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THE  
BIBLE ADVOCATE.

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VOL. I.

MONTREAL, DECEMBER, 1837.

No. 8.

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SUPPLY OF THE LOWER PROVINCE WITH BIBLES.

In pursuance of this great object, and with a view to interest the friends of the Bible generally, and to obtain the necessary pecuniary supplies, a public Meeting in Montreal was appointed and advertised for Wednesday the 25th of October. Several members of the Committee and other friends of the Institution assembled; but the evening was so unfavourable on account of the weather, and the attendance, for that reason, so much less than was desired, that it was thought expedient to postpone the meeting till the following Monday, the 30th of October; and afterwards it was adjourned till the succeeding Monday, November 6th. On that evening several friends met, as before; but a tumultuary expression of popular violence having occurred in the afternoon, and the excitement not having subsided, it was found impossible to hold the meeting with any prospect of a large attendance, or to find such a state of mind prevailing in those who might be present, as would be favourable to the undertaking. It was, therefore, after some discussion, agreed upon, though with great reluctance, to

defer the Meeting for this special purpose to the usual time of holding the Annual Meeting, when it was hoped, under all the circumstances, that the purposes of both would be more completely answered than by partial meetings now, liable to have their interest broken in upon by the stirring and absorbing incidents of the day.

The work, however, is not standing still: the Sub-Committee for distribution have continued their labours, and the Agent has visited several sections of the Country in which he had not been before; and both in these places and in others nearer home he has been successful in circulating the word of God. We are looking to a restoration of tranquillity as a season in which to renew our operations, and, with the aid of the public, to set about in good earnest the necessary work of distributing the Scriptures, wherever we can find or make a way for their introduction.

If any one thing more than another has a tendency to show us the value of the Scriptures, it must be the state of insubordination and rebellion

which prevails to so fearful an extent throughout the province, and which would never have existed had the principles of the Bible been working in the hearts of those who have been engaged in these deeds of violence and blood. Had these principles been diffused among the population generally, thousands of the deluded men who are now in hostility to the government and peace of this land, would have been better informed, and more laudably employed, than they are at present. Let the friends, therefore, of their country and of mankind, and the advocates of Christian Education, as the most effectual means of promoting the benefit of all, exert themselves with ten-fold energy to circulate the word of God, among a population so wofully destitute of the light of life.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

To all who are engaged in supplying the destitute Families in the Province with BIBLES, under the direction of the Montreal Auxiliary Bible Society.

- I.—The Resolution of the Society under which you act, is “to supply every destitute family in the Province with a copy of the Scriptures, willing to receive it, by sale or gift.”
- II.—It will be observed that the Resolution has to do with Bibles; not with Testaments.
- III.—Every family in the District you undertake must be visited either by yourself or some one in whom you have confidence; and its position in regard to the Scriptures must be accurately ascertained. The Committee will thank you to make, or cause to be made, such enquiries as will enable you to fill up the several columns of the blank forms that will be sent you. It is of importance to know who of the destitute belong to the *Church of England*: as another Society will assist the Committee in supplying such.
- IV.—It is always desirable to *sell*, rather than to *give*, the Books, even though only a part of the price is obtained; but your attention is specially called to the following directions, which you are to consider imperative:—

1. Every family destitute of a whole Bible, and willing to receive one, to be supplied. If gratis—a copy of the *American Edition* to be given. If the whole, or a fair part of the price be paid, a copy of the lower priced *English Bibles* to be furnished. If willing to pay now a considerable proportion of the price, you are at liberty to dispose of, to such families, the larger copies of the British and Foreign Bible Society's Bibles.

2. As it often occurs that families who possess a Bible, desire, nevertheless, to purchase others; and as the Society wishes to dispose of as many as possible, you are to offer any you have, for sale, to such families, when you visit them, *but nothing short of the Invoice price to be taken, and no credit is to be given*. This rule the Committee wish you to understand is imperative. It concerns only families who already possess a whole Bible.

