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THE

FORTY-EIGHTH REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE

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Picton Auxiliary Bible Society,

(INSTITUTED IN 1813)

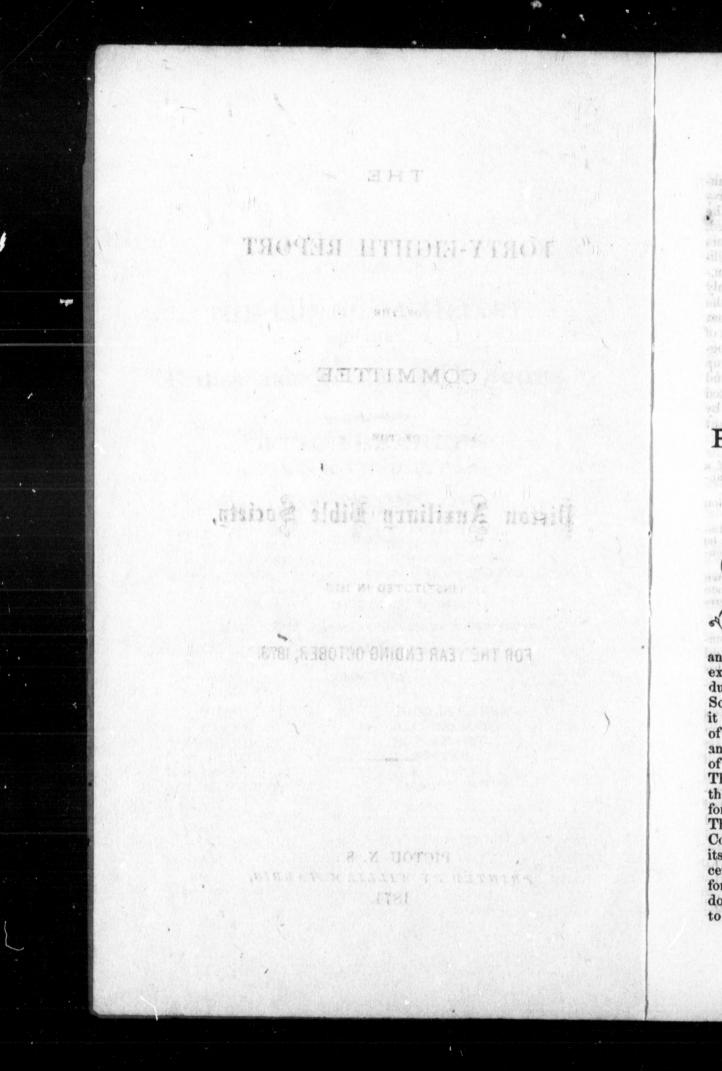
FOR THE YEAR ENDING OCTOBER, 1873.

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PICTOU AUXILIARY

IN CONNECTION WITH THE

B. and F. Bible Society, for October, 1873.

N presenting their Annual Report, at this meeting, your Committee record gratifying progress on the part of the Parent Society throughout the past year. It has circulated 2,592,936 copies of the Scriptures and disbursed £205,-

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213 6s. 1d. in the cause. It has occupied new territories and enlarged its subscriptions, while its issues of copies have exceeded those of any previous year, with the exception of that during the Franco-German war. The entire circulation of the Society now amounts to 68,477,031 copies. For 69 years has it been diligently and prayerfully sowing the re-productive seed of the Word broad-cast in some lands as by stealth in others ; and, of late, planting its bookstalls in the very heart of the city of Rome, and circulating its Bibles among priests and people. The progress of the Society, it is interesting to note, through the past year. We shall select the most striking details. The formation of an Italian Bible Society was commenced last year. This year we have to report a supply of printing paper from the Committee for its editions, as these are to be printed in Rome itself. A national Bible Society for Italinas, with Rome as its centre, and the Bible printed in the language of the people form indeed subject of gratulation and praise. Verily, a wide door has been opened, and colporteurs and agents have entered to occupy the land with the Word of God.

