



Published every Alternate Month,

Under Direction of the Upper Canada Bible Society.

VOL. XI.

TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1881.

No. 5.

#### OXFORD AND THE BIBLE SOCIETY.

In the speech made by Zachary Macaulay in 1812, at the formation of an auxiliary society for Clapham, a passage occurs which is very suggestive both in the contrast and in the similarity it indicates to the treatment which the Bible Society receives in some quarters now. He said: "Another objection to this Society has been urged with much force and dexterity, and has had some effect on particular individuals. It is, that a Society formed for the purpose of circulating the Scriptures *alone* has a tendency to bring the Liturgy of the Church of England into disrespect. I certainly will not yield to any man in cordial respect for that Liturgy. I concur entirely with those who regard it as standing in the very first rank of human compositions. But if I could believe, for one moment, that the most extensive circulation of that Book, which was given by God Himself for the instruction of mankind, could bring the Liturgy into disrespect, it would not make me less anxious for the dispersion of the Bible, but it might lead me to suspect that my attachment to the Church of England is not so well founded as I believe it to be. Indeed, if anything could alienate my feelings from that Church, it would be that the only opponents of this Institution have been found among its members; that while, in every other part of the world, this Society has no sooner been announced, than it has been received with a sort of enthusiastic ardour; that while no members of any other Church, in or out of England, not even the Roman Catholics,\* have raised their voice against it, there should be found among us, not ignorant or irreligious persons, not infidels, not profligate persons, but ministers of the Gospel, dignitaries of the Church, Doctors in Divinity, Professors in our Universities, who deem it a proof of wisdom to place themselves in battle array against it. But, blessed be God, we have many who think very differently, and who deem it their highest honour to concur with this Society in promoting the object which it has in view, the universal circulation of the Word of God."

Sixty-eight years later, at the annual meeting of the County Auxiliary,

\* The Protestant opponents of the Society have since got Papal Bulls on their side.