

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MONTREAL

Religious Tract Society.

AUXILIARY TO THE

LONDON TRACT SOCIETY.

Presented at the Annual Meeting,

JANUARY 29, 1849.

"Who hath despised the day of small things?"

PRINTED BY ROLLO CAMPBELL,
PLACE D'ARMES HILL, MONTREAL.

To be had Gratis at the Depository.

M. DCCC. XLIX.

RELIGIOUS

THE Thirteenth
Religious Tract
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Mr. JAME

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Hon. James Ferr
Captain Maitland
Wm. Lunn.
James R. Orr.
James Court.
Rollo Campbell.
James Mills.

Moved by Rev

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RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.

THE Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Montreal Auxiliary Religious Tract Society was held in Zion Church, Radegonde Street, on Monday evening, January 29, 1849. J. H. MAITLAND, Esq., in the Chair. The Rev. H. WILKES, A. M., engaged in prayer; and the Rev. J. GIRDWOOD read the Report.

Moved by Rev. C. DEWOLFE, seconded by JAMES HALL, Esq.,
M. P. P.:

1. That the Report which has now been read be received, and printed under the direction of the Committee; and that the following gentlemen be the Officers and Committee for the ensuing year:—

HENRY VENNOR, Esquire, *Treasurer.*

Rev. J. GIRDWOOD, *Corresponding Secretary.*

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

COMMITTEE:

MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL, resident in the City.

Hon. James Ferrier.
Captain Maitland.
Wm. Lunn.
James R. Orr.
James Court.
Rollo Campbell.
James Mills.

Dr. Holmes.
Wm. C. Evans.
John Lewis.
Joseph Wenham.
David Smith.
John Dougall.
T. M. Taylor.

Wm. F. Grasset.
Samuel Hedge.
Benjamin Lyman.
David Lindsay.
Wm. Francis.
Richard Birks.
Thomas M'Ginn.

Moved by Rev. H. WILKES, A. M., seconded by W. C. EVANS,
Esq.

2. That although Commercial distress has decreased our income, yet it is a subject for thankfulness to have it in our power to say, it has *not* had the same effect upon our usefulness; and believing as we do, that the best as well as the most pleasing mode of counteracting Error is to disseminate Truth, the undertakings therefore of this Society call upon all to pray earnestly for its future welfare and success.

Moved by Rev. A. D. CAMPBELL, seconded by Rev. JOHN
JENKINS:

3. That the principles of this Society being Catholic, and its doings unostentatious, all should feel bound to further its efforts to improve the spiritual condition of the people of Canada, by devising liberal things for it on this its Anniversary.

Moved by Rev. JOHN M'LOUD, seconded by Rev. F. H. MARLING.

4. That we hail the present time as a favourable opportunity of acknowledging our gratitude to the Parent Society and the American Tract Society for their past services to us, and to give utterance to the prayer, that the "Giver of all Good" will continue to bless and prosper those Institutions which have been the means of doing so much for the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom.

A Collection was taken up amounting to £10 16s. 10d.

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 a 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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THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

THE Committee, after having served the Society during a year of unparalleled commercial distress, and one marked by extensive as well as unexpected revolutions among the nations of Europe, proceed to lay before the Subscribers and the Public their Report. When the tranquillity of this part of the world is regarded, your Committee feel thankful to that gracious Providence which has preserved us from the scourge of war and the desolations of anarchy. In view of the prevailing pecuniary embarrassments, it is matter of surprise and congratulation that the interests of your benevolent enterprise have suffered so little.

The Committee will first give an account of the importations for the past year.

IMPORTATIONS.

The value of the Books and Tracts imported during the year amounts to		£185 6 7
Received from the American Tract Society		43 15 8
Bought in the Province		81 1 7
To which add Grants of Tracts from the Religious Tract Society, London		19 7 1
And Books returned by Branches, &c.		4 15 10
		£334 6 9

OPERATIONS.

Books and Tracts sold in the Depository, for Cash...	£195 19 5
do do do on Credit.	166 8 9
The Gratuitous Distribution amounts to	67 18 8
	£430 6 10

The total number of publications received into the Depository is 90,012 ; and the issues for the

year are 77,394. The particulars of this department are given in a Table in the Appendix.

COLPORTAGE.