Japan .--- Changes have been taking place in the Eastern Empire, but these have been, in the whole, favorable to the introduction of Christianity. The edict imposing death on the nations that embrace the religion of Christ has been annulled, and Missionaries are allowed to pursue their evangelistic labors throughout the Empire : nor is this all, the gratifying intelligence is now communicated that a native Christian Church composed of 30 members, with 2 native teachers, has been openly organized at Yokohoma. Surely the East is giving up and the isles waiting for his law. In addition, the report states that steps are being taken for obtaining and printing a translation of the Holy Scriptures, into the Japanese language. Some progress has been already made and a plan of joint action drawn up and submitted to the two great Bible Societies of England and America for approval and acceptance. This plan was initiated at Yokohoma last September a year, and is fully explained by the following minutes, adopted at a convention of Protestant Missionaries. We quote several of the resolutions.

Resolved, That this Convention recommend the appointment of a Committee for the translation of the Sacred Scriptures into the Japanese language, in accordance with the following plan:

1st.—That the Committee consist of one member from each Mission desirous of co-operating in this work.

2nd.—That the members of this Committee be appointed by the Missions to which they severally belong, and that each mission shall be competent to supply the place of its representative by another whenever it may so desire.

3rd.—That it shall be the duty of this Committee, aside from its own work of translating, to carefully examine and give an opinion upon any translations of portions of the Word of God which may be presented to them for this purpose.

The secretaries of the Convention were instructed to communicate with the American Bible Society and the British and Foreign Bible Society, informing them of the action of this Convention and transmitting to them a copy of the above resolutions.

It is almost needless to add that our Parent Society rejoices at such resolutions and will be glad to aid in imparting to Japan the best possible version of the Scriptures and in the shortest period of time. In fact, before ever these resolutions had reached the Committee, the Society was far advanced in printing an edition of the Gospel of St. John at Vienna. It may be remembered that a distinguished embassy from Japan had visited Europe this last year and had been for some time in England and Scotland acquiring information as to the institutions and customs of the country. While in London, it was the desire of the Society to present a copy of St. John's Gospel, in the Japanese language to the distinguished foreigners, but as the printing was not finished this couldn't then be done; however, a few weeks later, copies were sent to their agent, Mr. Mo

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Monod, of Paris, who obtained an interview and begged their acceptance of the volume "as the result of one of the earliest efforts made to translate the Scriptures into the vernacular of their country, and as a proof of the interest taken by the English Christians in the welfare of their nation." Both address and present were suitably acknowledged. It is but right, we think, to finish this gratifying account, by stating that the Governor of Jeddo, when recently in London, paid a visit to the Society's house and was conducted through the establishment. He expressed much interest in all he saw, and accepted a Chinese Bible and at his own request an English Marginal Reference Bible as a souvenir of the occasion. A demand for English Scriptures has sprung up in Japan, as many of the educated are desirous of becoming acquainted with that language, and it is even proposed that the Roman shall supersede the native character for general use. May it please the Great Ruler of Nations to throw open not only the land but the hearts of the Japanese to the reception of that divine truth which unfolds discoveries infinitely more momentous than any contained within the realms of civilization and science, to whatever point of perfection they may be carried.

The third country which we shall mention where the Society's labors have been successful through the past year is the immense field of India. It will be interesting to most hearers to know that in Orissa, where Juggernauts seat has long been, the Old Testament is now printed in one volume 'Orya.' When it is considered that there are more than 6,000,000 of souls in this one district who otherwise must perish for lack of knowledge, the great importance of this step must at once be apparent. At the same time, the usefulness of the English Bible, in India, in the Bungalows or officers' tents is forcibly described in the report. The following brief incident shows the success accompanying the perusal of one Bible under the blessing of him who inspired it. "A young Brahmin received a tract a few years ago which led him to enquire into the truth of the Christian Religion; for this purpose he purchased the Bengalee Bible from a Colporteur Society, returning day by day he directed the simple prayer to his Heavenly Father : "Show me the true way of peace?" Daily prayer and daily reading of the Bible led him to detern ine that Christ was the true way. Two years ago he was baptised and is now honoring his profession and faith in Christ by a consistent Christian life?" Here we add what bears on a Mission with which not a few here are connected. From time to time Scriptures have been sent for the Hindoos and Mussulmans in the South African Colonies and the West Indian Islands. From the condition of these people, it would appear an almost hopeless task to instruct them ; still, from Natal the account comes of six Coolies baptised, and from Trinidad we have it upon good authority that not fewer than

