

the Society did not merely undertake to develop the intellect and teach knowledge, without that teaching and knowledge being based on scriptural knowledge, and every year that passed by ought to convince people that education on the basis of religion ought to be considered of the most paramount importance. They were now in an age when people were beginning to worship human knowledge, and set it above the word of God, and therefore it was of paramount importance that education should be founded on the Scriptures, and have for its objects the glory of God and the welfare of man. His Lordship sat down amid hearty applause.

Professor Hicks then read the annual report, the first clause of which stated that the operations of the Society for 1860 have been attended with marked success. The number of students at the Normal School was 60, and the number of juvenile pupils at the Bonaventure schools were, boys 172, and girls 150. Infant school 110. The report of the working of the country schools was, like that of the city schools, highly satisfactory, showing that the proficiency and good conduct of the teachers were unexceptionable, and that the schools were increasing in usefulness. There are now 22 schools in all in operation aided by the Society, in which 1852 scholars are instructed.

INCOME OF THE COLONIAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL SOCIETY'S SCHOOL.

Parent Society.....	£661	10	7
School Fees.....	320	2	10
Private Contributions.....	1088	18	6

Total.....£2073 11 11

EXPENDITURE.

Salaries.....	£1705	1	0
Books, Apparatus.....	412	15	0

Total.....£2117 16 0

The Rev Mr. BORN, Superintendent and Secretary of the Local Committee, moved the first resolution:—

That this meeting receives with satisfaction the report, an abstract of which has been presented, and promises its sympathy and support of the great object of the Society in this Diocese, viz., the promotion of education on a scriptural basis. He said:—

Mr. LORD.—Churchmen do not meet together often enough; we should impart to each other spiritual warmth, we should be fused and more closely united, if with your Lordship at our head we were more frequently in contact upon these warming and inspiring themes of the glorious Gospel. And my Lord, if we could often enjoy the warmth reflected from our gracious Saviour, in the zeal, and piety, and eloquence of him who has favoured us at these meetings, from our sister church in the United States, we should still be more benefited by these meetings. But my Lord, when we thus meet for the purpose which has brought us together to-night, the promotion of education on a scriptural basis, I am sure that the whole country as well as the church will recognise that these meetings are of the utmost value, and in moving this resolution, I shall with your permission make a few remarks, which I think will conclusively prove this assertion. In the first place, what will tend greatly to advance the interests of the church of Christ, and consequently the material prosperity of the country? There is but one sensible reply to that. Take another illustration. A school was made to this question, and that is, education: educate the masses. Aye, true, but there is another important question, what description of education shall it be? I have no confidence in a merely secular education. You are only giving power and training to evil, by imparting merely a secular education. Go into our penitentiaries, read our criminal statistics; who are the most accomplished and successful villains? Men often of first-rate education. No, we want a sacred, religious and scriptural education. We do not mean simply reading the Bible as a task book; that may only excite disgust for religion, but an education which surrounds the scholar from the moment he enters the school until he leaves it, with an atmosphere of religious influence, which teaches him that his time, his powers, his whole being are God's, and that, because God loved him and gave himself for him; and that to an ever present God he must give a strict account. Now this is the education this Society professes to give, and not without success, and for the promotion of which we are here assembled to-night. For 20 years the society has been struggling to accomplish this, and in that time has planted 100 schools, through which under its care at least 10,000 scholars have passed, and thus not been an inefficient arm for our beloved church. It has been the fashion of late to sneer at our church, when she has been called "the poor man's church," but let me ask upon this point what denomination has done as much for the poor man in giving him a sacred education as the Church of England? This society is founded and mainly supported by churchmen. Other denominations have kindly subscribed when called upon; nevertheless it is essentially of the Church of England. But this is what I am concerned with, the Society has cared watchfully for the poor and destitute of the Church of England by thousands in this country, but not only so, no poor man's child was ever presented to the Society, whatever his denomination and (if it were possible to admit him) refused never, and that without conditions. Without forcing upon any one our peculiar views, thousands have been thus admitted. If to love our own church beyond all others, aye, second only to her glorious head, the Lord Jesus, be bigotry, then are we bigots, and glory in the name; and if to love our fellow Christians with brotherly affection, and to stand side by side with them whenever we can, be liberality, then are we liberals also. The great work of the Society, however, has been the establishment of Normal and Model Schools in Montreal. I need not refer to the Model Schools with their boys, girls, and infants, numbering upwards of 400, in daily attendance, and receiving an education such as I have referred to, for from 3d. per week for the infants, to 1s. per week, for older pupils for which every thing is provided, and French taught.

