

SEVENTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MONTREAL
RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY,
AUXILIARY TO THE
LONDON TRACT SOCIETY.

Presented at their Annual Meeting, Jan. 24, 1843.

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*“Who hath despised the day of small things?”*  
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MONTREAL:
PRINTED BY ROLLO CAMPBELL.
AND TO BE HAD GRATIS AT THE DEPOSITORY, M'GILL STREET.

1843.

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The Seventh Tract Society on Tuesday in the Chair C. STRONG.

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MONTREAL AUXILIARY RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.

THE Seventh Annual Meeting of the Montreal Auxiliary Religious Tract Society, was held in the American Presbyterian Church, on Tuesday Evening, January 24, 1843. JOHN DOUGALL, Esq. in the Chair. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. C. STRONG. The Report was read by the Rev. J. GIRDWOOD.

Moved by Rev. WM. TAYLOR, seconded by Rev. C. STRONG, and supported by Rev. W. M'KILLICAN.

1. *Resolved*,—That the Report now read be adopted and published under the direction of the Committee.

Moved by Rev. J. T. BYRNE, and seconded by Rev. DR. DAVIES.

2. *Resolved*,—That, notwithstanding temporary causes have retarded the hitherto uniformly increasing prosperity of this Institution, our devout gratitude to God for the measure of success vouchsafed to our efforts ought to be fervent and undiminished, and should manifest itself in assiduous labours to promote its noble design.

Moved by Rev. J. J. CARRUTHERS, and seconded by Rev. H. WILKES.

3. *Resolved*,—That the simple and catholic nature of this Society, the important truths of the gospel proclaimed by its publications, and the deficiency in its funds, entitle it to a large share of pecuniary support, and to a prominent place in the prayers of Christians.

Moved by Rev. R. COONEY, and seconded by S. S. WARD, Esq.

4. *Resolved*,—That while the successful operations of the Parent Society in London are highly gratifying, its continued liberality to this Auxiliary produces in us particular interest in its magnificent labours, and reminds us of our obligations to aid its funds.

Moved by Rev. F. BOSWORTH, and seconded by JOS. WENHAM, Esquire.

5. *Resolved*,—That the following gentlemen be the Officers and Committee for the next year, with power to add to their number

HENRY VENNOR, Esq. *Treasurer*.

Rev. JOHN GIRDWOOD, *Corresponding Secretary*.

Mr. JAMES MILNE, *Recording Secretary and Depositary*.

COMMITTEE.

MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL, resident in this City.

Messrs. William Lunn,
James Ferrier,
John Mathewson,
James R. Orr,
J. C. Becket,
James Court,
J. Birks,
Henry Lyman,
John Bowles,
James Mills,
J. C. Beers,
A. Adams,
Dr. Holmes,

Messrs. J. Fraser,
C. A. Adams,
William Hutchison,
Thomas Wilson,
Rollo Campbell,
Joseph Leeming,
A. Hamilton,
J. Morris,
W. M. Ogden,
W. C. Evans,
C. Brent,
Capt. Maitland.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

MONTREAL RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.

1. That this Society be denominated *The Montreal Religious Tract Society, Auxiliary to the Religious Tract Society in London*, and that the Tracts circulated by this Society be chiefly those published by the Parent Institution.

2. That a Subscriber of One Dollar per annum, or upwards, be a Member of this Society, and be entitled to receive Tracts, upon application for them *within the year*, to the amount of one half his annual subscription.

3. That one fourth of the funds of this Society, if practicable, be annually transmitted to the Parent Institution, in aid of its funds for circulating Religious Tracts throughout the world.

4. That the Tracts purchased by Subscribers, or others, of the Society, be *paid for on delivery*.

5. That the business of this Society shall be conducted by a Committee, consisting of fifteen members, together with the Treasurer and Secretaries, who shall be chosen at an Annual General Meeting of this Society; and that three Members constitute a quorum.

