

The Presbyterian

A MISSIONARY AND RELIGIOUS RECORD

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

CONDUCTED BY A COMMITTEE OF THE LAY ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL.

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The Presbyterian.

REPORTS OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES OF MONTREAL.

The Annual Meetings of the Religious Societies of this city were held in Zion Church, (the Rev. Mr. Wilkes,) during the week commencing January 29th, and occupied every evening from Monday till Friday inclusive. The attendance was large, and a deep interest in the proceedings was sustained throughout. We cannot attempt, in the space at our disposal, to give any report of the Speeches delivered by the gentlemen who proposed and supported the Resolutions. The important nature of the objects, not less than the able manner in which they were advocated, kept alive the interest of large auditories for nearly three hours on each evening, and sent them away, we believe, with a hearty desire to co-operate more zealously in the good work. The Reports of the several Societies are now published, and from them we make some extracts:—

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MONTREAL RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.

The Committee will first give an account of the importations for the past year.

Importations.

| | |
|---|----------|
| The value of the Books and Tracts imported during the year amounts to | £185 6 7 |
| Received from the American Tract Society, | 43 15 8 |
| Bought in the Province, | 81 1 7 |
| To which add Grants of Tracts from the Religious Tract Society, London, | 19 7 1 |
| And Books returned by Branches, &c. | 4 15 10 |
| | £334 6 9 |

Operations.

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Books and Tracts sold in the Depository, for Cash, | £195 19 5 |
| Ditto, ditto, ditto, on Credit, | 166 8 9 |
| The Gratuitous Distribution amounts to | 87 18 8 |
| | £430 6 10 |

The total number of publications received into the Depository is 90,012; and the issues for the year are 77,394. The particulars of this department are given in a Table of the Appendix.

Gratuitous Distribution.

The value of the gratuitous issues for the year is £87 18s. 8d., being £19 10s. 5d. more than the previous year, and the largest gratuitous issue ever made by this Society.

The following are the objects to which the grants have been made:—

| | |
|--|--------|
| Montreal Association, English, 28,639; | |
| French, 5,414; total | 34,053 |
| Hospitals, 1,010; Jail, 288, | 1,298 |
| Military, 4,205; Sailors and Immigrants, 2,910 | 7,115 |
| Subscribers, 843; Ministers and Missionaries, 3,929, | 4,772 |
| The Country, 5,152; Associations in the Country, 1,870 | 7,022 |
| Swiss Mission, St. Pie, 1,002; and Hotels, 300, | 1,302 |
| | 55,562 |

Making a total of . . . 55,562

Religious Tract Society, London.

Our Parent Society is waxing venerable in age, being now in its fiftieth year. It is still increasing in usefulness—abounding in good works—scattering truth with a liberal hand—and multiplying the works of the "excellent of the earth" by millions.

During the year ending 31st March last, there had been sent from its Depository in London, 17,543,409 publications; making the Society's total circulation, in about one hundred languages, four hundred and sixty-three millions of copies of Religious Tracts and Books. Its total income for the year was £55,736 4s. 4d. sterling; and its gratuitous issues amounted to £8,188 14s. 3d., being £2,513 1s. 2d., more than the gratuitous receipts of the year.

There have been two hundred and thirty-five new publications issued during the year, beside a large number of books re-issued in a cheap form. The present will complete the Jubilee Year of the

Society; a Jubilee Fund has been begun, into which special subscriptions are being paid to enable the Society to extend its operations, having especial regard to Ireland and the openings on the Continent of Europe.

The Collection taken at the meeting amounted to £10 16s. 10d.

TWELFTH REPORT OF THE CANADA SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

The object of this Society is stated in the 2nd Article of its Constitution.

"The objects of this Association shall be to promote the establishment of Sabbath Schools wherever it is deemed practicable, and to encourage and strengthen those already in existence. The means to be chiefly relied upon to effect these objects, will be by maintaining a correspondence with the various Schools throughout the country, by the means of an Agent or Agents, whenever practicable, and by the cheap and gratuitous distribution of Library and other Books, suitable for Sabbath School Instruction."

During the past year, the issues from the Depository are the following: Library books, 16,851; Elementary books, 7,276; Bibles, 23; Testaments, 120; Hymn-books, 553; Tracts, 4,125. Total for the year, 29,015. Total since the establishment of the Union, 201,963. There have been issued eighty-one Libraries for Sabbath Schools. Of these, thirty-eight are Libraries of the London Tract Society, sold at one-half or two-thirds' value; and forty-three of the American Sabbath School Union, at the rate of \$10 each.

Free grants of books to a very considerable extent have been sent to Sabbath Schools in poor settlements. The value of these, together with the allowance made on Libraries sold, amounts, during the past year, to the sum of £126 3s. 7d., being £70 3s. 7d. of free grants of books, and £56 of allowance on Libraries sold.

From a Statement prepared in the Depository, we find one hundred and seventy-one schools have participated, during the by-gone year, in the benefits of the Union.

- 1st. Those who have been furnished with Libraries, 81
- 2nd. Those to whom grants have been made, but who have not been furnished with Libraries this year, 68