

of reconciliation to Him as God the Father, which is through the mediation of his Son, our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, when we view the abject and ruinous condition of mankind without the Sacred Scriptures of Divine Truth, as the only means of his enlightenment, we plainly see that without them he must perish; for reason and revelation fully prove that faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. And, oh! while we think of the thick darkness that envelopes the human mind, in its natural state—of the awful situation of those who are living without God and without hope in the world, shall we sit at ease in our possessions, and not endeavour to supply their wants: shall we fold our arms in apathy, and say, “I am not my brother’s keeper.” Shall we dare thus to encounter the Divine displeasure, while so many providential openings present themselves to our view, and so many facilities within our reach, for the spreading abroad the savour of a Saviour’s name. No; the eventful era in which we live forbids it: the progress of civilization forbids it: the rapid advancement of the arts and sciences forbids it: the smiles of a gracious Providence forbids it: the pressing necessities of the unenlightened forbids it: the Macedonian cry of “Come over and help us,” that salutes our ears, from various parts of the globe, forbids it: Heaven forbids it: and the claims of the British and Foreign Bible Society forbids it; whose claims we are now advocating.

Let every Christian think of the heavenly light that first dawned upon his dark and benighted understanding, and he will see the purity of these claims; will think of the high moral and spiritual elevation to which the Gospel of Christ has raised him; and he will see the utility of these claims, and think of the many sweet and refreshing seasons he enjoys in walking with God; and he will be ready to answer these claims, and to say, with the prophet of old, “Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth.”

Your Committee regret that they have not been as assiduous in this noble enterprise as they might have been; yet they have to thank God for the comparative success that has attended their efforts. It is true, there has not been sold as many copies of the Holy Scriptures as in former years; but it must be remembered that a very active and efficient Bible Society has been established in the village of Acton, so that the field of our operations has been divided. Again, be it borne in mind, that the success which has attended the efforts of this Society in by-gone years must tend to reduce the amount of room that formerly did exist for the circulation of God’s most Holy Word. These, together with the many other facilities that now exist for the dissemination of the Word of Life, considerably lessen the sphere of our operations.

Your Committee presents the following, as a brief outline of their labours for the year now past:—We had books on hand, at the commencement of this year, to the amount of £7 12s. 2½d. The amount of old stock on hand at present is £4 13s. 3d.; making the amount received for sales £2 18s. 11½d. Cash paid, £4 1s. 4½d.

The whole number of Bibles and Testaments now in the Depository is 42 Bibles, worth £5 2s. 10d.; and 90 Testaments, worth £2 14s. 6d.; making the whole amount £7 17s. 4d. This includes the fresh supply from Toronto, of the value of £3 18s. 1d.

Subscriptions received since last Annual Meeting, and paid to the Upper Canada Bible Society, Toronto, in March last, £5 10s.; received since, and now in hand, to pay Agent, £3 7s. 6d.

Your Committee have only to say, that they are sorry that so few have united themselves as members of your Society. They would earnestly pray that the God of all Grace may send an increase of members and exertions during the next year, in the promotion of a cause so noble and so good; feeling assured, in our own minds, that the immutable Jehovah is never failing. “So I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

Georgetown, Esquimaux, November 6, 1849.