6. That all resident Clergymen be members of the Committee, *ex-officio*.

7. That the Committee shall have power to add to their number; and shall appoint a Depository, and a Collector or Collectors; and shall hold their meetings monthly, or oftener, as may be required.

8. That an Annual Public Meeting of this Society shall be held, when a Report of its proceedings and the general state of its affairs, shall be presented to the Subscribers, and Officers and Committee chosen for the ensuing year.

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SOCIETY.

ANNUAL REPORT.

YOUR Committee, in appearing before their friends and supporters, cannot refrain from alluding to the beneficial effects of holding the last Anniversary Meetings of the kindred Societies in the same week. That was a season of hallowed pleasure and Christian liberality. The Anniversary of this Institution took place on the Monday evening, when a tone was given to the Meetings, which was felt during the week. The advocacy of a Society so benevolent in its object, and so catholic in its character, as the Religious Tract Society, could not fail to secure this happy result. May the same holy influence pervade the various meetings this year.

On the present occasion your Committee regret there is not much to record of positive good arising from the labours of the past year; but when they think of the number of valuable publications, and the great amount of precious truth circulated, they indulge a hope that the seed sown will produce in multitudes fruits of righteousness to the glory of God and the eternal well-being of men.

It has been the privilege of your Committee on past Anniversaries to congratulate their constituents on an increase in every department of the Society's operations.

Although, however, the publications of the Society are every year gaining more of the public confidence;

yet several causes have this year operated against the increase of its sales, and especially against its free income. The severe pressure on every department of industry, has been felt by your Society, in common with other religious and benevolent Institutions. Still we are thankful to the God of truth for that measure of prosperity granted to our humble efforts; and hope, that when the present emergency is past, we shall go on to disseminate the works of good and great men, amongst the rapidly increasing population of our rising country.

GRANT FROM THE PARENT SOCIETY.

We have again been intrusted by our indulgent and munificent Parent with a grant of Tracts, to the value of *Thirty Pounds Sterling*, which has enabled us to "devise liberal things" to others, as will appear in the statements of the Depository.

RECEIPTS OF PUBLICATIONS.

There have been received into the Depository during the year, 53,772 Tracts; bound Books and other Publications 2917. Total, 56,689. The grant of Tracts above alluded to is included in this enumeration.

ISSUES.

There have been issued from the Depository during the year, bound Books and other Publications, 6825; Tracts, 70,672. Total—77,497, of which the particulars will be given in the Appendix.

The value of the issues amounts to £276 0s. 4d. Of this sum £58 3s. 3d. was for gratuitous distribution in Tracts and Children's Books. See Appendix.

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BIBLES AND TESTAMENTS, WITH THE SCOTCH
VERSION OF THE PSALMS AND PARAPHRASES.

A fresh supply of these was ordered through our kind friends Messrs. DENNISTOUN, BRYCE & Co. of Glasgow, and furnished by Messrs. FRANCIS ORR & SONS. The value of the order was £32 sterling, which has been remitted to them. It is found that to keep in your Depository the Scriptures with these appendages, is very convenient to many of our Scotch friends.

PARENT SOCIETY.

By the Forty-Third Report of this truly excellent Institution, we learn that its issues for last year were 16,469,551. The total circulation of the Society, including the issues of Foreign Societies assisted by it, is THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SEVEN MILLIONS.

The entire value of the sales of the Society for the year, is £45,635 2s. 7d.; its gratuitous issues amount to £8,329 1s. 8d., while its benevolent income is only £5,826 17s. 8d.; thus having given to the public £2,502 4s. more than it received, of free contribution.

The great liberality of this admirable Society deserves enlarged assistance from all who love truth, and desire its dissemination throughout the earth. Its operations are extended to almost every habitable part of the globe. In every place where missionaries have penetrated, and even where mere political and commercial connexions have been formed, there publications of the Society are diffusing light and knowledge, and leading men to the Lord Jesus Christ as the Saviour of sinners. During the year the number of new publications which have been issued, is 220. Some of these are books of great value, and well illustrated. Great attention is, as usual, bestowed in providing food of the best kind for the young and tender mind.

