



Published Quarterly.

Under Direction of the Upper Canada Bible Society.

VOL. XIV.

TORONTO, APRIL, 1883.

No. 2.

#### MANITOBA.

Our readers are aware that for the last year or more the Directors have not been satisfied with the state of the Society's affairs in Manitoba. The Rev. W. W. Ross, having been requested by the Board to go up as the representative of the Society, he readily and generously consented to do so without remuneration. His interesting and encouraging report, part of which we here publish, shews that our friends in the North-West are heartily in accord with the object and operations of our Society, and only needed to have these matters put before them in their true light. There is now not only every prospect of having the Agency, the Colportage, and the Depositories managed with method; but the enthusiasm manifested gives promise of the most cheering progress.

#### REPORT OF THE REV. W. W. ROSS.

*To the Board of Directors of the U. C. Bible Society:*

GENTLEMEN.—I respectfully submit to your consideration the following report of my mission to Manitoba:—

I left Ontario, Feb. 12th, and reached it again on the return journey March 3rd. Grave fears were entertained, even by the residents in the North-West, that this season would prove most unsuitable to my work. But, with the exception of a few hours' blow at the boundary line on the upward journey—which in nowise interfered with my engagements—I was favoured with the most beautiful winter weather I ever experienced. Indeed from first to last nothing occurred, or failed to occur, to prevent the successful carrying out of my plans. To the Father of mercies I here record my devout and grateful acknowledgments.

*Winnipeg.*—In this city I began my work. The President of the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada, the Rev. Dr. Rice, welcomed me to the parsonage, and by pulpit announcements and introductions did much to make my visit pleasant and prosperous. The newspapers, especially the *Free Press*, did much to help our work both before and after the meetings. Winnipeg may well be proud of its press, as well as of its preachers. They work generally on the same line.

The arrangements for meetings were excellent, and greatly to the credit of the Committee. I preached on Sabbath morning of the 18th of February, in Selkirk Hall, Presbyterian, to an audience filling it to the doors, numbering it may be near a thousand. In the evening I preached in Wesley Hall, Methodist, to another equally large congregation. On Monday afternoon I met the Committee for consultation. After a very agreeable and satisfactory interview, they adjourned to meet me again the following week.

On Monday evening the public meeting was held in the spacious and beautiful Congregational church. The chair was occupied by the new Lieut.-Governor of Manitoba, the Hon. J. C. Aikins. I need say nothing here of the excellent qualities of one so well and widely known for readiness unto every good word and work. Already popular in the Province, his cordial co-operation in the Bible Society's work will raise him still higher in the esteem of all parties. The audience, highly representative, numbered from six to seven hundred. On the platform and about it, the chairman was strongly supported by a numerous ministerial staff. I may mention the names of the Ven. Archdeacon Cowley, so long associated with missionary work in the North-West; Archdeacon Pinkham, Inspector of Schools in the Province; also the pastors of all the Protestant churches in the city except one or two who were unavoidably absent. The addresses of the Revds. Messrs. Pen-treath, and Pitblado, were, like the productions of this country generally, to the point and telling. The spirit of the meeting was throughout excellent, culminating in a good deal of enthusiasm. The collections and pledges were worthy of Winnipeg; they amounted to over \$400. Certainly it was one of the very best Bible Society meetings.

The new President, the gifted and genial rector of Trinity Church, the Rev. Mr. Fortin, was always in his place, fulfilling the promise of a popular presidential career. The Rev. Mr. Silcox, pastor of the Congregational church will make a painstaking, efficient Secretary. Col. Kennedy, the staunch friend of the Society through all its "downs" as well as "ups" received honourable recognition in being preferred to the 1st Vice-Presidency. Mr. Copeland, ex-secretary, has been honoured with the Treasurership. A more intelligent, cordial set of committee men it would be hard to find. A bright and widely useful future is before this Branch of the Gateway City.

*Emerson* was my next place of meeting on the following evening, Feb. 20. This place, once so promising, is, from floods and other causes, having all it can do to keep its head above water. Yet a good and interested audience was gathered in the Methodist Tabernacle. The Rev. Mr. Semmens, pastor, an honoured pioneer of ten years' standing in the North-west, did all he could to strengthen my hands and promote the interests of the Society. The Secretary-Treasurer, the Rev. Mr. McGuire, who has done much to keep the branch and sub-branches alive and effective, was in his place with the pastor, both delivering appropriate and helpful addresses. The Rev. Mr. McInnis, an old friend formerly in the regular work of the Presbyterian ministry, insisted on carrying me off from Mr. Semmens to the generous hospitalities of his own beautiful home. I rejoice that God's ministers when laid aside by broken health have such resting places. Let me not forget to make mention of the hearty support given me and my work by the two "dailies" of this plucky city. They both helped to prepare the way for my coming, and both were represented at the meeting in their editors. Extended and prominent reports appeared in their issues of next day. The spirit of

the meeting was good, and the collection, far in advance of former years, was very creditable in their circumstances.

This section of the country, and our work, has lost much in the death of the late Mr. A. McPherson, one of our most worthy colporteurs. Mr. McGuire is applying himself diligently to the settling up of affairs in the sub-branches which were chiefly under the control of Mr. McPherson. At an early date, as may be seen from accompanying documents, everything will be satisfactorily adjusted.

