

*Mrs M H A Davies  
Mountain View*

**FOURTH REPORT**

OF

**"Bible-Women" Effort,**

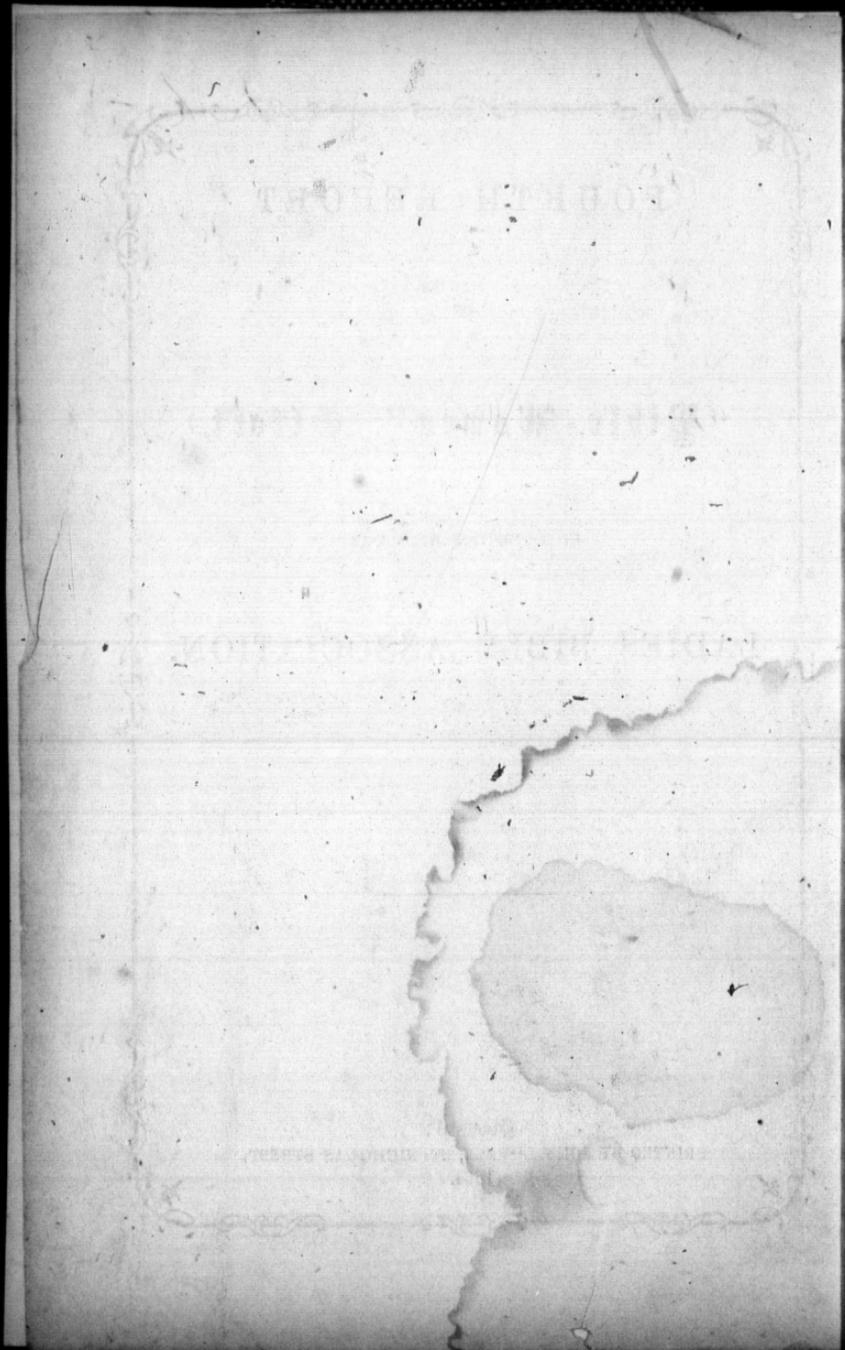
IN CONNECTION WITH THE

**LADIES BIBLE ASSOCIATION.**

**Montreal:**

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## FOURTH REPORT.

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IN this Fourth Report of BIBLE AND DOMESTIC MISSION in Montreal, we intreat our Christian friends to bear in mind that this is in an especial manner a work done to the Lord—a quiet home visiting—a sowing of the seed of the living word by many waters; the springing-up and fruit-bearing of which we may never in time know as the result of this mission; and that much of what the Lord has already tangibly owned and blessed our peculiar circumstances do not allow of our making known. First, the majority of our population are Romanists, whose watchful jealousy lest the Bible or Bible readers cross the path of their adherents, needs no arousing. Next, the Bible woman enters the homes of misery and haunts of vice unhindered; her honor pledged that none save her lady superintendent shall know their secrets. Then our population altogether is not large enough to allow of our gleaning at pleasure from the voluminous monthly reports of either Bible women or their superintendents, the most thrilling incidents or encouraging successes, as it might do harm by the parties being identified by their relatives or friends, so that we are constrained not “to let our left hand know what our right hand is doing.” We therefore exhort our friends who have aided this mission with their money, their sympathy or prayers, as also the indefatigable Bible women themselves, to exercise faith and not to be weary in well-doing, for the time will soon be when they who have done ought for their Lord in secret shall be openly rewarded; therefore, to be content with general statements, statistics, and such extracts from the superintendents’ and Bible women’s journals as it is deemed prudent to give.