V.—The visiting of Roman Catholics must be left to your discretion; but the Committee wish you to understand that they are desirous of *selling* as many Bibles and Testaments to this class as possible. If in any case you think a *gift* expedient, and that the Book will be retained by the parties, let it be a *Testament*. If any in the neighbourhood would *lend* to Catholics, you might make arrangements therefor.

VI.—Whenever you can, the Committee hope you will obtain subscriptions in aid of this important work. You will also, in making your report, inform the Secretary the name of any in the District you supply, with whom at any future time correspondence might be maintained. If there be any prospect of forming a Branch Society in the neighbourhood, the Committee are very anxious to hear of it.

VII.—A detailed account of what you have done, to be furnished to the Secretary *immediately* after you have completed the work. All facts of interest to be carefully noted and reported. Address Rev. HENRY WILKES, Corresponding Secretary, Montreal.

#### EASTERN TOWNSHIPS.

SHEFFORD COUNTY BIBLE SOCIETY.

SHEFFORD, L. C., Sept. 21, 1837.

A County meeting, of which public notice had previously been given by the Clergymen officiating in the different parts of the County, was this day convened at the Academy Hall, in Frost Village, for the purpose of forming

a Branch Bible Society. The assemblage was numerous and highly respectable, consisting of many of the most influential persons from several Townships.

The meeting was called to order by Hezekiah Robinson, Esq., and the Rev. George Salmon, Episcopal Missionary, was called to the Chair. The business of the meeting was commenced by prayer by the Rev. Horace B. Chapin, Congregational Missionary, after which Doctor Rotus Parmalee was appointed Secretary of the meeting. The Chairman then explained the object of the meeting, in an address at once appropriate and impressive, after which he read an interesting address from the Agent of the Montreal Bible Society, Captain Maitland, containing much statistical information and an affecting appeal to the Christian public in behalf of a subject so worthy of engaging the active benevolence of all Christians of every denomination. It was then moved by the Rev. Mr. Selly, Wesleyan Missionary, and seconded by David Wood, Esq., that we do form ourselves into a Bible Society in connexion with the British and Foreign Bible Society, which resolution was unanimously adopted. The draft of a Constitution was then read by the Secretary and unanimously adopted by the meeting, after which the following Resolutions were also unanimously adopted, being accompanied by appropriate and highly interesting remarks by the several gentlemen who moved and supported them:—

Moved by Horace Lyman, Esq., and seconded by Mr. Isaac Hyatt.

1st Resolved,—That it behoves every lover of the Bible cordially to come forward and promote the circulation of the Book of Life.

Moved by Rev. Mr. Selly, and seconded by David Wood, Esq.

2d Resolved,—That this meeting cordially approves the resolution of the Montreal Auxiliary Bible Society, "That they will endeavour, within the shortest practicable period, to place a copy of the Sacred Volume, by sale or gift, in every family in Lower Canada, willing to receive it"—and do pledge themselves to use in this County all the means in their power, in reliance on Divine assistance, to aid them in carrying on this labour of love.

Moved by Mr. John Porter, and seconded by Mr. Atkison.

3d Resolved,—That we are called upon to approach this great work in a spirit of humble dependence and earnest prayer for help from the great Head of the Church; and that we should render most hearty thanks for the great success of Bible Societies in all parts of the world.

Moved by the Rev. Mr. Chapin and seconded by Mr. A. W. Barton.

4th Resolved,—That this Society presents to Christians of every denomination, a common ground on which they may labour without reference to party distinctions.

The meeting then proceeded to the selection of officers, viz. :—

President.—Rev. G. Salmon.

Vice-Presidents.—Samuel Wood, Esq., M. P. P., and Doctor Rotus Parmalee.

Corresponding Secretary.—Rev. H. B. Chapin.

Recording Secretary.—Rev. Mr. Selly.

Treasurer and Depository.—David Wood, Esq.

Executive Committee.—Stephen L. Hungerford, Hezekiah Robinson, Esq., Deacon William Woodward, Horace Lyman, Esq., John Porter, Zephaniah Harvey, and William Dampier.

