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CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE UPPER CANADA BIBLE SOCIETY AND THE GENERAL
COMMITTEE OF THE LONDON AUXILIARY.

On the 14th of May the Secretaries of this Society received from the Rev. John Gemley, Secretary of the London Auxiliary, a copy of two resolutions unanimously adopted by the Committee of the Auxiliary, taking exception to a passage in the last Annual Report of the Society, and asking the Directors to send a deputation to London to confer with the Committee on the subject.

The passage referred to is as follows :

"The report of the London Auxiliary shows that efforts are being made to render it more efficient, and its receipts during the past year are in advance of those of previous years. Its contributions, however, towards the circulation of the Scriptures, have not advanced. Forty of its Branches have sent an aggregate sum of \$1,408.92 to this and the Parent Society. Last year thirty-nine sent \$1,590.71. The other forty-six have sent nothing.

"The Directors do not wish to undervalue the reported improvement because there is room for so much more, nor yet to ignore the commendable efforts of those who have brought it about. But as this Society pays for all the agency, and the whole sum contributed by that field—the wealthiest part of the country—for the circulation of God's Word, is so small compared with the expense, the Directors feel convinced that the present relations between the Society and its Auxiliary are radically wrong, and would respectfully recommend their successors to take the subject into their careful consideration."

The Directors appointed a large deputation, but the only members able to proceed to London on the day of meeting were—Dr. Hodgins, Mr. John K. Macdonald, and Mr. R. Baldwin. They were courteously received by the Bishop of Huron, as chairman, and the rest of the Committee. The former history of the Society, and other matters bearing on the question, were very fully discussed. The deputation laid before the meeting the following sta-

tistics, which had led the Board of Directors to the conclusion expressed in the Annual Report :—

TABLE OF RETURNS.

		Purchase account.	Free contributions.	Total.	
Receipts from Branches in the field afterwards allotted to the London					
Auxiliary.....	1860-61	\$569 32	\$1489 19	\$2058 51	
“	“	1861-62	1177 66	1433 26	2610 92
“	“	1862-63	787 45	1263 64	2051 09
“	“	1863-64	1129 27	1683 91	2813 18

In August, 1864, “in consideration of the extensive field set apart for the London Auxiliary, and the greatly increased operations anticipated by the London Board as the result of the new organization,” a grant of books was made to the extent of fifteen hundred dollars (\$1500).

		Purchase.	Free.	Cost of Agency.
Receipts from London Auxiliary	1864-65	\$1283 30	\$1726 90	\$465 00
	1865-66	1232 83	1594 94	721 92
	1866-67	1000 00	1178 93	758 28
	1867-68	1505 74	1191 31	725 62
	1868-69	1538 79	1578 34	744 60
	1869-70	948 89	1454 84	630 48
	1870-71	1387 56	2191 40	546 00
	1871-72	1702 72	2970 26	517 92
	1872-73	1420 36	2599 11	562 38
	1873-74	1083 91	1814 88	632 70
	1874-75	1117 79	1104 89	720 00
	1875-76	1189 31	1620 71	630 00
	1876-77	1207 45	1412 06	690 00

Some of the members of the Committee questioned some of these figures, and also the statement that the existence of the Auxiliary probably cost from \$700 to \$1,000 per annum.

The Chairman asked the Deputation if they had any proposal to make. Dr. Hodgins replied that their only instructions from the Board were to confer with the London Sub-Committee on the best way of rectifying the existing arrangements, but that they had no definite proposals to lay before the meeting. The Rev. Mr. Gemley then read two suggestions that had been adopted by the General Committee of the Auxiliary, and which the Sub-Committee were instructed to submit to the Toronto deputation. These were as follows :—

1st. That the London Auxiliary shall be authorized, from year to year, to appoint and direct the operations of an agent or agents to visit the various Branches within its jurisdiction, form new Branches, and generally to awaken and foster a more active interest in behalf of the Bible Society, and to report to this Auxiliary.

2nd. That all moneys raised by the said Branches be transmitted to this Auxiliary, and by it to the Treasurer or Depositary of the Upper Canada Bible Society, Toronto, after deducting the regular and incidental expenses of the Depositary, the agents and colporteurs of the Auxiliary.

These suggestions were carefully considered and very fully discussed by the Directors, and at the Board meeting in July, a committee was instructed to prepare a memorandum of the views of the Board, and forward it to the Secretaries of the London Auxiliary.

This memorandum was forwarded on the 23rd of July, and is as follows:—

MEMORANDUM *expressing the views of the Board of Directors of the Upper Canada Bible Society with respect to the recent proposal of the Committee of the London Auxiliary.*

The Board of Directors of the U. C. Bible Society having carefully considered the facts connected with the London Auxiliary, and having heard the proposal submitted by that Auxiliary, is unable to accept the changes suggested, for the following reasons:—

In the first place the Directors believe that, notwithstanding the sincere desire of the present Committee of the Auxiliary to continue the connection, the proposed plan, in its further development, would lead to the disintegration of this Society, and that the acceptance of the proposal would be but the first step leading to results in the highest degree prejudicial to the interests of the Bible Cause.