This work originated in 1860, by the engagement of one Bible woman. In 1861 another was added; toward the close of that year a third, to labor in Griffintown; and now we gladly tell of having been led to two more, to whose labors we look forward with much hope. One of these is the wife of a sergeant, brought to our notice by several Christian ladies who have had good opportunity of judging of her fitness for this work. Her time is to be given for the wives of soldiers of the garrison

from Molson's barracks westward to College street. The other is supplementary to this: she is an experienced Bible woman, whose circumstances do not allow of her giving more than one or two afternoons weekly; and as a mothers' meeting had already been established by the wife of an officer connected with the Military Train, it was arranged that this Bible woman should act under her superintendence, and that their work should include the Military Train and 30th Regiment. Two other Bible women are employed by one of the churches of the city. Still our districts are far too large. The Jail itself, with its neighborhood and all that comes of visiting there, could almost profitably occupy the time of one Bible woman. We still mourn that our immense French-speaking population are nearly untouched by this blessed influence of women carrying to women the life-giving word of God. This is not from want of support. We believe friends would be found willing to sustain such an addition; but from the difficulty of finding a suitable French Canadian Christian woman to send into the field. We therefore desire to be stirred up, and to stir up our friends to lay this matter more importunately before our heavenly Father. Many know how greatly it is needed.

We are thankful to God to be able to say that with a brief interval in the work of the three Bible women, one from severe sickness, another to pay a visit to a sick son, and the third for needed rest, they have worked throughout the past year with unremitting toil, to circulate the Scriptures, and bring sinners to know Jesus for their friend and Saviour; beside many subordinate labors which arise out of their daily contact with the poor, and react in opening the way for the principal object of this mission; and as they and their co-workers look back, they joyfully own that they have found it good for the prosperity of their own souls.

The whole number of copies of the Scriptures sold has been 92, and 7 have been given gratuitously; but these numbers represent but a small part of the Bible instruction communicated, especially by the reading of the Scriptures from house to house.

One of the Bible women writes in her monthly report: "Several of our mothers have provided themselves with Bibles. One has paid by instalments \$4 for two Bibles, out of her own earnings, since last winter, one for herself and one for a newly married sister. A soldier's wife has also this month purchased a Bible, and is we trust prayerfully searching for hid treasure." The same writes in the next monthly report—"I have sold only two Bibles and one Testament, but have added a few more names to the list of subscribers. Again, she

adds, my visits to the Barracks and Military Hospital are at present amongst the most interesting parts of my duty. To-day I went into another department, and found a woman rejoicing in the Lord. She asked me if I remembered the Roman Catholic with whom I had been talking about the Bible. "That woman told her husband what you had been saying," and he has since commenced to read the Scriptures for himself. In the same regiment, two women and the husband of one of them, we feel confident in saying, have been brought to see the truth as it is in Jesus by her instrumentality, evidencing their change by assiduously aiding their teacher to arrange for prayer and Bible meetings amongst their companions. Since they have been removed to another station, most affectionate Christian letters have been received from them, in which they thank God that they have had grace given them to be patient and steadfast while jeered at for their religion by those around them, and grieving that there is no kind Bible woman there to encourage them, yet glad that they had Jesus to go to.

The following is from the journal of another: "Called to-day on a poor widow in the "Bookery" (often mentioned); her illness has been blessed to her. She is ever anxious to hear the truth, and when I cease reading she always asks me to pray. When going she desired me to go up stairs, and in the attic, in a poor, small and dirty room, I found two women and seven children. I read to them the word of life, and sought a blessing. They invited me kindly to return."

"After reading the Bible to-day to a family (not Protestant) who allow me to read, they told me of a poor afflicted woman living in the cellar of the house, whom I had never before met; went to see her and heard her tale of sorrow. I hope God gave me words wherewith to comfort her. I intend to see her often."

"Was out to-day from 10 to half-past 5 o'clock. All that time trying to lead sinners to Jesus, often with little hope. Found only two cases in which there was anything to encourage. Called on Mrs. D., a poor afflicted woman with a large family—worse than a widow while her husband was in health, now with the added burden of his illness. Knowing his temper, I feared to meet him; but he is greatly humbled, and spoke with penitence of what, as he said, his own ill conduct had brought him to. Said all I could to him. He and his wife were both much affected; engaged in prayer with them. In the same house entered a room where there were five hardened looking women. They allowed me to read, and listened attentively."