18 have been added to the Presbyterian Church Mission there within the last few years, and a large number are, at this moment, under Christian instruction. Suffice, that on the whole, the intelligence from this immense Empire now committed to us, as a sucred trust, is both satisfactory and cheering. The system of caste has been effectually struck at and the leaven of Christianity seems to be pervading the reapers. The Bible, with marginal references, is accomplishing much good. Again, a grant of 200 English Bibles, with marginal references has been made to the Bombay University, and the same number is about to be presented to the Universities of the other 2 Presidencies is likely to have a baneficial effect upon the students of culture attending these seats of learning.

After India's coral strand, we might notice Ceylon's isle: The plan of holding what are called Union Moonlight Bible Meetings has again been attended with unabated interest. Twenty-four such gatherings have been held in different parts of the province. The principal part of the arrangements and speaking devolved on the native brethren, who acquitted themselves with credit and ability. The topics selected as the subjects of addresses were such as the following: "What the Bible says of man," "What the Bible promises to nian," and "What the Bible requires from man." The attendance varied from 150 to 500, but all listened with marked attention to the short and pithy observations that were delivered, and maintained throughout a courteous and respectful demeanour. Thus truth manifests itself to conscience. Madagascar 18 an island in which the Christian mind takes an interest now-a days. The accounts from it of Bible work are cheering. Writes a Missionary : the general reverence and indeed love for God's Word sre manifested in various ways. If one meets a perfect stranger and finds it necessary to reprove him for some sin, nothing is more likely to come home to his heart than a text from the Bible. Bible Classes are exceedingly popular; the natives never seem tired of them and are very delighted if they last 3 or 4 hours. The attendance at them is remarkably good and often there are as many as 200 persons present. Many leave their stalls at the market and their work in the fields to listen to the explanation of the blessed Word of Life. This undoubtedly shows a healthly state of soul.

From the islands of the South Seas, accounts come of moneys transmitted from Christian natives and of translations of the Scriptures being rendered. But by far the most cheering account comes from what used to be called Savage Island, (one of the Navigator group); and well did it deserve the name, for no European could venture his life there with safety a few years ago, but now the tiger has become a lamb. 1,200 Savage Islanders (out of a population of 5,000) have made personal profession of their faith in Christ, and are living in accordance with the teaching ion there moment, hole, the to us, as ystem of Christivith mara grant en made out to be encies is culture n's isle: nt Bible interest. nt parts nts and d themhe subhat the in," and endan e l attenlivered. lemeanascar 18 now-a Writes God's perfect ne sin, a text r; the if they good Many elds to This r.oneys of the ng acone of for no years anders sion of aching

of God's Word and many have died resting peacefully on that Saviour revealed. What a testimony to the power of God's grace and what a triumph of Missionary labor. Nive or Savage Island has become the centre of light in the group, and this is the result of the Word of God in the hands of a few simple minded, prayerful and believing men. In 1849, a Somoan Teacher was received at one of the villages and from that year dates the commencement of God's work on the island. He was not a learned man but emphatically a man of the book. Its great central truths he made known and lived in accordance with its recepts. A few years of patient, trustful, prayerful work were followed by years of thankful harvest, so that ten years after his landing the whole island was under religious instruction and the first teacher's labors were shared by four others. Now began the prayer for more light, "Lord send us a Missionary who may teach us more fully of thy truth" became the cry of all Nive. In 1861, the first English Missionary, Rev. Mr. Lawes and wife landed on the island. He felt from the first day of his residence that if the people's faith was to be established on a firm basis and their spiritual growth to become strong and vigore is, they must have the Word of God, at least the New Testament in their own lan, aage. For 12 years he labored at the work of translating, and through the help of a Samoan Missionary who possessed some knowledge of the Samoan Island dialect, the translation of the New Testament and Book of Psaims has been effected. Now the New Testament is in every house on the island and in every house are those who can read its blessed truths. But it is not merely by reading it that the Havage Islanders show their appreciation of the Sacred Volume but by paying for it and by circulating it to others. During the last 10 years they have paid upwards of £500 to the Bible Society for the Testament and portions printed in Sydney, and raised £2,300 as contributions to the Missionary Society, that heachen islands beyond may enjoy with them the blessings of the Gospel through the teaching of God's own Word ot life and peace. This most interesting account fully shows the benefit of Missionary agency and the great good accomplished through the instrumer ality of the labors of the Parent Society; and there is scarcely a Missionary Society of any note in operation that is not indebted to this valuable Society for aid in its translations and helping in its work. Through this last year there has been quite a number of new translations and revisions made. But it is not our intention to travel further over the wide field embraced within the sphere of the Society's labors. Suffice to say that in France, the country we commonly commenced with, the circulation of the Scriptures is increasing, though the number sold does not reach that given during the previous year of the war. Nevertheless, France is getting the Bible, hitherto its great want, and what will imbue it with the principles of sound