Secondly. Under these circumstances the Board feels that it would not be true to the trust reposed in it by the founders of the Society were the members to consent to the practical severance of the Branches in the London field from this Society without, at least, consulting those Branches as to their wishes in the matter, and laying the whole case fairly before them, and the consequences to the cause itself of such a severance.

Thirdly. The Board is far from being convinced that the present unsatisfactory state of the Society's interests in the London field has been caused by any lack of freedom accorded to the Committee of the Auxiliary to prosecute its plans. This Board has never interfered with any action of that Committee in the management of its distribution of the Scriptures, whether by grants or colportage; nor yet in the management of its Branches. For the past two years the Board has invited the stronger Branches under its more immediate supervision to try the experiment of doing their work without the help of paid Agents. The result thus far has been satisfactory, besides saving several hundred dollars. There is good reason to believe that some of the Branches in the London field would have liked to have done the same, yet the Board, although paying the Agents, has been careful not to interfere with the free action of the Auxiliary in this matter. The Agents have always been under instructions to confer with, and act upon the advice of the Secretaries in London. If any of these Agents neglected to correspond with, consult, or report to the Officers of the Auxiliary it was the duty of those officers to have notified the Secretaries of this Board of such neglect or omission.

Fourthly. The Directors are of opinion, and the history of the Society confirms it, that the interests of the cause are not so well looked after in districts occupied by smaller Auxiliaries as when the territory covered by a Society is sufficiently extensive to engage the chief attention and care of its officials. That this has been the case in the Kingston District is well known. That it has not been otherwise in the field of the London Auxiliary is apparent from the fact that its free contributions have decreased from an average of \$28.77 per Branch in 1864-5 to an average of \$16.42 per Branch in 1876-7; whereas the free contributions of the field under the immediate supervision

of the Board have increased from an average per Branch of \$27.58 to an average of \$41.94.

Lastly. The Directors believe that the adoption of the proposed changes would lead to a considerable increase of unnecessary expense to be deducted from funds contributed for the circulation of the Scriptures.

On the other hand, the Board is convinced of the fact admitted by the Committee of the Auxiliary, that the present state of affairs is very unsatisfactory, and that some change of relationship is absolutely necessary.

In considering what that change should be, the Board of Directors cannot overlook the circumstance, that in eight years out of the thirteen during which the Auxiliary has existed, its field has yielded less than it did before, and that although the country has increased in population and wealth, and the total income of the Society has increased, the average of the total free contributions from the London field during the last thirteen years, including some of the most prosperous the country has ever known, is represented by exactly the same figure which shewed the total free contributions from the same district in 1864-5, \$1,726.

The Board of Directors is also reminded that when the Auxiliary was organized, a largely increased distribution of the Scriptures was expected to result therefrom, in view of which a free grant from this Society was made to the Auxiliary, of stock to the value of \$1,500. But when the Directors look at the payments on purchase account by the Auxiliary, they do not see any evidence of the large increase so confidently anticipated. They do not think the sales have been as large as might reasonably have been expected had the Auxiliary never been organized. They find, however, reason to apprehend that the organization of the Auxiliary has absorbed from \$700 to \$1,000 per annum which would otherwise have been available for promoting the circulation of the Scriptures. In 1875-6, the only year in which the contributions of the Branches to the London Auxiliary have been reported to them, the Auxiliary received from its country Branches \$611, and from the City of London \$410. There is reason to believe that in 1876-7 these contributions were larger, and the Directors suppose that as these have both been years of stringency, the same items have generally been quite as liberal. They find that with the exception of one year, 1871-2, the Committee of the Auxiliary has never voted any of the money thus received for work outside its own field: therefore, when the cost of colportage and gratuities is deducted, they think the balance must have been spent in maintaining the machinery of the Auxiliary in London. If the warehouse in Toronto was insufficient, or if there was any evidence of the organization in London stimulating the circulation of the Scriptures in its own district, or otherwise promoting the cause, the Directors would be the last to object to the necessary expenditure; but this they fail to see.

Looking at these facts, and knowing that no inconvenience arises from the distance of many of its own Branches being greater than any in the London field, and that one warehouse can supply all the Branch Depositories with stock without adding materially to the expenditure, and with a saving in freight, the Board of Directors cannot resist the conclusion that the best interests of the cause will be most effectually promoted by the London Auxili

ary returning to the relationship of Branch to this Society, in which the Directors entertain the hope it will bear an honourable part in aiding our great Parent, the British and Foreign Bible Society, in its world-wide work.