"Visited to-day Mrs. P., a poor widow, with an ungrateful and un-

dutiful son. She greeted me with 'Oh mistress I was longing to see you!' and then followed the tale of bitter sorrow which none but a widow and deserted mother can feel. I tried to lead her to look for help to the God of the widow, and I hope she derives comfort from her trust in Him."

"Visited poor S., perfectly helpless from paralysis. It is a pleasure to hear him talk of the love of Jesus, and his own unworthiness. I go to see him as often as I can, and when I get anything pleasant or instructive I lend it to him. S. also listened attentively while I read the word; and if his heart is not affected, his judgment is convinced."

"Many whom I visit show their value of God's word by stopping their work while I am reading, even when their living depends upon it. Mrs. E. and family stop their washing and ironing, by which they earn their earthly bread, to hear a portion of the bread of life, and sometimes when the man of the house comes in, and I fear to be in the way, I am encouraged to go on, and gladly do so, in the hope of being led to give a word in season."

The foregoing is given just as noticed in the Bible women's daily journal. The following give in addition some of the benefits resulting from the visits of the Bible women.

"Visited Mrs. M.; husband and daughter sick; the house a perfect wreck—scarcely habitable. She took me up the decayed stairs to the nearly roofless attic, and told me all her plans of industry and economy. She is the only one of the family able to earn anything, yet with all her drawbacks she hopes to put something in the provident fund."

"Called on Mrs. D., a widow with a large family, and with very little means of support. As I had often talked to her of how the poor might be more comfortable, she seemed pleased to tell me how she managed now. Her attic, indeed, did her credit; it was thoroughly clean. She and her husband listened with attention, and seemed to bring the remarks made, home to themselves."

A lady superintendent writes: "During the past year there has been much less drunkenness amongst the people; indeed the very beginning of the year shewed that much good had been effected in this respect. The custom of drinking out the old year, and drinking in the new one, was not observed in one house out of fifty which kept it up last year. Many who used to drink whiskey, now never taste it. At the close of this year there are comparatively few habitual drunkards to be met with in the regular visiting beat of the Bible woman." One or two remarkable instances of reform may be interesting. A family who had been

living in the greatest destitution from hard drinking, have for the past year been perfectly temperate. The Bible woman spoke very earnestly to them one day. She set before them the solemn warnings of God's word, and threatened not to go back, she had so often counselled them to no purpose. She then prayed with them. When she went back, the man said, "Oh I thought you would never come to see us again! I felt all you said last time you were here; your prayer made every nerve of my body shake. If God's mercies were as man's, I should have been cut off long ago." That man has become a changed character, and his wife also. Two of their three children have been clothed and sent to school, and their house and themselves are tidy and clean. They need no help now. Last year their rent was paid for them to save their furniture. This year they have paid off all their debts, and they have a barrel of flour in the house, when before they scarcely had a loaf of bread. Another had been so great a slave to this vice that he would carry off every thing in the house, even the children's clothes, to pawn them for drink. Often did his wife sit up whole nights to watch him and wait on him. At last she was obliged to leave him. He confessed he was the most wretched man on earth. Now they have a happy home, "heaven begun on earth" as they express it. He has signed the pledge, and has been a total abstainer for six months. He takes pleasure in reading the Bible and attending the house of God."

Another superintending lady writes: "Mr. and Mrs. S, have now kept the pledge for a year past last June. She is never absent from our weekly meeting. They both seem to be quite recovered from their habits of daily intemperance. Several other individuals are, we hope, struggling against this fearful foe; but we cannot yet speak confidently of their deliverance."

At the close of this year she again writes: "In reference to the cases alluded to in former reports, of reformation, especially from intemperance, I am glad to report that all there named remain steadfast, and show increasing regularity in attending the means of grace, and in reading the Scriptures. There is also marked improvement in their domestic matters—in cleanliness, and especially in sending their children to Sunday and day schools. The number of children who have thus been brought under instruction by means of this mission, is large, considering that it is almost entirely a Roman Catholic district."

In the journal of a third district we read: "Visited Mrs. P.—found, from enquiry, that she is continuing sober. Her room is clean. Encouraged her all I could, and read and prayed with her. I have cause for

thankfulness in Mrs. H.'s case also. When first I knew her she was seldom sober; now she is decent and respectable, prospering in the world, and, better still, her soul is prospering. It is gratifying to observe with what interest she listens to the reading of the Bible."

