

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE Kingston Ladies' Bible Association.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

PRESIDENT:
MRS. MACHAR.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:
**MRS. McLEOD, MRS. CARTWRIGHT, MRS. MAIR,
MRS. MUCKLESTON.**

TREASURER:
MRS. CLARKE.

SECRETARY;
MISS F. DUPUY.

COMMITTEE:

Wives of Ministers who qualify as Members of this Association; Mrs. Macaulay, Mrs. Macnee, Mrs. Paton, Mrs. Yates, Mrs. Kerr, Mrs. H. Fraser, Mrs. McAlister, Mrs. Chaffey, Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. Irons, Mrs. J. Fraser, Mrs. Aitkins, Mrs. Skinner, Mrs. Corbett, Mrs. Hobart, Mrs. Moffat, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Grange, Mrs. Gunn, Mrs. R. Chown, Miss Sampson, Miss Twining, Miss Fowler, Miss Gray, Miss M. Gray, Miss Robertson, Miss Charlotte Dupuy, Miss Mair, Miss Mowat, Miss Stoughton, Miss Harper, Miss Hill, Miss B. Hill, Miss Beath, Miss Patterson, Miss C. F. Dupuy, Miss McAlister, Miss Jenkins, Miss Coy, Miss Hardy, Miss Bell, Miss Bibby.

REPORT.

In bringing this Report before their friends, the Committee of the Kingston Ladies' Bible Association, in connection with the British and Foreign Bible Society, would give to God the glory, who has enabled them to persevere in this work of faith and labor of love for sixteen years.

I. CIRCULATION OF SCRIPTURES.

Distributed by the Ladies and Bible Woman during the year, and by the Colporteur during two months—127 Bibles, 201 Testaments, and 11 Gospels.

II. THE TREASURY.

The Treasurer's Report shows that the sum of \$206.67½ has been collected during the year, \$13.77½ of which has been for the sale of Bibles.

The expenditure has been \$171.58—leaving a balance of \$35.09½ in Treasurer's hands.

III.

The balance in the Treasury being larger than usual, your Committee resolved to send a small sum to the Parent Society. \$25, or £5 Sterling, was sent to the Kingston Society with a request that they would transmit it to the British and Foreign Bible Society.

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An extract from the Colporteur's Report is here added. "As a Colporteur for the Kingston Ladies' Bible Association I began my labors on the 9th October, 1865, in the County of Lennox, travelling through the Townships of Richmond, Fredericksburgh, Tyendinaga and Camden. In two months I sold 242 volumes of the Scriptures. I found the people of all creeds very kind, and if they would not buy from me, they would treat me in a friendly manner. I met with some very poor people—one woman with five children, poorly clad, wanted a Bible for 1s. 3d. She told me to ask the owner of the next house to pay me for it, as her husband worked there, but he refused, and it affected her so much, that I gave her one at my own expense, not knowing then that the Ladies would wish me to give Bibles. Every day a Colporteur has opportunities to speak a word for the Lord. At one house I met five or six men and women. One man said they had plenty of Bibles, but they did not read them. When I spoke to them of the awful consequences of such neglect of God's Word, some of them thanked me, and said they knew it was for the good of their souls. I found a man on his death-bed, and spoke to him of the change that was necessary if he would go to heaven. He asked me to pray with him, and I did so. There are difficulties which ladies and gentlemen are not aware of; and if it was not because the work is the Lord's, the heads of Colporteurs would often hang down. Still it is a cause of thankfulness to see the desire people have generally for the spread of the Gospel. They wish the Colporteur God speed, and encourage him by their kindness.

"May the Word of the Lord spread until every house shall have a Bible, and every heart be filled with the love of God."

V.

A short account of the Bible Woman's work is here given from the Lady Superintendent's Report.

