

Committee of the Religious Tract Society, which is a joint occupant of the building. The work has been carried on successfully to its completion, a commodious and elegant building has been erected, and a worthy home provided for the Bible Society, which must ever retain the first place amongst our Christian and benevolent associations, and for its loyal handmaid, the Tract Society.

The land on which the building stands was owned originally by the late Mr. Jesse Ketchum (a name familiar to, and much revered by Toronto citizens).^{*} He gave the societies a perpetual lease of it at a very moderate rent, to be paid in Bibles and books to be distributed annually in the public schools of Toronto. This is the origin of the Ketchum prizes which are annually awarded in the public schools.

The Upper Canada Bible Society was formed at a meeting held May 6th, 1840, in the old Methodist church on Newgate street (now Adelaide street). It had, however, previously existed, for nearly twelve years, from December, 1828, at first under the name of the York Auxiliary Bible Society, and afterwards under the name of the City of Toronto Bible Society. Its first annual meeting was in February, 1830, and its income was reported to be £128 18s.; its total issues, 542; and its branches, thirteen. The first annual meeting under its present name was in 1841. Its income had been increased to £918; its issues to 8,721; and its branches to 88. In 1861, its income was \$19,776; its issues, 30,000; and its branches, 258. For the past ten or twelve years its income has fluctuated between \$28,000 and \$33,000, and its issues between 30,000 and 40,000. There were now 450 branches. There has been only three Presidents, Hon. J. H. Dunn, from 1828 to 1845; Hon. Robert Baldwin, from 1845 to 1859; and Hon. G. W. Allan, from 1859 to the present time.

The number of Bibles, Testaments, and portions issued from the depository in Toronto during the past year is 41,591, being 5,866 more than during the previous year.

The recent anniversary meeting was most enthusiastic and successful. Those present gave their emphatic testimony to three great facts: "First, the Bible Society is the basal society. Its work lies at the foundation of all our Christian philanthropic work. It provides the Bible which is at once the inspiration and the source of our beneficence, and the record of the spiritual fellowship and blessing, which is the ultimate aim of all our beneficence. No missionary society could carry on its operations without this society, which alone supplies the Scriptures in most of the languages in which the missionaries labour.

"Secondly, the supporters of this society bear their emphatic testimony to the permanency and power of the Scriptures. Amidst all conflicts of society and of science they stand unmoved. Their principles are the abiding, directing, and changeless truth.

"And lastly, the supporters of the Bible Society bear witness to the reality of Christian unity. It is the most Catholic of all societies, and the most Protestant. The Bible alone is its motto and its aim. It asserts that the differences, ecclesiastical and theological, which divide Christians, do not touch the essentials of the faith. These differences are but as the ruffled surface of the storm-tossed ocean, while beneath lie the stable and tranquil depths of great truths, the mighty realities of Christian life and divine grace."

We thank God for the success which has attended the labours of the Bible Society in this Province during the past years, and we sincerely pray that its future may be one of marked progress and usefulness. With increased facilities for business, we doubt not but that an era of greater prosperity has been entered upon. We learn that there is a debt of about \$4,000 resting upon the new building. This, we trust, will ere long be removed, so that no burdens may hinder the friends connected with the Society from bending all

^{*}The building itself was purchased by the Societies in 1854.