It has been the desire of your Committee for some time past to enter upon this very important department of labour. The success which has attended this description of effort in the neighbouring Union, was an additional incitement to make some attempt to commence this good work. The want of suitable persons for the work has, until lately, prevented our engaging in it. A considerable time ago a Sub-Committee was appointed for the purpose of procuring a Colporteur; but it was only in October last they obtained the services of Mr. Wm. C. Munday. Then your Committee resolved to make an experiment for a term of six months, and engaged his services for that period, beginning 1st November. The work was begun in the city.

The two months which have elapsed since this effort was entered upon, is a period too short to form a judgment of what will be the ultimate success of the experiment. The number of books sold is yet very small. The Colporteur finds great difficulty in getting access to the families, in consequence of the obstructions thrown in his way by servants.

The Protestant families of the city have been pretty generally visited. After another attempt has been made to offer the Society's publications to them, it was the intention of your Committee to send the Colporteur to some of the more populous rural districts; and by this means introduce

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the excellent publications of the Religious Tract Society into places where they have hitherto seldom, if ever, found their way.

GRANTS OF TRACTS, ETC. RECEIVED IN 1848.

Your Committee have again to record another of the many beneficent acts of the Religious Tract Society, London, in sending a grant of Tracts in the English language to the value of Ten Pounds sterling, and in the German language to the value of Five Pounds sterling. On the occasion of our entering on the work of Colportage, an application was made for aid, in this work, to the American Tract Society, which was promptly responded to by a grant of \$25 in books.

GRATUITOUS DISTRIBUTION.

The value of the gratuitous issues for the year, is £76 18s. 8d., being £19 10s. 5d. more than the previous year, and the largest gratuitous issue ever made by this Society.

The following are the objects to which the grants have been made :—

Montreal Association, English, 28,639; French, 5,414;	
total	34,053
Hospitals, 1010; Jail, 288... ..	1,298
Military, 4,205; Sailors and Immigrants, 2,910 ...	7,115
Subscribers, 843; Ministers and Missionaries, 3,929	4,772
The Country, 5,152; Associations in the Country,	
1,870	7,022
Swiss Mission, St. Pie, 1,002; and Hotels, 300 ...	1,302
	<hr/>
Making a total of	55,562

RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY, LONDON.

Our Parent Society is waxing venerable in age, being now in its fiftieth year. It is still increasing in usefulness—abounding in good works—scattering truth with a liberal hand—and multiplying the works of the “excellent of the earth” by millions.

During the year ending 31st March last, there had been sent forth from its Depository in London, 17,543,509 publications; making the Society's total circulation, in about 100 languages, 463 millions of copies of Religious Tracts and Books. Its total income for the year was £55,736 4s. 4d. sterling; and its gratuitous issues amounted to £8,188 14s. 3d., being £2,513 1s. 2d. more than the gratuitous receipts of the year.

There have been 235 new publications issued during the year, besides a large number of books re-issued in a cheap form. The present will complete the Jubilee Year of the Society; a Jubilee Fund has been begun, into which special subscriptions are being paid to enable the Society to extend its operations, having especial regard to Ireland and the openings on the Continent of Europe.

Extracts from the Domestic Intelligence of the Parent Society's Report :—

“THE CALL TO THE UNCONVERTED.”

A Sailor writes to the Committee of the Newcastle Sailors' Society :—

“I think myself very ungrateful for not writing before this time; but I was always expecting to come back to Newcastle. We came last to London, from Bordeaux, and then to Grangemouth. We are coming to Newcastle. I found it good for me to be there. I had great advantage in reading BAXTER'S CALL TO THE UNCONVERTED, which you gave me. By the grace of God, I hope it has been a blessing to me.”

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USEFULNESS OF BOOKS—"COMPANION TO THE BIBLE."

Met with a mate to whom I had formerly given a copy of *THE COMPANION TO THE BIBLE*. When I first saw him, he had been imbibing infidel principles, for he would not believe there was any hell; said the Old Testament contained nothing about it; and that it was only invented by the monks of the middle ages. This caused me to give him *THE COMPANION TO THE BIBLE*. He declared that no book had edified him so much. Then he affirmed, holding the little book in his hand, "I might read the Bible for years, and not understand so much of it as that little book has taught me."

Bunyan still Teaching.

An aged female, in whom one of our visitors had long felt an anxious interest, appears to have received a knowledge of the truth. She used to be very ready to talk of religion, and seemed satisfied with her own state, and content to rest upon the mercy of God, and the conviction that she had done the best she could. The tract entitled, *COME AND WELCOME TO JESUS CHRIST*, was left with her, from the perusal of which she seemed to gain new views; and, on being asked lately as to her hopes, replied, "Oh, ma'am! since you left that tract with me about Jesus Christ, I see I cannot save myself; he only can do it, and I trust to him alone."

