

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD



C. SANDHAM SC

OUR MISSION

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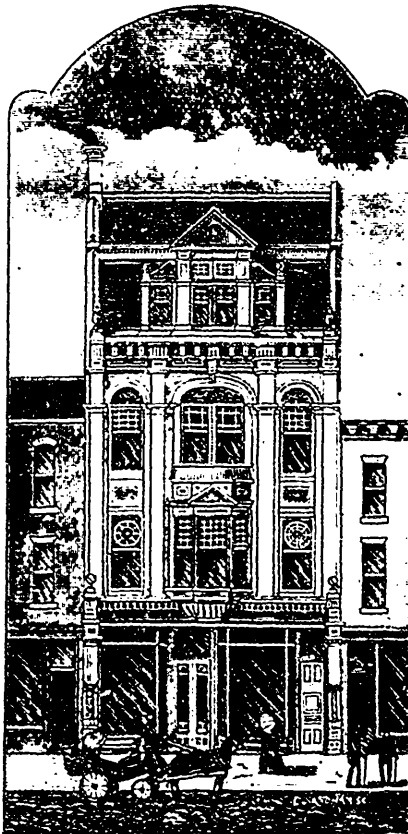
The Upper Canada Bible Society.

WEDNESDAY, May 12th, will be a day long remembered in the annals of the Upper Canada Bible Society. On that day was opened the new Bible-House in Toronto. During the afternoon it was dedicated with prayer, and in the evening the 46th Anniversary was held in Knox Church. The erection of the new Bible-House was an absolute necessity. The old building was inadequate and unsuitable for the requirements of the growing work. The Society, therefore, wisely decided to make an earnest appeal for special funds for the erection of a new building. In this action they were supported by the Committee of the Religious Tract Society, which is a joint occupant of the building. The work has been carried on successfully to its completion, a commodious and elegant building has been erected, and a worthy home provided for the Society, which must ever retain the first place amongst our Christian and benevolent associations, and for its loyal handmaid, the Tract Society.

The land on which the building stands was owned originally by the late Mr. Jesse Ketchum (a name familiar to, and much revered by Toronto citizens). He gave the societies a perpetual

lease of it at a very moderate rent, to be paid in Bibles and books to be distributed annually in the public schools of Toronto. This is the origin of the Ketchum prizes which are annually awarded in the public schools for the best knowledge of the Bible.

The Upper Canada Bible Society was formed at a meeting held May 6th, 1840, in the old Methodist church on Newgate street (now Adelaide street). It had, however, previously existed from December, 1828, under the name of the York Auxiliary Bible Society for a period of six years. In 1834 its name was changed to the City of Toronto Bible Society. Its first annual meeting was in February, 1830, and its annual income was reported to be £128 18s.; its total issues, 542; and its branches, thirteen. The first annual meeting under its present name was in 1841. Its income had been increased to £918; its issues to 8,721; and its branches to 88. In 1861, its income was \$19,770; its issues, 30,000; and its branches, 258. For the past ten or twelve years its income had fluctuated between \$28,000 and \$33,000, and its issues between 30,000 and 40,000. There were now 450 branches. There had been only three Presidents, Hon. J. H. Dunn, from 1828 to 1845; Hon. Robert Baldwin, from 1845 to 1859; and



NEW BUILDING OF THE U. C. BIBLE SOCIETY, TORONTO.