MONTREAL ASSOCIATION
FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS TRACTS.

This Association holds on its course with a zeal that is highly commendable. Some of its members have ceased to labour; but of others it is only justice to say, "they have done what they could." The opposition from the Romish priesthood is systematic and determined; and great caution is now necessary on the part of the distributors, not to give tracts to those Roman Catholics who will destroy them. A more extended detail of the proceedings of this Association will be printed in the Appendix of this report.

Besides the recorded instances of usefulness reported by the Association for the distribution of Religious Tracts, we have heard of other cases in which the publications of the Society have been blessed to the good of souls; but as the particulars have not been furnished, we can only allude to these tokens of divine approbation.

Your Depositary having to make frequent journeys to various parts of the Province, is in the habit of taking with him Tracts and Children's Books for distribution. He finds that the Tracts are received with gratitude, and has reason to believe they are read with avidity. The Children's Books are every where received with delight by the juvenile part of the community. In some places they have never before been seen.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY.

The Seventeenth Annual Report of this Institution furnishes the following interesting particulars. Total circulated during the year: volumes, 185,152; publications, 4,478,799; making the entire circulation since

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the formation of the Society 1,790,114 volumes, 63,869,382 publications. Five hundred and twenty-four distinct *grants* of publications have been made; the total value of which amounted to \$10,403 01. The total receipts were \$91,155 14. This sum is less than the previous year by \$7807 45; and the donations are less than any year since 1833. The report presents many well authenticated instances of usefulness.

UPPER CANADA TRACT AND BOOK SOCIETY.

This Society has published its Tenth Annual Report, from which it appears that it has issued last year 44,352 Tracts; Books, &c. 12,575. Total—56,927 publications; besides 29 libraries, comprising 3,900 volumes.

Its income for the year was £619 4s.; being an increase on the preceding year of £53 11s. 10d. The expenditure for the same period amounted to £572 4s. 1d; the gratuitous issues to £36 10s.; and the issues exceeded those of the former year by 2,140 publications.

It is with unfeigned pleasure your Committee record these evidences of increasing prosperity in our sister Auxiliary, and trust that the very great field over which its operations extend, will continue to be cultivated with increasing vigour.

L'ORIGINAL BRANCH SOCIETY.

We have received the Second Annual Report of this branch, and are happy to see that the loan distribution system is still persevered in; and that the Tracts are well received. The sales for the year have been to the value of £3 10s.; and the subscriptions £4 3s. 9d.

From the Bytown Branch Society we have had no communication during the year.

An attempt has been made to revive the Whitby Branch Society, but as yet without success.

FINANCES.

The income of the Society from all sources amounts to £202 16s. 2d., composed of the following items, viz.: Sales in the Depository, £138 6s. 7d.; payments by agents, &c., £44 8s. 10d.; subscriptions and donations in the city not yet reported; ditto received at the Depository, £6 1s. 4½d.

There has been remitted to the Religious Tract Society, London, £182 8s. 6d. sterling; and to Messrs. FRANCIS ORR & SONS, Glasgow, £32 10s. sterling.

The actual state of the Society's funds are worse by £34 12s. 5d., than last year.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

While your Committee are concerned at the temporary check given to the prosperous and benevolent career of this Institution, they would repress any tendency in themselves or their constituents to repine. Rather let our thanksgivings ascend to the source of all good for that undeserved blessing which has crowned the efforts of this Society. To repine will only discourage us in our labours, diminish our zeal, and scatter our strength. At the divine footstool of mercy, with uplifted eyes and adoring hearts, we shall renew our vigour and derive wisdom. The latter will produce good plans, and the former execute them so as to extend the beneficial influence of our holy enterprise. From the past we wish to gather motives to persevering diligence for the future. The cloud which now darkens our sky will speedily pass away. Our present

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These are times calling loudly for the diffusion of gospel truth. The public mind is active; a thirst for knowledge has been created; and while Sabbath School, Bible, and Missionary Institutions are moving in their spheres, it devolves upon us, with the truths of the gospel distinctly declared in every tract, to cast in the seed; and commending it to the watchful care of God, and the fostering influence of the Holy Spirit, we shall find "bread thus cast upon the waters after many days." We should remember that Providence has entrusted to our cultivation an extensive territory. The population is great and rapidly increasing. It is manifest efforts on a large scale must be devised and energetically pursued ere our population can be supplied with wholesome reading.

