

BIBLE SOCIETY.

On the evening of Wednesday, 27th ult., the Anniversary Meeting of the Montreal Auxiliary Bible Society was held in St. Andrew's Church, in this city. It commenced at seven o'clock precisely, according to what was announced in the advertisement; and we were not a little gratified to see this perfect correspondence between notification and action; and we make this observation, in the first place, to do credit to those who conducted the arrangements; but also, being journalists for the public good, we touch upon this subject in order to encourage and promote punctuality to hour and minute in all public meetings, and in all the committee meetings of our many benevolent societies.

There was a good audience present when the business commenced, and it afterwards increased to a full meeting. The first thing done was, the reading a portion of Holy Scripture, a very befitting mode of opening a Bible Society meeting. This was done by the Rev. Dr. MATHIESON, in whose church the meeting was held; and, in succession, the same gentleman offered up, with the assembly, an appropriate prayer for the blessing of God on the Parent Bible Society, and on its Auxiliary in this place—for the whole church of Christ, and with special supplication that the church might early be coextensive with the whole earth.

The President of the Society, the Honourable PETER MCGILL, who was in the chair, commenced the immediate business of the meeting, by a well arranged and suitable address, stating the object in view, and making remarks on the great work of Bible Societies.

The Annual Report of the Society was then read by the General Agent. It was a truly interesting document in many respects. We perceived by it that the great object which the Society specially undertook a few years ago, is steadily going on to its completion: this was to supply every family in the province with a copy of the entire word of God. It was a noble and venturesome enterprise in the Society to compromise itself in such a good, extensive, and difficult work. The rewards of their labour are, however, already in their hands, in a good measure, in the great good they have visibly effected, by putting many families in possession of the Word of God, which were, and had long been, destitute of it, and where it was most gratefully received, and with indications that lead to the hope that the same volume would not lie idle, but be read with care and frequency. Not the least gratifying part of the Report was the account given of an extensive circulation of the Scriptures among our French fellow-subjects around us, of the Roman Catholic religion. And this cheering account was considerably enhanced by the facts mentioned, of several priests, in different parts of the country, having given their countenance and their active aid to this distribution of the word of God among their people. We shall indulge ourselves in the hope that this diffusion of the Scriptures among our French friends will go on, and will rapidly increase from year to year, until the Bible is generally found in every house. And if it does so increase, as it indeed must, we shall hope to see a greater union effected among us than that of the Provinces. We shall hope to see a real union of two classes of people, and, what is more, a union of our religions; and we do not care much what name may remain to designate the United Religion, so that it is *The Religion of the Bible*. And, as one of the speakers remarked, if our French friends will drop their word *Roman*, we shall readily drop our word *Pro-*

testant, and most fully consent to go all of us under the name of *The Catholic Church*—understanding by this what the Catholic Church was in the days of the Apostles, and what we are sure it will again be, live to see it who may.

We might touch upon other points noticed in the Report, had we sufficient room, and we are sure that every part of it would afford gratification to our readers. It will, however, be printed, and when it comes to our hands we shall be glad to give extracts from it, in order to benefit our readers on the one hand, and on the other, to benefit the Bible Institution, by making its objects and operations more generally known, and thus to induce many to contribute to its support, who at present do not, and simply because they are not properly informed on the subject.

The first Resolution was moved by the Rev. Dr. BLACK, and was accompanied by an able speech, in which, among other useful observations, he expressed an earnest wish and hope for a system of education to be established in and over all the country, in which all might be taught to read, and be able to profit by the Holy Scriptures. This Resolution was seconded by the Rev. R. L. LUSHER.

The second Resolution was moved by the Rev. CALER STRONG, in a very appropriate speech. The Rev. gentleman particularly noticed the confidence we have a right to possess in regard to the power of truth over error, and that we need not be very solicitous about the political restraints of the latter, if the other be left fully free to combat it. And well he might make the statement; for assuredly the conjurations of error will be made to disappear before the power of truth, as the serpents of Jannes and Jambres were devoured by that of Moses.

This Resolution was seconded by the Rev. WM. TAYLOR, in a powerful speech. The frank statements made by the speaker as to the objects of the Bible Society here upon the French population, and the spirit of charity with which he delivered them, were both gratifying and instructive.