J. GEORGE HODGINS, }
 J. M. CAMERON, } *Secretaries.*
 ROBT. BALDWIN, }

On the 7th of September the following reply was received :—

To the Board of Directors of the Upper Canada Bible Society

REPLY of the General Committee of The London Auxiliary Bible Society to the Memorandum of the Board of Directors of the Upper Canada Bible Society, dated July the twenty-third, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven.

The General Committee of the London Auxiliary Bible Society having maturely considered the contents of the Memorandum of the Board of Directors, deeply regret that they cannot see eye to eye with this Committee as to the changes required to increase the circulation of the Holy Scriptures in the field occupied by this Auxiliary. We had hoped that those views as set forth in our former communications, and placed before the Deputation from the Board of Directors would have met with the approval of that body ; but we now learn that it is unable to accept the changes suggested for reasons assigned in five general paragraphs of the Memorandum.

I. In considering the first paragraph, this Committee is surprised by the expression of the belief of the Board that “ the proposed plan would lead to the disintegration of the Society ” and “ would be but the first step leading to results in the highest degree prejudicial to the interests of the Bible cause. ” A profound conviction directly the reverse of that belief is strongly entertained by this Committee, which cherishes ardent desire for the maintenance of the unity and for the increased efficiency of the Society, and is fully persuaded that the changes proposed by it could not fail to promote both those desirable ends.

This Committee cannot refrain from expressing its surprise and disappointment that the Memorandum sets forth none of the grounds upon which the anticipation by the Directors of such prejudicial results rests. Had they been presented, as we respectfully intimate they should have been, we should have carefully weighed, and impartially replied to them.

II. In the second paragraph of the Memorandum this Committee is impliedly charged with seeking the “ severance of the Branches in the London field from the Upper Canada Bible Society. ” This Committee disclaims the existence of any such desire, and cannot perceive, with the information it possesses, that such disastrous results can be legitimately anticipated from the modifications suggested by it. Nor can this Committee concede to the Board of Directors a stronger desire to “ be true to the trust reposed in it by the founders of the Society ” than that cherished by ourselves.

The Committee of the Auxiliary has never wished to urge any changes affecting the connexion of the Branches with the Upper Canada Bible Society without the intelligent and free consent of such Branches, and we respect-

fully submit that our proposals are not open to suspicion of such purpose. Our aim has been, and still is, to co-operate in the most fraternal spirit, both with the Society in Toronto and the Branches within our jurisdiction. Our object in opening the correspondence now in progress was to have a distinct and kindly apprehension of the result of the changes we seek. We have feared that disadvantages have flowed to the cause under our jurisdiction from sudden changes made by the Directors. We may specify the important change from the employment of permanent to that of provisional agency,—a change largely affecting our field, and yet effected without any consultation of our views, or, as far as we know, of any of the Branches.

III. In the third paragraph of the memorandum it is denied “that the present unsatisfactory state of the Society’s interests in the London field has been caused by any lack of freedom accorded to the Committee of the Auxiliary to prosecute its plans,” and it is alleged that “the Board of Directors has never interfered with any action of that Committee in the management of its distribution of the Scriptures, nor yet in the management of its Branches.”

In regard to the question of “any lack of freedom in the prosecution of its plans,” a wide difference of opinion between the Board and this Committee manifestly exists. The Committee cannot but feel that the mode in which Agents have been appointed, and in some instances the time and manner of prosecuting their work under the immediate instructions of the Board, or the Secretaries in Toronto, of whose sincerity and zeal we have no doubt, have seriously interfered with the management of the Branches of the Auxiliary. This Committee has not been suitably consulted, either as to the number of Agents required, the allotment of their respective fields, the times most suitable for visiting the Branches or holding the annual meetings, the best method of raising funds, or other matters of importance.

It is no unwarranted assumption for this office, as an Auxiliary, to claim greater competence to decide on such matters affecting the Branches in its allotted field than can be possessed by the Board or Secretaries in Toronto. And we think it unkind and unjust that public censure should be inflicted on us for alleged mismanagement and want of success, when the control of the main proceedings upon which, under God, success depends is thus withheld. Under the system of which we complain, and which we seek to improve, this Committee has often no means of knowing when the Agents are to be at their posts at the respective Branches, or whether many of them are or are not visited.

It has indeed come to our knowledge, but in some cases too late for remedy, that Branches have failed to receive the services of the Agents, as the direct effect of instructions given to Agents, compliance with which was impracticable. Our opinion is firmly fixed that the Auxiliary should be empowered to take such steps, and give such direction to Agents as would secure effective oversight of existing Branches, and the organization of new Branches where new or augmented populations are found. And we are painfully convinced that under the existing system these objects can only be effected on a very limited scale, and that the disorganization of the Auxiliary, contemplated by the Directors, would still further narrow those limits.