*Portage la Prairie* was our next place of meeting on the 22nd. This town, already applying for incorporation as a city, is about sixty miles west of Winnipeg, on the C.P.R.R., at the junction of the Portage and Westbourne R. R. While I was there active steps were being taken to make it the point of junction for another R. R. from the south. English capitalists have recently invested \$200,000 in real estate on the outskirts of the town, with the purpose, it is surmised, of making it a railroad point. However, the town's chief hope lies in its being situated in the midst of an agricultural belt thirteen miles wide and thirty long, rarely equalled for prairie beauty and fertility. Many of its public buildings would be a credit to any city. Its public school building lately completed at a cost of nearly \$30,000, is an honour to the Dominion. Within I found a large staff of teachers worthy of their work; on the roll were 500 as clear complexioned, bright eyed, beautiful children as are to be seen anywhere. In this town of 4000 people passing through a fiery financial ordeal, I was to organize, if possible, a branch of the Bible Society.

The arrangements for my coming had been carefully made in a joint meeting of all the pastors of the town. The Rev. Mr. Woodsworth, whose generous hospitality I enjoyed, was untiring in his attentions and introductions, the other ministers cordially co-operating with him. We met for our public meeting in the spacious and attractive hall in which the Methodists worship. Every pastor was present, all bearing some part in the service, the Rev. Mr. Bell, presiding till the organization of the branch was effected. The united choirs of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches rendered excellent service. After an address by your representative the branch was organized with unanimity and enthusiasm. Its officers and committee-men were well chosen. The Rev. Mr. Fortin will make an admirable President. Mr. Miller, Secretary, will put both heart and hand in his work to the satisfaction of everybody. Mr. Taylor, an enterprising young druggist from Picton, will work the Depository well. I was exceedingly pleased with all the arrangements made by this new branch. It gives every promise of health and usefulness. The collections and pledges exceeded my most sanguine expectations; they reached nearly \$100. At the close of the meeting arrangements were made by the Committee for the appointment of collectors, and the division of the town into districts for further canvass and collection.

*Brandon*, my next and last place of meeting, is on the C.P.R.R. about 130 miles west of Winnipeg. The Rev. Mr. Lawson, who has purchased to himself a good degree as a pioneer in this North-West during the last seven years, met me at the station, and by his overflowing hospitality, and in every other possible way, greatly aided me in my mission.

This city—for Brandon is a city—is situated on the beautiful banks of the Assiniboine, 700 miles from Winnipeg by the way of the river, and 300 miles from Fort Ellice farther up, the whole distance of 1000 miles being navigable for large steamers. Stretching away in every direction as far as the eye can reach are rolling prairie lands, broken on the south by the "Brandon Hills," and in other directions by stretches of wooded bluffs. The water is abundant and excellent. The drainage is perfect. Gravel pits of the best quality abound. In addition to the railroad, the situation has in its favour almost every natural advantage that a northern latitude could claim. The eye of enterprise was quick to see these advantages. Like Jonah's gourd the city

grew up almost in a night ; but not in a night will it decay. Neither scorching sun nor piercing cold will kill it. It is no "city on wheels" destined to move westwards with the railroad. It has sprung up to stay. Two years ago there were two houses ; to-day there is a population of 4000 with every prospect of substantial growth. The churches, the schools, the public buildings generally, and many of the private ones are built to last. The school I found very much of the same class as that at the Portage.

Here, as in other places, much zeal and wisdom had been exercised to make my visit successful. I preached on Sabbath the 25th, in the morning in the Presbyterian church to a good congregation ; addressed a Sabbath-school in the afternoon ; and in the evening preached again in the Methodist church to an audience of 700. As I looked into the faces of the congregations in the North-West, I could but endorse the humorous saying of one of themselves—"you won't find many *culls* here."

What a Sabbath that 25th Feb., 1863, was in the City of Brandon ! Both nature and grace conspired to make it memorable. It was no longer a "great lone land." *God* was there. And *godly* people were there. And it was *good* to be there. The Sabbath was but the foreshadowing of the Monday night meeting. At the hour appointed the Presbyterian church was filled. It was said to be the largest week-night meeting ever held in the city, not even excepting political ones. The united singers of all the churches in the city led the musical exercises in simple, familiar hymns. The Hon. Mr. Sifton, thoroughly identified with both the material and moral interests of Manitoba, was called to the chair. In a pointed, practical speech, he prepared the way well for your representative's address. At the close of the address the Rev. Mr. Boydell, Rector of St James, in a brief, but cordial speech moved the organization of the Branch. Mr. Matheson, for many years the effective President of the Clinton Branch, seconded the motion in a vigorous, telling speech. The motion was carried with great enthusiasm. Mr. Sifton was appointed President ; Mr. Lockhart, formerly of Fenelon Falls, an old friend of the Society, Secretary. Dr. Fleming, druggist, formerly of Sackville, N. B., a very warm friend of the Society, will take charge of the Depository. The qualities of the Committee-men are, in every instance, in keeping with those of the officers. I could not desire a Branch better organized, or with a more hopeful outlook. The collections and pledges were worthy "first fruits ;" they exceeded \$200. At the close of the meeting the new Committee met and arranged for the appointment of collectors to make a systematic canvass of the city.

Thus ended, all things considered, the best Bible Society Meeting I ever attended ; also, my most pleasant mission to Manitoba.

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#### DEATH OF THE HON. JOHN McMURRICH.