The former Bible Woman, Miss Henley, being incapacitated by ill-health from performing the duties of the office, Mrs. Jack was engaged for this important mission in April last. She has proved herself a faithful, zealous and peculiarly well-qualified worker, devoting three afternoons of each week to visiting, (except when laid aside by illness) during a period of nearly three months. She generally visits ten or twelve families in an afternoon, and takes with her some of the Society's Bibles, which she offers for sale, going in this way to every house, but repeating her visits only where she sees they are needed. She has in this way

sold 52 copies of the Scriptures and 6 of single gospels. She has frequently met with the exclamation—"How can Bibles be printed so cheaply," and her explanation of their cheapness awakens considerable interest in the Bible Society.—The most important and useful part of the work is that of personal conversation and influence with those of her own sex, whom she thus visits at their homes, reading and praying with them wherever she finds it expedient. Many of the parents in these houses never attend a place of public worship, and their children go to neither Sabbath or Day School. Among such, her efforts have been very persevering; her kindly exhortations and interest and sympathy with which she enters into their troubles, seems often to be the means of awakening, at least, a desire for reformation. In some cases where she has met with poor women, once respectable, but whose course has been an ineffectual struggle with difficulties, and a gradual descent into poverty and wretchedness, she has met with a softening and impressibility of spirit which is very encouraging; and in some instances she has had the satisfaction of seeing visible results follow her labors. Intemperance among mothers of families, which is only too common, she has earnestly sought to reform—seeking to lead these poor women to Him, who alone can give strength to resist temptation.

On the whole, Mrs. Jack's visits have been well received; though sometimes it is not till they have been once or twice repeated that they awaken much response; and while encountering no instances of rudeness or refusal, even in the most degraded places, she has generally been cordially invited to return, and has met with much encouragement to persevere in her useful work.

A short extract from one of the Collectors reports may be added here.

One says, "I met in my district a family without a Bible, and fearing they would not buy one for themselves, I offered one from the Loan Stock—the next time I went there the woman had the money wrapped up ready to hand me, saying—'her husband said it was such a beautiful Bible he would not think of parting with it.'"

In closing this account of their stewardship your Committee would observe, that humble as this agency is, they believe it to be a work of the spirit, and therefore cannot doubt that God has honored, and will continue to honor, it with His blessing. In His strength they desire to labor; depending on His promises, they assure themselves of eventual success, and pray that they may carry on this work ever anticipating the sound of "Well done good and faithful servants."

Bible Association.

Abstract of issues of the Scriptures in the City of Kingston, and by the Bible Woman and Colporteur of the Kingston Ladies' Bible Association, for year beginning November 4th, 1864, and ending December 4th, 1865.

Total Copies of Scriptures issued.		Value.	
Bibles.	Test's.	Parts.	Cts.
1	104	161	11
		62	86

In addition, the Bible Woman has sold 2 Bibles and 5 Testaments with Psalms, value \$1.74; and the Colporteur has sold 21 Bibles and 35 Testaments with Psalms, value \$38.84.

Kingston Ladies' Bible Association.

Abstract of issues of the Scriptures in the City of Kingston, and by the Bible Woman and Colporteur of the Kingston Ladies' Bible Association, for year beginning November 4th, 1864, and ending December 4th, 1865.

Ladies' Bible Association and Bible Woman.		Colporteur.		Total Copies of Scriptures issued.		Value.	
Bibles.	Test's.	Parts.	Cts.	Bibles.	Test's.	Parts.	Cts.
39	22	10	104	65	139	1	161
		11	62	86			

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THE TREASURER IN ACCOUNT WITH THE

KINGSTON LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATION

from December, 1864, to December, 1865.

CR.

DR.

Paid Treasurer balance due...	\$ 14 39
" printing Annual Report,	7 00
" Depository for Bibles and Testaments,	23 64
" distributing notices,	3 00
" Book and Pencil,	0 30
" Bible Woman for 6 mos.,	43 00
" Colporteur for 2 months,	25 00
" Bible given by Colport'r	0 25
" Bibles for Loan Stock,	30 00
" transmitted to the Parent Society,	25 00
Balance in hands,	35 09½
Total	\$206 67½

DIANA CLARKE, TREASURER.

G. C. HALE, AUDITOR.

Examined and found correct.
Kingston, January 13, 1866.