

REPORT OF THE STRATFORD BRANCH BIBLE SOCIETY.

Stratford, 13th March, 1850.

A Public Meeting of the inhabitants of this place was held in the Congregational Church, on the evening of the 7th February last, for the purpose of re-organizing a Branch Bible Society. The Rev. Mr. Richardson, the Travelling Agent of the Upper Canada Bible Society, and several Clergymen, of different Denominations, were present, and addressed the Meeting at great length, on the importance of circulating the Word of God, and the advantages of Bible Societies, especially to the poor and ignorant. It was then unanimously agreed that an effort should be made to re-organize the Stratford Branch Bible Society. A motion was made that certain gentlemen, whose names were specified, be appointed as Office-Bearers of the Society. After a very lengthened discussion of the subject, it was proposed, and unanimously agreed to, that each Minister in the place should use his influence to get as many subscribers as possible to the funds of the Society, and that a Public Meeting of such subscribers be convened at an early day, to appoint the necessary Office-Bearers.

Accordingly, a Public Meeting of subscribers was held on the 12th March, when the Rev. Mr. McPherson, Missionary from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, at present officiating Minister in the Stratford Free Church, and Rev. Mr. Dignam, Wesleyan Minister, attended, and took an active part in the proceedings. The several Ministers being called on to report the success of their labours, as agreed at the previous meeting, no definite information could be obtained from the Rev. Mr. Heckie and the Rev. Mr. Durrant, who did not attend, and had sent no communication to the Meeting.

The Rev. Mr. Dignam stated, that being from home nearly all the time that had elapsed since the previous Meeting, he had not had an opportunity of bringing the matter efficiently before his people, but promised to do so as soon as convenient.

The Rev. Thomas McPherson stated, that he had brought the claims of the Society before the Free Church, and that the following ladies of his congregation had been requested to solicit subscriptions, in their respective districts; and that the result of a few hours' labour on their part was as follows:—

Mrs. Linton, Mrs. T. M. Daly, and Mrs. Sutherland,	£4 15 7½
Miss Meilson and Mrs. C. Rankin,	3 10 0
Miss Easson,	1 0 0
Mrs. William Dunn,	0 14 0
Mrs. Wm. Roseburgh,	0 18 9
Mrs. John McFarlane,	1 5 6
Miss Redford,	1 6 9
Miss Beatriee Wood,	2 16 0½
Total,	£16 6 8

The Meeting then proceeded to the election of Office-Bearers; and with the view of preventing every appearance of sectarian predominancy, and of enlisting the co-operation of all who are friendly to the diffusion of Divine light, it was agreed that a fair representation of each Denomination of professing Christians in the place be given, and accordingly elected. Dr. John Hyde, President; Mr. Robert Monteith, Vice-President; Mr. C. R. Dickson, Treasurer and Depositary; and Mr. Alex. McGregor, Secretary. Messrs. Edward Duncan, Thomas Dunbar, U. C. Lee, Andrew Monteith, John McFarlane, T. M. Daly, George Wood, Matthew Neilson, James Redford, William Rooney, Andrew Graham, James Brown, A. F. Mickle, John Sharman, Michael Byers, Hugh Hunter, and Thomas Bradshaw, Committee.

This arrangement is likely to give general satisfaction. The Society seems to be properly and efficiently established; and with the stock now on hand, and likely to accumulate, will, no doubt, by the blessing of God, go on and prosper.