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THE

TWENTY-FIRST REPORT

QUEBEC

AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY,

1857.

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING,

FEBRUARY, 4TH, 1857.



QUEBEC:

PRINTED BY MIDDLETON & DAWSON, SAULT-AU-MATELOT STREET AND FOOT OF MOUNTAIN HILL,

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NOTICES.

All Branch Societies, Associations, and Depositories, are particularly requested to make out a Yearly Report of their proceedings, with list of subscribers, &c., to be sent to the Depository, Quebec, on or before the twenty-fifth day of December, that there may be sufficient time to prepare the Annual Report.

It is requested that when remittances are made, it may be specified whether the same are to be placed to the Purchase Account, or as Free Contributions.

It is particularly requested that Branches and Agencies will effect Insurance on their Stock. In many cases it may be made an item in the Policy which the Depositary takes out on his stock in trade; but where that cannot be done, if the stock of Bibles be of the value of £25, a special Insurance must be effected.

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LAWS AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

QUEBEC AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

1.—The Society shall be called "The Quebec Auxiliary Bible Society;" the object of which shall be to co-operate with the British and Foreign Bible Society, in promoting the distribution of the Holy Scriptures.

2.—Conformably to the principles of the Parent Institution, the Bibles and Testaments to be circulated by this Society shall be without note or comment, and those in the languages of the United Kingdom,

of the authorized version only.

3.—All persons subscribing 10s. or upwards, per annum, shall be members of the Society. Nevertheless, persons contributing less than 10s. shall be considered annual subscribers.

4.—All persons subscribing £5 or upwards at one time—and all Executors paying bequests of £10 or upwards—shall be members for life of the Society.

5.—The business of the Society shall be conducted by a President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary or Secretaries, Depositary and a Committee; and five members of the Committee shall constitute a guarantee.

6.—Ministers of the Gospel of all denominations, who are members of the Society, shall be considered Vice-Presidents.

7.—The Committee shall meet once a month, or oftener, on some

day to be fixed by themselves.

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8.—The whole of the subscriptions and donations received by the Society shall be applied, after deducting incidental expenses, in the first place, to the purchase of such a number of Bibles and Testaments as are required for local distribution; and the surplus funds shall be remitted to the Parent Society.

9.—The members of the Society shall be entitled to purchase Bibles and Testaments at the Depository, at the reduced prices, to the extent of five times the amount of their subscriptions, and to any

further extent at the cost price.

10.—All ministers of the Gospel making collections in their respective Congregations in behalf of the Society, shall be entitled, on paying such collections to the Treasurer, to receive Bibles and Testaments, at the reduced prices, to the extent of one-half of their respective collections,—such return being claimed within one year from the remittance of the collection; and to purchase Bibles and Testaments, at the cost prices, to any further extent. It is recommended, in all practicable cases, to supply the poor by sale rather than by gift.

11.—For the purpose of giving full effect to the design of the Society, the Committee shall make it their business to enquire what families or individuals are in want of Bibles and Testaments and unable to procure them; and it shall be the duty of the Committee to supply them at prime cost, reduced prices, or gratis, according to their cir-

cumstances.

12.—For the still further promotion of the circulation of the Scriptures, it shall be incumbent on the Committee to encourage the formation of Branch Societies, or Bible Associations, in such Districts, within the sphere of the Society, as may not deem it expedient to form Auxiliary Societies of their own—such Branch Societies, or Bible Associations to be entitled to the same privileges from this Society as this Society enjoys from the Parent Institution.

13.—A general meeting of the Society shall he held once a-year—when the accounts shall be presented; a report agreed upon, and

Officers appointed for the ensuing year.

14.—The Committee, or any twelve members of the Society, may at any time call Special General Meetings thereof, not less than

one week's previous notice being given to the members.

15.—No alteration shall be made in these Laws, except at a General Meeting of the Society,—not less than one month's previous notice being given to the members of the alteration intended to be proposed.

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BIBLES AND TESTAMENTS ON SALE

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TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

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THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE QUEBEC AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY WAS held in the LECTURE HALL, Ste. Anne Street, on Wednesday Evening, 4th February, 1857—Jeffery Hale, Esq., in the Chair.

The proceedings were opened by singing a hymn, and the 19th Psalm having been read and prayer offered by the Rev. David Marsh, after a few introductory remarks by the President, the report was read by the Secretary, Mr. Curry.

The following Resolutions were then unanimously adopted,

1st.—On motion of the Revd. John Cook, D.D., seconded by the Revd. C. H. Williamson, Episcopal French Missionary, from Sabrevois:—

"That the Report now read be received and printed, and that the following gentlemen (see list of officers,) be requested to accept office for the ensuing year, with power to add to their number."

2ND.—On motion of the Revd. Donald Fraser, M.A., of Montreal, seconded by Captain Haultain, R.A.:—

"That this Meeting would cordially express its gratitude to the Parent Society for the very liberal aid it has extended to this Auxiliary, towards carrying out a system of colportage—an agency peculiarly adapted for accomplishing the objects of the Society.

A collection was then made, amounting to £83 10s. 11d, and another hymn having been sung, it was Resolven,—

3RD.—On motion of Joseph Wenham, Esquire, seconded by Revd. R. A. Carden:—

"That this meeting would take occasion to acknowledge with increasing gratitude the continued success with which it has pleased God to crown the operations of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and would commend it as matter for the consideration of all who take a sincere interest in its further progress, whether a greater amount of personal consecration to the great work, might not be attended with a larger amount of success; and it would also record its sense of the favor with which it has pleased God to bless this Auxiliary, in its more extended efforts, and in the more general interest taken in its operations, and would regard both as furnishing motives for continued fervent prayer, as well as for increasing activity."

Doxology sung. Benediction pronounced by the Revd. W. B. CLARK.

REPORT.

In the good providence of God, the Committee of the Quebec Auxiliary Bible Society are again permitted to report to their constituents. If any increased efficiency be found to have characterized its operations, they desire most humbly and devoutly to ascribe the praise to Him to whom alone it is due, and under whose blessing alone, any measure of real success can be expected. One of their number, the late Mr. Edward Ahern, has recently been called home to his reward; his earnest, unaffected piety endeared him to all, while his sound practical views rendered him a valued and most useful member of the Committee.

The past year has been a fruitful one in events of vast importance and significance, and in more more so, than in the increased facilities afforded for the diffusion of the sacred Scriptures generally throughout the world. While its princes and rulers have been "taking counsel together," each seeking his own or his nation's glory, one mightier far has been working too: whom when he worketh none can hinder, nor to whom may be said, "what doest thou?" The peaceful triumphs of the gospel have been advancing in many of "the dark places of the earth," manifesting the power of the cross of Christ, triumphs which shall yet endure after the fiat has gone forth, "There shall be time no longer"; "when He shall have delivered up the kingdom" to the Father, and God shall be all in all.