government and true liberty. -2,000 Communists were banished to New Caledonia last year, a liberal supply of Scriptures was entrusted to the pastor that was appointed chaplain to this penal settlement. In Spain, notwithstanding insurrections, the work of Bible circulation proceeds and that on the part of several Societies; the Scotch National, which has extensive ramifications in Spain, draws its supplies from our Society's depot. But enough-we must leave to speakers to supply whatever information is lacking in this cursary sketch. What we have endeavored is to give some of the most interesting details as to progress and work through the past year; and now, to draw to a conclusion, one thing that must startle, is the fact that the expenditure of the Parent Society through the past year has exceeded the income by more than £16,000, Though this is a very significant fact, it is not without a precedent, for in 1867 the expenditure was £24,000 in excess of income. But the Committee are more anxious powy than then, Then they were rejoicing in having access to Venice, now the Society is established in Rome. Then they had found entrance into Poland, now in north and south, in east and west, Russia the Society is doing the Sower's work, Then, with the exception. of Spain and the Dominion of the Pape, the standard of the Society was planted everywhere, now even those exceptions no longer exist. That was but 6 years ago, and what was glorious then seems to fade away in the brighter giory, which now encompasses the work. In fine, the Committee trust that the friends of the Society will help them mightily with unceasing prayer and with gifts worthy of the noble purpose of sowing the whole earth with the seed of God's truth. To this noble object is, we believe, our Society thoroughly devoted. As we have already stated, above 2 million of copies have been circulated through the past year and 68 million now altogether; and wherever the Almighty, in his providence, opens new doors there, do her agents enter in and occupy the land. No weeping or wailing follows in her train, but righteousness and peace, kindness and love; war is exchanged for peace ; the captive abandons his fetters, and the tongue of the dumb is loosed ; instead of the thorn springs up the fir tree; and instead of the briar the myrtle : and these are to the Lord for a name and to men for a sign that shall ever remain.

In reference to this Auxiliary, the Committee regret that they have so little news to communicate; the interest felt seems to be confined to the Annual Meeting, and in reference to it the Committee feel, that as the change from February to October has not answered expectation, they would therefore recommend a return to the former period, as also that the various branches connecting with this Auxiliary be united, and that, representatives from them be requested to report to the Annual Meeting. Should these suggestions be carried out, the effect, they believe, will be beneficial. Various changes have taken place amon of th death accor shall For arden

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amongst us during the last year, and some steady supporters of this Society, town and country have been removed by death, but the Word of God abides and is destined to accomplish still greater reforms till the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters the channel of the sea. For this consummation, let us not only devoutly pray but ardently and unitedly labor, second

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| Miss Catharine Morrison | 20 |
| Miss Jessie Sutherland | 25. |
| Mrs Wm Sutherland | 25 |
| Alex McIntosh | 10 |
| Mrs John Reid | 25 |
| Mrs James Denoon | 25 |
| Alexander Munro | 20 |
| Mrs Neil Currie | 25 |
| " Thomas Currie | 31 |
| " Robert Carr | 37. |
| Miss Annie G Sutherland | 25. |
| Mrs John Talbot | 25, |
| " Daniel Campbell | 13 |
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> Oct. 26. To stat, paid for use of Hall for Meeting. \$ 5,00 " William Harris' account for printing notices. Peb. M. 1.75 The Pictou Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society in account with Depositary, for the year A. Brach ending 22nd October 1873.

