

descriptions, were town. This was the extent to which the Committee felt themselves, under all circumstances, at liberty to go; but several most extreme cases afterward calling for assistance, a further quantity of 60 bushels was distributed amongst these.

Although the Committee could not but consider themselves as departing from the strict letter of the rules of the Institution in making the above grants, yet in looking forward from seed time to that of harvest, and recollecting that what they were about to do, would be equal, under the advantages of only an ordinary season, to giving at the latter period at least three thousand bushels, they could not hesitate a moment as to what was their duty.

Aware that the field for the operations of this society, must of necessity from the pressure of the times, during the present winter, be very large, the Committee were anxious to leave as much provision as possible for the wants of the poor, in the hands of their successors in office, particularly of wood and potatoes, but on examining the state of the funds for this purpose, they found them completely exhausted. Several benevolent individuals, however, who were also sensible of the importance of having a stock of the latter article on hand, kindly offered for the use of the Society as much money as would purchase a thousand bushels, and the Committee accordingly secured that quantity, while at the low price of one shilling per bushel, which, with the permission of the Committee of the Acadian School, are deposited in the cellar of that building.

The Committee are sorry to be under the necessity of announcing a defalcation of about forty-pounds in the collections of the year, compared with those of the preceding one—The whole amount collected and paid into the hands of the Treasurer exclusive of the Legislative Grant, has been £319 18: 1½; that of the year before £360: 9: 9. They are, however, in some degree, enabled to account for it, and they do not conceive it is so much owing to the diminished means of the community, or to any abatement in its liberality, as to the very great difficulty they have experienced in finding gentlemen willing to accept the office of Visitors.

To this difficulty it has also been owing that in some wards of the town, it is possible some cases of distress may not have been attended to with that promptitude the Committee could have wished, and that in others some impositions may have occurred. The Committee did indulge the hope, that from what had been said in the last Report, a sufficient number of gentlemen would have stepped forward to carry into effect the charitable intentions of the Society in every ward of the town;