In the Jail much has been accomplished during the past year, by the Bible woman in whose district it is. If we were at liberty to speak freely of this work, and of that in improper houses in the neighborhood, we could tell many sad tales of sin and its suffering, and of some instances of heartfelt penitence. In all, forty-seven have been restored to their friends, or put to service with respectable farmers. One evidence of their sincere desire to do well, is the eagerness they evince to get away from the scene of temptation—anywhere out of Montreal, to make a new start. Letters of gratitude from themselves, their friends, or both, have been received from those who have gone to a distance; and about seven, who are near, have been visited, and all are still steadfast. One poor old grandmother, in the fulness of her gratitude, sent the Bible woman some yarn to make her a pair of oversocks, and hoped she might long be spared to go on such errands of mercy.

Through the kindness of railway and boat proprietors in granting free tickets, and the kindness of friends in supplying us with cast-off clothing, the whole expense of this part of the work to the mission is under £9.

The following letter is an example of the grateful feeling of some of those rescued from evil:—

MY DEAR FRIEND AND MOTHER:

I write, according to promise to you, if God spared me to get home. He served me with mercies I never deserved. My dear father has forgiven me the many sorrows I have caused him, and the trouble he had on my account.

Dear mother, (I hope you will forgive me for calling you so) I will ever remember the day you said you would be one to me if I would forsake my evil ways and serve the Lord. Your fervent prayers, and gentle rebuke, I never will forget. God has blessed them. My dear father joins with me in returning you thanks for the kindness you shewed me, and the trouble you took with me.

Often I think on your wanderings after us, and intreating us to turn from our evil ways. "Prepare to meet our God." What a solemn sound that has to me now. I read the Bible that you gave me; it is my comfort by night and by day. But I must stop now.

May God bless and spare you a long time in your labors, and when done all here, take you home to himself, where we will all meet never to part. You often prayed for that. I know God will answer your prayer, my dear mother in Christ.

I hope the Rev. Mr. Irwin is well, and is still at his faithful work, for it is not his fault if we do not come to Christ.

The Jail is visited weekly, and oftener when there are individual cases which need to be looked after. This year we again offer our thanks to Mr. and Mrs. McGinn, and Mr. Lawrie, who so kindly gave every aid in their power to help the Bible woman's work. The Bible woman reads and prays with the inmates of the Jail collectively. Latterly as many as sixty attend these meetings. The deepest attention is paid, and many questions asked regarding the way of salvation. She then follows them to their cells, and tries to bring home to them, individually, what they have heard in a more general way; and much good results from these private interviews.

One girl has been rescued from destruction, of whom it was said: "There is no use in attempting to do her any good." The keeper in the Jail said that there was only one he had seen that appeared as bad as she was, and that one is now in the Penitentiary. This girl was without any friends, nor has she any now but the Bible woman. For three years she was one of the worst characters possible. She became very ill, and nearly lost the use of one eye, and it was then that the Bible woman gained an influence over her, which was the beginning of her great change. After leaving the Jail, a fortnight's board and lodging was paid for her, but she suffered a great deal, and was often without any food until she went to the Bible woman for help. She has stood firm, and has not returned to her old ways. She now goes out to work by the day, and earns enough to support her. After such a one has been reclaimed, none can be despaired of.

The Bible woman has also been instrumental in inducing three of the keepers of improper houses to discontinue their sinful trade; one of whom, brought by a dangerous illness to a sense of her sin, continued in her good resolves after her recovery, and has since died, believing in Jesus as her Saviour. The impression made on this mass of evil, much of which is directly related to the use of intoxicating drinks, is no doubt small, compared with what remains to be done; but the bare facts, given above, represent only a small part of the exertions which have been put forth in reference to this class of persons, and which have produced good results in many cases.

One wintry day, as a Bible woman wended her way through a part of her district, many of the houses of which, like whited sepulchres, are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness, her attention was arrested by the unusually anxious expression on the face of a well-dressed young lady then passing. She offered her a tract, as an introduction; asked if she were a stranger; and frankly told her own name and mission. The

confidence of the stranger was won. We shall not give in detail the strange story that followed. The young lady had eloped with a person her parents disapproved of. She, all unsuspecting of his villainous intentions, accompanied him to Montreal. At the moment the Bible woman met her, she had, during the temporary absence of her base companion, fled from the improper boarding-house to which she had discovered he had taken her. The Bible woman at once conducted her to a respectable private boarding-house. Afterwards the man sought out the Bible woman, and demanded of her to tell him where she had taken his intended victim, abusing her because she would not tell him. The father of this young lady was written to, and within a week he came; and with tears of joy, and much gratitude to the Bible woman, hastened away his humbled daughter to the protection of her home.