Your Committee, in reviewing this Society's operations, feel that there is much to encourage, and although the sphere of action is still circumscribed, that, by persevering and unremitting efforts, sustained by the liberality and prayers of the people of God, greater things may be accomplished, and a more extended field of usefulness opened up for future exertion. From the result of the efforts made on behalf of

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during the year, limited, for the satisfactory reasons stated in the last Report, and meagre as compared with the outlay, your Committee did not feel themselves warranted in recommending their renewal, to the Parent Society, although they are of opinion that something might be done with advantage for vessels arriving from foreign ports, provided a suitable agent could be secured.

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BRANCH SOCIETIES

This department of labor has been pursued next claims attention. with a success which is most cheering, realizing to a large extent the anticipations of your Committee. Their esteemed travelling agent, Mr. Blyth, has proved, in all parts of the country, a welcome visitor, as is evidenced by the testimony of ministers and laymen of various denominations, while his own report, which will be found in condensed form in the appendix, speaks of the cordiality of his reception in animated terms. The most convincing proofs of the interest felt in Bible circulation are afforded in the large gatherings at the meetings, although many miles of a heavy road had often to be travelled, the co-operation of ministers and others so cordially extended to your agent, and the sums sent in as free contributions, which have been From these combined cirsubscribed with ready and cheerful zeal. cumstances, your Committee cannot but augur favorably respecting the future stability of these branches. Apart from the numerous advantages to be derived from their formation, your Committee look forward hopefully to a time when each one may become a centre from which the light of divine truth may radiate; and evidences may be found to justify this conclusion in the avowed intentions of the subscribers themselves, who seem fully alive to the importance of the subject. The agent has assisted in the establishment of ten new Branch Societies, namely, at Broughton, Gaspé Basin, Gaspé Bay, Gaspé N.W. arm, Kennebec Road, Lambie's Mills, Metis, New Liverpool and Etchemin, Stoneham and St. Sylvester, besides revisiting the others, with one or He has travelled over 2,400 miles by land and two exceptions. water, and visited 152 families, many of whom were not only destitute of the word of God, but of all other means of grace. In such cases especially he was joyfully received, and at their own solicitations, they enjoyed the benefit of his earnest exhortations and fervent prayers. One correspondent, an esteemed minister of the gospel, writes, in reference to Mr. Blyth's visit:-

"His heavenly conversation and earnest prayers have greatly refreshed my own soul, and I feel assured of a good many of my people; and if we can only hold on, we have reason to expect that the Lord will revive us. We have great reason to be thankful to your Society for having sent such a godly man amongst us."

Another says :-

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[&]quot;I think it due to your respected agent to say that the people of I—feel grateful for his last visit, and beg through me to convey our best thanks to the Committee for sending him to visit us again."

And in reference to the subscriptions, he says:-

"What is given is given cheerfully and intelligently, and I may say also with many prayers that God would be pleased to bless their gifts to the spread of his own word."

About 100 miles of the 2,400 were performed on foot, it being sometimes found impossible to obtain any conveyance. In this way considerable time was lost, and a good deal of hardship encountered. Many additional houses might have been visited, and the subscription lists materially increased, had a horse and vehicle been at the disposal of the agent. Your Committee are satisfied that the interests of the Society require such a purchase to be made, if for no less cogent reason, on the score of economy. The total number of Branches now in connexion with this Society is seventeen: a short notice of each one will be published with this Report.

Through the liberality of the Parent Society, a munificent grant of £200 stg. has been placed at the disposal of your Committee to aid in maintaining a system of

COLPORTAGE.

One colporteur has been engaged for twelve months and employed almost uninterruptedly since the month of April last, and another one at intervals, whenever he could be spared from his other duties.

A large extent of country has been visited, and notwithstanding the ceaseless activity and vigilance employed, consisting by turns, of threats and ridicule, arguments and entreaties, to prejudice the minds of the people against the colporteurs, and to oppose their labors, somewhat over 400 copies of French scriptures have been circulated.

The colporteurs have been, for the most part, received with the characteristic politeness of the French Canadian habitant, and in many instances under pleasing and hopeful circumstances. The limits of this report must necessarily preclude the insertion of more than a few brief extracts from the copious journals in the possession of your committee. The following have been selected as embracing the most prominent features of this effort:—

H——— Visited the families which had received New Testaments last autumn. The Curé had asked them for them, but two families would not give them up, and they appeared to have decided to retain them.

W——found all our books carried off by the Cure. Had a discussion with about a dozen men, who finally said, you would not have beaten our Curé so easily. We said that we had no fear of Priests, and would go to the Curé's; and after many excuses from several of them, one at length agreed to go. We gave him 2s. 6d. to drive us there, and we all went in together to the Curé's, who received us very politely, and shewing us into an inner room, asked us to sit down, shutting the door at the same time, without allowing the habitant to enter.

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Well M. le Curé! we are come to look for our books that you took from the people. Will you tell us why you have done so? Why is it that you do not wish the people to read them

M. le Curé.—I have no wish to discuss these matters with you.

We asked him to prove that our books did not correspond with his own.

He refused three or four times. The poor man did not know what to say. All his replies to our remarks were only "Tut, tut, tut," He returned us our books, and in replacing them in my bag, I presented him with a tract, "The religion of Money;" he looked at it, and returned it to me. We shook hands at parting, saying that we should go round again and replace our books. "Well," said he, "I will go after them again." You have not gathered them all, I said, there are still some left; the Canadians are not all machines; there are some who begin to think for themselves, and we left him.

- The Curé in his sermon told the people not to buy my books. "I give you notice," said he," that there is in this Parish one who sells bad books; those people are sent by Bible Societies. The only way to rid yourselves of them, is to charge them as much as you can; it is no matter, the more you charge, the sooner you will be rid of them. I pray you take my advice, in the name of the Holy Virgin, who has performed so many miracles; you know how much power she has with her dear Son, therefore pray God to keep you from being visited by those persons. Do not do them any harm, but make them pay as much as you like, and you will soon see which will hold out."

H—— Found a Canadian who had left the Romish Church, and who appeared very glad to see us. We read and prayed with him; he begged of me to come and see him when I could.

C—— Found two families of my acquaintance who received me extreme-

ly well. I had previously visited one of them at B——. The woman was very much opposed to me, and now it is she who asks me for a Bible. The other family also is a very interesting one. I promised to bring them a Bible, for we had none left.

- I visited some families who received me exceedingly well, and seemed quite pleased to relate to me the discussions they had amongst themselves on religious subjects. They begin now to discuss among themselves about religion, and even do their best to place New Testaments for me.