The third Resolution was moved by the Rev. H. ESSON, whose address gave great satisfaction to all. It was of a truly biblical nature, because he pointed out not only the duty of circulating the inspired volume, but also, and especially, the duty of Ministers to make their churches bible classes, so to speak, in order that their flocks might be thoroughly imbued with the letter and the spirit of this heavenly book. After a similar manner did he show the duty of parents in regard to their children, and their households. By pursuing this plan, he remarked, the promise would be visibly fulfilled, when no man would need to teach his brother, for all would thus be taught the knowledge of God and of salvation.

JOHN DOUGALL, Esq. seconded this Resolution in a brief but very suitable address, in which he drew attention to the many tongues the Bible now speaks, through the labours of the Parent Society, like another Pentecostal gift. He also urged upon the assembly the duty of effectually aiding this important institution, by the different means within our reach.

The Rev. J. THOMSON, Agent of the Parent Society, moved the fourth Resolution, and gave some gratifying statements respecting the feelings and efforts in favour of the general circulation of the Scriptures in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, as witnessed by him in travelling through these provinces during last summer.

The Rev. M. WILLOUGHBY seconded this Resolution, and in doing so, picked up, as he said, some

fragments that remained after the preceding addresses, and which fragments were very acceptable to all present. One of these had respect to the President of the Society, who was in the chair. Providence, the speaker remarked, had favoured and honoured the gentleman in question, in various ways in this community, but chiefly in honouring him to be the President of the Bible Society.

The President, in putting this Resolution before the meeting for adoption, fully acknowledged his coincidence with the last speaker, in considering the post of President of the Bible Society as his highest title.

At this period of the meeting the collection was taken up, which amounted to £26 12s. 7d.

The Rev. J. T. BYRNE, from L'Orignal, now moved the fifth Resolution, for the appointment of a new Committee, accompanying it with a few words only, as the hour was late. The Rev. F. BROOMER seconded this Resolution.

The thanks of the meeting were most cordially awarded to the President, for his conduct in the chair during the evening, on the motion of Capt. MAITLAND. The Rev. Dr. DAVIS seconded the same, expressing the justness of the tribute paid.

In conclusion, the Rev. H. WILKES gave out the Doxology, which was sung in one general voice by the whole assembly.

In this manner passed the Twentieth Anniversary of the Montreal Auxiliary Bible Society; and from the sentiments uttered by the various speakers, together with the manner in which the addresses were delivered, a general, we may say, a universal impression was produced in favour of this anniversary over all its predecessors: all were led involuntarily, as it were, to say to themselves and to others, that *this was the best Bible Society meeting ever witnessed among us*.

It is truly a subject of much thanksgiving to God, the author of all our blessings, in common life and in the Christian life, to see the Bible cause making *this visible progress among us*. To God, and to Him only, be the glory; and let us all be stirred up by his mercies to us in this object, to labour more and more diligently and humbly, to promote the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, by promoting, through every means in our power, the general circulation and the general use of the Holy Scriptures. May God hasten the universal diffusion of his Word over the whole world: soon may it speak all tongues—soon may it reach all nations—soon may it come into every house—and soon may the day arrive when every soul shall read it, learn it, believe it, and obey it, to the glory of God.

The following are the Resolutions passed at the meeting:—

I.—That the Report which has now been read, be adopted, and that it be printed under the direction of the Committee.

II.—That this Meeting contemplates with much satisfaction, and with sincere thanksgiving to God, the progress that has been made during the year that is now closed, in circulating the Holy Scriptures among our fellow-subjects of this province speaking the French language, and professing the Roman Catholic religion.

III.—That this Meeting rejoices in the increased prosperity of the British and Foreign Bible Society, as indicated by its last year's operations, in which its income has been larger, and its circulation of the Scriptures, in its many tongues, more extensive than in any former year; and earnestly desires that this Society may be enabled to aid it, in every way, in its noble and extensive undertaking.

IV.—That this Meeting rejoices with gratitude and humility before God, for the extensive circulation of the Scriptures, by the Montreal Auxiliary Bible Society, during the last and previous