The usefulness of some of our mission rooms is, from various causes, still below the standard to which we desire to see them attain; it being our conviction that no means, to reach and elevate the degraded poor, has yet been tried that has proved so efficient as this Bible and Domestic Mission. We, therefore, desire to see more of humble, earnest Bible women, with devoted life-working ladies to superintend them, brought into this field; and that the city might be divided into more manageable districts, each with its unsectarian mission-room, as nearly as possible in the centre. Into this should be weekly gathered the mothers whose home habits are so familiar to the Bible women, that it is useless for them to try to excite sympathy by fabrications, or even exaggerations about their poverty or sufferings. They know the claim most readily listened to, to be their having put forth an effort in some direction to improve themselves. Here they have instruction how to make and mend their own clothes; the Bible is read and explained to them by the lady superintending; and, if they are capable and trustworthy, quilts or under-garments, suitable for the poor, given them to make at their homes, for which, of course, they are paid. These again are sold at, and sometimes below, cost, to be paid for by instalments, if necessary. These mission-rooms ought also to be used on different days through the week for grown-up girls' sewing and reading meetings, and for evening prayer meetings, and similar purposes. These, it is hoped, may, in the coming year, be increased in number, by friends of the mission willing to help in this part of its work.

On asking one of our superintending ladies for the accounts for her district for the last year, we found that, in addition to her devoted attendance at her mission-room, in which she finds the most interesting

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part of her labors, she has paid the rent and expenses connected with it. Her report states: "On my return, after two months' absence in summer, I received a most cordial welcome from the women at our mothers' meeting. The average attendance has been twelve, but now it is increasing. Much interest is felt by quite a number who would not miss attending upon any account. At these meetings work is given out, and many of the women have supplied themselves and families with comfortable garments, quilts, &c., made from materials kindly given to the superintendent by Messrs. Clark, Lewis Kay & Co., and other friends. Our room has been nicely furnished with benches by Mr. Leeming."

"Several persons have voluntarily expressed a wish to have prayer meetings held at their houses. I hope soon, through the instrumentality of the Young Men's Christian Association, to have several organized. Several additional children have been sent to the American Presbyterian school. Mrs. W., whose husband died last winter, has kept her children there ever since, although the Nuns have called several times to claim them, as she herself is a Roman Catholic. She is a thrifty, tidy woman, and so willing to do her utmost to help herself, that it is a pleasure to help her. She says God's blessing has been on her ever since the Bible woman began to visit her."

"One woman, with four children, has been assisted to go to the State of Ohio, where her husband is now at work. She has always been a regular attendant at the mothers' meeting since it was first held. This case has given the Bible woman and myself much trouble, as it was one of the most destitute families in my district."

Last April it was proposed that the Bible woman living nearest to the House of Refuge, in connection with the Bible Woman's Mission, should reside there, and have the use of the Committee room for the meetings connected with her district; but not being so central as it ought, it has not answered well. Still, it is proper to state that the residence of the Bible woman in the House of Refuge has been of very great service, more especially to the spiritual interests of the numerous persons who have been inmates there. At mid-terms a room was diligently looked for, but one could not be found; now, however, one has been obtained.

Still a good deal has been done in this district. The lady superintendent has had a provident fund, in which twenty-three persons have placed small sums, to the amount of \$47 76. These sums are now, at this inclement season, being returned chiefly in clothing and bedding, at reduced prices. In aid of this an acceptable donation of patterns was received from Messrs.

Winks & Co., Gault Brothers, and J. Mackay. In the above district two Bible reading meetings have been held regularly at the houses of humble persons who have gladly given the use of a room for this purpose. In the journal we observe, concerning these meetings, such notices as the following :

"In the same dwelling Mrs. T. lives : she, I have reason to believe, has found peace in believing : had the privilege of reading there to several who meet for the purpose. They all listened with much attention, and I trust the Lord was present, as at other times, to prove that His Word does not return unto him void. Had a good gathering to-day at Mrs. F.'s—all attention while I read the Bible. As there were several young women present, I afterwards read of the 'Happy death of a poor girl.' " This Bible woman is also in the habit of reading at several dressmaking establishments, the mistresses kindly giving her every facility for doing so. The benefit of such a friend to this often tempted class, has proved manifest in several instances. During the year this Bible woman has been the means of getting thirty-five women and girls into situations ; and some of these have been placed anew two or three times.

A debt of gratitude is due to two ladies and a few of their friends for \$118 to the general fund, the proceeds of a basket supplied by them with useful and fancy articles, and carried round by a worthy woman who derives her living chiefly from it. Mrs. King, of the Montreal Bank, has again taken charge of this basket, and will be glad to receive help, in suitable material or articles, from any one disposed to aid through this channel.

In all the mission-rooms regular meetings for reading and prayer have been kept up, and it is hoped much good has been done by this, as well as by aiding the temporal necessities of the people.

