum, together with \$14.20 from the Treasurer of the Branch, was handed to me, making in all \$23 13, and still three sections yet to be heard from. The new minister, Rev. J. A. Cairns, was unanimously elected President.

In the Hall at Middle Musquodoboit, there was a fine meeting on Thursday evening, 30th March. A resolution was unanimously carried, to the effect that a public meeting should be held early in September, to elect officers and appoint collectors. This Branch did well last year, its contribution was more than treble that of the previous year.

Walked down next day to Little River, and was doomed to disappointment. The notice of meeting had been given by Mr. McKinnon, on the previous Sabbath when there was a large attendance, and yet not more than four or five boys appeared at the place of meeting.

A strange minister had preached at Gay's River, and had forgotten to give notice of meeting; very few were aware that I was to be there on Friday, 31st March. On consulting the Secretary, it was deemed unwise to attempt a meeting in the circumstances. Agreed to try at some future time, and went on to Elmsdale.

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Branch, Presiden Treasure appointe Here and at Nine Mile River, the meetings were small, as the day was very stormy and roads bad. Still I got \$9,78, and was very cordially welcomed by Rev. J. Layton and his good lady, and enjoyed the hospitality of the Manse for three nights.

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The next effort was in Truro, on Tuesday evening, April 4th. The meeting was very small. It was agreed that another meeting should be held, at no distant day, for the election of officers and appointment of collectors, as there was only one denomination represented at the meeting.

The gathering at Clifton, next evening, was very encouraging. E. Archibald, Esq., President of the Branch presided, and several collectors were appointed.

The meeting in Maitland was also good, and some \$14.33 handed to me. I enjoyed, as usual, the warm hospitality of the Secretary, Mr. Eaton, who sent his horse to drive me to Upper Selmah.

Here on Friday, 7th April, I addressed two meetings. At the conclusion of the latter, a Branch was organized of which A Frame, Esq., was elected President; and D. Smith, Esq., Secretary-Treasurer.

I obtained a small collection, including \$2.33 interest accruing from the bequest of the late Richard Smith, Esq., for the year 1881.

Mr. Frame kindly sent me on to Lower Selmah, where I also addressed two meetings, and was very cordially welcomed by the friends of the Bible Society.

Branch, was held in the Presbyterian Church; the President, J. J. O'Brien, Esq., in the chair. The Treasurer handed me \$13.22, and two collectors were appointed to obtain more.

The Cheverie Branch met in the Hall on Monday evening, 10th April. I. A. Malcom, Esq., President, in the chair. It was by far the best meeting I have ever addressed in Cheverie. The contribution \$24.00, was three time as large as it was two years ago. Mrs. Malcom and Miss Sarah Glenn, collected with indefatigable industry.

Went on to Burlington, and held a very small meeting in the Methodist Church. Captain John Mann handed me \$5.50 for last year, and \$6.00 as part of the contribution for the present year. Was very hospitably entertained by Captain Mann.

And went on to Brooklyn. Addressed the Branch in the Methodist Church. The president, J. E. Cochran, Esq., occupied the chair. This Branch always does well, and last year better than ever before.

Next evening, April 13th, held as usual, a very interesting meeting in Ayondale, Rev. R. McArthur presided, and rendered important aid. This is one of our best Branches, and remits, through J. W. Allison, Esq., its annual contribution regularly.

In the Methodist Church, Windsor, the turn out was very fair. This Branch has been steadily increasing its contributions from year to year. I hope the present year will be no exception. There were five ministers present, including the President. One of them, Rev. Mr. Pike, addressed the meeting.

The meeting in the Methodist Church, Horton, was exceptionally good. The collection at meeting was \$4.85, and Miss Mary Harvey gathered up \$13.09, making \$17.85 as against 9.87 the previous year. Miss Harvey's zeal and diligence deserves special commendation.

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And went on to Canning, and addressed the Branch in the Methodist Church. Two collectors, Miss Minnie Miller and Miss Davison, had gathered up nearly \$15.00, which was handed to me.

The next evening in Kentville Presbyterian Church, the meeting was very fair. Judge Blanchard presided, and \$32.50 collected by Miss Blanchard, was the sum I received.

The meeting in Somerset was entirely prevented by the storm of the 21st April. Only the officers, Mr. Bent and Mr. Fisher, appeared in the Hall. They will take up and remit their usual contribution without delay.