H———— I visited several families without success, notwithstanding I slept

at a house where the brother of the woman had left the Roman Catholic Church. She told me that she suffered a good deal of annoyance about her brother; that the neighbours blamed her for his having left his religion, and caused her a good deal of trouble. Finally, I had some conversation with the family, and read them several passages from the Gospel; they listened to me with attention. I explained to them that all those who would live a pious life, will suffer persecution, but that if we are hated for the Gospel's sake, we shall be blessed. The woman said, "My brother would be very glad to hear you, for he cannot read, and he does not understand the Ministers very well." I then left them, commending them to the Lord. I visited the brother of the woman, who

appeared to be a pious young man, and who seemed to love his Saviour.

I found a woman who said she heard them saying that the priest had pronounced our books bad, but I can tell him, she said, it's because all the people do not understand. She bought a New Testament. On my road, a man said that the priest had gone to try and get a Bible back from a woman which I had sold her, but that she would not allow him to have it, and that she was anxious to see me to have some conversation. I went, and when she saw me she seemed glad. She then told me that the priest was desirous of taking the Bible from her, telling her that he would not give her absolution, if she did not give him the book, but that she replied to him that she did not disquiet herself much about his absolution. The priest then said, "This is a forbidden herself much about his absolution. The priest then said, "This is a forbidden book to you." "Yes!" she said, "because it contains the Ten Commandments of God, and you make us worship images contrary to the will of God; that is the reason why you are afraid of our having it." (Now the first time that I was there I saw a large image of plaster representing the Virgin Mary, and the second time I could see nothing of it. I do not know what became of it.) I told her that if she wished to understand this book, she should ask God to give her understanding and his Holy Spirit, for to listen to this one and that one, without going to God, would not profit us. She asked me a great many questions, which I answered to the best of my understanding, and having

prayed together, I left her.

Green L——. Very badly received. In almost every house I was accosted with—"See the seller of bad books; we do not want your books; you can withdraw." I found myself at a Notary's house, who asked me if I had a can withdraw." I round myself at a Notary's house, who asked me if I had a license to sell my books. I replied that, so far, I had never heard that one was required, and that we were not in France in this respect. He said to me that these books were circulated by Protestants, and therefore I ought to have a license, for, said he, you run a great risk. Then I showed him a Protestant and a Roman Catholic Testament. Finally he purchased an Ostervald Testament.

When I returned to the Inn, I found the priest had come to make inquiries about us. He was within in consultation with the inn-keeper, who is a bailiff, probably to see if he could stop us. When they came out of the consultation chamber, I was in the outer room. The priest asked me, By what authority do you seil these books?

By my own authority.

You are not permitted to sell these books.

How is that?

Because they are books printed by a Protestant Society. They are signed by one of your Archbishops of Paris.

You make use of the signature of a man dead 100 years ago. It was the same thing then that it is now. Religion is not changed. was then as it ought to be to-day.

This man who gave his approbation is dead; there is no proof now that he

did sign it.

It is curious that this man signed things which were not good; he ought surely to have known what he was doing. Since this gospel is not good, shew me the difference that there is between your own and this one?

They are the same. Why, then, do you oppose them?

Because they are carried by Protestants.

He then commenced to use abusive language, saying that he would not

answer me again if I spoke to him.

St. a.—A.—. Along the river side I visited 36 houses; found the people very badly disposed. Met three men in a house who threatened to beat me, saying—You are the minister who goes from parish to parish to turn the people Protestant, but you shall go no further; you shall finish here; you have come to the end of your journey, for we have heard enough about you.

Well, since you have heard me spoken of, I think you have not heard that

I wished to kill any one nor to steal from any one. No; but you want to turn them Protestant.

I do not turn them by force : those who wish to do so, well and good.

If you would leave them alone they would not turn.

I thinks so, perhaps; but why do you not do the same yourselves; turn Protestants into Catholics.

Oh! we do not wish that.

Why?

Because we should not wish to give ourselves the trouble.

What! you do not wish to give yourselves the trouble of converting a person? You are strange; you would not wish to do good to others, and you do not wish that others should do good to you!

How is that?

You say yourselves that you do not wish to give yourselves the trouble.

Ah! they told us truly that it was no use to talk to you.

How? is it because I do not tell the truth?

Ah! doubtless what you say is true. Well, then, since what I say is true, you have no reason in wishing to beat me.

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One of them said-this gentleman is right. As for me, I am convinced that these are good books; for my part, I should wish to have one. The two others said-Well, we shall pay for one; you will read it for us; we shall go to you. I then sold them a Bible, saying, Do not give it to the cure. They said, there is no fear of that.

R--- I met a man to whom I had already offered my books, but he always said that he did not want any. It was the same man who threatened to hang me some weeks before. I was surprised, therefore, when he asked me if I still had books for sale. I told him "yes, if he wanted to buy any." He said he did. "Well, then, what sort do you want"? I said. He said that he wished for a Bible. "Well," said I, "I have none here, but if you wish, I shall bring you one." "No." said he, "I will go with you and see them." I then

brought him to my house, where he purchased a copy.

Q——— I met a man from K——, at whose house I had been ill, and to whose daughter I had given a Bible; I asked him the news about his family. He told me that they were quite well; that his daughter was anxious to see me, to obtain information on several points. "Yes! does her Bible trouble her?" "I don't know," he said, "she has been reading it attentively, and has read the New Testament quite through." "Well! how did you find it?" "Ah! sir, it is very good." He passed the evening with me, and I was surprised to see the progress that he had made. I told him to take good care that the Priest dld not take his Bible away. He said to me that he was master in his own house, and that he should not trouble himself much about what the Priest might say; as for himself, he knew quite well what he should do. As for their superstitions, they did not frighten him in the least. He knew quite well now that it was the blood of Jesus Christ that cleanseth from all sin; as for him, he was persuaded that he could not be saved in any other way, and that salvation was of grace through faith, and not of works. I gave him the best instructions I could.

In this village I found a man who possesses a New Testament, of which the curé endeavored to deprive him several times, but upon offering to lend it to him to examine, promising to give it up if he could find anything bad in it, the curé said: "Well, you are not a man given to much talking about religion; I per mit you to keep it, on condition that you do not allow any one

to read it."

- visited a family which I had already visited several times before; but the man's wife would never allow me to make any remarks upon the passages of scripture that I read; on this occasion I passed the night there, and after supper the man and I entered into conversation on religious subjects, and, to my great astonishment, the woman joined us. After some conversation, I placed my hand upon the Bible, and said: Do you believe this book to be the word of God? Yes! we do, they replied. I then read several passages, and asked them, do you believe thus? They were obliged to say no, that they had been taught otherwise.

Speaking of penance, I asked, "what sort of penance does the curé impose upon you?" "Oh, prayers." "Then it is a penance to pray to God?" They could not reply to this. "When you speak to a person you love, is it a penance to do so?" "No." "Then, is it a penance for you to speak to God?" They looked at me, and then answered, that is strange! We conversed together until daylight, upon the world of God. The warmen took two New Testaments for daylight, upon the word of God. The woman took two New Testaments for

her relations.