One reason why the mission-room work, as a whole, has not been as efficient as we desire, is the unusually high price of cotton, the lowness of our funds causing us to fear to lay out what would have been necessary upon it. Another, is the establishment of the Industrial Rooms, which have supplied many of the poor with work. We believe, however, that no general institution can in this respect do the work of the mission-rooms ; since in the latter, particular cases can be better investigated ; more suitable work can be given, articles can be made, to be paid for in instalments, and the whole can be accompanied with Bible instruction.

The House of Refuge has been sustained during the year without expense to the Bible Woman's fund, by separate collections, and has been managed by a special committee of ladies, who have kept up an almost daily visitation, and have been studiously careful to investigate

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thoroughly the cases presented, and to provide, as soon as possible, places or other employments for the inmates, so that they should be chargeable to the house as short a time as possible, and should not acquire habits of dependence. This duty has proved exceedingly onerous, and has made large demands on the time of the ladies of the Committee; but we have reason to hope that it has been the means of doing much good, in rendering useful to themselves and the community, many who would otherwise have been permanently burdensome. It has been attempted in every case to give such religious instruction, and other advice, as was thought most suitable to induce them to abide in the paths of virtue and happiness. The fact that they are watched over, and that it will give pleasure to those interested in them to hear of their continuing to do well, has proved a useful incitement to some of these. More than 250 persons have been received into the House of Refuge since November, 1862.

We take this opportunity of thanking Col. Wilgress, Messrs. Taylor, Alexander, Dougall, and Murphy, with several of the City Missionaries who have aided the religious instructions, by holding meetings with the inmates on Sundays and week-day evenings.

The Hospital has also been visited weekly, and oftener when any case in which the Bible women were interested, was there. These seasons of suffering have repeatedly proved God's time for bringing to a consummation the previous readings and teachings of the Bible woman.

One case, out of several, differing in circumstances, but similar in progress and results, may be stated, for the encouragement of those interested in the Bible Woman's Mission (this is chosen, as the person was not a regular resident here, and is since dead).

C. L.— was first met by the Bible woman in the Lying-in Hospital (where many a heartrending case is to be met). She had come here from U. C., to hide her shame from those who knew her; and her small means, the savings of a widowed mother, were all gone before her admission there. When obliged to leave that institution, a refuge was provided for her; but her health had suffered so much from remorse, the death of her child, and other causes, that in a short time she had to be sent to the General Hospital; and while there, the constant visits, for reading the Scriptures, the exhortations, and advice of the Bible woman—but above all, the prayers, which she anxiously and earnestly joined in, were blessed by God, in causing her to feel her sinful state, and to seek to the blood of Jesus for cleansing and safety. The Bible woman wrote to her mother, and to her betrayer; and from the latter received money enough to bring her back to her home, where she was most anxious to

be, as she felt she was in a dying state. But she was so weak, that she could not be brought to any boarding-house, or yet sent on her journey alone. So the Bible woman took her to her own room in the House of Refuge, where she had to remain, sleeping with, and tended and fed by her, until she had gained strength enough to undertake her melancholy voyage.

Another case of efforts blessed, was of a young woman, also from Upper Canada—one who had never erred openly, like the other, but who was living utterly ignorant of God, though knowing herself to be on the brink of eternity. She was not without means, and came to Montreal for medical advice; and when all earthly physicians failed to help her, she was led, through the instrumentality of the Bible woman, to seek to the Great Physician of souls. The most gratifying proofs of a saving change in her case have been received,—first from herself, and, since her death, from the testimony of her mother, and other friends.

Although we ever feel our need of watchfulness, lest the temporal aid given should neutralize the great principle at which we aim, of teaching the poor, industry and self-reliance, and should thus help to pauperize them, there are many cases in which help is necessary and useful,—for instance, in six poor families, where deaths have occurred, the coffins have been paid for; and in some of these, even more help given. Tickets honored at shops, with which an arrangement for this has been made, for small quantities of food or wood, are given. In some circumstances, a month's rent is paid. One or two aged people, who have no claim on any church, have a little money aid. Often a cab has to be hired to carry a poor convalescent from the Hospital, probably, to the House of Refuge; there to remain till fit for work, or till employment is found. The same is also needed to carry persons from the Jail, in whom the Bible woman has confidence, as desirous to amend; sometimes because they have not clothes in which they could pass through the streets; at other times, because evil-disposed persons are known to be waiting for their dismissal, to entice them back to their evil courses. For these, cast-off clothing has been most valuable to us. We have to thank many friends for help in this way. Shall we hope more friends may be raised up for us in this matter? We shall very gratefully accept of such donations, as well as old bedding, pieces of carpet,—in short, we promise to make good use of almost anything that may be sent to us through the Bible woman or matron, at the House of Refuge.

Seventy out-door poor have had one or more garments given, because of sickness, or being aged, or for having made some effort to improve their own condition.

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In one district twenty children have been clothed and sent to week-day and Sunday schools. In the other districts a particular account has not been kept, but the whole number must exceed forty.