Since our last issue the Society has lost one of its Vice-Presidents by the death of the Hon. John McMurrich. His loss will be felt not only by our Society, but by all kindred societies, and in fact by the community at large. As the head of the oldest dry-goods firm in Toronto he was well known in the business world, and although he had not for some years taken an active part in municipal or political affairs, he did so at one time, and was always looked up to by men of all parties as an upright, honourable, and sagacious councillor. His activity in Christian work was unceasing from the time he first came to Toronto, nearly half a century ago, until he was laid aside by his last illness. Mr. McMurrich was devotedly attached to the Presbyterian Church, and took an active part in promoting the union of its several branches

in Canada. His work, however, was by no means confined to his own church. He loved all those who loved the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, and was always glad to co-operate with them. He was remarkably quiet and unobtrusive in manner, but being very widely known for sagacity in counsel his name was a source of strength to any cause which he espoused. In this respect our Society will miss him very much in our effort to get a new building in which he was interested both as Vice-President of our Society and as Treasurer of the Tract Society. He was a member of the Joint Committee on Building, and assisted in the preliminary consideration of the needs of the two societies and in the choice of plans; and his influence would have been of the greatest assistance in the present difficult work of getting the funds necessary to erect the building.

Mr. McMurrich was born near Paisley, Scotland, in 1804. He settled in Toronto in 1837. He first became connected with our Society as a Director in 1838, and has been one of its Vice-Presidents since 1876. After a long and tedious illness of several months he died on Tuesday, February 13th. Although his physicians, from the beginning, regarded his recovery as almost impossible, he throughout enjoyed a happy and peaceful state of mind and glorified God in his death as he had done in his life. In fact we would suggest as the key to his quiet, happy, genial character and his ever consistent course that he must have thoroughly learned, and never have forgotten, in the midst of business, commercial or political, that grand truth so well put in the Presbyterian Catechism, that "man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him for ever."

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## Bible Society Recorder.

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TORONTO, 1st APRIL, 1883.

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### BOARD MEETINGS.

The regular monthly meeting of the Board was held on Tuesday, January 16th, at 7:30 P.M., the Hon. William McMaster in the chair. The meeting was opened with prayer led by the Rev. Dr. Rose. After the confirmation of the minutes a letter was read from the Rev. Canon DuMoulin, accepting the position of a Director of the Society, to which he had been elected at the previous meeting, in the place of the Rev. Mr. Stone, removed to Montreal. It was decided to ask the Rev. Dr. John Hall, of New York, and the Bishop of Algoma, to be the speakers at the Anniversary Meeting in May, and it was also decided to ask the Rev. Dr. Hall to preach the annual sermon on behalf of the Society, on the evening of Tuesday, May 8th. The Depository's cash account was submitted, and the secretaries reported the receipt of another handsome donation of \$50 from Donald Fraser, Esq., of

Ailsa Craig. The list of gratuities for the month was read and confirmed, and other routine business transacted.

Agents' reports were submitted from the Revs. J. G. Manly, James Carmichael, and S. L. Umbach, and Colporteurs' reports from Messrs. Jackson and Ness. The Secretaries reported that the Colportage Committee had accepted Mr. Ness's resignation and were looking for a suitable man to appoint in his place. The meeting was closed with prayer led by the Rev. W. S. Blackstock.

The February meeting of the Board was held on Tuesday, the 20th, at the usual hour. The Rev. H. D. Powis was called to the chair and the Rev. R. Wallace led the opening prayer. After the reading of the minutes the following resolution was moved by Warring Kennedy, Esq., seconded by Herbert Mortimer, Esq., and unanimously carried :—

That this Board has heard with deep regret of the death of the Hon. John McMurrich, one of its Vice-Presidents, and at this, their first meeting, the Directors desire to record their deep sense of the loss which this Society has sustained, in common with many others, by the removal of this honoured servant of the Lord. The Directors rejoice in the assurance that in this case the loss of the Church below is gain to the Church above, and whilst sincerely sympathizing with the bereaved widow and family they devoutly thank God for His goodness in sparing His servant to be so many years in our midst, and for His grace which enabled him to leave behind so blessed a memory to be cherished and so holy an example to be followed.

The Secretaries are instructed to express to the bereaved widow and family the heartfelt sympathy of the Board, and to send a copy of the above minute.

Letters were read from the Rev. Dr. Hall, of New York and the Bishop of Algoma, expressing the pleasure it will give them to be present at the Anniversary Meeting of the Society, and their intention to be so, unless detained by very important official duties.

A circular was read from the Montreal Bible Society in relation to petitioning Parliament to remove the duty now imposed upon the importation of the sacred Scriptures, and asking the Board to authorize its officers to sign a petition to that effect.

It was moved by Henry O'Brien, Esq., and seconded by Herbert Mortimer, Esq.,

"That the petition be signed on behalf of the Society, and that it be sent to the President and Treasurer, who are both in Ottawa at present, with instructions to consult in reference thereto, and only to present the same in due form if they deem it desirable. But that in case of any doubt in their minds they refer the matter back to the Board."

It was moved in amendment by Thomas Lailey, Esq., and seconded by James Brown, Esq.,

"That the Secretary acknowledge the receipt of the circular, and state that this Board does not think it desirable to take any action in the matter."

The amendment was lost and the original motion was carried.

Mr. Mortimer reported verbally that the following sums had been subscribed to the Building Fund :—Four subscriptions of \$500 each, one of \$200,

and two of \$100. Agents' reports were submitted from the Revs. J. G. Manly, W. R. Parker, J. L. Murray, John Gemley, T. W. Jeffery, A. A. Drummond, Dr. Hcdgkin, S. Kappeler, and E. M. C. Botterill.

The schedule of colportage for the month, the list of gratuities and other routine matters were disposed of, and the meeting closed with prayer led by the Rev. A. H. Baldwin.

