

## REPORT.

It was the saying of one who was an able advocate for the truth of the Holy Scriptures, that a proper education is the parent of piety and of good morals; this saying referred not to general learning, or polite literature, but had its immediate bearing upon the morals of the Bible. Observation teaches us, that in every land, and in every clime, where the word of God has been known and received in its spirituality and simplicity, it has in a high degree ameliorated the condition of mankind,—and it may justly be said, that in an exact proportion as this Divine light has been received, or rejected that that nation has been, and is, happy or miserable. In looking back to the age of the great lawgiver, how melancholy was the condition of all nations, ingulfed in the grossest idolatry and paganism. Jehovah himself declared, that of all the nations of the earth, the tribes of Israel were the only people that he knew. The wisdom of the Egyptians, Babylonians and Persians; and all the learning of Greece and Rome, respecting the Divine Being, was foolishness—"the world by wisdom knew not God." Such was the state of moral darkness which enveloped the world, that the most enlightened Heathen Philosophers, who ever adorned the history of man added not one ray of Gospel light to dispel the gloom, and prove to the world the immortality of the soul, and a future state of rewards and punishments. The advent of the Messiah showed the vast importance of the Oracles of the living God given to the Jews. His sermons and miracles, His death and resurrection, His commission to the Apostles, (declaring to them that all power was given to them in Heaven and in earth,) was, to go forth and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. The gifts of the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost, and the astonishing Miracles wrought by the Apostles, were undeniable proofs that the religion of Jesus was from Heaven, and that he, by his mission to this earth, brought life and immortality to light, by the preaching of the Gospel.

Since then the Holy Scriptures have been making their way over the whole earth, and extending their hallowed leaves for the healing of the nations. In our day, we see the accomplishment of many of the Prophecies of the Old Testament, and of that very particular one (in the 72d psalm,) of the extent of the Redeemer's Kingdom. He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth. His name shall endure forever, his name shall be continued as long as the sun, and men shall be blessed in him, all nations shall call him blessed.

We are assembled this day for the purpose of assisting in the circulation of the Scriptures. Your committee in giving the first report of the proceedings of the Richmond Hill Branch Bible Society, are fully aware of their want of experience, and materials—but let us not be discouraged, let us consider that a small beginning is often a good beginning—let us remember the servant, to whom one pound was de-