"BELIEVE AND BE SAVED."

In visitation, I met with Mrs. E., a pious woman. Her case illustrates the blessings often produced by the perusal of a tract. She stated, that, between two and three years ago, she was brought under deep conviction of sin, and she longed and prayed for forgiveness; but though she heard the gospel preached, and frequently conversed with pious persons respecting her state, she obtained no clear view of how God could be just, and yet justify the sinner; and, consequently, had no comfort or peace till, in the course of God's providence, the tract, *BELIEVE AND BE SAVED* fell into her hands; and as she read, light shone into her mind, and believing, she was enabled to rejoice in the fulness and freeness of the salvation provided for the lost in Christ Jesus. She has since maintained a consistent walk, and is now a distributor of those silent teachers, one of which was made to speak so effectually to her own heart.

A TRACT MADE USEFUL.

"To-day, calling at her house, I found _____ sitting in the parlour, reading her Testament. She brought out the tract called *OLD ANDREW*. Holding it in her hand, she said, 'This is a good tract; will you give me leave to keep it? For while my husband read it to me, my heart was so affected, that the tears flowed from my eyes. I went up stairs, fell on my knees at my bed side, and poured out my supplications to the Lord, who hears and answers the prayers of his people. I have had many pleasing conversations with her, on the evil of sin; the love of God in the gift of his Son; and the happiness of those who believe in Christ, and walk consistently before God. 'I am always happy,' said she, 'when you call to read and converse on the love of Jesus in dying to save us.' She is regular in her attendance at a place of worship."

GOOD RESULT OF REPEATED EFFORTS.

Last January, I urged a man to accept a tract from me. He refused. Passing his house a few days after, I left one for him with his wife, requesting she would have it read to him. I had not much intercourse with him after this, until lately, when he called upon me, saying, he had read the tract over and over, and that he believed it to be a most excellent one; and he now came in hopes I would give him a full explanation of its statements. I read it over to him, comparing the doctrine taught and the texts quoted, with their contexts in the Scriptures. While thus engaged, he made several inquiries, paying the strictest attention. After we had finished, he said, "Well, we Romanists are no Christians, we have only the name. We are kept in ignorance of the Scriptures. From this moment I will read the Bible, and every other good book I can get, not caring who may hinder." I am glad to find that he sticks to his resolution.

AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY.

From the twenty-third Report of this Society we learn, that "All the departments of this Society—its receipts, its printing and issues, its grants, and the prayerful labours of its colporteurs and others accompanying the distribution—are largely in advance of any preceding year."

Sixty-three new publications have been issued, in six languages. Circulated during the year 693,303 volumes, 6,987,263 publications; making the total circulation, in twenty-three years, 96,949,992 publications. Its grants are to the value of upwards of \$27,000. Its receipts are \$237,296 4, of which \$105,915 15 are donations.

The work of Colportage has been prosecuted with unrelaxed vigour: 291 Colporteurs have been in commission, besides 106 Students from various Theological institutions have been employed as colporteurs during their vacations. These important labours have been distributed over every State and territory in the Union: 254,308 families have been visited; 303,957 volumes have been

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sold ; 81,188 volumes granted to destitute families ; and 4,761,244 pages of Tracts granted, and 20,215 families supplied with Bibles or Testaments. Such noble efforts to diffuse truth cannot but be attended by the happiest effects, and productive of much precious fruit.

UPPER CANADA RELIGIOUS TRACT AND BOOK
SOCIETY.

We again hail our sister Society with our congratulations on her increasing usefulness. Increase marks her progress for the last year, the issues showing an excess of 12,895 over the preceding year ; and, notwithstanding the universal "commercial distress," its income has also improved. They have also a distributing Association for Toronto, from which good appears to be arising. We trust our friends will still persevere, as much remains yet to be done ; for our population continues rapidly to increase, and the Province to advance in importance year by year.

MONTREAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE DISTRIBUTION
OF RELIGIOUS TRACTS.

It is with pleasure we again notice the unwavering steadfastness with which the members of this Association discharge their highly useful and laborious duties. The large number of 41,168 Tracts, have been furnished to the Association for distribution in the twelve months now reported, being an advance upon the former year of 4,943. May the faithful labors of our devoted friends be "returned into their own bosoms an hundred fold."