On other points referred to in this paragraph of the memorandum, difference of opinion may be harmlessly entertained. This Committee, however, seriously questions whether *permanent* advantages, financially or otherwise, would result from "Branches doing their work without the help of paid agents." We deem it highly probable that zeal and liberality would in many cases gradually decline under such a system, which it would be difficult for some time to re-inspire. We are, therefore, glad that the Memorandum refers to it as an "experiment" still being tried. The Directors express the opinion "that some of the Branches in the London field would have liked to make the same experiment." We respectfully suggest that even if that were so, it will be well for them to await further results elsewhere.

In this connection the Memorandum states that the Directors have been careful not to interfere with the free action of the Auxiliary in this matter, although paying the Agents. On this we may be permitted to call attention to the fact that the free contributions of the Auxiliary to the General Fund, far exceed the amount paid to those agents, and that we are therefore in the same sense "paying the agents" in other sections of the great field.

IV.—Adverting to the fourth paragraph of the Memorandum, this Committee sees no such analogy between this Auxiliary and the one formerly existing in Kingston, as to warrant the inferences stated.

To the financial statistics of the paragraph, we have devoted much consideration; and we solicit equal attention from the Board of Directors to the Schedule hereto attached, which, in our judgment, shows that instead of the retrogression alleged, the London Auxiliary, in the main matters referred to, has fully kept pace with "the field under the immediate supervision of the Board in Toronto."

The continued existence of an Auxiliary in this western section of Ontario, if empowered to act efficiently, is, in the estimation of this Committee, essential to the success of the Branches. The only Branch in this field acting independently of the Auxiliary, is at St. Thomas; and it is so organized that although situated in a town of importance, the Branch has no Depository, and as a consequence the last Report of the Upper Canada Bible Society acknowledges only the small sum of five dollars received on purchase account. If the extensive circulation of the Society's publications be the great desideratum, such organizations cannot be too strongly recommended.

Lastly. The Committee finds from the last general paragraph of the Memorandum, that the Board of Directors are under much misapprehension of matters of management and finance connected with our work, upon which they appear to base the conclusion thus expressed, "that the best interests of the cause will be most effectually promoted by the London Auxiliary returning to the relationship of a Branch." The Schedule referred to will serve in part we trust to correct such misapprehension, and therefore to modify the conclusion (we hope not irrevocable), at which, under its influence, the Directors have arrived.

Should it result otherwise, and the Directors take the course indicated, we are fully persuaded that, so far from promoting the cause which we in common have at heart, such a step will alienate many of its warmest friends and contributors from that co-operation with the Upper Canada Bible Society which

they earnestly wish to perpetuate ; that it will lead to discussions unseemly, and damaging to the unity of interest and effort which every friend of the Bible cause should seek to strengthen, and might cause the disintegration of some of the Branches, and either sever others entirely from the work, or lead them to seek more direct communication with the Parent Society in England, or with kindred associations in other countries.

To ward off consequences so sad, or to free the London Board from responsibility for them, we have appointed a Deputation to meet the Board of Directors in Toronto, at such time as the Directors may fix upon, hoping and praying that after free conversation upon the points at issue, such measures may be adopted as will secure the future amicable and successful working of the London Auxiliary in continued connection with the Upper Canada Bible Society.

The following are the members of the Deputation :—

The President and Secretaries of the Auxiliary ; Rev. E. Evans, D.D. ; Rev. J. J. Rice, and H. Mathewson, Esq.

I. HURON, *President*
 JOHN GEMLEY,
 ANDREW THOMSON, } *Secretaries.*

(SCHEDULE.)

Memorandum.

Comparison of Receipts of the Upper Canada Bible Society and the London Auxiliary, for the Year, 1876-77.

First. Upper Canada Bible Society.

I. Receipts on Purchase Account and as Free Contributions, including Toronto City	- - -	\$34,207 77
Less Balance in hands of Treasurer, March, 1876	- - - - -	\$2,227 16
Bequests to Upper Canada Bible Society and British and Foreign Bible Society	- - - - -	2,425 00
Proceeds of Mortgage	- - - - -	53 18
“ The Auxiliary	- - - - -	1,408 92
		<u>6,614 26</u>
Total	- - - - -	\$27,656 51

II. Receipts, including Purchase Account and Free Contributions, exclusive of Toronto City, and 80 of the larger Branches. Total as above	- - - - -	\$27,656 51
Receipts from Toronto City	- - - - -	\$7,463 02
“ “ 80 of the larger Branches	- - - - -	10,130 33
		<u>17,593 35</u>
Balance from the remaining 286 Branches	- - - - -	\$10,063 96

This amount gives an average of a little over \$35 per Branch.

NOTE.—These 80 Branches include Cities and Towns, the smallest of which exceeds 500 in population ; with the remaining 286 Branches only should the Branches of the London Auxiliary be compared as it regards receipts.