The Directors met again on Tuesday, March 20th, at the usual hour, the Rev. Dr. Rose, Vice-President, in the chair. After the Rev. A. Gilray had led the meeting in prayer and the minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed, a letter from W. B. McMurrich, Esq., and some other communications were read. It was moved by James Brown, Esq., and seconded by A. T. Crombie, Esq.,

"That the Trustees of the Jarvis-street Baptist Church and the Metropolitan Church be respectfully requested to grant the use of their churches for the preaching of the Annual Sermon, and for the Anniversary Meeting, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 8th and 9th of May." Carried.

The Permanent Secretary submitted the following Report from the Standing Committee on Agency and Colportage:—

"The Standing Committee on Agency and Colportage beg to submit to the Board the accompanying Report from the Rev. W. W. Ross of his visit to Manitoba on behalf of the Society. It is both interesting and encouraging, and your Committee would now ask authority to appoint an Agent and a Colporteur in that Province on the terms recommended by Mr. Ross, with any modification that further correspondence may shew to be desirable.

"Although this has been an expensive piece of agency, owing to great distances and high rates; yet as Mr. Ross has given his time and labour entirely gratuitously, your Committee would recommend that the hearty thanks of the Board of Directors be tendered to him for his zealous and efficient services, and that he be elected a life member of the Society.

"All which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed)

"WM. REID,

*Chairman.*"

"March 20th, 1863.

Moved by John K. Macdonald, Esq., and seconded by Herbert Mortimer, Esq.,

"That the Report be received and adopted, and that power be given to the Agency Committee to carry out the recommendations contained therein." Carried unanimously.

Moved by Warring Kennedy, Esq., and seconded by Rev. S. J. Hunter,

"That the thanks of the Directors are due, and are tendered hereby, to the Rev. W. W. Ross, for his gratuitous, self-denying and faithful services in the Province of Manitoba, so recently given in the interests of the Upper Canada Bible Society, and for the valuable information imparted in his very lucid and satisfactory report as to the requirements of that new and growing province and our duties in relation thereto. They beg to congratulate Mr. Ross on his success, and heartily concur in the recommendation of the Agency and Colportage Committee that he be elected a life member of the Society."

Letters were read from the Secretaries of the Quebec Bible society and the Montreal Bible Society acknowledging with thanks the receipt of grants and contributions.

On motion of Mr. Herbert Mortimer, Messrs. Higgins and Copp were appointed auditors for the year.

The Permanent Secretary read a draft of the Annual Report of the Society, which on motion was unanimously adopted. The Board then proceeded to revise the list of Officers and Directors for nomination at the Annual Public Meeting of the Society. A grant of Bibles and "Testaments" was voted for the use of the Home for Incurables, and the meeting was closed with prayer led by the Rev. H. D. Powis.

The regular monthly meeting of the Board was held on Tuesday, Oct. 16, at 7.30 P.M., the Hon. William McMaster in the chair. The meeting was opened by the Rev. Dr. Rose leading in prayer. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. A letter was read from Messrs. Foster, Clark & Bowes, in reference to a renewal of the lease of ground belonging to the Ketchum Sunday-school Trust. The Rev. Dr. Rose presented a report from the Joint Committee on Ketchum Trusts recommending that the present term of lease be allowed to expire at the date originally intended. This report was unanimously adopted. The Senior Honorary Secretary was requested to attend, as representative of this Board, on the occasion of the leave taking of the Rev. Dr. King from his congregation and to express their deep regret at his leaving the city and their earnest desire that the Divine blessing may accompany him in his new sphere of labour.

A letter was submitted from the Tract Society asking that a discount of 33½ per cent. be allowed to it on Bible Society Bibles sold by its Colporteurs. On motion a special committee was appointed to consider the subject of the letter and to report thereon.

The Permanent Agent's report for September was submitted, and Colporteurs' reports from Messrs. Taylor, Jackson, Currie, and Patterson. The Secretaries reported that by the advice of the Winnipeg Committee, and with the concurrence of the Standing Committee on Colportage, Mr. Patterson had ceased work in Manitoba until the coming spring. Routine business was attended to and the meeting closed with prayer led by the Rev. H. M. Parsons.

The Directors met again on November 20th, at the usual hour. The President, the Hon. G. W. Allan, in the chair. The meeting was opened by the Rev. Dr. Reid reading a portion of Scripture and the Rev. J. M. Cameron leading in prayer. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The letter from the Tract Society submitted at the last meeting was read and the report of the Special Committee appointed to consider it, was read as follows :

"The Committee appointed to consider the application from the Tract Society for increased remuneration for the sale of Bible Society Bibles by its



apparent unkindness, but a readiness to receive the Word, and in many instances a pressing forward to obtain a copy. Others also sought to get hold of a volume, but when told our work was for the students, they generally retired, or feigned to be of the number.

"There was much to interest us in the appearance of the students as they pushed their way, bag and baggage, into the hall. They entered by different gates, which were guarded by soldiers to prevent improper persons from gaining admission. There was all possible variety in dress, age, and seeming ability, but alike in their earnest manner, the object which they had in view, and the attractive bag hanging on their breasts and containing their writing materials, they could not but be looked on with a feeling of interest.

"In a day or two they returned from the hall, making a tremendous crush, which was increased by the number of donkey-drivers, chair-bearers, and others eager to 'catch a penny' in doing them a service. This was a special season for distribution on our part, and though the great body of them presented a weary and worn appearance, we were pleased at the readiness they showed to get possession of our books. Very few, indeed, treated us with disrespect.