We must therefore arise, for God has set before us an open door; and although there are many adversaries, yet "Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed, for there are more with us than with them: with them is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us."

MONTREAL AUXILIARY TRACT SOCIETY in Account with HENRY VENNOR, Treasurer.

Dr.	£	s	d
To paid expenses of Annual Meeting... ..	£2	19	5
To Remitted Tract and Book Society, Dublin, balance due them £11 11s. 10d. sterling, @ 13½ ¢ cent.		14	12 0
To Remitted Tract Society Exchange £120 16s. 8d. sterling, @ 13½ ¢ cent.	152	8	0
To Remitted do. do. £50, @ 10 ¢ cent.	61	2	3
To Remitted Francis Orr & Sons, Glasgow, Exchange £32 10s. ster. @ 9½ ¢ cent. ...	39	10	10
To paid for Books returned	0	15	0
To paid Campbell & Becket for printing ...	8	14	3
To paid Duty on Publications imported ...	9	1	11
To paid Bible Society for rent and manage- ment of the Depository for one year ...	40	0	0
To paid Postages, Stationery, Candles, Fuel, Insurance, and other incidental expenses	15	13	9
To balance in the Treasurer's hands... ..	15	7	7
	£360	5	0

Montreal, January 19, 1843.

E. E. HENRY VENNOR, Treasurer. £360 5 0

Dr. Stock Account.—Montreal Auxiliary Tract Society. Cr.

To Amount due Parent Society... ..£441 4 7
 To Amount due Rev. A. Mann, overpaid ... 0 8 6
 To Balance in favor of the Society 245 14 3

£687 7 4

By Books and Tracts, at cost prices, per Inventory£452 10 3
 By Amount due by Agents, Societies, &c. ... 219 9 6
 By Cash in the hands of the Treasurer 15 7 7

£687 7 4

E. E. JAMES MILNE, Depository.

HENRY VENNOR, Treasurer,
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Montreal, January 19, 1843.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FOR 1842.