III. Receipts as Free Contributions, exclusive of Toronto City and the 80 larger Branches.	
Total of Free Contributions - - - -	\$18,214 21
Less Toronto City, \$1,442.78 ; The Auxiliary, \$1,408.92 ; The 80 Branches, \$7,723. ^{FR} -	10,575 26
Total - - - -	\$ 7,638 95

This gives an average of nearly \$27 per Branch for the remaining 286 Branches.

Second. London Auxiliary.

I. Receipts on Purchase Account, and as Free Contributions, including London City - -		\$5,875 16
Less Balance in hand of Treasurer, Sept. 1875	\$1,710 39	
“ From Estate of late Mr. Clark - - -	579 96	
		2,290 35
Total - - - -		\$3,584 81

This amount gives an average of over \$40 per Branch.

II. Receipts as Free Contributions, including London City.		
Total as above - - - - -		\$3,584 81
Less Cash Sales - - - - -	\$165 61	
“ Colporteurs - - - - -	359 47	
“ Purchase Account by Branches - - -	612 20	
“ Recorder - - - - -	20 67	
		1,157 95
Total Free Contributions - - - -		\$2,426 86

This Amount gives an average of nearly \$30 per Branch.

NOTE.—London City Receipts are included, as they were included in the Memo. of the Secretaries of the Upper Canada Bible Society for 1864-5.

This amount (\$2,426.86) should be regarded as the income of 53 Branches, as 33 Branches make no returns. The Parent Society in Toronto returned in 1874 428 Branches, last year 62 less.* The Auxiliary should not be charged with all their Branches in any comparison made.

The average per Branch for 53 Branches would be very nearly \$46.

At the September Board meeting, the memorandum of the Directors' views was again read, and also this reply to it, and a very full discussion of the whole question took place ; after which the following resolution was unanimously adopted :—

“That, as this Board cannot concur in the views of the London Auxiliary, as expressed in their reply to our memorandum, be it resolved that this Board will be happy to receive the proposed deputation from London at our regular meeting on the 9th of October.”

As may be seen in the account of the Board meetings, the Deputation from London was unable to attend in October, and also were prevented from coming to the regular meeting in November, when the following Report was adopted, and the Secretaries instructed to transmit it to the Committee of the Auxiliary, and state that the Board would be happy to have a special meeting to receive the Deputation on the 19th or 20th of the same month.

* This is a mistake. The larger number includes the London Auxiliary ; the smaller number does not do so.

REPORT.

Being a reply to the Communication received from the London Auxiliary, dated September 7th, 1877.

In the reply of the Committee of the Auxiliary to the memorandum of this Board, disappointment is expressed that the Directors do not set forth the grounds upon which they anticipate that the adoption of the Committee's proposals "would be but the first step leading to results in the highest degree prejudicial to the interests of the Bible cause." The Board freely admits that this cannot at present be proved by facts, but would remain to be shewn by the future history of the Society; and on this account, perhaps, a few of the Directors were, on first thought, inclined to advise the adoption of those proposals, that the experiment might be tried. But it was seen that any arguments that can be advanced in favour of the existence of an Auxiliary at London must equally favour the formation of similar Auxiliaries at several other cities in the Society's field; that such division must cause a large increase of expense; that there is no guarantee that it would produce any adequate improvement in efficiency; that it might possibly, and would probably, have an opposite effect; and that experience tends to shew that there could be little hope of such an experiment succeeding. The Board therefore came to a unanimous decision that it could not consent to the adoption of proposals which it believes would lead to the division of the Society into several small Auxiliaries, creating unnecessary machinery, and thereby expending money which would otherwise help to circulate the Scriptures. The Directors believe that this would alienate the confidence of the people, who are very properly desirous that their contributions should go as directly as possible to the object for which they are given.

The Directors also fear that the adoption of the changes proposed by the London Committee would lead to the practical severance of the Branches in the London field from this Society. To say the least, this, they feel, would be directly contrary to the second article of the constitution, which embodies one of the important principles upon which this Society was originally founded, and which requires the Directors to seek to unite and concentrate the operations of the different Societies of the Province. They believe that the adoption of the changes proposed by the London Committee would be a serious step in the opposite direction.

The Committee of the Auxiliary express the fear that disadvantages have flowed to the cause under their jurisdiction from sudden changes made by the Directors and specify the important change from the employment of permanent to that of provisional agency. The Board thinks that this change can scarcely be said to have been sudden. In fact it seems to the Directors that the provisional system, as adopted by this Society, has been gradually developed. The Committee complain that this change was "effected without any consultation of their views, or, as far as they know, of any of the Branches." This is a mistake; for in our Report for 1872, we say:—"The system of provisional agency, inaugurated in 1870-1, . . . has been continued. The success of the first year of trial led the Board to continue the same plan. . . . With an increase of contributions from Branches, there has been a

diminution of expenses. . . § . And what is of equal if not greater value, the utmost harmony prevails throughout our Societies generally. After seeking in our ordinary official way for information from our Branch Societies as to their state, and *their wishes* and views, we have unmingled pleasure in presenting this statement."—p. 56, *Recorder* for May, 1872. It will also be seen in the *Recorder* of November, 1870, that the Board was "induced to make trial of this plan from the views entertained by some of the Branches on the subject, from the declared sentiments of many of the warm friends and supporters of the Society, and from the communications of the ex-agents." Besides, there have been not a few expressing satisfaction with the action of the Board in this matter, and some urging further steps in the same direction. Moreover, it is to be observed that the change has been followed by better returns at less expense. In six years, under the permanent agency, the field of the Auxiliary yielded an annual average of \$1,454, at a cost of \$674. In the seven years under the provisional system, it has yielded an average of \$1,959, at a cost of \$614.