In conclusion, we can state that our confidence in the value of this Bible Mission grows with experience. It reaches a portion of our community which, but for the Bible women, might never have heard God's Word, either in public or in private. Many who will not, or cannot, go to Church, are induced to go to mission-rooms, or to Bible readings at the houses of neighbors. The Bible women, in their visits from house to house, are every where received gladly, and regarded as friends—often as the only friends to whom, in times of trouble, sorrows can be un-bosomed, and of whom relief can be sought. The daily prayerful care of Bible women and superintendents, enables aid and encouragement to be given in the most judicious manner, and that best suited to the circumstances of many who, both spiritually and temporally, are apparently beyond the reach of other human help. In short, not only is the Bible constantly offered to the acceptance of the poorest and most degraded, but by the reading of its pages, by prayer, by sympathy, and aid freely given in sorrow, in sickness, and in temptation, it is commended to their hearts and consciences, with the most blessed results in many cases.

There is still room for more Bible women, more superintendents, and more aid to the funds of the mission; which we hope, as hitherto, the friends of the mission will spontaneously send.

Are there not still many Christian ladies whose time is not given to this or other works of kindred character, but perhaps wasted in pursuits which will not enable them to give an account of it with joy, who might undertake the superintendence of Bible women, or of mission-rooms, with their classes and reading meetings? Such are needed; and we heartily invite their co-operation. The work is one, which entered upon from love to Christ and to the souls of the perishing, will not lose its reward.

## THE BIBLE WOMAN'S MISSION IN ACCOUNT WITH TREASURER

RECEIPTS.		DISBURSEMENTS.	
Balance from last year.....	\$24.97½	To paid rent of Mission rooms	\$46.00
<i>Subscriptions received since.</i>		“ Tickets for food.....	69.11
Miss Fleming.....	3.00	“ Temperance & other papers	4.65
Mrs. P. Redpath.....	5.00	“ Basket expenses.....	5.00
Mrs. P. McLaran (Lanark)..	2.00	“ Wood, given by tickets..	8.75
Mrs. Cunningham.....	5.00	“ Batting for quilts.....	12.85
Mrs. — Hall.....	2.00	“ Grey cotton.....	9.25
The Misses Barrett.....	4.00	“ Help given in clothing,	
R. Muir, Esq.....	5.00	rents, &c.....	15.53
A Friend (Mrs. D.).....	5.00	“ Small loans, promised to	
Mrs. Ferrier.....	5.00	be returned.....	6.50
Mrs. J. Savage.....	4.00	Flannel, cotton and thread	6.50
Proceeds of basket per Mrs.			
E. King.....	68.00		
Proceeds of basket per Miss			
Evans.....	50.00		
Donation per collecting bag			
in Rev. Dr. Taylor's Church	30.00	Balance on hand.....	28.83½
	\$212.97½		\$212.97½

FANNY EVANS, Treasurer,  
Bible Woman's Mission.

4th January, 1864.

As may be seen by this statement, there would not have been funds enough to pay all claims, were it not for the generous donation last on the list. But since the accounts for the year were closed; the following subscriptions have been received, collected by Mrs. Leeming and others:

Mrs. T. M. Taylor.....	\$10.00	Messrs. Lewis, Kay & Co.....	\$5.00
Mr. J. P. Clark.....	5.00	Mr. T. M. Bryson.....	3.00
Mrs. Hibbard.....	2.00	Mr. Pickup.....	2.00
Mrs. J. M'Intosh.....	2.00	Mrs. T. Kay.....	5.00
Mrs. Lonsdale.....	2.00	Lady Sarah Lindsay.....	4.00
Mrs. T. M. Thompson.....	5.00	Mrs. Redpath, Terrace bank.....	2.00
Mrs. T. Leeming.....	4.00	Mile end Sunday School.....	5.00
Mr. G. Winks.....	2.50		

The following donations have been given to one of the Bible women to aid particular cases, and have been expended without appearing in the general account.

Mr. Alexander.....	\$5.00	Mr. Alexander.....	5.00
Miss Lunn.....	3.00	Mr. T. M. Taylor.....	4.00
Mrs. H. Lyman.....	12.00		
Mr. T. M. Taylor.....	5.00		
			\$34

The House of Refuge, in connection with the Bible-Woman effort, is in Fortification Lane, No. 113½.

As the first subscriptions to the House of Refuge, namely—from Nov. 1862 to April 1863—have been already acknowledged in the "Montreal Witness," it has been thought unnecessary to publish them again.

The following are the subscriptions received since the arrangements were made to continue the admittance of the destitute; until the "House of Industry and Refuge" should be opened.

## LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS TO HOUSE OF REFUGE, SINCE APRIL, 1863.

Collected by Mrs. Parker, Miss Evans  
and Mrs. Noble.

