

Supplement to the "Canadian Independent."

TORONTO, JUNE, 1881.

CANADIAN Evangelization Society

ORGANIZED JANUARY 14, 1880.

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This Society, which is unsectarian in its character, is supported entirely by *UNSOLICITED SUBSCRIPTIONS.*

Those who wish to contribute can do so by remitting to the Treasurer,

W. B. McMURRICH, Esq.,
Yonge St., Toronto.

Other communications to be addressed to the Honorary Secretary,

HENRY O'BRIEN, Esq.,
68 Church St., Toronto.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

THE OBJECT OF THE SOCIETY

Is the same as that of the great Evangelization Society of England, as they state in their report for 1880, just received: "To preach the Gospel in every part of our land remains the one object of our Society, and all the money entrusted to us goes to this end." It is more fully stated in the following extract from the Constitution of our own Society:

"The object of this Society is not the formation of any new Sect or Church, but simply the salvation of souls and the addition of members to the existing Christian Churches, and fostering increased life in them all. Its Evangelists are intended to supplement, and not to supersede or interfere with the work of the Minister, who combines the office of pastor and teacher with that of Evangelist, and whose place it is, therefore, to undertake the care and direction of converts."

PAST WORK OF THE SOCIETY.

Information as to the movements and labours of the Evangelists working under the auspices of this Society has from time to time been given to the friends of the cause of our great Master; but it will, however, be interesting and instructive now to give a short summary of the work that has been done up to the present time.

Meetings have been held, since the organization of the Society in January, 1880, at the following places: SOUTHAMPTON, conducted by Mr. Arthur Burson and Mr. George Thom; TORONTO, (Chestnut Street), by Mr. W. P. Crombie, assisted by several others; SOUTH CALEDON, by Mr. Crombie and Mr. S. R. Briggs; DON MOUNT (Toronto), by Mr. Crombie, assisted by others; WALLACEBURG, by the Rev. John Salmon and Mr. Burson; BRACEBRIDGE, by Mr. Crombie and Mr. W. A. Parlane; MORPETH, by the same gentlemen; DUNKELD, by Mr. Henry Ware; PINKERTON, by the same; TORONTO EXHIBITION, by Messrs. Ware and Crombie; YORK MILLS, by Messrs. BURSON, Ware, and Thom; WILLOWDALE, by Messrs. Burson and Crombie; SUNDERLAND, by Mr. Ware, the last meeting being conducted by Rev. Mr. Rainsford; RIDGETOWN, by Messrs. Burson and Crombie; DUART, and subsequently THAMESVILLE, by the same gentlemen.

To give some idea of the amount of work done, it may be mentioned that there were 521 meetings held by the Evangelists, besides several children's meetings, in the sixteen places that were visited.

MODE OF CARRYING ON THE WORK.

The plan adopted in carrying on the work in these places, was to have a Bible reading in the morning or afternoon, and an evangelistic service at night. In addition to this the Evangelists distributed a number of tracts, and as far as time permitted made a house to house visitation in the vicinity.

The meetings were in every case union in their character. The simple Gospel of Jesus Christ alone was preached—the great cardinal truths in which all branches of Christ's Church agree.

ATTENDANCE AND RESULTS.

The attendance at the Bible readings and evening services were at every place most satisfactory, the evening meetings especially being crowded, growing in number and interest from the beginning to the close. Very many souls professed to have found the Saviour, whilst believers were strengthened and instructed in the Scriptures. The Word of God was on all occasions prominently brought before the people, both earnestly and powerfully. The result was what might have been expected, an absence of excitement but an abiding remembrance of the saving truth, and to very many an acceptance of it, not as a matter of temporary feeling, but in the calm conviction of its certainty. Another evidence of the nature of the teaching was that the work thus happily begun has been in every instance continued to a greater or less degree by various ministers and other Christians in the neighbourhood.

We need not here repeat extracts from the various letters received, speaking of the meetings and the results following therefrom, as they have been already published. They have come from every place where the meetings have been held, and were most interesting and encouraging. One very noticeable result has been that *wherever the Evangelists have been, the membership of the various churches in sympathy with the work has been largely increased.*

NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY AND FUTURE WORK.

The conclusion drawn from the past year's work is that the field now ripening to the harvest is of vast extent, and that many will not, humanly speaking, hear the "joyful message" without some such agency as this Society affords. Our Lord declared His mission to be to *seek and to save the lost*, and the same thing is true for all time. No matter how faithful the ministers may be, *there are numbers in every neighbourhood who cannot be induced to enter a place of worship*, but who will oftentimes, or to pass an evening, go to hear the Gospel in a public hall. This cannot be too much insisted upon. It is this class that the Society more especially seeks to reach. A consideration of all this shows at once what a powerful auxiliary it may be in bringing such persons within the influence of the Church ministrations.

More invitations are before the Committee than can at present be accepted, for want of men. It is clear that the time has come when the operations of the Society should be extended. It fills a want which cannot otherwise be supplied. The Committee on their part feel the responsibility of the position in which they are placed, and, while thankfully believing that the Society has been used in bringing the Gospel home to many, now urge all Christian men and women to beseech the Lord of the vineyard to send more labourers into the harvest. They believe that the work is from Him, and that He will therefore put it into the minds of the "willing-hearted" to contribute what money may be necessary to carry it on.

The Society is supported *entirely by voluntary contributions.* There is no machinery whatever provided for collecting money. Every cent that is received goes directly to the maintenance of the work.

The Committee would now throw a due share of the responsibility in this matter on those who, having themselves tasted that the Lord is gracious, are surely only too glad to be allowed the privilege of sending the glad tidings to others who have as yet been less highly favoured.

As an encouragement it may be mentioned that the Evangelization Society of England, which had an income of only £2,295 ten years ago, was last year in receipt of £10,288 from voluntary contributions; and during the same period their meetings have increased in number (since the Society was organized in 1868-9) from 1,309 to 15,438.

FINANCES.

The total amount received by the Treasurer during the year 1880 was \$886.23, of which \$574 was composed of private subscriptions, and \$312.23 contributed by persons in the different localities where the missions were held. The details of the receipts and expenditure are given in the annexed statement of the Treasurer.

A much larger sum will be required for the coming year, as it is hoped that more men will be in the field, and if possible the Committee would like to be in a position to invite to this country one of the best known Evangelists of England.

(Continued on next page.)