The Committee states that it "has not been suitably consulted, either as to the number of Agents required," nor "as to the allotment of their respective fields." The Board regrets any alleged oversight in this matter, but they would respectfully remind the Committee that in 1875, when the division of the field was changed, suggestions from the Committee were sought and waited for, that all the wishes of the Committee were carried out, and that consequently eight agents instead of six were appointed for the London field. In 1876 there were only a few slight changes in the division of the field which had been suggested by the Agents in their reports: and three, at least, of the Agents were appointed on the recommendation of the Secretary of the Auxiliary. The Committee also intimates that it has not been consulted as to the times of visitation, &c. The Board would remind the Committee that the Agents have been, and are, instructed to consult the officers of the Auxiliary on these matters; and also to report and make all their returns to the London Committee, and if they have failed to do so, the omission has not before been reported to this Board.

The Committee "think it unkind and unjust that public censure should be inflicted on them for alleged mismanagement and want of success." If the Committee refer to a passage in the last Annual Report of the Society, the Board would ask the Committee to read it carefully, and they will see that instead of being censured they are praised, and that the present unsatisfactory state of affairs is charged exactly to the same cause, which they agree with us in regarding as the root of the evil,— "that the present relations between the Society and its Auxiliary are radically wrong." There is happily no difference of opinion between the Committee and the Board as to the necessity for a change. The only difference in the judgment of the two bodies is as to what that change should be. The London Committee desire to have their Society become an Auxiliary in fact as well as in name; the Board of Directors, on the other hand, believe that such a change would necessitate the continuance of machinery which they think unnecessary, and must certainly increase expense. Experience tends to show that it would not produce increased efficiency. Nor are there reasonable grounds for expecting that such an experiment would

promote the cause, but, on the contrary, that it would produce results greatly to be deplored by all friends of the Society. The Directors, therefore, urge strongly that the bond uniting the London friends with the rest of the Province should become closer; and that the Society in the City of London should become a real, living, and fruitful Branch.

The Committee object to the claim that this Society has paid the Agents, and say, "On this we may be permitted to call attention to the fact that the free contributions of the Auxiliary to the General Fund far exceed the amount paid to those Agents, and that we are, therefore, in the same sense paying the Agents in other sections of the great field." This appears to the Board as not borne out by the facts of the case. In six years out of thirteen, the Society paid for agency in the London field more than it received. In 1874-5 it paid nearly \$300 more, so that of the \$663 which the London Auxiliary was credited with giving to the British and Foreign Bible Society in that year, nearly a half was in reality given by this Society. But even looking at the total sums yielded by the London field, they have been so small in proportion to the expense, that the Board is utterly at a loss to know in what sense the Committee of the London Auxiliary can imagine they have been "paying the agents in other sections of the great field." This has certainly not been done during the past year, for of the free contributions from Branches to the London Auxiliary, and subscriptions received in the city, amounting in all to \$982, \$763 were absorbed in paying the current expenses of the Auxiliary for the year, apart from \$258, paid for furniture and other special expenses out of a debt paid into the Auxiliary.

The Committee say they have devoted much consideration to the financial statistics furnished in the memorandum of this Board. They do not show the fallacy of any of these statistics, nor of the conclusions based upon them; but have forwarded a schedule to which they ask equal attention from the Board. The Directors have carefully considered the Schedule furnished by the Committee. It appears to shew that the present relationship between the Society and its Auxiliary is not radically wrong; but has been producing very satisfactory results, and the Directors feel that if the premises are granted the conclusion is most unanswerably proved. But they confess themselves at a loss to understand why in a comparison of the two fields 80 of the best Branches in one, and all the unproductive Branches in the other, should be excluded. Apparently the first are excluded because they are in cities or towns containing more than 5000 inhabitants. But when the Directors remember that the London field contains not a few such towns and villages, to say nothing of the City of London which is included, and that many Branches centered in smaller places have a large surrounding constituency, they suppose there must be some other reason for not counting eighty of their best Branches. Being unaware of the reason why unproductive Branches should not be counted, they included such Branches belonging to both fields in the statistics furnished in their Memorandum. It is evident, therefore, that the Schedule and the Memorandum are not dealing with the same things, and therefore it is not to be wondered at that they arrive at different results.

