

ry Secretary to His Excellency Sir John Coape Sherbrooke, the then Lieutenant Governor of this Province. Colonel Addison became its first Secretary, and Sir John C. Sherbrooke its first President. On looking back to a period of nearly forty years, it may be interesting at this moment to refer to the names of the first official members of the Society, as given in the first published Report: the changes which are thus evident will read a lesson to their successors in office of the necessity of "working while it is called to-day."

The following is a list of the official members at the period alluded to.

PRESIDENT.

His Excellency Sir J. C. Sherbrooke.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

Admiral the Right Hon. Sir J. B. Warren.
Vice Admiral the Hon. Sir Alexr. Cochrane.
The Hon. Commissioner Wodehouse.
Sir John Wentworth, Bart.
Sir John Wardlaw, Bart.
The Hon. Chief Justice Blowers.

COMMITTEE.

Honbles. J. Stewart, T. N. Jeffery, John Black; Lieut Col. Addison, Revds. Dr. Gray, James Robson, W. Black, J. Burton, W. Sutcliffe; L. M. Wilkins, L. Hart-horne, S. B. Noble, James Fraser, H. H. Cogswell, John Lawson, William Lawson, John Howe, James Forman, James Thom, Samuel Head, William Anderson, R. Kidston, jr., Jno Starr, George Grassie, Esquires; Messrs. M. G. Black, J. Farquharson, J. N. Shannon, and George Brown.

TREASURER.

H. H. Cogswell, Esquire.

SECRETARY.

Lieutenant Colonel Addison.

During the first year of our Auxiliary's operations £600 stig. were remitted to the Parent Society, and 230 Bibles and 200 Testaments were imported and distributed.

War was then raging between Great Britain and the United States, and one of the first transactions connected with the infant Society was a correspondence which had taken place in the previous year between our present Treasurer, M. G. Black, Esq., and the Secretary of the Massachusetts Bible Society, relative to the capture by an American privateer of a large shipment of Bibles and Testaments, which had been sent out by the Parent Society for subscribers in this Province. The following are extracts from the correspondence referred to.

"Boston, June 21, 1813.

"DEAR SIR,—At the late annual meeting of the Bible Society of Massachusetts, some facts were laid before them relating to an invoice of Bibles found on board a British vessel, which was captured by a privateer belonging to New York, and carried into Portland. By the invoice, they appear to have been purchased by subscribers to the British and Foreign Bible Society.—Exertions were made in Portland and its vicinity to purchase the books and restore them to their owners, but this design, we learn, was defeated; and they are now dispersed into so many different hands, that it will be impossible to collect them again. Still, however, the Society are unwilling that the reproach of preventing the execution of the pious and benevolent design for which these books were sent out, should fasten on our country; they have therefore voted to take measures to send to Nova Scotia an invoice of Bibles to the same amount. The society direct me to express their deep regret that any occurrence should have so long detained so many copies of the Bible from their proper destination; and that to the other calamities of the disastrous war, in which our country is engaged, there should be added any interruption of the charitable and munificent labors of their fellow christians in Great Britain, in diffusing the knowledge of the Word of God.

"I am, dear sir, &c.,

(Sd) "SAMUEL C. TRACHER,

"Cor. Sec'y Mass. Bible Society;

"To Mr. M. G. BLACK, Halifax."

In a subsequent letter from Mr. Thacher to the Assistant Secretary of the Parent society, dated 9th November, 1813, he states:—"As soon as the fact of the capture became known to the Bible Society of Massachusetts, they felt it to be their duty to endeavour to repair the evil which the rapacity of some of their countrymen had occasioned. By direction of the society I wrote a letter to Mr Black, requesting information on the subject. Meanwhile, a subscription was set on foot in this town to raise a sum sufficient for our purpose. We found a readiness and even eagerness among our citizens, as far as possible, to shake off from our country, the disgrace of this transaction." With this letter was sent a remittance of £165 stig. to cover the loss, which was considered preferable to receiving back a similar number of Bibles, and the following sentence closes the correspondence:—"We indulge the hope that we shall not again have to number it among the calamities of a war, in which we cannot cease to regret that two nations, allied in feelings, habits, interest, language, and origin, should be engaged, that it counteracts, in any degree, the exertions of any of the charitable institutions of Great Britain; or tends to loosen or break that glorious chain of mutual benevolence which ought to bind together the disciples of Christ of every nation and clime, without regard to political animosities."

The first branch Societies which became connected with our Auxiliary—(Pictou having already become an independent society)—were Liverpool, Cumberland, Annapolis, Argyle, Chester, and Cornwallis. Subsequently new branches were opened in almost all of the settled districts of the Province, and large remittances were made to the Parent Society. But as years rolled on the operations of the Branches began gradually to decline, and in consequence, in the year 1828, an agent, the Rev. Mr. West, was sent out from the Parent Society. His presence was of great service in reanimating the various branches which at this time were 15 in number, besides 2 ladies' associations.