Thanks were then voted to the Chairman, and the meeting closed by singing praise to the Great Giver of all good, in the following words:—

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise him all creatures here below,  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

ROTUS PARMALEE, Secretary.

In addition to the above, I would remark, that about fifty dollars were subscribed on the spot, to forward the object of the Society. The three clergymen residing at Shefford have engaged to ascertain the wants of the County. What progress my associates in this cause have made, I am unable to say. I have the estimate from eighty-five families, residing chiefly in the back settlements, most of whom I have personally visited, and can report as follows:—

These eighty-five families contain 478 souls, and 347 readers, including those at school. There are eleven Catholic families—four families which have no readers, three of which are Catholics, the others read or have some one living with them who can. The number of Bibles wanted is thirty-five, or rather thirty-one, if we strike off those who cannot read. Some of these eighty-five families have the New Testament, or parts of both the Old and New: some have remnants of Bibles which were given them with a farewell blessing, as a parting token from parents and friends the day they left their native land. These seemed to have been wet with many tears—were blackened with smoke—binding gone—leaves missing—and, in consequence of having no safe deposit, were sadly defaced, if not with tears, by the rain and snow driven through the crevices of log-houses. I have hitherto found a greater destitution of the Holy Scriptures than what

I anticipated, and more readers than I expected. Unless the prospect brightens, if the County is to be supplied, a number of copies should be freely given—a distributor must have the heart of a rock to take any compensation from some persons who may feel disposed to pay or to promise. I have conversed with those who would attend no meeting for want of decent clothing. One woman said, "I should like to go, but I don't want to be a laughing stock." "Do your children attend Sabbath-school?" "No; it is too far; besides, they are not fit to go."

May the Lord, through whose poverty we are made rich, prosper our Society, and when the gauge of human wretchedness and want in this Province is taken, may the people of God never cease their work of faith and labour of love till that wretchedness is alleviated, and the wants of the land supplied.

Would it be of any interest I could tell you of a pious man who travelled twelve miles from his house to attend our County meeting. On my return, I happened to see him as he had left the main road, and beckoned him to stop. He knew my meaning; but he took off his large straw hat, made a very polite bow, waved his hand, and pointed towards his distant log-hut, which, to be reached in safety, must be done before dark, as his path, for some miles, lay through the woods.

H. B. CHAPIN, *Cor. Sec.*

### THE BLESSING OF GOD UPON THE PERUSAL OF HIS WORD.

NO. V.

I was travelling about four years ago in a remote district in Bengal, and I came to the house of a gentleman belonging to Portugal. I found him reading the Scriptures in the Bengalee to seventy or eighty people, men, women and children, of that country, who were all very attentive. This gentleman told me that he had been led to employ some of his leisure moments in this way. "And tomorrow," said he, "as you pass my farm, mention my name, and they will procure you a bed; and you will then see the effects of reading the Scripture." The next day I called at his estate, where I saw one hundred men, women and children, who had all become converts to Christianity within three or four

years. I inquired how they found themselves; they appeared delighted, and thought it a happy thing for them that Europeans had translated the Scripture, that they might read in their own tongue the wonderful works of God. I had some intercourse, also, with an official person in that district, and I mention it because some persons tell you that nothing is done by the Missionaries: I asked the Magistrate what was the conduct of these Christians; and he said, "There is something in them that does excite astonishment: the inhabitants of this district are particularly known as being so litigious and troublesome, that they have scarcely any matter but what they bring into the courts of justice; but during three or four years, not one of these people has brought a cause against any one, or any one against them." I mention this to show that Christianity will produce, in all countries, peace and happiness, to those who know the truth as it is in Jesus.—*Lieut. Col. Phipps.*—BOST. REC.