On Tuesday, the 20th November, the Deputation, consisting of the Eight

Rev. the Bishop of Huron, the Rev. Dr. Evans, the Rev. J. J. Rice, the Rev. J. Gemley, H. Mathewson, Esq., and A. Thomson, Esq., attended a special meeting of the Board, and urged upon the Directors the advisability of adopting their proposals. Dr. Hodgins, Mr. John K. Macdonald, Dr. C. B. Hall, and others spoke, repeating the reasons why the Directors felt unable to do so, and the meeting adjourned to Tuesday, the 27th, when the Board should again look at the whole matter, consider the arguments advanced by the Deputation, and finally decide on what action should be taken.

Another Special Meeting of the Board was held on Tuesday, November 27th, the Hon. G. W. Allan, President, in the Chair. Very full minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, and the arguments of the London Deputation discussed. After the Board had again carefully considered the different sides of the question, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

“The Board of Directors of the U. C. Bible Society having reason to be dissatisfied with the result of the working of the London Auxiliary, and its expense, and having had a somewhat protracted correspondence, as well as conference, with the Committee of that Auxiliary, resolves to defer its final action until the correspondence shall have been submitted to the various Branches in the five Counties now forming the Auxiliary's field, and requests the President and Secretaries to draft a circular to these Branches on the subject, asking them to communicate their views to the Board, not later than the end of December.”

Bible Society Recorder.

TORONTO, 28th NOVEMBER, 1877.

The Board of Directors met on October 9th, at 7.30 P.M., the Hon. G. W. Allan in the chair. When the meeting had been opened with prayer, and minutes of the last meeting read and confirmed, the following minute was unanimously adopted:—

“At its first meeting since the death of Mr. John McBean, the Board of Directors of the Upper Canada Bible Society desires to record its deep sense of the loss which the Society has sustained in his removal from this scene of labour to his eternal rest. His constant attendance at the meetings of the Board, the deep interest he took in the Society's operations, and the time and trouble he devoted to the care or improvement of its premises, with his great practical experience and wisdom, were of great service to the Society. The Board rejoices in the assurance that our loss is his gain, but at the same time sincerely sympathizes with, and respectfully offers its heartfelt condolence to Mrs. McBean in her sore bereavement.”

A letter was read from the Rev. John Gemley stating that the Deputation from the London Auxiliary would not be able to attend this meeting of the Board ; but with the consent of the Directors would attend the November meeting. The Secretaries were requested to inform Mr. Gemley that the Directors would be happy to meet the Deputation then.

The Secretary read the draft of an answer to the London Auxiliary prepared by the Committee appointed for that purpose. It was decided to refer the matter again to the same Committee with instructions to adjust it for final presentation to the London Committee.

In submitting the colporteurs' reports the Secretary drew attention to the success attending Mr. J. E. Taylor's work at the various agricultural shows, and reported the resignation of Mr. John Moodie. Other routine business being concluded the meeting was closed with the benediction pronounced by the Rev. A. H. Baldwin.

The Directors met again on Tuesday, November 13th, the President in the chair. The meeting was opened with prayer led by the Rev. J. M. Cameron. After the confirmation of the minutes, a letter was read from the Rev. J. Gemley intimating that owing to the funeral of late Rev. W. H. Tilley taking place in London on that day the Deputation from that city could not attend this meeting, and asking for a meeting on Thursday or Friday of the same week. As the President could not attend on either of those evenings, the Secretaries were instructed to answer that the Directors would be glad to receive the Deputation on Monday or Tuesday of the next week.

The Committee appointed to draft a reply to the last communication from the London Auxiliary submitted their report, which was adopted and ordered to be forwarded to the Committee of the Auxiliary.

The Secretaries were instructed to delay the publication of the November *Recorder* until after the meeting of the Deputation and the Board.

Reports were submitted from the following agents :—The Revs. W. W. Ross, J. B. Duncan, J. Wood, R. Torrance, and J. A. F. McBain. Reports were submitted from the Colporteurs, some of which were more than usually interesting. In consideration of Mr. Taylor's zeal, energy, and extra work at the agricultural shows it was ordered that he should be paid a gratuity of fifteen dollars. Mr. Lowry was appointed to collect subscriptions in the city. The ordinary routine business was transacted, and the meeting was closed with prayer by the Rev. E. H. Dewart.

Special meetings of the Board were held on Tuesday, the 20th, and Tuesday, the 27th November. Accounts of these meetings will be found on page 137.

Since our last issue the Society has lost one of its most valuable friends in the departure of the late John McBean, Esq., who had been a member of the Board of Directors for several years. He was very regular in his attendance at the Board meetings, and his wise counsel and genial manner will long be missed by those accustomed thus to meet him from month to month. Mr. McBean was born near Elgin, in Scotland, in 1812, and came to Canada in 1832. He first went to Grimsby, but at an early date came to Toronto, where

by his industry and ability he acquired a very considerable amount of property, and for his integrity and liberality became widely known and universally respected by all who knew him. He had for some years retired from business ; but owing to the confidence placed in him he was constantly pressed to act as arbiter, trustee, &c., and through his willingness to serve his fellow men he allowed himself to become overburdened with the care of other men's interests.

