

# FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MONTREAL AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

On Wednesday evening, January the 28th, the third of the anniversary meetings for the week, that of the Montreal Auxiliary Bible Society, was held in St. James Street W.M. Church. There was a very large attendance, the church being packed both in the galleries and below.

The devotional services were conducted by Rev. Gavin Lang, who offered a fervent and most appropriate prayer for the blessing of God on his work in that department.

The Chairman prefaced the exercises by giving a short account of the work, congratulating both themselves and the kindred societies upon their having obtained such permanent and comfortable quarters as they had in the new Young Men's Christian Association Building.

The various resolutions presented were advocated by the following gentlemen: The *first* by the Revds. Dr. Wilkes, and James Green; the *second* by the Rev. Canon Bancroft, and Rev. A. Sutherland; the *third*, by the Rev. Dr. Duryea, of Brooklyn, New York, and the Rev. Dr. MacVicar. The Secretary of the Society, the Rev. Dr. Cornish read the Annual Report from which we extract as follows:—

**REPORT FOR 1873.**—The Report now to be presented is the Fifty-third in the history of this Society; and whilst it has not to deal with any incidents of a specially note-worthy character, it yet tells of general growth and prosperity. As heretofore, the several departments of the Society's operations will be briefly adverted to by your Committee.

**BRANCHES.**—These have been regularly visited by the Rev. James Green, your travelling agent, for the purpose of holding public meetings, inspecting the Depositories, and settling accounts. In his report, Mr. Green speaks cheerfully and hopefully of the general condition of the various parts of the field of operations. His reception by the people has been, as usual, uniformly kind and sympathetic, and he has received cordial co-operation from ministers and office-bearers in his work. He says: Onward is our motto, and it is in unison with a large and liberal sentiment of the country, and one that is extending every year. There is no disposition to rest satisfied with the increase and enlargement of former years, for the people of God in this country are more earnestly and more confidently looking forward to a glorious future of success. There have, however, been in some places derangement and difficulties of an unusual kind, arising from the rancour and strife of political excitement, and whilst these have not seriously damaged the cause, they have yet to some extent retarded it; for parties who differ so widely and become so heated in strife on one subject, are not easily united on any other.

During the year three new Branches have been formed.

The state of the funds exhibits a gratifying increase, [there being an excess of receipts of nearly \$1,000 from Branches on account of last year as compared with the previous year. A pleasing incident was reported by Mr. Green the other day, which, though it does not fall within the facts of the year, now reported, deserves immediate and honourable mention. One friend of the Bible work made a donation of \$700 for the promotion of the work in which the Society is engaged, a bright example, and worthy of imitators.

**COLPORTAGE OPERATIONS.**—During the past year there have been in the service of the Society, for longer or shorter periods, nine Colporteurs, each with a separate District assigned to him. Of these, three have been labouring in Districts almost wholly French-speaking, and another in a district where the Catholic population is more than double the Protestant. With one exception, they are able to freely use the language of the majority, as it is their native tongue. But the obstacles and discouragements connected with this department of Colportage do not, your Committee regret to say, diminish in the face of the efforts made to overcome them. But instead of finding in this fact a ground for relaxation of effort, rather let all who wish