"I recollect" says Dr. Philip, "going to see a Hottentot church, consisting of four hundred members; and at that time there were seventy candidates for admission, and seven of these were Bosjesmans. Their hair was in ringlets, clotted; they had on filthy sheep skin karosses; they had not perhaps, in their lives, been washed; they had just been awakened, by the labors of a Bosjesman, and they were now relating their Christian experience. So deeply were they affected, that they could only proceed for a few moments; when we were obliged to pass by one, and listen to another. I never heard more correct views of the gospel—of the evil of sin—of the depravity of the human heart—of the necessity of salvation through Christ—and of the beauty of holiness, than I heard from the lips of these poor creatures. When I contrasted their speech with

their appearance, I could scarcely believe my own ears; it seemed as if these persons had been like a certain insect with which you are acquainted, which in the spring bursts its chrysalis, and, from being a caterpillar, comes forth with its beautiful wings to the sun. These men talked like experienced Christians, when, at the same time, they exhibited this extraordinary appearance; from being savages—from being the lowest grade of savages—from being in a situation where they never heard the gospel—these very men, by the labors of a Bosjesman who had received the Society's Bible and read to them that Bible, were brought to a knowledge of the truth, and awakened to a sense of their condition.

**THE PIOUS PHYSICIAN.**—It was the daily practice of that eminent physician, Dr. Boerhaave, throughout his whole life, as soon as he arose in the morning (which was generally very early) to retire for an hour for private prayer and meditation on some part of the Scriptures. He often told his friends, when they asked him how it was possible for him to go through so much fatigue, "That it was this which gave him spirit and vigour in the business of the day." This, therefore, he recommended as the best rule he could give. "For nothing," he said, "could tend more to the health of the body than the tranquillity of the mind; and that he knew nothing which could support himself or his fellow-creatures amidst the various distresses of life, but a well grounded confidence in the Supreme Being, upon the principles of Christianity."

If the mass of a nation, privileged with the Bible, have their portion at last with the unbelieving, it must not be forgotten, that there is in every age a remnant, who trust in the Saviour whom that Bible reveals. The blessings which result from the

possession of the Scriptures are not to be computed from what appears on the surface of society. There is a quiet under-current of happiness, which is generally unobserved, but which greatly swells the amount of good to be traced to the Bible. You must go into families, and see how burdens are lightened, and afflictions mitigated, by the promises of holy writ. You must follow men into their retirements, and learn how they gather strength from the study of the sacred volume, for discharging the various duties of life. You must be with them in their struggles with poverty, and observe how contentment is engendered by the prospect of riches which cannot fade away. You must be with them on their death-beds, and mark how the gloom of the opening grave is scattered by the hope which is "full of immortality." And you must be with them, if indeed the spirit could be accompanied in its heavenly flight, as they enter the divine presence, and prove, by taking possession of the inheritance which the Bible offers to believers, that they "have not followed a cunningly devised fable." The sum of happiness conferred by revelation can never be known until God shall have laid open all secrets at the judgment. We must have access to the history of every individual, from his childhood up to his entering his everlasting rest, before we have the elements from which to compute what Christianity hath done for those who receive it into the heart. And if but one or two were gathered out from a people, as a result of conveying to that people the records of revelation, there would be, we may not doubt, such an amount of conferred benefit, as would sufficiently prove the advantage of possessing the oracles of God.—*Rev. H. Melville.*

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, in all wisdom.—*Paul.*

## PUT A BIBLE THERE.

I was of a social turn, and had drawn about me a considerable number of what are called *clever fellows*. We spent a good part of every day, during the dull seasons, in idle conversation and sport. By and by, I found, that although my companions were perfectly respectable, their company was not calculated to improve my mind or raise me in the estimation of the good. I came to the determination to turn over, as the saying is, a new leaf, but how was I to get rid of the loungers? I could not say to them, 'Gentlemen, I am sick of your company'—this would be very uncivil.—I gave them broad hints, disposed of my extra chairs, and affected to be very busy in posting my books; but all would not do. Loungers never take hints. One day I disclosed my case to a very shrewd friend of mine, and begged him to tell me, if he could, what I should do. Do? said he, shrugging up his shoulders, I will tell you what to do—*put a Bible there*. I immediately bought me a large Bible, and placed it upon the table, and waited the result. The next day my friends, as usual, came dropping in, one after another; I was busy with my papers, yet I saw them start back at the sight of the Bible. Some of them took it up as if to ascertain what book it was; but immediately laid it down again, and withdrew in silence. On the day following I observed them looking in occasionally—but the Bible lay on the table. In short, I was never troubled with loungers afterwards.