I visited two of this man's sons, further on : the one took a Bible for his wife, and the other a New Testament.

At other houses I was well received, but not allowed to talk of religion.—

Poor religion! that cannot sustain itself against a poor individual. - very badly received: the women furious against me. "wretch who had left my religion for money, and was come to turn them; and the priest ordered them to turn me out." Well, I said, your priest is very polite, and you are so much attached to your religion, that you will not allow me

even to speak of it! notwithstanding one likes to speak of a thing which one loves.

Signature visited several families, who seemed more indifferent than usual.

Still, out of a good number of New Testaments placed there, I had only one re-

turned me. One that had received a Bible last winter, had suffered much from his relations. I did not see him, because he had left for the United States with his family; but the neighbours told me he would not give up his Bible. I think he is lost to Rome; at all events, may God strengthen him.

R. N—— visited some families. A New Testament was returned me, because it had come from Protestants. The curé had told them, "It is not because the book is in itself bad, but the Church forbids you to receive books from Protestants, and it is a sin to disobey the Church."

I—. No success. People said that the curé would not confess them if they conversed with me about religion. Still, I was enabled to place another Bible and New Testament.

H——. The door always open. Two families have made much progress since last year. Had a discussion befere 20 or 25 persons, with a woman, which lasted nearly till daylight. Sold two Testaments, either to be returned or paid for on my next visit. 7th Range—Placed a Bible and three New Testaments. They said to me, "You don't go to confession?" No, I said, the Gospel does not tell us to confess our sins to the priests, but to God. I can only find one instance in the Gospel of confessing to the priests, and that was for yourselves. You can see

C_____. I have found some families quite decided to keep their Bibles, in spite of the priests.

B. L.—... Met a man who had bought some books at ——.: he said the cure had blamed him much for having done so, because they were not good for him, and that he had better return them. He said that he had found no harm in them; if he would show him what harm there was in them, he would return them. The cure answered that "they were not allowed to read those books." "Why?" said he. "Because they are Protestant." How! said he, they speak of our Lord Jesus Christ and his Apostles; I do not find any harm in them. The priest said: "There is no harm in the books; but you encourage those people by receiving their books; they say that they have converted you." "How so, sir?" "Because they say that for every book they sell, one person is converted." "That is possible; nevertheless these books are good." "If they are good, keep them; but do not trouble me at confession." "Sir, that is a thing which does not disturb me much." The man told me that since that time he had not troubled him.

The foregoing facts illustrate most strikingly the spirit of a system, unchanged in its hostility to the Word of God. A system with all its boasted infallibility, strangely inconsistent. Admitting the divine authority and inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, it yet ignores that authority, by "teaching for doctrines the commandments of men," "making the Word of God of none effect," through its traditions. If the system be infallible, why dread the power of the Gospel's searching truths? "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them."

The edition circulated, for the most part, has been that of DeSacy, a version approved by sundry doctors of theology, and recommended by a Cardinal Archbishop of Paris. Yet even the circulation of this authorized translation is opposed with untiring assiduity; forbidden, not because the books are bad, but because they come from Protestants, a species of logic of course unanswerable, and an inhibition but too frequently obeyed.

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To carry on the contest against such powerful opposition, in man's unaided strength, would be simply hopeless; yet, "the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God, to the pulling down of strongholds." His Word "is quick and powerful, sharper than any two edged sword." "He that openeth, and no man shutteth," can, and will open a door, if His people be faithful to their trust. Your Committee feel that there is cause for much thankfulness in what has already been effected. The small scattering of precious seed will yet, they believe, yield a rich harvest to God's glory. This agency has been, and may prove to be, a costly one for some time to come, yet the cost of an agency does not necessarily detract from its importance. The exceeding preciousness of the human soul can in no way be so adequately conceived, as by considering the price paid for its redemption; and shall not the hearts of all who have been made the recipients of God's unmerited mercy, yearn with the tenderest feelings of compassion towards those who are the victims of gross delusions; the bond slaves of a system, the more to be dreaded from the admixture of truth and error which it contains: and shall not that compassion be evinced in something more substantial than a mere cold approval of the efforts made to furnish them with the Word of life, or at best, with but annual outbursts of enthusiasm. "Honor the Lord with thy substance," is the Divine command. "There is that scattereth and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, yet it tendeth to poverty." "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of Hosts."

THE ISSUES

of your society for the twelve months ending 31st December, have been as follows, viz. :--

| | COPIES. |
|--|---------|
| Grants which will be specified separately under their proper head, of | 141 |
| Branch Societies and Depots supplied with | 843 |
| Mr. Solandt, catechist to F. C. Missionary So- | |
| ciety - Colporteurs of the Society, exclusive of several | 108 |
| copies in their possession 1st January - | 397 |
| Cash sales at the Depository | 389 |
| Total | 1878 |

shewing an increase of 812 copies over the previous year, making the total issues of the Society 15,387 copies, since its formation. It is

gratifying to observe that the increase mainly consists of books put into actual circulation.

GRANTS

have been made to the value of £11 5s. 9d., as follows, viz.:-

| To the Wesleyan French Missionary, Mr. | |
|---|-----|
| Pepin, French 30, Irish 1 | 31 |
| 10 Sundry individuals | 16 |
| To the Incumbent of St. Peter's Changl | 4 |
| 10 Tract distributors' Association | 12 |
| To Messrs. Russell and Lindsay's Hotels | 78 |
| Total | 141 |

To the offers of free grants made by your Committee, to the other leading hotel proprietors, no replies have been received.

DEPOSITORIES.

The Depository in St. John street still continues under the management of Miss Cochrane, and is well supplied with a large assortment of Bibles and New Testaments, in a great variety of languages and bindings, at prices to suit the tastes and circumstances of all classes. The Depository on Mountain Hill has been discontinued.

LADIES' ASSOCIATION.

In reference to the wants of the city population, your Committee would suggest that the time has arrived for re-organizing this Association. They are satisfied that an active Ladies' Committee would prove of efficient service; and they believe that a suggestion of this nature will be enough to insure a ready co-operation, and prompt action on the part of the ladies.

FUNDS.

