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HISTORICAL REMINISCENCES OF THE U.C. BIBLE SOCIETY.

PAPER No. I.—PERIOD, 1817—1821.—THE LATE HON. AND RIGHT
REV. BISHOP STRACHAN AND THE BIBLE SOCIETY.

Although the Bible Society of Upper Canada, as at present organized, has completed the fortieth year of its existence—and during that time has done a noble work—yet it may be a fact new to many of its friends to know that it was only the successor of another Society, which was established “at York, Upper Canada,” eleven years before the existence of the present Society, to distribute “the Scriptures without note or comment.”

From two documents before us, entitled respectively, “The First Report of the Bible Society of Upper Canada, York, 3rd Nov., 1818,” and “Report and Proceedings of the Bible Society of Upper Canada, York, Dec. 8th, 1820,” we glean several very interesting facts. They are the more interesting from their record of the praiseworthy efforts of the late venerable Bishop Strachan to bring into prominent notice and favour in Upper Canada, the British and Foreign Bible Society. That he afterwards strongly opposed the Society is only too true; but nevertheless, the beauty and force with which, in 1818—1820, he eulogized the principles and practice of the Society, yet remain in all their freshness and vigour, and will still find an echo in the hearts of many a warm friend of the Society in this Province. We have, therefore, largely quoted from these now rare documents.*

* By way of explanation for the change in the Bishop's views, and as his justification of them, we quote the following note to page 27 of his “Letter to the Rev. Dr. Chalmers, on the Life and Charac-