

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
HALIFAX DIOCESAN COMMITTEE

OF THE
SOCIETY

FOR
PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

FOR THE YEAR 1828.

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RAILROAD DISTRICT COMMITTEE

SOCIETY
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YOUR COMMITTEE is not able to report to its members any considerable feature in its proceedings during the past year. It has, in that time, answered the demands which District Committees, and individuals have made upon its Depository, by various supplies of the sacred volume and of other religious books. It is trusted, therefore, that a better, and more lasting, and more widely extended, record of its operations may be found in the different closets of its members, and in the chambers of the poor and others, where its vouchers may be seen, than any which a Report of this

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nature could supply. When, indeed, the character of the Books and Tracts recommended by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge is taken into view, all must allow that a Committee which can detail above 11,000 copies of the Bible and of other religious books dispersed within the last 12 months, may justly expect knowledge to have been proportionably increased;—It must be granted that it prefers a reasonable claim to the hearty cooperation of all who would be humbly instrumental to the turning of many unto Righteousness.

In the same Paragraph, however, which details the blessing which has hitherto attended your Committee's humble exertions, we must advert to the great measure of strictly desirable, and of strictly practicable good which yet remains unperformed. The same acquaintance with the religious wants of the people, which has enabled the acting members of your Committee to discover, and apply a remedy to, some cases of the famine of the bread of life which came before them, has brought to our knowledge greater necessities than we are, at present, able to relieve. That which is desirable, however, and practicable, and yet unperformed, we will, with God's blessing, attempt, and, from the spirit of active benevolence which pervades this community, we doubt not but that an increased number of subscribers, and the increased subscriptions of such members as have been blessed by Providence with the means, will considerably animate and strengthen the Committee. By making more gratuitous grants to poor settlements, and by offering books at prices yet more reduced to members and the public in general, we may be enabled to extend the advantages of religious knowledge yet more widely and effectively. The increased cost of books in our more recent importations, with the cause of it, were detailed by your Committee in their report of last year. This has placed our Bibles and other books somewhat further beyond the reach of the poorer classes of the community, and of those benevolent members who would wish to supply their servants and others gratuitously. Foreign Committees

can now only be justified in furnishing them again to the public, at the same low prices as formerly, through an increased amount of their own local subscriptions. If our funds be thus enlarged, we may be enabled materially to reduce the cost of our Bibles and other books, after we have imported them at the first cost from home. How exceedingly desirable this is, your Committee need scarcely hint.

When we consider the tendency which the concerns of the world have, to obliterate the precepts of religion from the minds of the most regular attendants upon the Lord's Day ordinances; when we reflect on the lamentable number in these Provinces, who, although they have the opportunity, yet neglect the observance of that day, which, duly sanctified, might leaven all their days; when lastly, we take into contemplation the immense majority of the population of this diocese, who are far removed from the regular administration of the ordinances of public worship on that Holy day; it must surely be deemed desirable, that not an house should be without it's bible, by which God might speak to it's individual members; not a cottage without it's tract or silent preacher, by which the word of God (in many places hard to be understood,) might be explained to the simple, and it's lessons of instruction drawn forth and inculcated.

The aim and object of a few of the principal works which your Committee have assisted to distribute, may furnish the best prospectus of our intentions, and the best promise of the fruits of our exertions.

Scripture has ever held the first place upon our altar, as the rule of faith and guide of life. The necessity and usefulness of reading the sacred volume, and the proper dispositions for it's perusal, have formed the subject of many of our tracts, which we have afforded opportunities of viewing in the course of our religious labours. The

tical of Christianity; have been recommended to the most polished understanding at the same time that they have been rendered easy of comprehension to the most moderate capacity. The sin and danger of lukewarmness in religion, and of neglecting public worship, have formed the topics of some of it's printed exhortations; others have aimed at supplying answers to all excuses for neglecting the distinguishing sacraments of Christianity; the true christian method of educating childrens with scripture lessons, and catechetical instructions has been furnished to parents; the young have been supplied with manuals of the chief truths of Christianity; with cautions against ill company and the dangerous procrastination of Repentance; the sick have been furnished with warnings to sanctify their afflictions; the poor with maxims tending to their good in either world; the old with reflections suited to mortals just verging on the bounds of immortality; and all ages have been supplied with works of devotion which breathed the spirit, while they afforded the materials, of fervent prayer.

The Committee have pleasure in communicating to it's friends the valuable accessions which have been made to the catalogue of the parent society. A volume of sermons on the affecting subjects of "sickness, sorrow, and death," by that useful practical writer, the Rev. Edward Berens, with an address to the attendants on the sick by the Rev. J. D. Coleridge have been added. A most interesting piece of Biography, the life of the pious James Bonnell, Esq. Accountant General of Ireland, in the reign of King James, which has been long out of print, has been reprinted and an instructive story of "Penitence" selected from that excellent Clergyman's annual of "Dr. Watson's Death-Bed scenes," and "a manual for soldiers" by the Rev. R. G. Curtois, are also among the works recently admitted and the whole of the Society's books and tracts are under a course of revision, in which antiquated phrases, in many, have been amended, and, in all, an endeavour has been made to convey the soundest instruction in the most popular

Our correspondence with the Parent Society has been most satisfactory, and our thanks are due to that venerable board for their having recently supplied the Town of Halifax with a parochial lending library of above 220 volumes at their most reduced prices. The sum of 300 currency has been raised, independently of the funds of this committee, by the charitable subscriptions of the Benevolent towards this object; such a stock of useful works, as may, by God's blessing, be of permanent advantage to this town and neighborhood, has within the last few weeks, been imported, and a decent book-case has been erected for their preservation in the vestry room at St. Paul's, and the officiating clergy of that church will, henceforth, be ready, immediately after the catechising, by which the divine service is concluded, on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, to issue the works to such as may apply for them.