For want of an adequate working capital, and from the engagements being always incurred in anticipation of its yearly income, the Society has labored hitherto at a manifest disadvantage, and your committee hesitated before undertaking its present increased pecuniary responsibilities; yet, after much prayerful consideration, and in view of the important results already gained, they became convinced of the necessity of retaining the services of the Travelling Agent, and of otherwise enlarging the Society's operations, feeling assured that He who disposes the heart to devise liberal things, would provide them with the required means. A special appeal to the Protestant

public behalf failed pected those sincere the Br Treas ly in a source have preser by th ments of bor its pr requi

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public made from the pulpits of most of the churches in the city, on behalf of the Society, prior to the annual subscriptions being taken up, failed to elicit so favourable a response as your committee had expected, and the ordinary collections would scarcely have exceeded those of the previous year, but for the liberality of a few long-tried and sincere friends. With the additions of the contributions received from the Branches, and a loan from some members of the Committee, the Treasurer was enabled to meet the current outlay, although frequent-The receipts from all ly in advance himself to a considerable extent. sources, including the grant of £200 stg., from the Parent Society, have been £697 9s. 11d.; and the payments £714 4s. 9d., while the present engagements amount to £323 0s. 8d.,—represented, it is true, by the stock on hand, but of course unavailable for present requirements. Until this debt be liquidated, the very unsatisfactory system of borrowing money must be resorted to. To maintain the Society on its present scale, an annual income of £220 or thereabouts, will be required, exclusive of any outlay for French colporteurs, hitherto employed at the cost of the Parent Society.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

This wonderful Society continues to grow and increase mightily, sending forth the "Everlasting Gospel," now printed in 152 languages and dialects, to all parts of the globe. Its vast operations, and the magnitude of its resources, indicate it as an agency in the enjoyment of more than ordinary tokens of the Divine blessing. The issues for the year ending 31st March, 1856, reached the unprecedented number of 1,474,394 copies, being in excess of the previous year by 23,518 copies, and making its entire issues 30,863,901.

The income for the same period was larger than ever previously received, amounting to £128,725 10s. 1d., being an increase upon that of the former year of £4,247 0s. 7d., besides £1,712 17s. 9d. additional contributions to the Jubilee and China funds. The Parent Committee advert to the large increase in contributions from Auxiliaries, and from the sales of scriptures at home and abroad, and view it as a "recognition of that great primary principle for which they have contended, and do still contend, that it is the undoubted right of every human being to possess and search the scriptures." They also dwell upon the great increase of circulation within the spheres of foreign labor, as indicative of "eager enquiry for truth, where falsehood and imposture have long asserted their supremacy, and defied the conquests of the Gospel." Speak of the 65,000 copies circulated during the year

in China, 120,000 copies diffused over the length and breadth of France, and 1270 copies sold to the Mahomedan Turks, "whose boast for ages has been, that the cross could never vanquish the crescent," and of the 25,000 copies distributed amongst the subjects of Sardinia, and then with glowing, yet subdued and chastened eloquence, dilate upon the glorious future of the Society, resting upon the immutable promises of the everlasting God." Further details may be had on reference to the abstract of their report, which will be published in the appendix.

CONCLUSION.

Your Committee cannot conclude without expressing how deeply they are impressed with a sense of the solemn and weighty responsibilities attached to the possession of the Bible, and the means of extending its circulation.

The Bible wherein that Glorious Being, the Infinite One, "who created all things," reveals Himself to man; in language that a wayfaring man, tho' a fool, need not err therein. As a mighty God and terrible, yet a just God and a Saviour, who denounces in a voice of thunder, wrath and wee unutterable against the impenitent, yet in "a still small voice," proclaims pardon and peace to the "contrite ones." It points the sinner to a Saviour, and invites him to wash in the fountain opened "for sin and for uncleanness," to come and take of the water of life freely, "without money and without price," and tells him of that love unchangeable, which "passeth knowledge." It reveals to him the Holy Spirit as the author as well as the interpreter of its saving truths, and promises His teaching to all who seek it. It promulges a system of ethics direct from the Eternal Throne, the observance of which would make man holier, wiser, happier, and inculcates the law of universal love.

Your Committee, therefore, charged with its circulation in this country, the adopted home of many now present, and blessed with present peace and plenty, and with bright prospects of future material prosperity, would earnestly press on the attention of all who are taught to value the higher privileges involved in the possession and study of the Bible, the duty of unwearied and increased exertions, united with fervent and incessant prayer, in faith and hope, that the light of God's saving truth may yet illuminate the darkest corners of the Province, and carried home by the Holy Ghost to every heart, may redound at once to the holiness and happiness of man, and to the glory of God the Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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NOTICES OF BRANCHES.

Owing to the very recent formation of several of the branches, no stated reports have been received, although ampler information will be found in the agent's report, in the appendix.

BOURG LOUIS.

Formed 26th January, 1856. Books sent to the value of £3 2s. 3d.

BROUGHTON.

Formed 4th March, 1856. Value of books sent £7 15s. 0d. Received free contributions £6 15s. 0d.

FRAMPTON.

Depository established 20th Feby., 1857; and some books left in charge of Mrs. Wilson.

GASPE BASIN.

1st September, 1856. "Formed under flattering auspices," the Secretary writes, and desires a colporteur to be sent. Value of books sent £13 15s. 0d. Received free contributions £14 11s. 1½d. Received on account of sales £3 16s. 10½d.

GASPE BAY AND ST. GEORGE'S COVE.

16th August, 1856. "Glad to contribute their mite to the good work," the Secretary says. Value of books sent £6 5s. 9d. Received free contributions £5 7s. 0d.; on account of sales £29 8s. 0d.

GASPE, N. W. ARM, AND PENINSULA.

22nd August, 1856. "Were much in want of Bibles, &c." Value of books sent £4 2s. 9d. Received on account of sales £2 1s. 94d.

INVERNESS.

5th December, 1855. Flourishing. "People fully alive to the claims of the Bible Society, and need only to be reminded of them, to give of their means." Total value of books sent £9 1s. 8d. Received free contributions for 1855, £7 15s. 0d. Received free contributions for 1856, £11 0s. 0d. On account of sales £4 0s. 0d.

KENNEBEC ROAD.

26th February, 1856. People very widely scattered, but willing to join in the good work. Not re-visited.

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LAMBIE'S MILLS.

13th December, 1856. "Bids fair for next year." Received free contributions, £1 2s. 6d.

LEEDS.

12th December, 1855. Vigorous. Total value of books sent, £7 13s. 9d. Free contributions received, £7 4s. 0d. Received on account of sales, £1 6s. 9d.

LOWER IRELAND.

17th December, 1855. Value of books sent, £6 12s. 10d. Received free contributions, £2 16s. 3d. On account of sales, 9s. 6½d.

METIS.

6th July, 1856. Transferred from Montreal Auxiliary. Agent warmly received. Value of books sent, £6 13s. 9d. Received free contributions, £6 0s. 0d.

NEW LIVERPOOL AND ETCHMIN.

25th April, 1856. Value of books sent, £3 1s. 9d. Received free contributions, £3 7s. 6d. On account of sales, 7s. 6d.

PORTNEUF.

16th November, 1855. Large, and promises well. Total value of books sent, £3 16s. 2d. Received free contributions, £8 9s. 9d.