"The same course was followed on their return that had been adopted when they went to the hall. We were stationed at the different entrances, and as it took a long time for the students to pass to and fro, it gave us ample opportunity to do the work in an efficient and careful manner.

"While the examinations were going on, we directed our labours to the city, where, in the streets, there was continuous preaching at different points, followed by the sale of the Sacred Volume among the people. There we made a distinction between them and the students, which was perfectly appreciated, and a considerable amount of work was thus done.

"We were the only labourers in this field, and heartily glad we were to be engaged in it. The whole was regarded in the light of a great success. Not only was the class of students an interesting and promising one, but the reception they gave us was no small encouragement, and we were thankful for having gone to Nanking and for having been enabled to do so much useful Christian work.

"It was a season of earnest prayer with us before and after our labours, that God's blessing would rest upon the whole. There was no opportunity to lengthen conversation with the students, but we were satisfied that they were the men who, in an intellectual point of view, were best qualified to read the printed page. We were assured that the books would, for the most part at least, be taken by them to their widely separate and distant homes, which in most instances, would never be reached by us; and it was left in God's hands to follow the work so done with the promised outpouring of His Holy Spirit.

"We cannot overrate the importance of this form of labour, and as the B. A. and M. A. examinations recur at definite times and in a variety of places, it seems desirable that they should be availed of more systematically than they have been.

"The issues from the Depository during the past month amount to 29,106 volumes, and we have several large orders on hand, which we cannot execute till we receive more copies from the press."—*B. & F. Bible Society Reporter.*

#### A RELIC OF TEL-EL-KEBIR.

The following account of a Testament having literally saved a soldier's life has been received by us, and our readers may rest assured of its being perfectly authentic. Our correspondent writes:—

"I have received a letter from one of my old Sunday scholars among the Highlanders, who was one of the foremost in leaping into the trenches at Tel-el-kebir, and I send an extract that may be of interest:—"Thank God, I am in

"I knocked at his door; but as no one answered I entered. Perceiving that the man was both deaf and dumb I put a Bible into his hand and pointed to the title page. As I could not understand his signs, he took up a slate at his side and wrote on it 'God cannot help me.' I wrote in reply, 'His blessing alone can make us happy.' 'But what should I go to church for? I suffer hunger and have not enough to eat.' This was the next question, to which I answered: 'To get food for your undying soul.' Then followed this dialogue in writing.

"SHOEMAKER.—My family would get no benefit from that."

"COLPORTEUR.—The Lord cares for His own."

"SHOEMAKER.—But I cannot hear."

"COLPORTEUR.—Every Sunday morning there is a service for the deaf and dumb at Pastor L——'s church....."

"SHOEMAKER.—You're a clever parson."

"COLPORTEUR.—I am nothing but a working man like yourself; but I have found my Saviour."

"SHOEMAKER.—But you speak for money."

"COLPORTEUR.—No, the love of Christ constrains me to try and lead to Him those who do not know Him. There is time now to repent, but there may not be later on. Here is the Bible, which shows the way of salvation."

"SHOEMAKER.—But I am a Roman Catholic."

"COLPORTEUR.—Well, but salvation is for Roman Catholics too, only through Christ alone."

"SHOEMAKER.—When we die it's all over with us.

[Here I gave him part of 1 Cor. xv. to read.]

"SHOEMAKER.—But I have to work on Sundays, and can't be going to church.

"COLPORTEUR.—Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy."

He quite approved of Sunday being a day of rest, and I got him to read part of the Sermon on the Mount. Before leaving I gave him a Portion, for which he thanked me heartily, promising to read it diligently.

This is a fair specimen of the kind of work which is being done throughout Germany by the colporteurs, of whom Mr. James Watt, your new Agent for this field, says:—

"These faithful and hard-working men are the rank and file of our army. They are also our outposts and skirmishers. It is they who keep touch with the main body of the enemy, and are more roughly used in the fight. Deprived of the sympathies of home, obliged to be content with humble quarters and often with wretched food, exposed to the inclemencies of every season and to the still more trying storms of ridicule and abuse, the colporteur must not only possess a stout heart and iron frame, but be a man of faith, one who walks with God. All honour to such men! let us support them with our sympathy and prayers.

Your Agent possesses the advantage of combining loyalty to the traditions of the Society with a quick sense of the requirements of changing circumstances.

No one could enter upon so large an undertaking as the charge of the German-Swiss Agency without finding a large part of his time engrossed at first by the more secular duties of the post. It is therefore a gratification to the Committee to find that Mr. Watt shows that he has in no degree lost sight of the high aim of the Society.

"The British and Foreign Bible Society takes rank among the greatest of missionary enterprises. Take away the spiritual aspects of its work, and you deprive it of its only reason for existence. Its colporteurs, simple, pious men, burning with zeal for the cause of Christ, if not so in name and mode of work, are evangelists in fact, who assiduously embrace every opportunity, when offering their books, to sow the seed of Divine truth. Their auditors are frequently the forlorn and the outcast, those who flee contact with the city missionary and who will not approach the pastor or give him a hearing.

## TURKEY.

From all parts of this Agency come reports of maltreatment, persecution, and even imprisonment, endured by your colporteurs. That men like Seefried in Roumelia, Sevastides in Albania, Yanelli at Mitylene, and Maschobakes at Rhodes, have been able to persevere in their work at all is due, under the blessing of Him who defends His servants, partly to earnestness and patience in the men themselves, and partly to the stand made on their behalf by Her Majesty's Consuls or Vice-Consuls, acting under instructions from the British Embassy at Constantinople.