Reader, are you a merchant, and do you find yourself almost overwhelmed with temptations to make false representations respecting your goods? Are you surrounded with neighbours who do not stick at a few *white lies* in order to effect a sale? Is your shop beginning to be deserted because you are too honest? And

are you half inclined to give up your integrity for the sake of getting a living? *Put a Bible there*.

Some of our wise merchants have said, 'never suffer a *book* to be brought into your shop,' lest your clerks should begin to read and neglect business. But I tell you, *Put a Bible there*.

Are you a mechanic, and do you find that your apprentices are beginning to talk of plays and parties, and are also beginning to grow loose in their conversation, frequently interlarding it with an oath, and is the business of the shop neglected? *Put a Bible there*.

Are you, even, a professor of religion, and do you find your heart growing cold, or can you see sinners around you and not desire their salvation, or do your actions show you to be as much in love with money, as those who make it their God? If you have any place, which you visit more than any other, *Put a Bible there*.

## ILLUSTRATION OF MAL. iii. 3.

A few ladies, who met together in Dublin, to read the Scriptures and converse on their contents, came to this chapter. One of the ladies gave it as her opinion, that the Fuller's Soap, and the Refiner of Silver, were the same image, both intended to convey the same view of the sanctifying influence of the grace of Christ; while another observed,—there is something remarkable in the expression in the *third verse*—"HE SHALL SIT AS A REFINER AND PURIFIER OF SILVER." They agreed that possibly it might be so, and one of the ladies promised to call on a Silver-smith, and report to them, what he said on the subject. She went, accordingly, and without telling the object of her errand, begged to know from him the process of refining silver, which he fully described to her. But, Sir, said she,—Do you sit while the work

of refining is going on? Oh yes, Madam, replied the Silver-smith, I must sit with my eyes steadily fixed on the furnace, for if the time necessary for refining be exceeded in the slightest degree, the silver is sure to be injured. At once she saw the beauty, and the comfort too of the expression—"He shall sit as a Refiner and Purifier of Silver." Christ sees it needful to put his children into the furnace; but he is seated by the side of it; his eye is steadily intent on the work of Purifying, and his wisdom and love are both engaged in the best manner for them. Their trials do not come at random; the very hairs of their head are all numbered. As the lady was leaving the shop, the Silver-smith called her back, and said he had still further to mention—that he only knew when the process of purifying was complete, by seeing his own image reflected in the silver. **BEAUTIFUL FIGURE! WHEN CHRIST SEES HIS OWN IMAGE IN HIS PEOPLE, HIS WORK OF PURIFYING IS ACCOMPLISHED.**

#### STUDY OF THE SCRIPTURES.

A poor woman was once asked if she had time to read the Bible? "Yes," said she, "I take it with my food; I read a chapter in the blessed Gospel every day when I come home to my dinner, and it makes up for the scantiness of my meal. I sometimes hire myself to people who feed me but poorly; they give me so little at meal-time, that I eat it in as short a time as it takes me to read the shortest chapter in my Testament. But then I can but think how much better my heavenly Master provides for the wants of my soul, than my earthly one does for the body. He knows I have but little time to take my spiritual food, and he prepares it so that a small portion will nourish me a long time." She was then asked, if she understood all that she

read? "Bless your heart," answered she, "I am a poor ignorant creature, and have no book of knowledge, but the word of God is plain enough to me in all things that I require, and I have no leisure to puzzle over what I can do without. When I am thirsty I go to the spring and drink; I always find good cool water, but I never trouble myself to find out how far the stream runs, or whether it is clear and sweet in other places." It would be well for all persons to go to the study of the holy Scriptures, with the determination to find out and apply to their immediate necessities, the thing which they really and urgently need.—*Philadelphian.*