STONEHAM.

24th May, 1856. A small settlement. Value of books sent, £2 9s. 0d. Received free contributions, £1 8s. 1½d. On account of sales, £1 5s. 11d.

ST. SYLVESTER.

14th March, 1856. Rapid sales. Value of books sent, £4 19s. 11d. Received free contributions, £6 16s. 3d. On account of sales, £2 16s. 7d.

UPPER IRELAND.

22nd December, 1855. Value of books sent, £6 7s. 4d. Received free contributions, £5 9s. 7d. On account of sales, 11s. 9d.

VALCARTIER.

20th January, 1856. Value of books sent, £2 13s. 7d. Received free contributions, £4 5s. 0d.

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APPENDIX.

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THE QUEBEC AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY IN

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| "Advertising and minting | 61 | 14 | 21 |
| " Expenses on books, Lecture Hall &c | 25 | 12 | 6 |
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REPORT OF TRAVELLING AGENT.

TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE QUEBEC AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

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My first visit was to

PORTNEUF,

where, upon arrival, I made my object known, but was generally received with the intimation that "they were well supplied with Bibles," and that there were very few Protestants to be found here." However, after conversing with them, it appeared that no one was ready to vouch for his neighbour's being supplied, I finally succeeded in collecting from twenty to thirty people in Mr. Binet's school room, who presided on the occasion. Two or three spoke well, forcibly advocating the claims of the Bible Society, and recommending the formation of a branch in connexion with the Quebec Auxiliary, when a branch was formed and Officers and Committee appointed.

My next visit was to

INVERNESS,

where I experienced no difficulty at all; the thing was well understood, and I was handed round and round amongst them, and took the names of forty-five subscribers. I was kindly aided by the Rev. H. Stalker. A public meeting was held on the 5th December, 1855, when I was requested to take the chair, and after explaining the object of the meeting, several resolutions were adopted, expressive of the conviction of the meeting relative to the importance of Bible distribution, and its determination to enter heartily into the work. Officers and a Committee were chosen, and rules for the government of the Society adopted. About fifty people were present at the meeting, which was opened with prayer by the Rev. H. Stalker, and concluded in the same way by Col. McKillop.

by the Rev. H. Stalker, and concluded in the same way by Col. McKillop.

I found that various American colporteurs had been through this part of the country, and had plentifully supplied the people with a variety of books; yet they expressed their determination to look to Quebec for future supplies.

From Inverness I proceeded to

LEEDS,

where I at once received the kind assistance of Mr. Mackie, but experienced some little difficulty in getting conveyed among the people to enrol subscribers and to make known the time and place of meeting. A public meeting was held at the Baptist Chapel on the 12th December, 1855, to organize a Branch Society, Mr. M. Jiggens presiding. The Rev. Messrs. Armstrong and McConachy addressed the meeting on the importance of disseminating the Sacred Scriptures, when it was resolved that a Branch Society should be formed. A Committee and Officers were appointed.

The meeting was interesting, and fourteen subscribers came forward, making a total of 31 subscribers enrolled—mostly at 5s. each. The heavy snow-drifts

made the roads almost impassable, so that I was unable to visit as many of the families as I could have wished. Both in Leeds and Inverness I met with much hospitality and cordiality.

Next visit was to

LOWER IRELAND,

where I found the people very much scattered, yet I succeeded beyond my expectations. I was enabled, through the kind assistance of several friends, to visit two families to whom the objects of the Society seemed quite new. I found several families with but one bible among four and sometimes six persons, and that, too, of a small size and type. We had a good meeting, attended by upwards of thirty people—held in the Wesleyan Church on the 12th December, 1855. James Keough, Esq., J.P., was called to the Chair, and explained the claims of the Bible Society in a most touching and effective manner.

I next proceeded to

UPPER IRELAND,

where I met with the prompt assistance of the Mayor, Mr. Hough. Mr. Hough drove me about and into Halifax, where I met Charles Campbell. Esq., who received me very kindly, and also Mrs. Campbell. Next day I started to visit some families in the bush, with a boy, with whom I had made an agreement, but after visiting only three, he turned rusty and let me down about seventeen acres from a farm-house, refusing to carry me further. I found a large family, with but little spare room, yet they welcomed me kindly and invited me to take share of what was going. There I conducted family worship both that evening and the following morning. There was but one Bible in the house, and that in bad order, the back being torn off. We had a meeting in the Wesleyan Church on the 22nd December, 1855, where some subscribers were added to the list, making in all nearly forty five. Mr. Hough, who had been a local preacher amongst the Wesleyans, made a most excellent speech. Officers and committee were then appointed.

FRAMPTON.

A heavy snow storm occurred while I was here, which lasted two days.

Mr. —— was very unfavorable to the establishment of a Branch Society, in which I did not succeed. However, I left a few Bibles with Mrs. Wilson, who entertained me most kindly for three days. She keeps a store, and promised to expose them for sale. I found that although most families possessed Bibles, yet very few possessed more than two copies in families of seven and eight.

Before visiting Frampton, I should have stated that I had been to

VALCARTIER.

There I found a Branch nearly formed, without any visiting to get subscribers. I went out on Saturday, and after service on the Monday following, the Rev. David Shanks introduced myself and my object to his congregation, and gave a very nice address upon the subject, leaving the people, however, perfectly free to act as they thought advisable about forming a Branch. After some discussion, it was decided that a Branch should be formed. Thirty-two subscribers' names were handed in at the meeting.

From Valcartier I went to

BOURG-LOUIS,

where I found the people very much scattered and very poor. They stated that their soil was very sandy and unproductive. Here was a people, nearly sixty Protestant families, without either minister or school. They seemed to be sinking into great carelessness. On three occasions, when there were from thirty to forty people present, read and prayed with them. They seemed to

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enjoy these meetings very much. They had had no preacher of any sort to visit them for upwards of three months.

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After visiting Bourg-Louis and returning to Quebec, I proceeded to Frampton. Of my visit there I have already spoken. After leaving Frampton, I went to the

KENNEBEC ROAD,

which I reached after a long drive, during a heavy fall of snow. I first called at Mr. Jas. C——'s, at St. Joseph. They live quite in the midst of a Canadian settlement; no Protestant nearer than nine miles. Mrs. C—— gave me her name as a subscriber (5s.), and said she would be glad to have a few French Testaments which she might lend or sell, or both. I then proceeded eighteen miles further, through St. Henry's, and called at Mr. P——'s, who is also settled among Canadians. Mrs. P—— had purchased some French Testaments for the use of her servants, and also for distribution. Mr. Pabsent, but she subscribed 5s. I remained over night at the house, and was invited to conduct family worship. Seven miles farther on is quite a settlement of old country people. Here I formed a branch among 20 families, and they promised to use efforts to increase its numbers.