Yet your Agent is among the last to regret the recent action of his country in Egypt, to a resentment of which these restrictions may, in some measure, be due. He points out that a scheme undoubtedly existed to establish a Mohammedan Caliphate, and tread out all Christian effort; and he declares the common belief of intelligent men resident in the East that not only in Egypt but throughout the Turkish Empire, the cause of liberty and enlightenment has gained by the events of last summer.

So far as the work of the Agency is to be gauged by the circulation of the Scriptures—and let it be always remembered that this is far from being the sole measure of success—there is a decline of 2,727 copies during the past year; but when the stoppage of work in Egypt and its interruption in Cyprus are considered, together with the difficulties of colportage already referred to, it will be seen that a different result could hardly have been expected.

Your Agent thus describes the tyranny of which Seefried has been the victim.

After having been expelled arbitrarily from Uscup, as mentioned in the last Report, he was permitted to return from his exile to Salonica, and settle at Köprili, the nearest important railway station to Uscup. But here he was annoyed by frequent and most untimely examinations of his books, which he was at first required to transport to the Government House, but which afterwards, as a "special favour," were allowed to be examined in his own house. He suffered also from the fanaticism of the Turks of Köprili, one of them having, without the least provocation, struck him a severe blow on the back with a copper vessel, from the effects of which he did not recover for some time. The fanatic collected some dozen others like minded with himself armed with sticks, and attempted further violence, but was prevented by the innkeeper. It is right to add that on this occasion the Cainakam endeavoured to discover the offender and gave Seefried a policeman for his protection. His sales in the region of Köprili were not very successful, partly on account of the poverty of the people, but principally because the territory had been well worked by the American Mission from Manastir.

At length when his exile had been sufficiently prolonged to preserve official dignity, he was permitted, through the kind offices of J. E. Blunt, Esq., C.B. (H.M. Consul-General at Salonica) to return to Uscup, this result being also favoured by the appointment of a new Governor to Uscup. It was thought advisable on his return, that our kind friend the Rev. Mr. Crosbie, who was personally known to the new Governor of Uscup, should introduce Seefried to him, and do all in his power to establish a kindly relation between them: and he succeeded.

Nevertheless, on the night of his return to Uscup with his family by special permit, Seefried was arrested as soon as he left the railway-carriage, and hurried off for examination as a dangerous person. This turned out to be due to the officiousness of an under official at Köprili, who regarded Seefried as a suspicious person, and ignorant that official permission had been given for his return to Uscup, had telegraphed to the authorities there to look after him. The Governor of Uscup was much annoyed at the incident, but the alarm and discouragement which it produced on Seefried and his family were far from trifling. Since then he has worked quietly in and about half

The same thing was going on in Mexico. A great work of Reformation was going on there, and this work was due entirely to the Bible and not to any propagandism from without. One of the ablest and most respected priests in Mexico became convinced of the errors of the Church of Rome simply by his study of the Bible. A reformed Church grew up, mainly through his efforts. Bishop Riley, the first Bishop of that Church, had carried his life in his hand. He related that at a service he held he announced that he should be glad if any one present would take a Spanish Bible. After service a man came up to him wrapped in a large Spanish cloak and asked for one. He said he came to the service for a very different purpose; he came to take his (Bishop Riley's) life. He then showed him a large knife with which he had intended to stab him as he came down the steps. He went and studied the Bible, and six weeks later said to the Bishop, "I hope this Bible has been blest to the salvation of my soul. I hope God has touched my heart. I have been leading a very bad life, amongst desperate companions. I must go back and tell them the truth that has been made a blessing to me—I must go and tell them of the Saviour I have found." The Bishop said, "I cannot trust you yet, you are too young a convert. Wait until you are more confirmed in the faith before you presume to become a missionary to others." For a time the man became a pupil under Bishop Riley. At last the desire became so strong that he could not stay any longer, so he went to talk to the wretched men who had been his companions in sin. They became, however, very bitter against him, persecuted him, and stoned him almost to death. At last one man came forward to dash a huge stone against his head, when from amongst the people standing around a little girl who had been brought up in a Protestant school saved the man's life by flinging herself on his body, so that the ruffian desisted.

The Bible has not lost any of its power, as people would persuade them, but had all the power which it had in the early days of the Reformation, and God was using it as His instrument for bringing other nations out of darkness into His marvellous light. This Society bound together all Christian men, all Protestant men, as one, in spite of all their differences—which might sometimes be important differences. He was not going to minimize differences, because he thought that to do so was a very unreal way of speaking. They had their convictions and must act upon them. But they must feel all those mere external differences of Church order and government, of rites and ceremonies, which kept men asunder, were but as dust in the balance compared with that one great faith in which they were all united; the one Lord, who had redeemed them, and the one God and Father whom they all alike worshipped and adored. These were the grounds upon which he ventured to press the claims of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

#### A NEW AGENCY FOR EGYPT AND SYRIA.

The Committee have for some time been anxiously watching the course of events in the East, and preparing, whenever an opening appeared, promptly to take measures for a more complete occupation than has hitherto been possible of that portion of the vast regions inhabited by Arabic-speaking populations, which stretches from Syria in the east to Egypt in the west and Abyssinia and the Soudan in the south. They feel that the time for this onward step has now come. Other Christian Missionary Societies are already making redoubled efforts to spread the truth in Egypt, and the Bible Society, as aforetime, will be at their side and effectually co-operate with them—both preparing the way for and following their efforts, as has been the case in other mission fields. The following resolution was unanimously adopted at the meeting of the Committee on December 6th:—"Resolved, that, in the opinion of the Committee, the time has now arrived for the establishment of a separate agency for Egypt, Arabia, Cyprus, Palestine,

and Syria, including the Arabic-speaking and other populations, and that the Secretaries be requested to take the necessary steps for securing the services of a suitable person as Agent."