| 1872. Oct. 24. | On Land as per Report, and Manifes to essent | bles. 145 | la la | Testa, 179 |
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| Oct. 22, | 1873. On hand, | 134 | | 145 |
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| | eived for 5 Bibles sold, \$3.28 | (E | | iodeto. |
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| Ret. E.E | | 1. | | |
| 161,2). 5:0.9 | (66.68 Carriboo per, Miss McDonald, | | | |
| die w | Carriboo Island per des Melseut | 12 | | |
| 872. | Cash relation of sconsidering of the Work | | 24 | |
| Nov. 4. | To 250 Envelopes, \$0.35 | | | |
| 873. | and C. McKensle, | | | |
| Oct. 22. | Rent for 1 vear to date, 6.00 brie | | | |
| 89,15 | End 36.35 wan per J. P. Grant, 1 | | | |
| 85.23 | Audited and found it correct, | 24 | 111 | |
| $(M)_{\alpha}\phi_{\alpha}$ | Creant as Collectors | R. A | udi | itor |
| | Contribution, Carrilaco Rust, collected by | | 196 | 17. |
| -98.F | Miss Losse MoDonald, | | | |
| 4.807 | Subseription of W. N. Rodolf, Msq. | ** | .81 | _71GH |
| | | | | .178 |
| | Salem Church Contribution per Rev. Mr. | | .e. | fareb |
| 08.33 | Patterson, when any and | | | |
| 196,82 | seench ffill District per I. A. Grant, New Amam Brunch, per Rev. Mr. Watson, | | 1 | .30 |
| 00.11 | | | | |

Audited and found correct. C. DWYER, Audinov.

The Pictou Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society in account with G. H. Elliott, Treasurer.

| 1872. | Dr. | |
|-------------------|--|---------|
| Oct. 26. 1873. | To amt, paid for use of Hall for Meeting, | \$ 5.00 |
| Feb. 8. | "William Harris' and a | * 0.00 |
| Mor. 26. | "William Harris' account for printing notices, "Sterling Exchange on London £68 16s. 5d. for Society. | 1.75 |
| April 5. | "Expenses of notice of 2 Committee at | 835.00 |
| May 17. | "W. Harris' account for a committee Meetings | .85 |
| July 2. | "W. Harris' account for printing Reports, "Expenses of calling Monthly, Quarterly Meeting and distributing Reports | 35.00 |
| Aug. 20. | and distributing Reports, | .25 |
| Sept. 18. | "Excenses of distant Report from England, | .45 |
| Oct. 22. | "Notice of 2 Committee Martin | .25 |
| | Balance on hand, | .50 |
| 10.00 | 1 | 69.32 |

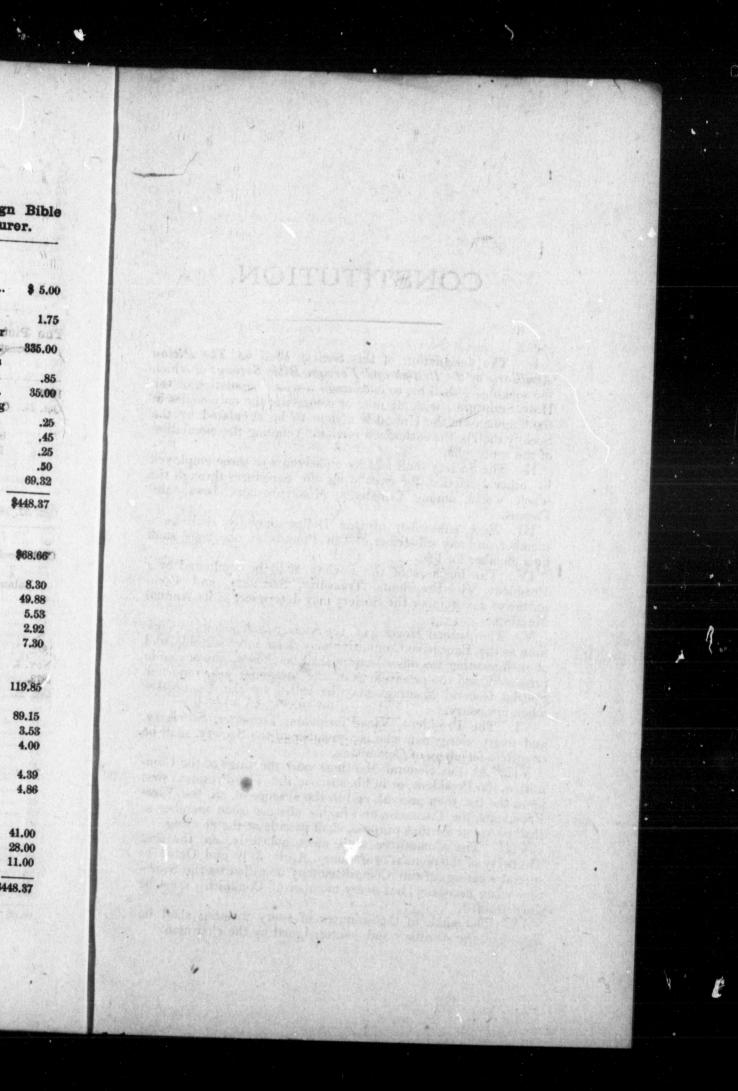
1872.