Again apathy to the cause began to appear, and was not checked until the arrival of the Rev. Dr. Thomson, the Parent Society's travelling agent, who reached this country in the year 1840. He immediately commenced his extensive tours through the Province, which were continued for the space of nearly two years. During this period he revived the operations of the various societies then existing, and formed many new branches, so that when he left us there were more than 40 societies in the Province connected with the British and Foreign Bible Society.

In 1847 declension again prevailed, which led to the appointment of our present travelling agent Mr Isaac Smith, who commenced his labours, in 1848. He found but 16 societies in operation, but during that and the following years of his agency he succeeded in raising up many new branches, some of them in places never before visited, so that there are now in the Province 74 societies in connection with the Parent Institution, and all in efficient operation.

Since the formation of this Auxiliary to the present time there have been received from the Parent Society upwards of 37,000 Bibles and 36,344 Testaments, and there have been remitted to it £7728 sterling.

Such have been the results of our Auxiliary during its existence in the circulation of the Scriptures. It cannot be doubted that much more might have been done, but your Committee are grateful that even so much has been effected, and they hope that the present is but the beginning of a brighter day in the usefulness of their institution both in circulating the scriptures, and in contributing to the funds of the parent society.

So soon as the Jubilee movement of the Parent Society was announced your committee considered it their duty at once to adopt measures of co-operation. At their first meeting after the Society's circular was received they passed a series of resolutions to carry out this object and the circular and resolutions were widely disseminated

throughout the Province. A Jubilee Committee of their body was appointed and arrangements were made to adopt the suggestions of the parent committee both as to the mode of celebrating the year, and the formation of a Jubilee Fund. At a commencement, a most interesting meeting was held at St. Matthew's Church in this city on Tuesday the 8th of last March, when an able and eloquent address on the subject of the Bible Society and the Jubilee movement was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Forrester, which was listened to with deep attention by a numerous audience.—On the following Sabbath sermons having reference to the Bible Society were preached in most of the churches of this city and elsewhere, and collections were made in aid of the Jubilee fund.

The Jubilee Committee feeling the importance of awakening attention to the movement among the population in the interior of the Province, commenced the publication of a paper called the "Jubilee Remembrancer" two numbers of which have appeared and have been very generally circulated. They contain interesting information relative to the progress of the cause both at home and abroad, and it is believed they have been of service in directing the minds of our friends to the importance of contributing to the Jubilee Fund. The Jubilee Committee also considered it of importance to retain the services of Mr. Smith, with special reference to this object in order that meetings should be held in the country generally and contributions collected.—Mr. Smith entered upon this duty in the month of July last, and has been engaged in it to the present time. From his report we learn that he has visited the following places—viz., Newport, Windsor, Falmouth, Horton, Cornwallis, Aylesford, Lawrence town, Wilmot, Bridgetown, Granville, Annapolis, Clements, Hillsburgh, Digby, Weymouth, Yarmouth, Barrington, Shelburne, Liverpool, Caledonia, Milton, Mills Village, Petite Riviere, Bridgewater, New Germany, Lunenburg, Chester, Margaret's Bay, and Upper and Middle Musquodoboit, and he intends to continue his journeys to several of the Branches to the eastward of the capital. Meetings were held in most of the places enumerated and the results have been exceedingly gratifying. By these means your committee are pleased to have it in their power to state that up to the present period a very handsome sum has been raised within the limits of our auxiliary in aid of the Jubilee fund, which they hope will be still further augmented. The following statement will show the amount now in the treasurer's hands received for this object:—

Collected by Mr. Smith from the various branches &c. in the country } 235 5 11
Contributions sent from the country } 22.14 9
to the treasurer }
Received from the country } £258 0 8
In Halifax—subscriptions, donations }
&c. to the Jubilee fund, including } 138 4 3
£7 from the St. Matthews Church }
Ladies' Association, }
Collections made in the several } 58 12 4
Churches, }

Total, £454 17 3

Rec'd since above statement was made 34 12 3½

489 9 6½

Your Committee feel thankful that the efforts of the Jubilee Committee have been thus far successful, they desire that the contributions from this society and from the Province, which have received so many benefits from the Parent Institution, should mark the gratitude which is felt, and they therefore still confidently appeal to the liberality of such of their friends as may not yet have had an opportunity of aiding in the work.

But your committee would not only refer to the past, or dwell upon the present, they would also direct your thoughts to the future, and ask you to look forward, and most of all to look upward. He who hath guided the parent institution through all the trials and difficulties of the