The head-quarters of the new agency will probably be at Cairo. Much will certainly depend upon the wisdom, courage, and faithfulness of the first Agent selected. Of other requisites, a constitution fitted to withstand the climate, and knowledge of colloquial Arabic, are the chief, and, indeed, indispensable. The Secretaries would earnestly ask all who are interested in those lands whence, first of all, through prophets, apostles, and evangelists the precious Word of God was given to the world, to aid by their prayer and active efforts in the establishment of this new agency, and in finding the right man to be placed at the head of it.—*B. & F. Bible Society Reporter.*

"FOR CHINA.—A THANK-OFFERING."

One whose deep solicitude and earnest efforts for the welfare of the Chinese have already been repeatedly shown, has sent a cheque for £2,000 to the Bible House, adding "I wish my name not to appear. Please put it, 'For China.—A Thank-Offering.'" Referring to the plans for a vigorous extension of Bible work in the great empire of the East, the donor writes: "Your letter and papers contain all I hoped for. Your measures seem excellent. May the Great Captain speak to you and lead you on. I am so glad to send the enclosed. May Jesus receive it, and own it, and work out His own designs of love to the Chinese! You shall have my continual prayers. I am so glad the money has not been spent in carriages and horses and their *et ceteras.* *We owe so much.*"

January 30th, 1883.

RECEIPTS AT THE BIBLE SOCIETY HOUSE, TORONTO, FROM BRANCH SOCIETIES, FROM 1st JANUARY TO 31st MARCH, 1883.

	On Purchase Account.	FREE CONTRIBUTIONS.		
		U. C. B. S.	B. & F. B. S.	Sundries.
	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Ancaster Branch.....		54 96	27 49	
Appleby do .....		1 50		
Arkona do .....		20 00		
Arkwright do .....		2 43		
Arnow do .....		10 00	10 00	
Arthur do .....		44 25		
Ashfield do .....		34 80	20 00	
Atwood do .....	21 65	30 00		
Avening & Creemore do .....	12 29	17 44		
Ayr do .....	4 35	66 00	66 00	
Ayton do .....	22 07	30 64		
Baltimore do .....		23 00		(1) 40 00
Barrie do .....	70 36	17 40		
Bayfield do .....		33 00		
Beamsville do .....		8 20		
Becton do .....		23 55	23 50	
Belgrave (from "a Friend") .....			(3) 10 00	
Bervic Branch.....		12 50	12 50	
Beverley do .....		37 40	37 40	
Binbrook do .....		50 00	20 00	
Bloomfield do .....	2 00	13 00		
Bloomington do .....		11 86	10 00	

(1) To Quebec Auxiliary.

(3) For China and Japan.

him from his own happy experience of the Gospel that he called his labourers, and master and servants bought four Bibles and one Testament, and it is a question who were more pleased, those who purchased, or the colporteur who sold the books.

"A rag picker boldly said, 'Oh! I have a book like that,' and he at once drew forth a Testament, in which, though otherwise complete, the title page and a few pages of the Revelation were missing. He had found it somewhere in the course of his peregrinations, and what he had found had evidently served some good purpose, as the ensuing conversation, and the man's cheerful promise to attend a place of worship showed."

**THE NEED OF VULGATE VERSIONS**—"The value, perhaps I ought to say the necessity, of Vulgate versions has been visibly illustrated by an incident connected with our work here. A railway is being built, and our colporteur one day visited the navvies, mostly Italians. One of them fairly leaped for joy when the colporteur told him he had come to bring him the Holy Scriptures. What a pleasure it would be to his good wife! She came, opened the book, but quickly gave it back again exclaiming, with bitter disappointment, 'Diodati the Protestant!' All joy was gone, nothing remained but suspicion and dread. How different would it have been had there but been Martini's name on the title page, the contents being essentially the same. The colporteur wrote on this occasion, 'How often have I witnessed such scenes! Is there really no other edition! If there is, do quickly send me copies.'"

**HOW THE WORK IS HINDERED**—"The enmity of Rome to the Bible has shown itself to an extraordinary extent. In Bohemian districts in the South our colporteur has since had to leave the field. Not only was he unable to sell a copy, but he had to suffer personal injuries. In German districts one colporteur was so badly dealt with that for a time he was utterly unfit for any work. The attitude of the priests may be gathered from the following statements. One priest proclaimed from the pulpit, that wherever a Bible was tolerated in a house, the devil ruled supreme. Another appointed a man purpusley to go from house to house with his authority to collect and bring to him every one of these heretical books that he could find. A third priest goes to the Post Office to take down the names of parties for whom parcels containing the Scriptures arrive. Another, again, instructs the postman to advise people not to take in parcels of this kind, and the postman does the priest's bidding. We have instructed the colporteurs to report more fully on these unlawful proceedings.

"I met a young couple that had bought a Bible of our dear brother Pietschman, now with the Lord. It had become a precious book to them. 'That book,' said they, 'we would not give up for the world. People say it is false and bad, but it is because they do not read it.' Two things were very clear to me, first that the good folk had found the Saviour, and secondly, that it was through the faithful use of the Bible. That was a precious hour.

"One man said, 'What a good thing it was you did not let me off so soon when, the first time you came, I refused to buy. I have now learned to love the book.'"

