

ing, a knowledge of the Gospel will progressively make its way, with silent but sure steps, until it pervade all ranks of the community.

The Committee cannot conclude this report, without recommending the designs of the Parent Society, and the branch of it established here, to the zealous co-operation, the liberal support, and the earnest prayers of those who believe that the Moral and Religious instruction of the Poor, and the diffusion of Christian Knowledge, are the best promoters of not only the temporal, but the eternal welfare of man.

By Order of the Committee.

AL. SKAKEL,
Secretary.

Montreal, May 22d, 1820.

THE SISTERS.

(continued from page 280.)

WHAT says my little Becky?—
must we send the baby away?"—
"Pray do not, daddy," she said; "I
will give her some of my breakfast;
I have always to spare, you know: I
often give part of the milk to the kit-
ten."

The worthy creatures felt happy
when they had formed this generous
determination. Their industry had
always supplied them with whole-
some food; their temperance pre-
served their health; and for them-
selves they feared not want.

The overseer of the parish, to
whom they applied, consented to
bury the stranger, and Walter and his
wife followed her to the grave. After
the last duties that humanity demand-
ed were paid, and they had given a
farewell look upon the poor object
whose penitence and forlorn state had
touched their hearts, they were met
by Mr. Stubbings, the overseer, who
inquired of them who was to take
care of the child that he found be-
longed to the woman they had receiv-

ed? The consequence he attached
to his office gave him great impor-
tance with himself; and there was
no one he loved to hear so well: from
this circumstance he was prevented
the knowledge of their benevolent in-
tentions. Not waiting for their an-
swer, he continued—"The parish, I
suppose? which is greatly obliged
to you for taking in trampers to die!
You should have sent to me; what am
I in office for? I should have carried
them off to the next town, that might
as well have had the cost as we." This
hardness of heart struck the
worthy people dumb; and the man of
importance proceeded to say, "Well,
as it is your own doing, I think you
ought to nurse the brat yourselves—
and for something less than the com-
mon price that we pay for our own
poor. It is my duty, being in office,
to save the parish money."—Rebecca
looked at her husband: their char-
itable hearts had expected no assis-
tance; but to this the man "in of-
fice" was a stranger, and had not the
remotest idea of their previous inten-
tions. They were not in a situation
to reject the offer, and agreed to ac-
cept whatever he pleased to allow
them towards the maintenance of the
child, which they would take care of;
Each party was satisfied; and Rebec-
ca returned from the church yard
determined to be a mother to "the
dear Maria."

For several years did these wor-
thy creatures bring up the two little
girls as though their claims were the
same. The gold clasps were careful-
ly preserved, though they had not
the least expectation Maria would e-
ver be restored to her friends: their
own inexperience of the world, their
situation, and their ignorance of the
constant intercourse that the re-
motest corners of the kingdom hold with
the south (from whence they remem-
bered the infant was taken,) prevent-
ed those rewards from coming to
their knowledge, that for twelve
months were offered for the lost
child.

Little Maria grew apace, and Re-