He took a holiday at the sea-side in the summer, but did not get sufficient rest to recuperate his naturally vigorous and wiry but overworked frame. Soon after his return home he was stricken down with complete nervous prostration, resulting in congestion of the brain, and died on Friday, September 21st. On Monday the 24th, his body was followed to the grave by a very large number of his fellow-citizens of all churches and all classes, the funeral service being conducted by his pastor, the Rev. Dr. Topp.

He was an elder of Knox Church for some years, always taking an active part in the religious enterprises of that congregation and of the Presbyterian Church, and was several times sent as a delegate to the General Assembly. But his sympathy and labours were not confined to his own particular branch of the Church. He had been for several years one of Dr. Wilson's principal helpers in carrying on the Newsboys' Lodging, and he delighted in such Catholic Institutions as the Tract Society and our own Society, of both of which he had been a Director for some years. In supporting instrumentalities thus meeting his approval, as also in helping individuals in difficulty, he was very liberal, not only with his money but in time and trouble, which so few are willing heartily to give even in the Good Master's service. The sense of loss felt by the Directors, and their sympathy with Mrs. McBean, they expressed in a resolution unanimously passed on the 9th of October, which will be found in the account of the Board meeting of that date.



The Society has lately received a very handsome bequest of one thousand dollars, left by the late James Cerswell, Esq., of Tecumseth.

Mr. Cerswell was one of a family consisting of father and mother, three sons and a daughter, who emigrated from the County of Donegal, Ireland, more than fifty years ago, and settled on farms in the Township of Tecumseth. Coming to this new land, like many other worthy people, in circumstances far indeed from affluent, the family by a course of steady industry and unbroken brotherly co-operation, through all these years, have prospered in worldly things. The names of every member of the household appear upon the communion roll of the Presbyterian Church, in Bond Head, as early as the year 1824, and for this whole period of fifty-three years their record has been one of uniform Christian consistency. The subject of this notice, like-minded with his relatives, was liberal and open-handed in support of Gospel ordinances in the congregation to which he belonged ; and when it became necessary, five years ago, to erect a new church, a very large share of the cost was borne by our late lamented friend and brother. His annual contribution to the Bible Society, as well as to the several objects more immediately connected with the Church at large, were always punctually forthcoming. He died as he lived, quietly and confidently trusting in the Saviour whom he loved.

Is it not the case, that very often, if not generally, those who, like Mr. Cerswell, are liberal in supporting the Bible Society and such institutions, are those who give most to their own churches ? If so, is it not generally a hollow excuse when men plead the demands of their own particular church as a reason for not supporting such agencies of the Church Catholic ?

RECEIPTS AT THE BIBLE SOCIETY HOUSE, TORONTO, FROM
AUXILIARY AND BRANCH SOCIETIES, FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER TO
31ST OCTOBER, 1877.

SEPTEMBER.	On Purchase Account.	FREE CONTRIBUTIONS.		
		U. C. B. S.	B. & F. B. S.	Sundry.
	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Drummondville Branch	13 30			
Fenelon Falls do	22 33			
Prince Arthur's Landing Branch	25 00			
Cannington Branch		15 00		
St. Mary's do		100 00		
OCTOBER.				
Bervie Branch		8 00		
Woodstock Branch	34 24			
Sonya do	5 95	2 98	8 50	
Shelburne do	10 35	24 92		
Pictou do	45 25	13 83		
Milford do		3 28		
Burlington do	20 00			
Glenville do		8 90		
Port Hope do	175 82			
Palmerston do	22 00			
Dunbarton do		2 60		
Bequest of the late James Carswell, Esq., of Tecumseth		1,000 00		
Dundas Branch		63 61		
Moorefield do	13 78	8 49		
Rothsay do		11 61		
Molesworth Branch	6 38	3 74		
Listowel do	38 51	2 14		
New Hamburg Branch	22 44	8 80		
Tavistock Branch	19 17			
Hawksville do		11 03		
Elmira do	31 04			
Hespeler do	39 37			
Morrison do	23 50			
Napanee do	15 99	41 85		
Mill Point do	6 00			
Selby do		7 50		
Newburgh do	9 08	2 02		
Shannonville Branch	6 02	5 42		
Bayfield do	10 94			
Godlerich do	25 00	11 77		
Dungannon do	6 00	12 29		
Manchester do		15 71		
Blyth do		27 50	27 50	
Londeshoro' do	14 55	7 41		
Clinton do		46 77		
Eganville do		7 50		
Jarvis do	15 00			

PRICE OF THE "RECORDER."

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