

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

UPPER CANADA BIBLE SOCIETY.

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In the providence of God we are again called upon, as the Office Bearers and Directors of the Upper Canada Bible Society, to take a review of the past, and to render an account to the Society, whose representatives and delegates we are.

The review of the past is at all times a matter of deep and solemn interest. Events that might otherwise pass away and be forgotten, are recalled to the mind. The memory of lost opportunities and unimproved privileges is revived, and, at the same time, feelings of warm gratitude for unmerited favors are rekindled in our hearts. If the review of the past is at all times and in all circumstances solemn and affecting, how peculiarly solemn must be that of the last year—a season which we believe will be long remembered, and be recorded even in after generations, as a year marked by no ordinary characteristics. We need not refer at length to the events which render the by-gone year so remarkable. The sudden revolt and bloody rebellion in India—the commercial panic and crash, which swept not only over this continent, but over the civilized world—the stagnation in business—the depreciation of property—the unprecedented scarcity of money—the ruin of many who had previously been accounted wealthy, and the distress prevailing among those in more humble ranks—these are matters but too familiar to us all. Happy will it be for us, if these events shall be blessed to us, as a community and as individuals.

We have already, indeed, reason to thank God that the general and public distress has been over-ruled for good. The growing attention to spiritual things, the religious awakening which has been so extensively experienced throughout the neighboring United States, and which has in a greater or less degree been experienced in this Province, and which, we trust, will leave permanent results of a moral and religious kind: these are tokens for good, and may be regarded as indications that God's visitations have not been in vain. May these lessons, which our Father in heaven has been teaching, not be forgotten by us. May the idol of covetousness and worldliness be for ever put away, and may we henceforth regard it, not merely as a duty, but as our highest interest, to seek first the