Our District Committees have received one addition since the last report, through the active exertions of the Rev. Mather Byles Desbrisay, who will shortly establish a Depository and Parochial Lending Library, for Dartmouth and the populous outports attached to that important mission. The Committees at Lunenburg and Liverpool, under the praiseworthy exertions of the Reverend Messrs. Cochran, Moody, Shreve and Tambe, are effecting much good, and our gratitude is due to C. W. H. Harris and Samuel Fairbanks, Esquires, their respective Secretaries, for the warm interest which they continue to take in their success, and the satisfactory statements of their proceedings, which from time to time they forward to our Diocesan Board. With the Committees at Bermuda, Sydney, C. B., in Newfoundland, and Prince Edward's Island, we have had no correspondence of late, but from the supplies which were forwarded to them in the year last fore past, we doubt not but that they still possess the means and enjoy the satisfaction of being furnished with useful. The reports which have been published in St. John's, New Brunswick and at Quebec, give the most encouraging statement of the several district committees.

connected with those central institutions. In the case of the committees connected with Quebec, this statement has been happily confirmed by the testimony of the amiable prelate presiding over that Diocese, who has so lately honored us by a visit, and entitled himself to the best thanks of our committee, for the able and energetic manner in which his Lordship recommended this institution and its objects, from the pulpit of St. Paul's.

Since the last report, 41 Packages of Bibles, Books, and Tracts have been sent, several of them gratuitously, from our stores.

Packages.		Packages.	
To Lunenburg	7	To Shelburne	1
To Liverpool	6	To Windsor	4
To Sydney, C.B.	3	To Pt. Ed. Island	2
To Newfoundland	1	To Bermuda	2
To Miramichi	2	To St. Margaret's Bay	1
To Truro	1	To Gaysborough	1
To Yarmouth	1	To Sackville	1
To Cornwallis	1	To Sambro	1
To Arichat	1	To Dartmouth	1
To Parrsborough	1	To Bay Chaleur	1
To Aylesford	2		

Bibles of various sizes and prices to the number of 236; Testaments to the number of 227; Common Prayer Books 346; Other bound books 973; Half-bound books and tracts 10,138; In all 11,920; Amounting in cost to upwards of £350; Have been issued, an average of one hundred children of each sex.

With respect to the funds we may observe, that our debt to the Parent Society has been considerably diminished during the past year, and that the balance Report, with a portion of 202, for the year ending at the close of the last Report of the Parent Society.

1800

Remitted within the year	252 0 0
Cash hand to remit by next packet a bill of	100 0 0
Cash towards the purchase of another Bill	35 0 0
Which will enable us at any time to re-	75 0 0
duce our debt to	
Value of books on hand about	250 0 0
Amount of debts due from various Com-	
mittees and Individuals	121 5 7

This statement of our funds will be considered encouraging, as will, also, that which we are enabled to make of the improving state of the School, which is supported among us by the liberal grants of the Provincial Legislature and the English Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. The number of Boys in daily attendance is 202.—The number of Girls 87.—Ten masters have been trained at the School in the last twelve months, who, after having become qualified to diffuse the benefits of the National system of education, have been settled in different stations.

The progress during the past year, of our Sunday Schools, under the most flourishing auspices should not be unnoticed. It is intimately connected with the promotion of Christian Knowledge, which is the main object of this committee. It, also, occasions an increased demand on the part of the young members of our community, for books of elementary instruction, for such works of entertainment as are supplied by the supplemental catalogue of the Parent Society, for Rewards, and for the useful books of which the Lending Library is composed. There are at present assembled, each Sunday, an average of one hundred children of each sex.

Your Committee cannot do better than close this Report, with a portion of the concluding sentence of the last Report of the Parent Society.

There is a moral certainty, that, as religious his-

"bills and feelings shall increase, there will be increasing demands for every species of help, which the Society is accustomed to impart. * * * * Whilst we continue to disseminate Scriptural truth, and exhort men to live, as becometh the Gospel of Jesus Christ, no Christian can doubt, that we are acting in conformity with the will of our Heavenly Master, and we may trust to the superintending providence of the Most High, for support in all difficulties, and for a blessing upon our feeble endeavours to glorify His Holy Name."

By Order of the Committee,

EDWARD WIX, M. A.

Associate Secretary.

HALIFAX, August 7, 1829.

MEM.—It was resolved at the Meeting, in which this Report was read, that a new Catalogue of the books in the Depository of the District Committee with their present prices, should be immediately printed, and that a Book should be provided, and always kept at the National School, Halifax, in which any members of the Society might enter, against their names, such books as being not at present in the Depository, they would wish to have imported, in the next order, from England. It was also agreed, that each member of the Society's District Committees in this Diocese should be urged to make personal inquiry into the extent of the supply of religious works, more particularly of the word of God, in his own immediate neighborhood.

Annual Subscriptions and Donations of the smallest amount are earnestly solicited, and will be received and acknowledged by the Ven. Archdeacon WILLIS, the Rev. EDWARD WIX, LAWRENCE HARTSHORNE, Esq. or Mr. GORE at the National School, where the

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A list of all the Works in the St. Paul's Lending Li-

EDWARD WIX, M. A.
 Associate Secretary

brary will soon be prepared for the Public ; and it should

be generally understood that any volume, or separate tract,

contained in the library, which persons, on perusal of it,

may wish to possess, may, on application at the National

School, be purchased, or entered upon the book of Orders

for the next importation from London.

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