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

As has been our practice for a number of years, a stock of these is kept for the convenience of that part of our population who use them. A moderate supply has as usual been imported, and has met with a ready sale—966 Bibles, and 1,862 Testaments.

The particulars of which will appear in the tabular statement in the Appendix.

CONCLUSION.

The Committee would gratefully acknowledge the steadfastness of many friends of the Society, and express their hope that the ensuing year may be more prosperous in commercial affairs, so that those who desire the extended usefulness of Tract distribution and the diffusion of religious literature, may be able to contribute more liberally to the funds.

It must be manifest to the most indifferent observer, that the movements of Divine Providence are tending to a great, glorious, and happy consummation. Barriers to the progress of truth, hoary with age, are being removed; and a free communication between nations hitherto separated by deep-seated prejudices and superstitions is effected. The brotherhood of the entire human family is better understood, and more generally recognised. It must, therefore, be the great business of evangelical Christians to employ every wise means for thoroughly imbuing the vast masses of men with sound religious knowledge; or mind, liberated from mental shackles, may now seek to spurn legitimate and scriptural controul.

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Amidst the wonderful scenes of the middle of the nineteenth century, it becomes the children of light to consider what such times require at their hands. Every one should, with devout reverence, address the Great Head of the Church, saying: "Lord, what wouldst thou have me to do?" And, with a promptitude and energy unexampled, should add; "Here am I, Lord, send me."

Many prayers have been presented in faith at the Divine footstool for the destruction of the man of sin, and the establishment of Messiah's reign in the hearts of men. It is not improbable that these prayers of faith are now receiving some answer. But as the moment may not yet have come, when the cry shall be heard, "Babylon the great is fallen—is fallen," let patient, persevering, and believing supplication be continued. For the kingdoms of this world must become the kingdom of our God and his anointed.

Notwithstanding these animating considerations, it is humiliating to think how little interest is taken in this invaluable Auxiliary, and still more so to observe the small amount contributed to the funds of the Parent Institution in this its Jubilee Year. Its grants are annually sent to the devoted labourers of every Christian Mission. It is connected with evangelical Protestants of every denomination, and yet from all sources last year only £5,675 13s. 1d. sterling was the amount of free contributions. Let this have its due weight with all present on this Anniversary. May every one endeavour to ascertain how much he owes to his God and Saviour. He has given us richly all things to enjoy. Let it be ours to glorify him in our body and spirit which are his.

THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY in Account with HENRY VENNOR, Treasurer.

Cr.

Dr.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To remitted Religious Tract Society, London, exchange £30 sterling, at 13 per cent. premium.	37	13	3	By Cash Sales at the Depository	195	19	5
To do do £70 sterling, at 11½ per cent. premium.	86	14	5	By remittances from Branch Societies, Agents, and other accounts paid... ..	119	13	6
To remitted American Tract Society, New York, \$45 at 2 per cent.	11	9	6	By Collection at last Annual Meeting	9	7	6
To remitted Francis Orr & Sons, Glasgow, exchange £50 sterling, at 10 per cent. premium	61	7	9	By Subscriptions and Donations received at the Depository	4	13	9
To do do £50 sterling, at 13 per cent. premium	62	15	8	By Special Subscriptions in aid of Colportage, collected by W. C. Evans, Esq.	6	12	6
To paid for Books bought in the Province	39	6	5	By Collections in the City, made by W. C. Munday, Colporteur	10	13	9
To paid Duties on Publications imported	11	17	11	By Balance from last Account	24	6	6
To paid W. C. Munday, Colporteur, 2 months' salary	10	0	0				
To paid printing the Annual Report	7	15	0				
To paid Postages, Fuel, Light, Insurance, and other incidental expenses	9	2	10				
To paid one year's Rent and Management of the Depository	30	0	0				
To paid expenses of last Annual Meeting ..	1	18	6				
To Balance in the hands of the Treasurer	1	5	8				
	£371	6	11		£371	6	11

(Signed,) HENRY VENNOR,
Treasurer.

E. E.

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Depository 1 18 6
 To paid expenses of last Annual Meeting 1 5 8
 To Balance in the hands of the Treasurer.....
£371 6 11

£371 6 11

(Signed,) HENRY VENNOR,
Treasurer.

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STOCK ACCOUNT.

CONTRA.