<i>Collected in St. Ann Suburbs, by</i>		J. C. Becket... ..	£0	5	0
<i>Miss Whipple and Miss Hagar.</i>		J. Holland	0	5	0
Mr. Noah Shaw	£0 10 0	Joseph M'Kay	0	5	0
Mrs. Greene... ..	0 5 0	William Workman	0	5	0
Mrs. Ward.	0 5 0	E. C. Tuttle... ..	0	5	0
Mrs. R. Corse	0 5 0	William Muir	0	5	0
Mrs. Girdwood	0 5 0	George Johnston	0	5	0
Mrs. Adams	0 2 6	H. Whitney	0	5	0
Mrs. Bonnar... ..	0 2 6	James Arthur & Co... ..	0	5	0
Mrs. W. Gunn	0 2 6	R. Graham	0	5	0
Mrs. Holton	0 2 6	A Friend... ..	0	5	0
Mrs. Hutchins	0 2 6	John Gibson... ..	0	5	0
Mrs. H. Cushing	0 2 6	J. Griffith... ..	0	5	0
Mrs. Meyers... ..	0 2 6	E. & G. Wright... ..	0	2	6
Mrs. Brush	0 2 6	J. Webster	0	2	6
Sums under 2s. 6d.	1 1 7½	J. Cummings	0	2	6
<i>Received at the Depository.</i>		J. T.	0	2	6
Rev. Dr. Davies... ..	0 10 0	J. B. K.	0	2	6
Rev. H. O. Crofts	0 5 0	J. Fraser... ..	0	2	6
Lieut. Wright	0 5 0	S. Dwight	0	2	6
Rev. Wm. Thompson	0 10 0	J. H.	0	2	6
James Thomson... ..	0 5 0	Edward Field	0	2	6
James Barnard	0 10 0	F. Sykes... ..	0	3	0
Wm. C. Evans	0 5 0	J. Carruthers... ..	0	2	6
Charles Brent	0 5 0	S. Mathewson	0	2	6
Female Tract Society,		M. Ross	0	2	6
Carlton Place... ..	0 15 0	C. Bryson	0	2	6
D. Cattanaeh, Kenyon	0 4 3	James Henderson	0	2	6
Robt. Craik, St. Luke.	0 12 6	George Robson	0	2	6
James Court... ..	1 0 0	W. C.	0	2	6
Joseph Wenham	0 10 0	Mrs. Wilson... ..	0	2	6
Box in the Depository	0 4 7½	Mrs. Hall	0	2	6
<i>Collected in the West Ward, by</i>		Mrs. Bellamy... ..	0	2	6
<i>Mrs. Milne and Miss J. Muir,</i>		H. M'Lennan	0	2	6
<i>completed after the accounts</i>		A Friend... ..	0	2	6
<i>were made up.</i>		J. D.	0	2	6
Hon. Peter M'Gill	0 10 0	Sums under 2s. 6d.	5	18	9
B. Holmes	0 10 0	<i>Payments received during the</i>			
Robert Anderson	0 10 6	<i>year.</i>			
J. & J. Leeming... ..	0 15 0	The Wesleyan Sunday			
David Torrance	0 10 0	School... ..	1	12	0
D. P. James	0 5 0	John Lloyd, New Glas-			
		gow... ..	1	6	2

James Henderson ...£2	8	3	J. Wilson, Georgetown	1	0	6	
George Kerr, Perth...	8	18	0	Rev. W. M. Walker	1	5	0
Donald Cattanach ...	0	2	9	Whitby Branch Society	1	18	10
Mrs. Knox	0	2	1	W. D. Dickinson ...	1	0	0
Rev. A. Mann, Pack-				Mrs. Bendall... ..	1	10	0
enham... ..	0	12	6	Argenteuil Fem. Tract			
Miss E. Plimsoll... ..	0	6	6	Society... ..	4	1	2
Rev. David Connell...	1	17	9	A. Adams.....	0	5	0
William Slack	0	4	0	James Wylie & Sons	0	14	4
Wm. Cantwell, Russel-				W. M. Ogden	0	1	2
town	0	14	6	John Dougall	1	17	6
Thomas M. Thomson	0	4	2	Rev. David Dobie ...	3	2	6
Rev. Emile Lapelle-				Blanchard and Wales	5	0	0
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FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MONTREAL ASSOCIATION

FOR THE

DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS TRACTS.

WE would with fervent gratitude acknowledge the protecting hand of God, in preserving us a Society to this our fourth Anniversary. We have been enabled by his blessing, to maintain our ground "through evil and through good report;" encouraged by the recollection, that our labours have not been in vain in time past, and animated with the prospect of extended usefulness during the year on which we have entered.

The number of English Tracts distributed by the Association during the past year, is 24,041; French do., 3514; Total, 27,555.

These have been distributed throughout the city and suburbs,—amongst the military in Garrison,—the patients in the various Hospitals,—and the inmates of the prison. A large quantity have been distributed during the season to Seamen and Immigrants, and many bibles have been given gratuitously to destitute persons, who were desirous of possessing the sacred volume.

The Association regret not having in their power to give as satisfactory a statement of the effects produced by the reading of the Tracts as may be desirable,—the distributors being few in number, and the field of labour so very exten-

sive, sufficient time cannot be taken to make the necessary enquiries ; still the instances of good effected and reported have fully convinced us, that the Almighty ruler of the universe approves and blesses our undertaking.