**THE PICTURE AND THE BOOK**—"The celebrated painting of Munkacsy, representing *Christ before Pilate*, which has drawn thousands of spectators from every part of the realm, being on exhibition at Pesth, where we enjoy full liberty of colportage, a man posted himself near the entrance of the hall, and sold several hundred copies of the New Testament, and it was chiefly Jews who bought the Book, in order better to understand the picture. Even when the exhibition was over, there was a demand at the door-keeper's lodge for the Book. When a Jewish family shortly after this event expressed a desire to join the Christian Church, it may well be supposed that it was not so much the dumb picture as the living Word that had awakened that wish."

## RECEIPTS AT THE BIBLE SOCIETY HOUSE—Continued.

	On Purchase Account.	FREE CONTRIBUTIONS.		
		U. C. B. S.	B. & F. B. S.	Sundries.
	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
Glanford Branch		24 00	11 00	
Glenallan do		26 00		
Glenarm do		35 05		
Goderich do		28 80		
Goodwood do		16 00		
Gorrie do	12 65	55 35		
Grimsbly do	16 55	33 05		
Guelph do	58 08	310 00	310 00	
Hagersville do	5 05			
Hamilton do	306 46	100 00	488 83	
Harrington do	16 19	7 24		
Harriston do		35 81	50 00	
Hastings do			41 42	
Hillsburgh do	5 40	32 30		
Hope do		49 00		
Ingersoll do	52 90	100 00	100 00	
Janetville do	4 46	28 90		
Jarvis do		1 70		
Kincairdine do		31 25	93 75	
Kinlough do			24 64	
Kintore do	3 00			
Kippen do	10 28	34 14		
Lakelet & McIntosh do	17 00	25 00	25 00	
Lambeth do		20 00	26 00	
Langside do		17 12		
Lindsay do		25 00		
Listowel do	11 31			
Little Britain do	15 00	20 00		
Londesboro' do		2 04		
Lucknow do	18 10	10 00	20 00	
Madoc do		38 30		
Malton do		25 25	25 25	
Manchester do		26 00	26 00	
Manilla do	2 95	23 20	23 19	
Maple Valley do	1 80	20 00		
Markham do		40 00		
Mitchell do	22 30	46 00		
Molesworth do		10 00		
Mono Centre do		19 00	19 00	
Mono Mills do	6 87	16 00		
Morrison do		5 00		
Mount Pleasant (Cavan) do		45 00		
Nanticoke Branch do		25 55	22 20	
Nassagaweya do		22 75	22 75	
Newark do		9 55		
New Dundee do		90 65		
New Hamburg do	28 80	60 85		
Newtonville & Kendal Branch do		33 60		
New Westminster Branch do	15 00	150 63		
North Pelham do		21 00		
Norwich do		53 14	26 56	
Oakwood do	1 78	1 82		
Omemece do	3 00	15 00	15 00	
Orford do	2 76	16 03		
Orono do		51 13		(2) 3 60
Oshawa do		83 00		
Paisley do		13 00	100 00	
Peterboro' do	113 65			
Pictou do	16 38	53 12		

(2) On Recorder Account.

## RECEIPTS AT THE BIBLE SOCIETY HOUSE.--Continued.

	On Purchase Account.	FREE CONTRIBUTIONS.		
		U. G. B. S.	B. & F. B. S.	Sundries.
	\$ cts.			
Plattsville do	11 50	30 00		
Port Albert do	1 50	19 10		
Port Colborne do	15 82	7 90		
Portage la Prairie, Man., Branch		100 00		
Rainham Centre Branch		1 83		
Ravenswood do		15 50	22 00	
Ridgeway do	25 00	7 00		
Rodney do		12 00		
St. Catharines do	97 00	115 00	115 00	
St. George do	19 02	31 62	31 61	
St. Helen's do		9 50	9 50	(1) 9 50
St. Williams do		9 54	11 65	
Sandford do	8 00	16 38		
Scarborough do		122 45	30 00	(4) 20 00
Seaforth do		8 37		
Selkirk do	7 32	2 00		
Shakespeare do		12 00	24 35	
Sombra do	2 16	1 32		
Sonya do		8 00		
South Monaghan do	2 93	74 69		
Springville do		35 86		
Stayner do		10 13		
Stirling do	25 00	20 00		
Strabane do		48 05		
Stratford do		100 00	100 00	
Sunderland do	11 82			
Tamworth do		4 93		
Tavistock do		20 00		
Teeswater do		60 00	60 00	
Thornbury & Clarksburg Branch	9 90	30 00	7 36	
Thornton Branch	5 00	12 00		
Thorold do		40 00	40 00	
Tilsonburg do	37 33			
Tiverton do		40 00	40 00	
Trowbridge do		15 00		
Tyrone do		20 38		
Underwood do	10 13	50 00		
Uxbridge do		133 00		
Varna do		32 00		
Vernonville do		20 00		
Victoria, B. C. do	250 00			
Wallaceburg do		32 92		
Washington do	6 00	59 71		
Wellington do	14 95	7 80		
West Lorne do	34 12			
West Tilbury do		12 82	12 82	
Wiarton do	11 10			
Windham Centre do		4 10		
Winnipeg, Man., do		386 40		
Winterbourne do	22 00	58 00		
Woodbridge & Pinegrove Branch		28 15	28 15	
Woodstock Branch	64 60			
York do		17 03		
Yorkville do	9 72			
Zurich do		37 24		

(1) To Quebec Auxiliary. (4) To Montreal Auxiliary.