	£	s.	d.
To Balance due Religious Tract Society.....	213	13	1
do American	22	14	9
do Francis Orr & Sons.....	185	8	7
do Canada Sunday School Union.....	3	14	10
do Stock Account.....	245	1	5
	<u>£670</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>8</u>

	£	s.	d.
By Books and Tracts on hand, per Inventory.....	491	5	0
By Debts due by Branch Societies, Agents, &c. ..	178	2	0
By Cash in the hands of the Treasurer	1	5	8
	<u>£670</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>

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Errors Excepted.

JAMES MILNE,
Depositary.

Statement of Publications received and issued by the Montreal Auxiliary Religious Tract Society, from 1st January, 1848, to 1st January, 1849.

	ENGLISH.										FRENCH.					TOTAL.					
	Tracts and Sermons.	Hand Bills.	Broad Sheets.	32mo. Gilt Edge.	Select Sermons.	32mo. Children's Books.	18mo. Rewards.	Bound Volumes.	6mo. Series.	Periodicals.	Children's Tracts.	Gaelic Tracts.	Tracts.	Hand Bills.	32mo. Children's Books.		Books.	Edinburgh Bibles.	Edinburgh Testaments.	German Tracts.	Tracts for the Blind.
On hand, January 1, 1848.....	72629	5132	652	194	36	5093	280	2388	198	369	1100	13562	6697	200	4282	41	194	1306	...	20	114373
Received in 1848.	73682	400	.....	48	.....	4410	372	2050	150	450	.....	100	2800	.....	.....	27	944	1235	3344	.....	90012
Issued in 1848	146311	5532	652	242	36	9503	652	4438	348	819	1100	13662	9497	200	4282	68	1138	2541	3344	20	204385
	56598	1948	9	15	10	3340	262	1953	181	819	1100	637	7467	.....	125	6	966	1862	95	1	77394
	89713	3584	643	227	26	6163	390	2485	167	.....	.....	13025	2030	200	4157	62	172	679	3249	19	126991

JAMES MILNE,
Depositary.

Rem
 Louis Marie
 J. Baylis, M
 Mrs. John J
 Rev. James
 St. Andrew
 Joseph Léer
 Alfred Tait,
 Rev. William
 Pakenham
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 Charles Sher
 James Smill
 Bytown Bra
 Montreal Bi
 B. F. Hubba
 Mrs. Bancro
 Mrs. Killaly
 James Court
 Rev. James
 Rev. J. Tho
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 Joseph Colla
 George Wrig
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 Edwardsburg
 Peter Cowan
 Cowansville
 Rev. William
 William Mill
 Mrs. John E
 Thomson, M
 Mrs. James
 Zion Church
 James C. Be
 William C. M
 Rev. David

**Remittances from Branch Societies,
Agents, and others.**

Louis Marie, Colporteur.....	£2	5	9
J. Baylis, Montreal.....	1	1	7
Mrs. John J. Day, do.....	0	8	4
Rev. James Anderson, Durham.....	4	11	1
St. Andrew's Church Sunday School.....	2	1	7
Joseph Léeming.....	0	6	6
Alfred Tait, Burrirt's Rapids.....	2	2	6
Rev. William Aiken, Smith's Falls.....	0	9	10
Packenham Bible Society.....	1	3	3
L'Original Branch, do.....	4	12	6
Charles Sheriff, Bytown.....	0	6	0
James Smillie, Barnet, Vt.....	11	13	0
Bytown Branch Society.....	10	7	7
Montreal Bible do.....	85	7	2
B. F. Hubbard, Stanstead.....	0	17	0
Mrs. Bancroft, Montreal.....	0	4	11
Mrs. Killaly, do.....	0	10	3
James Court, do.....	0	4	0
Rev. James Cairns.....	0	8	3
Rev. J. Thom, Three Rivers.....	2	1	0
R. D. Wadsworth, Montreal.....	6	12	1
Hector M'Lean, do.....	0	4	0
Joseph Collard, do.....	2	0	6
George Wright, do.....	0	5	6
Templeton Brown, do.....	0	17	0
Edwardsburgh Bible Society.....	2	11	6
Peter Cowan, Cowansville..	0	16	0
Cowansville Bible Society.....	0	17	3
Rev. William Bell, Perth.....	0	10	0
William Millar, Dalhousie.....	0	19	0
Mrs. John E. Mills.....	0	3	6
Thomson, M'Donnell & Co., Perth.....	0	13	3
Mrs. James Barnard.....	0	3	4
Zion Church Sunday School Committee.....	0	9	0
James C. Beers.....	0	1	6
William C. Evans.....	1	8	6
Rev. David Connell, Cowansville.....	0	6	0

£143 18 0

FREE CONTRIBUTIONS.