A few brief extracts from the monthly reports of the distributors may be acceptable.

August.—I meet with considerable opposition ; but amidst all, I am much pleased to see that the work of the Lord is going on. Though I have not unfrequently had tracts torn in pieces before my face, yet my heart has been gladdened to find that in several instances the fragments of the tracts thus torn have been carefully gathered by others, put together, and read before a great many.

September.—Will my fellow-labourers in Tract distribution allow me to give them the following hint, and may it be the means of stirring them up when they are disposed to relax in their efforts. On Sabbath last, I felt strongly tempted not to go out for some trifling reason ; but I could not be satisfied, and out I went, and was well repaid for overcoming the temptation, as I found more to interest me in the work that Sabbath than I ever remember to have felt before. Many that day took tracts, thanking me kindly, who would not receive them from me on any former visit. I truly was very much encouraged.

November.—Called in a house whilst engaged in distributing ; the inmates of which appeared to have been drinking and quarrelling. On our entering, all was silence ; they going out one by one to another room until there was but one remaining. We addressed him in a solemn manner, advising him earnestly to begin immediately a different course of conduct. He expressed deep sorrow at being in such company as that we found him in, said it was once far otherwise with him ; and promised to begin at once, with the Divine assistance, a reformation in his life and conduct, and to evince his sincerity said, that he would attend Church that evening.

December.—Among the many pleasing results arising from Tract distribution and visiting the poor, allow me to mention the interesting case of a woman who formerly attended the Roman Catholic Church, and which came more particularly under my notice last Sabbath. This woman has been the subject of severe domestic affliction for some time past. She says that her sole consolation, under her many trials, has been derived from a Bible which came into her possession : from it she has learned her condition as a sinner, and the necessity of a Saviour. She exhibits every evidence that her heart is truly changed. Her neighbours, she says, do not like her for reading the Bible and the Tracts which have been left with her ; but this does not affect her. She had not gone to the priests for a long time—they done her no good ; they made heavy burdens ; referring me to that passage addressed

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to the Pharisees by our Saviour. Before I left, I reminded her of the necessity of praying for the Holy Spirit to further enlighten her mind. This she promised not to neglect."

We cannot close this slight and imperfect sketch of the results of Tract distribution in this city, without earnestly soliciting pious persons of all denominations to join us in this interesting and important enterprise. The distribution of Tracts is an acknowledged very useful auxiliary to the ministry of the gospel. Many, very many, eminently pious and devoted men have acknowledged that their first serious impressions were produced by the perusal of one of these little bodies of divinity. That great and terrible day, "for which all other days were made," will alone fully unfold the great good effected by the instrumentality of these silent but powerful monitors.

It is to be hoped that our efforts will no longer be cramped, nor our usefulness impeded for want of assistants. There are few who have not a spare hour or two on the Sabbath. And we would ask, could that time be better employed, than in distributing the word of life to their perishing fellow-sinners? Surely all who have the eternal welfare of those by whom they are surrounded at heart, and who have time at command, will no longer hesitate to unite with us in this humble endeavour to advance the interests of Messiah's Kingdom.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

JOHN DOUGALL, Esq. *Chairman.*

J. A. MATHEWSON, *Secretary & Treasurer.*

DISTRIBUTORS.

Messrs. A. Adams, Sen.
John M'Watters,
William Stuart,
John Barr,
R. Morton,
J. Gibson,
J. Birks,
R. Nicholson,
J. Bowles,
A. Hamilton,
J. M'Callum,
J. Keller,
James Wilson.

Messrs. William Norton,
William M'Bride,
William Peacock,
J. Jackson,
D. Savage,
J. Blackadder,
B. Dagnon,
Thomas Eager,
John Daly,
— Cripp,
— Telford,
John Bain,
Charles Alexander,

Mrs. Milne,
Miss Sawtell,
Miss E. Smith,

Miss J. Smith,
Miss E. Mills,
Miss Clapperton.