John Crawford, Esq.	\$ 5 00
Mrs. W. C. Evans	3 00
Mrs. E. King	5 00
Mrs. J. D. Gibb	5 00
Mrs. W. H. A. Davies	5 00
Mrs. Leach	3 00
Mrs. Williams	1 00
Mrs. J. J. Jones	2 00
Mrs. Beaufield	1 50
A Friend (Mrs. F.)	0 50
Mrs. Walker	2 00
Mrs. E. Freer	4 00
Miss Evans	2 00
Mrs. McFarlane	2 00
Mrs. Molson	5 00
Mrs. Paterson	4 00
Mrs. Major	2 00
Mrs. Hart	4 00
Mrs. Henshaw	2 00
Mrs. Capt. Orr	2 50
Mrs. Hutton	2 00
Mrs. Gault	4 00
Mrs. Mulholland	5 00
Mrs. Collis	5 00
Dr. Reddy	2 00
Mrs. Sullivan	2 00
Wm. Cunningham, Esq.	10 00
T. Cramp, Esq.	5 00
Mrs. Cunningham	2 50
Messrs. Smith & Cochrane	5 00
Mrs. C. S. Bagg	4 00
Mrs. Bridges	5 00
Messrs. S. Greenshields & Son	10 00
Mrs. Duncan per Dr. Craig	10 00
Judge Aylwin	10 00
D. Torrance, Esq.	5 00

Collected by Mrs. Leeming.

Chas. Alexander	\$10 00
Lewis, Kay & Co.	5 00
Mr. Winks	2 50

Mr. Leeming	\$ 5 00
Mrs. H. Lyman	20 00
J. P. Clark	10 00
Mrs. Savage, senr.	5 00
Mrs. John McIntosh	2 00
Mrs. Hibbard	2 00

Collected by Mrs. Lane.

Mrs. Lane	\$ 5 00
P. Redpath, Esq.	5 00
Mrs. Sterling	3 00
Mrs. Wall	3 00
Mrs. Drummond	4 00
Mrs. Court	5 00
Mrs. Notman	1 00
J. Redpath, Esq.	10 00
G. Brown, Esq.	5 00
W. C. Watson	3 00
Mrs. J. S. Evans	2 00
Rev. W. Anderson	5 00
A friend	2 00
Miss Mackay	2 00
Mrs. White	1 50
Mr. McMaster	1 00
Mr. T. Davidson	3 00
E. Mackay	2 00
F. Torrance, Esq.	4 00

Collected by Mrs. J. Ferrier, Junior.

James Ferrier, Jun	\$10 00
H. M.	5 00
Cash	10 00
D. C. Macallum	4 00
Mrs. Kay	5 00
Mr. T. M. Bryson	10 00
Mr. Crane	4 00
Mrs. Vanneck	4 00
Mrs. Ferrier	5 00
Mrs. J. Torrance, Jun.	4 00
Mrs. J. Henderson	5 00
Mr. Crathern	4 00
Mr. and Mrs. Patton	10 00
City and District Savings' Bank	100

RECEIPTS and DISBURSEMENTS in House of Refuge, Fortification Lane, since its opening, November, 1862, to January, 1864.

RECEIPTS:

To amount of Subscriptions received by Mrs. Noble, while Treasurer, from Nov., 1862, to May, 1863.....	\$76.60
Acknowledged in "Daily Witness".....	32.15
Receipts of Board.....	10.68
Proceeds of work of Inmates.....	\$719.43
To amount of Subscriptions received by Miss Evans, Treasurer, from May 1863, to January 1864, as per list appended.....	454.50
Received for board, per I. P. B. Society.....	13.00
For work of Inmates.....	17.41
	<u>484.91</u>
Total Receipts.....	\$1204.34

DISBURSEMENTS:

Nov. 1862.	
Pay Committee of Servants' Home.....	\$112.00
" " Other expenses before opening.....	59.85
" " Rent to May 1863.....	72.50
" " Clothing, bedding, furniture.....	21.50
" " Groceries, meat, bread.....	110.02
" " Wood, potatoes.....	55.33
" " House expenses, passages, registry office, cab hire, tinsmith.....	65.62
" " Matron's salary from Nov. 1862 to Jan. 1864.....	112.00
" " Rent and Water rate.....	91.20
" " Bread.....	70.74
" " Groceries, meal, &c.....	110.54
" " Milk and potatoes.....	35.35
" " Meat.....	43.48
" " Wood.....	64.35
" " Carpenter and plumbers.....	24.28½
" " House expenses, including fish, oil, crockery, cab hire, sawing, mending, thread.....	40.20
Balance on hand.....	111.87½
	<u>\$1204.34</u>

A larger amount was received for work of Inmates, but as the proceeds were expended in clothing for the parties themselves, it was not brought into the accounts.