<i>Special Collections for Colportage</i>		S. J. Lyman.....	£0 10 0
by <i>W. C. EVANS, Esq.</i>		J. B.....	0 10 0
J. R. Orr.....	£0 12 6	C. Freeland.....	0 10 0
Jas. Court.....	0 10 0	Alfred Savage.....	0 10 0
J. Lewis.....	0 15 0	A. & D. Ferguson...	0 7 6
John Leeming.....	0 10 0	James Mills.....	0 5 0
J. Milne.....	0 10 0	W. C. Evans.....	0 5 0
J. Dougall.....	0 10 0	Geo. Hagar.....	0 5 0
Wm. C. Evans.....	0 10 0	G. D. Ferrier.....	0 5 0
J. Wenham.....	0 5 0	A. F. Sabine.....	0 5 0
Wm. Lunn.....	0 5 0	J. H. Maitland.....	0 5 0
Adam Brown.....	0 5 0	Henderson, Brothers	
H. E. Montgomerie.	0 5 0	& Co.....	0 5 0
Henry Vennor.....	0 5 0	J. Savage.....	0 5 0
W. F. Grasset.....	0 2 6	Wm. Muir.....	0 5 0
D. Lindsay.....	0 2 6	Robert Campbell....	6 5 0
Mr. Orr.....	0 10 0	Rev. Robert M'Gill	0 5 0
James Mills.....	0 15 0	Rev. H. Wilkes.....	0 5 0
<hr/>		Mrs. J. E. Mills....	0 5 0
<i>Subscriptions in the City, Col-</i>		Mrs. E. Muir.....	0 5 0
<i>lected by W. C. MUNDAY,</i>		J. C. Becket.....	0 5 0
<i>Colporteur.</i>		W. Gemmill.....	0 5 0
James Court.....	1 0 0	Mrs. T. M. Taylor...	0 5 0
James Ferrier, Jr...	1 0 0	Dr. M'Culloch.....	0 5 0
Joseph Wenham....	1 0 0	G. B. Muir.....	0 5 0
Gibb & Co.	0 10 0	Mrs. W. Galt.....	0 5 0

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TENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MONTREAL ASSOCIATION

FOR THE

Distribution of Religious Tracts.

TEN years have now elapsed since the institution of this Association for the purpose of disseminating religious truths in the form of tracts in this city; and in the review of that extended period, the question naturally arises, what is the result of so much labour—what good has been effected? To this our reply is, that though we have much cause for humility, owing to our unfaithfulness and want of zeal in God's service, we can truly say, the benefits of tract distribution have been neither few nor small. Through this means many poor wanderers from their Heavenly Father's house have been induced to return, and we are persuaded many saving conversions have by Divine favour been effected. The fulness of the happiness of heaven is now, we are assured, enjoyed by some who were induced to seek their Saviour by the reading of the tracts distributed from Sabbath to Sabbath by this Association. And lastly, this

Association has been, and is to many, a bond of true Evangelical union; uniting in one common brotherhood Christians of all denominations, to advance the interests of their common Lord and Master.

During the year now past, the distributors generally have displayed in this cause a greater degree of zeal and diligence than hitherto, which has resulted in the distribution of nearly one-half more tracts than in the previous year, notwithstanding there has been scarcely any increase in the number of distributors.

There were distributed during the year, of English Tracts	26,685
Monthly Messenger	500
French Tracts and Rewards.....	5,515
	<hr/>
	32,700
By the Quebec Suburbs Branch there were distributed.....	5,795

Total distribution by Association & Branch 38,495

The above shows an increase in the number distributed by the Association of 7,163 English Tracts, and 3,776 French Tracts; and a decrease of 1,969 in the number distributed by the Quebec Suburbs Branch.

Here it may be remarked, that the increase in the number of Tracts distributed, though gratifying as showing increased diligence on the part of the distributors, yet as the Tracts are supplied to the Association wholly gratuitously by the Montreal Auxiliary of the Religious Tract Society, the increased distribution necessarily involves a proportionate increase of expenditure by that Society. And as these Tracts are supplied for the benefit

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of the people of Montreal, it is to be hoped the Christian public will view this matter aright, and in justice, if not of liberality, greatly, this year, increase the usual amount of the contributions to that Society.