Went to Wilmot, on Saturday, 22nd April, was able to address two meetings next day, at Melvern Square in the morning, and at Margaretville in the evening. I think it hardly worth while to visit the latter place again.

At Lawrencetown, on Monday evening, the meeting was very small. I received \$10.00 however, from two friends, and the promise that more will be collected.

Had the pleasure of meeting a few of the friends of Bridgetown Branch, in the Methodist Church. Miss Randolph and Miss Murdock collected \$18.00, and \$5.20 respectively. This sum, together with \$1.45 collected at meeting, making \$24.65, or 17 per cent. more than last year, was handed to me.

The gathering in Annapolis was the largest we have had for several years. Rev. J. J. Ritchie occupied the chair. Mrs. A. Campbell, who was present at the meeting, consented to give us her valuable services in collecting this year again.

had In Bear River Methodist Church the usual interesting meeting was held on Thursday evening, 27th The officers will meet, at no distant day, for continuent of collectors. This work was confided the appointment of collectors. to gentlemen last year, and as Dr. Maxwell said at the meeting, they proved a failure, the ladies will undertake it this year.

The next evening in Kentville Presbyterian meetings of the season, was held in the vestry of the Methodist Church, Digby, under the Presidency of R. Stephen, M. D. Rev. Mr. Ainly rendered important service. The contribution \$23.09, exceeded that of last year by 28 per cent.

June In August, went to Cape Breton, and visited Hawkesbury, Port Hood, Mabou, Whycocomali, Sydney North, and Sydney South. The usual contributions from these places were received. At South Sydney, Mr. McLennan assisted me to collect as usual, and treated me with unabated kindness while I remained in Sydney. Captain Beatty, owner of the steamer "Neptune," passed me free for the seventh time.

was very small. I received \$10.00 however, from two At Mabou, Mr. H. Murray drove me to meeting, as usual, and W. McDonald, Esq., had his contribution made up and handed it to me at the meeting. Mr. McDonald also gave me a free passage to Whycocomah the next day. Other instances of kindness, too numerous to mention, must be passed over, all indicating unabated interest in the welfare of the Bible Society.

The meeting of Amherst Branch was very small as usual. The collectors had made their returns, and \$21.24 was the sum handed to me by Mr. Chapman, the Treasurer, pasy still guideling in services eldering

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On the 16th October, began a series of meetings in Colchester County. The first was held at Portaupique, and was as usual, very well attended. Rev. Mr. Cameron occupied the chair and conducted devotional exercise. The collection amounted to \$7.25. The collectors will go round as usual.

The next meeting was at Base River, where your agent received the same cordial reception as in former years. Got some \$13.00, and was driven to Economy by Mr. Geo. Fulton. The meetings at Economy, Five Islands, Parsboro, Great Village and Folly, were all (with the exception of Parsboro) well attended. At Great Village, the Secretary handed me \$26.12, which was an advance of nine per cent on last year's contrivious and sold as all beilings and had only esold to same out

Secretary gave me \$15.92. Collectors will visit the friends who have not contributed at once of Presbysterians. They gave me \$7.85.

I ought to mention here, that complaints are sometimes made that the agent's visits are so far apart, separated by the interval of a year; but with the present arrangement of one Agent for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, they could not possibly be more frequent.

The meeting in Yarmouth was held in the vestry of the Presbyterian Church. Rev. A. McGregor in the chair. Joseph Burrell, Esq., was elected President of the Yarmouth Branch, in the room of Dr. J. G. Farish, deceased. Wm. Sterritt, Esq., was also elected Secretary, and Henry G. Farish, Esq., Treasurer, with a committee of seven gentlemen carefully selected from the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian

Churches. Arrangements will be made for a systematic canvass of the town in behalf of the Bible Society.

At Barrington addressed two large meetings at the Head, in the Methodist Church, and at the Passage, in the Presbyterian Church. Collectors will go round as heretofore.

Have been somewhat annoyed during my journeyings this year, by circulars sent, I believe, to all the Protestant Ministers in the Dominion, by the committee of the Trinitarian Bible Society, endeavouring to revive the controversy about the vulgate versions. Those who were acquainted with the history of that affair took no notice of the communications. A few words of explanation served to remove all difficulty in the case of those who had not studied the subject.

To Ministers and others who have aided and encouraged me during the laborious duties of another year, I would take this opportunity of returning my grateful acknowledgments.

Respectfully submitted,

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