On my way from Frampton, found a Protestant family named whom I talked, read, and prayed; they seemed very much affected. They had never been visited by any missionary since their settlement there. A little girl, three and-a-half years old, to whom I said—"Do you love Jesus? He took little children in his arms and blessed them," looked steadily at me and said,—

"these are fine words, tell me more." On this journey I visited families which had not been visited by a missionary for many years. Proceeding onwards, I next came to

BROUGHTON.

Here also, as I said of Bourg-Louis, they have no minister. Two years ago they put up the frame-work of a chapel, but were not able to complete it; ago they put up the frame-work of a chaper, but were not able to complete it; they have a school house, but it is much out of repair. They gathered together the Sabbath I was there, of men, women, and children, about sixty people, although the day was a rough one: we had a good time together, and after I had spoken a while to them, two of the rumber who either were, or had been Elders, engaged in prayer. We had another fine meeting afterwards, when Mr. McConachey preached, and a Branch was formed, forty-two names being sub-I found two families which had neither Bibles nor Testascribed at the time

ments, which want I was enabled to supply.

I visited next in the district of St. Margaret and St. Catherines. I found
I visited next in the district of St. Margaret and St. Catherines. I found one family in a deplorable state—the worst I have ever seen—a man, wife, and five children in a small log hut with a flat roof. They had neither Bible nor Testament; the wife could read well, but none of the others. Gave her a Bible, and she promised to read a chapter every night for two weeks, beginning at St. John's Gospel. I found ten subscribers in this district, willing to join those in St. Sylvester.

ST. SYLVESTER.

I met the Rev. Mr. Clark, from Quebec, who preached a most impressive sermon from Numbers, 23rd chap., 10th verse—" Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his." After preaching, I was very anxious to form a Branch, but the subject of getting a minister for their church, occupied all their attention. But perhaps I did better afterwards, for I got fortyfive subscribers here—the one half subscribing 5s.

At the request of Mrs. Buchanan, at

POINT LEVY,

I left a number of Bibles and Testaments with her for sale.

ETCHMIN.

Here I succeeded in forming a Branch embracing the New Liverpool district, and have since forwarded a quantity of Bibles and Testaments. The meeting was held at the house of Jno. Ritchie, Esq. We had a good meeting, and the chair was taken by T. Amiraux, Esq., who, in a short but suitable speech, explained the object of the meeting. The proceedings were opened and closed with prayer. Two Roman Catholics were present, who kneeled with us in our devotions. Officers and committee were then named; about thirty subscribers gave their names. I received £1 7s. 6d. subscriptions, which I handed in to the Secretary at Quebec. At the house where I stayed, I performed family worship, which had not been often done of late; they were a mixed company of Protestants and Catholics, but no remarks were made, except a pressing invitation to call again, when I revisited Etchmin.

My next trip was to

STONEHAM.

This is not a large district. I visited over twelve families, which are a good deal scattered. All those I visited, however, became subscribers, and although they were supplied with Bibles and New Testaments, would support the cause. I thought, however, that a few large family Bibles were very much needed. We had a small, though good meeting, at Mr. Alex. Fraser's, Mr. Jameson engaging in prayer. They felt sorry that they could not increase their number, and two paid in 2s. 6d. each, who lived three miles distant, and who feared they might not be able to attend the next meeting. Officers and committee were appointed.

I then re-visited

PORTNEUF.

They had only just received the case of books shipped per steamer "Lotbiniere," which had remained on board the boat all winter at the Platon. They were a good deal mildewed, so we set to work and reduced the prices, and a good many were sold that evening. We got up a larger meeting than before, and with a good spirit. Forty-five became subscribers, and a good many paid in their subscriptions. I received £4 13s. 9d., which I handed in to Mr. Wurtele; the rest was to be paid in to their own Treasurer—the Hon. E. Hale. A new President was chosen at the meeting, in the room of the Rev. Mr. Binet, who had left Portneuf, and two members were added to the committee. I sold a French Bible to a Canadian, who was to pay for it. The committee wished three large family Bibles to be sent. Many people had died since my last visit, and two of the committee were gone.

When I could find a schooner, 1 sailed for

MATANE

About 260 miles below Quebec, where we landed after a passage of about seven days. I visited all the Protestant families there, about three or four, and obtained a few subscriptions. I met with much kindness from D. Fraser, Esq., seignior, and his family. I then returned to

METIS,

Proceeding a distance of about ten miles on foot, the remainder of the 30 I travelled in a Canadian cart, and on my arrival I called upon several of the Protestant inhabitants, and met with much kindness, particularly from the seignior, Mr. Ferguson, who subscribed and paid me two dollars. I also met with much kindness from the minister—the Rev. Mr. McAllister, who lives some miles further up. The names of some subscribers were given, and a committee and officers appointed.

In order to meet the steamer at

RIMOUSKI,

I was obliged to leave Metis hurriedly by mail, a distance of thirty miles.

At ——— I had some very interesting conversation with a French Canadian, who seemed quite convinced of the errors of Romanism. He was sup-

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naiplightened to some extent. I had also some conversation with a woman married to a French Canadian, who outwardly conformed to the ceremonial of the Romish church, but whose mother had been a Presbyterian. She seemed a good deal impressed by what I said, and with the portion of scripture which I read to her-2nd Thess. 2nd. I found that she still possessed her mother's Bible, which I entreated her to read daily, and pray for the enlightenment of the Holy spirit.

I returned next day by steamer to Quebec. My next journey was by schooner, to

GASPE BAY AND BASIN,

which occupied 14 days-a distance of 450 miles. I here formed branches, which are likely to turn out well. I met with very great kindness. Mr. Laws, the secretary of the former branch, said, on my first seeing him, he was glad the good people of Quebec had not forgotten them, even if they lived on the outskirts of Canada.

In Indian and St. George's Cove I visited all along to

LITTLE GASPE.

We had a few meetings before forming a Branch. They stand greatly in need of a missionary here; but could not support one fully. The people here and at the Basin willingly and freely joined in the effort, and a few gave me subscriptions before I left them: I brought with me £2 18s. 9d. I may add that wherever I have been and got their subscriptions, whoever did give, gave freely, and wished they could give more; but this has been a bad season in the country parts, for many. I have no doubt but that when the seasons are good, their subscriptions would be doubled; for many are aware, and learn from other sources besides the abstracts of the Bible Society's reports, the great good it is doing at home and abroad.

VALCARTIER.

Second Visit.—The secretary, Wm. McBain, Esq., J.P., collected the subscriptions to my hand, amounting to £4 5s. Here, as at Portneuf, they pay for the books they receive in three or four payments.

BOURG-LOUIS.

Second Visit.-Many Bibles were sold on credit, but no money received. I received much kind attention from Mr. George Beer and R. Hewton, and also from Mr. Henderson.

PORTNEUF.