#### COST OF A BIBLE.

Several hundred years ago, before the invention of printing, bibles were very scarce, and those who wished to own one could not obtain it without great expense. In the year 1272, a laboring man in England was paid only three half-pence, or a little more than three cents, per day for his work; and in 1274, a bible with marginal notes sold for thirty pounds, or about *one hundred and thirty-three dollars!* You see, then, that very few poor people would be able to own a Bible. If a poor man worked hard every day, and carefully saved all his wages for this purpose, he would have to labor about thirteen years, before he would earn enough to purchase a bible. But if we suppose it took two-thirds of his earnings to buy food and clothing for himself and his family, then he must labor *thirty-nine years* before he would have money enough to purchase a bible. What a great change has taken place. How different the times in which we live! Now, by means of Bible Societies, bibles can be obtained very cheap. The poor man need not labor more than one day, to earn enough to purchase one. And, through the kindness of



those who support the Bible Society, those who have no money, can obtain a Bible without money and without price. Bibles are so cheap now, and so easily obtained, that every Sabbath-school scholar may have one if he wishes. No one ought to be destitute of this precious Book. And all ought to be thankful, that by the improvements in the art of printing, and through the influence of Bible Societies, the Bible can be so easily obtained.

Let our young friends be careful not to undervalue the Holy Scriptures, because they have become so common and can be obtained so cheaply. Remember, they are the word of God, and therefore should be read with serious attention and humble prayer. Without his blessing, they will not make you wise unto salvation.

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#### DISTRIBUTION OF BIBLES.

We are happy to state, that, notwithstanding the disturbances around us, the work of distributing the word of God is going forward. The Agent of the Society, Mr. Elliot, continues to visit the unsupplied places within his reach, and to furnish them with the bread of life. His reception and success are encouraging. If ever there was a time in the history of this Province, in which, more than another, the exertions and prayers of Christians are called for, and the propagation of good sentiments needed, the present is that time. If the principles of the Bible were universally diffused, and received, and acted upon, what different tidings would reach our ears from those which now so frequently distress us. Instead of "wars and rumours of wars" between those who ought to be brethren, we should hear the sounds of "peace and good will," and reports of exertions for the common good, and of efforts for the spread of Divine truth. "The weapons of our warfare" would

not then be "carnal," and directed against each other, but "spiritual," and directed against the common foe of God and man. As believers in the Gospel, and friends of God's truth, we have no doubt that all will be overruled for good; and that He who stilleth the waves when they arise, will "still the tumult of the people," and make the wrath and indiscretions of evil-minded and misguided men to praise him, and to promote his glory. Let us all be found at our posts, active in our duty, and trusting in the Lord; and let us be frequently at the Throne of Grace, imploring the Divine blessing upon us; and, remembering that "except the Lord keep the city the watchman waketh but in vain;" let us repose upon his care, trust in his arm, seek his protection, and endeavour to diffusc among the population around us the light of his salvation and the blessings of his love.

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#### Poetry.

By JAMES MONTGOMERY, in illustration of Mal. iii. 3.

[The beautiful illustration of this passage, inserted on page 62, takes another form of beauty in the following exquisite lines from the pen of our estimable friend, JAMES MONTGOMERY, a name eminently dear to genius and devotion. ED. B. A.]

He that from dross would win the precious ore,  
Bends o'er the crucible an earnest eye,  
The subtle searching process to explore,  
Lest the one brilliant moment should pass by,  
When in the molten silver's virgin mass  
He meets his pictured face, as in a glass.

Thus in God's furnace are his people tried;  
Thrice happy they who to the end endure:  
But who the fiery trial may abide?  
Who from the crucible come forth so pure,  
That He, whose eyes of flame look through the  
whole,  
May see his image perfect in the soul?

Nor with an evanescent glimpse alone,  
As in that mirror the refiner's face;  
But stamp'd with heaven's broad signet, there be  
shewn  
Immanuel's features, full of truth and grace.  
And round that seal of love this motto be,  
"Not for a moment, but—eternity!"  
—The Church.

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