PRESENT STATE OF THE DISTRIBUTION.

District No. 1, the city proper. The Superintendent of this District having no assistants, performs the duty quite alone.

District No. 2, Griffintown. This District has again been taken in charge by the Association, the Branch formed there some time since being virtually extinct. One of our old friends, recently returned to this city, is now in charge of this District: he has but three assistants.

District No. 3, Recollet and St. Antoine Suburbs. For this extensive District there are but four Distributors and the Superintendent.

Districts Nos. 4 and 5 embrace the whole of St. Lawrence and St. Louis Suburbs. In these large Districts there are but eleven Distributors, and of that number some can only distribute occasionally.

District No. 6. The Barracks and Military Hospitals compose this division, and which for the present is well attended to by the Superintendent of No. 7, (Seamen and Emigrants,) who has had no assistants.

District No. 7. Seamen and Emigrants were attended to during the season by present Superintendent of No. 6, without any assistants. As the nature of his avocation compelled the Superintendent to be repeatedly absent during the season, the want of assistants was much felt.

It will, from the foregoing, be evident that, with the present number of Distributors engaged, it is impossible to effect a thorough and proper distribution of tracts. For the City proper there is but the Superintendent himself to do the whole duty, and for the extensive block included in the St. Antoine and Recollet Suburbs there are but seven Distributors. At every meeting of the Association most urgent requisitions for assistance are constantly being made from the districts; but hitherto little aid in this respect has been afforded. Those who during the past year have been united with the Association, have scarcely sufficed to fill the vacancies caused by the resignation and removal of others. The following extract from a report of one of the Distributors, will give an idea of the labour at present devolving on each Distributor :

“ In the portion of the district allotted to me, there are as near as I can judge about 550 families to be regularly visited. Of these, about 200 are French Canadians, about one-half of whom will take the Tracts. Sometimes I meet with much opposition, and more than once I have been hooted in the streets; but I am thankful that none of these things move me. Generally I find the English Tracts are well received, and I hope read attentively. The instrumentality I know is good, but to ensure success the prayers of God's people are most necessary.”

The Superintendent of the Griffintown District reports—

“ That at present the District is as well supplied as it is possible to be with the limited number engaged, and I trust the seed sown may, by the Divine blessing, be attended with abundant success. By many the Tracts are received with great eagerness and read, and I trust not without profit. The opposition received is not trifling, and sometimes we are very scornfully treated. I called a short time since at a house and offered a Tract as usual, but the good man of the house (who is invested with a little brief authority) was full of cursing and bitterness, and would not suffer a Tract to be left at his house. Notwithstanding our discouragements, we are resolved to persevere, persuaded that in God's own time fruit to his glory will be manifest.”

Of District No. 4, west half St. Lawrence Suburbs, the Superintendent states :

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"That in this District there has been comparatively but little opposition lately experienced. The work goes on much as usual, save that some parts of the District are not well supplied for want of labourers. There were more than 9,000 Tracts distributed in this District during the year."

From Quebec Suburbs Branch we have a report mentioning a decrease in the number of members and in the Tracts distributed. In that division there are twelve Districts, and the weekly distribution has been about 200 for the year, against 500 weekly for the year before. Though those labouring in that quarter have had many discouragements, yet good has there been done, and they strongly express their determination to persevere.

The distribution of Tracts merely, without the possibility of embracing the opportunities by that means presented of conversation on the subjects treated of in the Tracts with those who receive them, is not all that is necessary. But, as mentioned, there are but one or two Districts where it is possible to do more than deliver the Tract, and hurry on in order that none may be neglected. Nothing, or but very little, can be done in the way of conversation with the recipients on religious subjects. In consequence, the Distributor has rarely an opportunity of ascertaining if good has been effected :—good is done, but generally it must rest with those benefitted and their God.

That our labour is not in vain, the following recently reported cases emphatically prove :—

"In — Suburbs reside a family who received the Tracts for a long time very unwillingly : the husband was of drunken habits, though a Protestant, and the wife a Roman Catholic. The wife at length told the Distributor that it was of no use to leave Tracts with them,—she could not read, and her husband, she said in anguish, was such a confirmed drunkard, as almost to defy the power of the Almighty to reach his case. The daughter, however, promised to read the Tracts to her father, and the Distributor left some considered most suitable. The gratification of the Distributor was great indeed on being informed by the wife on the next Sabbath, that her husband had given up drinking. The daughter on

the next visit confirmed this pleasing intelligence; on which the Distributor remarked, that special prayer had been by him offered up for that degraded man, that he might be kept from that which had been his bane. With great earnestness the wife then replied, 'God has heard your prayers, for he hates the very sight of liquor.' May the change thus made in this man, further lead to his conversion to God!"