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| Octob | er 23 | . By amt. of Cash on hand, | |
|----------|-------|--|---------------|
| " | 24 | Cash of Miss Jackson for Threat Barnet | \$68.66 |
| ** | | | |
| " | | Mir Hoddick's Concreation | 8.30 |
| | | TON ONTTHOO DOP MICH IF TO | 49.88 |
| 4. | | " Carriboo Island per Miss McLeod | 5.53 |
| •• | | " Cash collected at Miss McLeod | 2.92 |
| 44 | 25. | " Cash collected at annual meeting, | 7.30 |
| | | Cash received of contributors at the | 1.00 |
| | | | 1 . 2 . 4 . 1 |
| " | | | |
| | | Cash received of Contributors | 119.85 |
| Nov. | | | |
| HOV. | 11. | Construction Malican Demonstr | 89.15 |
| 1.000000 | in l | Conta VI S. FINDAR (Pront on Call | 3.53 |
| 66 | 29. | " Contribution Committee To Collector, | 4.00 |
| | | "Contribution, Carriboo East, collected by Miss Jesse McDonald, | |
| Dec. | 18. | | 4.39 |
| 1873. | 110 | " Subscription of W. N. Rudolf, Esq., | |
| March | 8. | | 4.86 |
| 1.0576 | 0. | " Salem Church Contribution per Rev. Mr. Patterson, | |
| Oot. | 7. | " Scotch Hill District | 41.00 |
| " | " | " Scotch Hill District per I. A. Grant, | 28.00 |
| | | " New Annan Branch, per Rev. Mr. Watson, | 11.00 |
| | | | 11.00 |
| Audited | and | found correct. | \$448.37 |

C. DWYER, Auditor.

\$448.37



CONSTITUTION.

1. The designation of this Society shall be *The Pictou Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society;* of which the sole object shall be, to encourage a wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment; the only copies in the languages of the United Kingdom to be circulated by the Society shall be the authorized version, excluding the circulation of the apocrypha.

II. The Society shall add its endeavours to those employed by other Societies, for circulating the Scriptures through the whole world, among Christians, Mohammedans, Jews, and Pagans.

III. Each subscriber of One Dollar annually, shall be a member, and any subscriber of Ten Pounds at one time shall be a member for life.

IV. The business of the Society shall be conducted by a President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, and Committee of any number the Society may determine, as its Annual Meeting.

V. The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held at such time as the Executive Committee may deem most suitable, and at such meeting the office-bearers shall be chosen, the accounts presented, and the proceedings of the foregoing year reported. Special General Meetings may be called by the Committee when necessary.

VI. The President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, and every clergyman who is a member of the Society, shall be ex-officio members of Committee.

VII. At the General Meetings and meetings of the Committee, the President, or in his absence the Vice-President first upon the list, then present, and in the absence of all the Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, and in his absence such member as shall be voted for that purpose, shall preside at the meeting.

VIII. The Committee shall meet quarterly, on the first Thursday of the months of January, April, July and October; special meetings of the Committee may be called by the Secretary when necessary, but every member of Committee must be duly notified.

IX. The whole of the minutes of every meeting shall be signed by the secretary and countersigned by the chairman.