Third Visit.—Again visited Portneuf. I have received altogether of subscriptions £8 3s. 3d. Many of the books were sold, but not all paid for.

NEW LIVERPOOL AND ETCHMIN.

I have received, in all, £3 7s. 6d., free contributions. A few books have been sold, but this Branch is too near Quebec for many sales.

To some of the Branches I have sent out French New Testaments, at their own request; they have lent them only to the French Canadians with whom they are well acquainted.

I started in November to re-visit the Branches which were organised last year, namely: St. Sylvester, Leeds, Lower Ireland, Upper Ireland, and Inver-

My first visit was to St. Sylvester, when I called upon Miss Fairfield, who ness kept one depository; she had sold many Bibles and Testaments. I collected in many of the subscriptions.

Next day-five miles off, which I had to walk-I called upon the secretary, Mr. Woodside, and after arranging with him and visiting many friends, I took up, of free contributions, £6 18s. 9d. There were sold of Bibles to the value of £2 16s. 7d., besides other books. We held the annual meeting in the Free Church. The Revd. Mr. Scott was called to the chair, and afterwards elected

The meeting was thinly attended, it being just after a thaw, and the roads g very bad. Nevertheless, after Mr. Scott had given a brief outline of the being very bad. Nevertheless, after Mr. Scott had given a brief outline of the object of Bible Societies, all present felt disposed to re-double exertion in the

good cause.

As is my custom, whenever I receive a subscription, I ask if they mean to

continue: "O yes!" is the usual reply; we will never miss it."

Previous to the annual meeting, the Revd. Mr. Scott took a walk with me to see a few of the people in Armagh, where he resides with his father-in-law, Mr. Stephenson, and we got a few new subscribers. The whole family showed me the greatest kindness.

I next proceeded to

LEEDS,

and called upon Mr. Mackie, the Secretary of the Branch here. I learned that many had paid in their subscriptions, and that a good number of Bibles were sold. I went round among the people and took up the remainder of the promised subscriptions, and got a few new subscriptions. The free subscriptions amounted to £7 3s. Bibles and Testaments sold, £2 14s. We announced our annual meeting for 10th December, which proved a failure, owing to a temperannual meeting for 10th December, which proved a failure, owing to a temperannual meeting for 10th December, which proved a failure, owing to a temperannual meeting for 10th December, which proved a failure of the factor of ance meeting held the night before that we were not previously aware of. However, we agreed to have one on the 26th. This night proved very dark and stormy; notwithstanding, all was arranged for another year, and in going among the people I got a few more subscribers. Some of last years' subscribers lived too far off, and the road being drifted up I was obliged to leave. Here I met with two young persons, male and female servants; neither had a Bible, and I gave one to each, (10d. Bibles). The girl could read well, but had no father.

I next proceeded to

LOWER IRELAND.

Being informed in Leeds that their committee was to meet that night, and that they expected me, I hurried onwards, and met them all assembled in the Wesleyan Church. They had done but little during the year, all they sold of Bibles was to the value of 9s. 71d. A number were out on credit, which would be forthcoming to the Treasurer in a few weeks. Although I received and collected among the kind friends £3 12s. 6d. of free subscriptions. I was kindly aided by Joshua Keough, Secretary, who took a great interest in all the proceedings. At the public meeting held on the 9th December, his speech told well among the people; so also did Mr. Bailey's, the President. Although the number was not great—not more than forty being present, of both sexes—it would have delighted your heart, especially when you knew that many had come from five to seven miles; but the night was mild. At the close of the meeting, all was re-organized for another year. Next day I was much pleased to enter a family which had bought six Bibles—one for every boy—and all could read. They were neatly covered, and each one's name written in them. I have seen this in other families, but none with covers.

I next proceeded to

UPPER IRELAND,

and called upon Mr. Hough, the Secretary and Depositary. After a little conversation of what had been done, I found it necessary, without delay, to go among the people, as they were much scattered. I took up subscriptions, in all with what was paid in, £5 12s. 6d. Here were sold of Bibles 11s. 9d.; a few had been Decembe great, an reading addresse made a whole w that thi of the V The sar Af

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had been sold, but not paid for. Mr. Hough announced a meeting for 22nd December, and it was far better than I could have expected, the distance being great, and the roads bad. The meeting was opened by singing a hymn, and reading the 62nd chapter of Isaiah. After prayer, Mr. Ira Hall, the President, addressed the meeting; the report was read by Mr. Hough. He afterwards made a very good speech, and it excited others to say a few words. The whole was a very pleasant meeting. At its close it was unanimously agreed that this Branch would endeavor to do their best for promoting a circulation of the Word of God, not only in their own locality, but throughout the world.

The same officers were re-elected, with a few added to the committee.

After I had attended the Leeds meeting, I proceeded to

INVERNESS,

where I had been just three weeks before, and had seen the committee respecting the time of the annual meeting, which was announced for the 31st December. We held the meeting on the day appointed, at one o'clock in the afternoon. It was pretty numerously attended; the Rev. Hugh Stalker, and the Rev. Mr. Crombie were both present. The chair was taken by the President, Mr. Henry, and the meeting opened by singing a psalm; prayer being offered by the Rev. H. Stalker. After Mr. Stalker had addressed the meeting, a report of the last meeting and subsequent proceedings was read. The meeting was truly a good one, and all present that had not paid in their subscriptions before came forward and paid them over to the new Secretary, Mr. Peter Campbell.
The former Secretary, Mr. A. McKillop, Jr., had been obliged to resign his office on leaving Inverness. Mr. Crombie, after making a few remarks, closed the meeting with prayer.

The Secretary was to send to Mr. Curry the proceeds of what had been sold, and the subscriptions, on or before 20th January. A good number of Bibles and New Testaments had been sold, and the Committee requested me to send them a fresh supply. I called upon a few families, one in particular I might mention, where each of the children were desirous of having a Bible for himself. Two of the boys had sold their eggs and bought a copy a-piece; the youngest had carried his eggs 4 or 5 miles to procure ready money, and of what he had over, he purchased a Testament for a younger sister.

I likewise formed a branch at

LAMBIE'S MILLS,

the distance between Upper and Lower Leeds being 8 miles; it was thought better to do so. I took up, free contributions, £1 2s. 5d.; they also ordered a supply of books.

Your affectionate and faithful servant,

(Signed,)

JAMES BLYTH.

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NOTICE.

The Committees of Branch Societies will please bear in mind, that the Scriptures furnished them, are invoiced, invariably, at the sterling cost price, adding ONE-THIRD, which scarcely covers the cost of importation; all expenses, therefore, after they leave the Quebec Depository, must be borne by the Branches. It is suggested that our friends might adopt the system of selling at the prices printed in our Report, with advantage.

Valcartier......|Rev. David Shanks......|Wm. McBaln....