

1875.	Dr.	1875.	Cr.
Dec. 31.	To paid for Publications.....	Dec. 31.	By Balance last year.....
"	"	"	Received for Periodicals.....
"	Postage.....	"	"
"	Insurance.....	"	Store Sales.....
	\$15,824 92		\$ 179 97
	4821 29		8331 03
	37 50		9771 53

BRITISH AMERICAN BOOK AND TRACT SOCIETY IN ACCOUNT WITH G. H. STARR, ESQ., TREASURER

Year ending December 31st, 1875.

SERMON

*Preached in Fort Massey Church, Halifax, N. S., on the eve of Sabbath,
the 27th February, 1876, in behalf of the "British American Book
and Tract Society,"*

By the REV. R. F. BURNS, D. D.

NUM. xxiii. 23, "What hath God wrought!"

"The British American Book and Tract Society" is no stranger now to any of you. It has had a vigorous and healthy existence and is on the eve of holding its Eighth Anniversary. It has already verified the truth uttered by Balaam the Shulite, "If thou wouldst seek unto God betimes and make thy supplication to the Almighty," "Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase."—Job viii, 5 and 7. Even "according to this time," may we say with Balaam, as of "Jacob and Israel" "What hath God wrought"—"That the soul be without knowledge it is not good." Such Societies are designed to supply knowledge of the best kind—the excellency of the knowledge of Christ. They furnish a common platform on which Christians of different denominations can meet and move. They have grown out of the fact, that in these days "many run to and fro, and knowledge is increased." They have been necessitated by the wondrous activity of the emissaries of the great enemy in sowing tares. The impassioned Irish orator, Grattan, declared on the floor of the British House of Commons, at a critical epoch of British history, and to some extent it still holds true: "There is an infidel and profane, a low and polluted press at work, which, setting in like an under-current with great force, is drifting many in the humble classes of the community into irreligion, Atheism and vice. This under-current, if left unchecked and not supplanted, especially, if not arrested by the Almighty Spirit of the living God, giving efficacy to the labors of religious men, will, ere long, become the main-tide—break in at every door, dash its foul spray in every face, till a great proportion of our people shall have become contaminated, and society, at last, weary of the increasing burden, by some violent thro, shall shake her encumbered lap and cast it off." Our modern Tract Societies were designed to rear a breakwater against this advancing tide. They are needed still—perhaps never more than now. We live in a novel reading age. The novel is everywhere. The very literature Grattan describes and denounces is in circulation through our land.