"Another case is that of Mr. —, residing in — street, who by reading one of the Tracts left at his house, was led to see himself as a sinner and to seek the Saviour. He thanked God that the Tract that to him had proved of so much spiritual benefit was ever thrown in his way."

How strong is here the inducement to Tract Distributors to persevere in their good work, and to add to their labours earnest prayer.

It is absolutely necessary, in order that this Association be placed on a proper footing, that the number of Distributors be more than doubled, so that there may be a thorough distribution of Tracts weekly throughout the city. We now, therefore, call on the members of the Protestant churches to come to our help. In this effort *all* may unite,—the young, the old, male and female,—all may here effectively engage in a mission of mercy.

Ladies are particularly invited to engage in this work, either in connection with the Association, or, as may be more desirable, with a Society that could readily be formed, composed only of ladies. In the mother country ladies are the most zealous and the most useful of Tract Distributors, and we know not why they should not be equally useful and efficient in Canada.

The influence of ministers on their congregations all know is most powerful, and now we solicit that influence on behalf of our Catholic Association. To one or two ministers of this city we are indebted for some of our most active Distributors, and have we not a right to turn for help to the other Protestant ministers who hitherto have almost overlooked the Association? In New York recently,

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at the Anniversary of a Tract Distributing Society like ours, some of the most prominent ministers attended, and from the proceedings it was evident *they* did not think they had done enough for the cause by merely delivering a speech at an Anniversary Meeting. In our next Report we hope to be able to state, that through the influence of the Evangelical ministers of this city, the Association has been at length put in a position to carry out fully the designs contemplated by its formation.

But some will say, as some have said, "Little good can come of Tract Distribution, then why make so much ado about it?" Let such, however, ever remember, that it was in a great degree owing to the influence of Tracts that the Reformation so rapidly spread over Europe. By means of the then newly invented printing press, the early Reformers were enabled to multiply the Tracts indefinitely, and which by zealous agents were distributed through the entire Continent. By those Tracts the hearts of princes were changed; despotisms overturned; to the mighty power of Rome such shocks were given, as at length near to cause its entire prostration; and to men was restored that which for a thousand years they had been robbed of—freedom of mind.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

Mr. JOHN M'WATTERS, *Chairman.*
Mr. J. ADAMS MATHEWSON, *Sec'y and Treas'r.*

SUPERINTENDENTS:

Messrs. John M'Watters,
John M'Callum,
George Morrison,

Messrs. James Knox,
Edmund Savage,
John Richie.

DISTRIBUTORS:

Messrs. J. Kirkpatrick,
J. M'Watters, jun.,
J. Telfer,
H. Buckham,
George Mochrie,
John Plimsoll,
Wm. Anderson,
Hector M'Lean,

Messrs. Joseph Jackson,
F. Grafton,
Cephas Mills,
W. Hibbard,
P. W. Wood,
Thos. Galbraith,
John Galbraith,
E. Jamieson,

Mrs. Milne,
" Woodbury,
Miss M'Cormack,

Miss M. Mackenzie,
" Fletcher,
" Lonsdale.

CONSTITUTION.

1. That this Institution be called *The Montreal Association for the Distribution of Religious Tracts.*
2. That this Association shall consist of all such pious persons, who may be disposed to unite their operations in carrying out the objects of a general Tract distribution, according to the plan now proposed.
3. That all persons desirous of becoming members of this Association, shall be received by a vote of the Society, at any General or Monthly Meeting, but not admitted to full Membership until they have been engaged for three months in distributing.
4. That it shall be the duty of the Members of this Association to distribute Tracts, to converse with those they visit on the important subject of personal religion, and to urge an attendance on public worship, as well as a regard to the other means of grace.
5. That the Members shall meet statedly once a month for prayer, in connection with the object in view, when each Member shall present a written report, and give a statement of such facts as may have occurred in the course of distribution.
6. That all monies contributed shall be received in aid of the funds of the Montreal Religious Tract Society.
7. That the Officers shall consist of a Chairman and Secretary, to be chosen annually by the Members.
8. That it shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a record of the proceedings of each Meeting, and also the Reports of the Distributors. He shall also take charge of all monies received by the Association, and account for the same.