It is, however, worth while to tell you what stirred the committee to their resolute and determined effort to establish a Normal School. It was the utter impossibility of procuring suitable teachers. Take an illustration: some years ago, the superintendent, in visiting the schools, went unexpectedly into one, supposed to be pretty well conducted. The first thing that met him was a scent as if the room had been inhabited by, I was going to say, an animal that should be nameless, or what is quite as bad, one of our modern inveterate smokers. Boys and master smoked together. And the next thing was, the room had evidently been used as a kitchen, and no doubt to the great delectation of boys and girls, cooking was going on. You may imagine the state of the school; but the Training School has changed that. Take another illustration. A school was visited where the children were very busy reciting; the teacher—an old lady—was hard at work teaching; matters looked well enough—but we enquired what was taught. "Catechism" was the reply: a few questions more were put when lo! and behold—the school mistress herself could not read. As you may suppose; the training

schools have changed all that, and now the Normal School turns out a fine body of teachers—intellectually and morally—as are to be found in any part of the world—because they are well grounded and well trained in the mode of teaching. And now I may be permitted to remark to my brethren of the clergy that they do good service to the cause, and to deserving young men, by inducing suitable young men to enter upon the honourable career of a teacher. My Lord, the history of the efforts of the committee in getting up these schools is interesting. After many representations to the society in England, a letter was received intimating that a suitable master was all but engaged. What were we to do? There was no school-room, and none could be procured, but a little church in St. Maurice street was offered for sale. If we could only get that! And here let our public acknowledgments be made for the first time to a merchant of this city. Our difficulties were mentioned to him, he went and purchased the building for upwards of £1000, and said, here it is, pay me when you find it convenient. Alas! before we could take possession another letter came saying that no master was coming, and the society would have nothing to do with buildings; we were obliged to throw the church upon the hands of our friend. Most providentially he was enabled to sell it again at a profit, which he distributed to the poor, and £25 of which went to the poor of St. George's Church.

My friend Mr. Hicks was then looming in the distance, very great, and very greatly desired. When he came he proved all that we had hoped for. I do not believe that we could have procured a more suitable man, and here is one proof: he bestowed as much care upon the 11 little ragged urchins in a tailor's shop—that formed our first school—as he did upon that into which it gradually grew, 3 schools of upwards of 400 scholars with 30 or more pupil teachers. He was faithful in the small things as well as the great things, and he now holds a deserved and high position in the McGill Normal School, while he gives a watchful supervision to the Model Schools. Well, now we had to look for a building again; none to be rented—no money—what were we to do—there is a carpenter's shop for sale with a stone foundation for a building upon the premises, but we have no money—away again to our old friend the merchant. "Go on," he says, "I will help you," and we went on until the present buildings were raised worth £2300, upon which there is now due only £600, 158 having been paid off during the present term. For this happy result, in great measure, the liberality of the citizens of Montreal, as appears by the report, has (under God) to be thanked.

But the Committee has still much to do. They had to obtain an act of incorporation, and the sanction of the Government in their work, and they sent a deputation to the Legislature for that purpose, and it is right to say that whilst the Government said—especially the Hon. J. A. McDonald, and Hon. Mr. Cartier—that they did not see their way clear to put into operation the Government Normal School, they would afford us every facility; and they did enable us to succeed as we have done. I shall only touch upon one point more in this report, and that only briefly, as it is the subject of a separate resolution. I mean that of the city mission. Ah! the amount of labour demanded in this part of the work is evidently enormous, and think of the amount of good that is done, by upwards of a thousand visits during the year, besides attending at the hospital and shipping. I will only refer to one instance. Having heard that a man was ill and destitute in one of the lowest hovels of the city,

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