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# REPORT

OF THE

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## MIDLAND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

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THE SOCIETY

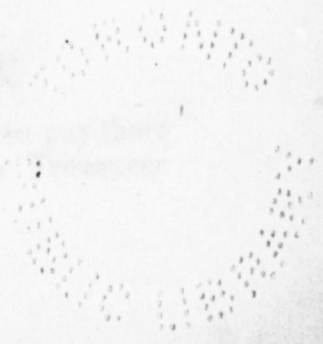
FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE,

1831.

KINGSTON, U. C.

PRINTED AT THE HERALD OFFICE.

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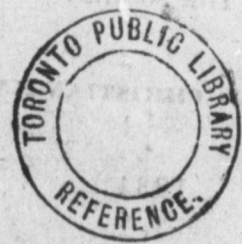


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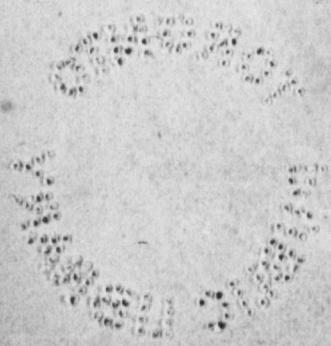
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## REPORT.

THE Midland District Committee of the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, in presenting to its friends a brief account of the state of the association, cannot refrain from expressing their deep regret, that, owing to several untoward circumstances, the Report they have now to offer is far from being so satisfactory as could be wished, and might reasonably have been expected.

During the two years last past, the operations of your Committee have been so limited, that no Report of their proceedings for that period has been laid before the public.

Your Committee are fully aware that one chief cause of their comparatively circumscribed labours, is the well known fact, that the Kingston Auxiliary to the British and Foreign Bible Society is enabled to dispose of Bibles and Testaments at prices so much below those which your Committee are compelled to charge, that the number of copies of the Holy Scriptures circulated by them has of late much diminished; and as there appears no prospect, notwithstanding the acknowledged munificence of the Parent Society, that the state of its funds will permit the indulgence of the hope of a speedy reduction in the prices of its books,

your Committee are not prepared to anticipate, (at least for some time), any great increase in the number of Bibles or Testaments likely to be issued from their depository. The knowledge, however, that the word of God is within the reach of all, even the poorest, must always call forth the highest gratitude to its Great Author, and serves to diminish the regret entertained by your Committee at the small amount of their own distribution.

The next cause of the limited extent of their labours which your Committee would assign, is the want of general information respecting the nature and objects of the Society;—an obstacle which can only be removed by the cordial support and vigorous co-operation of all its present friends: and it is with the pleasing hope of contributing to this most desirable end, that your Committee again present themselves to your notice, and once more make this public appeal in behalf of a Society, for whose uniformly continued liberality and attention this Diocese can never be sufficiently grateful. The establishment of small depositories in different parts of the District, for the sale of Prayer Books and other publications of the Society, would tend materially to enlarge its present contracted sphere of operations, and at the same time give greater publicity to the views and principles of the Parent Institution. The Rev. S. Givins, Missionary at the Mohawk Village in the Bay of Quinte, has expressed his willingness to take charge of a small assortment of Books; and there is good reason to believe that many of the

most valuable works on the list of the Society would be speedily disposed of in most parts of this extensive District. Your Committee feeling the importance of this subject will give it their immediate attention, for it must be evidently impossible that one single depository, can be in any effectual degree, available to those who reside at a distance from Kingston. There are many emigrants settled in various parts of this District, who retain a filial attachment to the communion of their native land, and to whom some such arrangement would be both acceptable and useful.

The following are the number of Bibles and other books and tracts which have been sold or distributed from the Depository since the last Report of your Committee :—

Bibles and Testaments, . . . . .	63
Prayer Books, . . . . .	130
Bound Books and Tracts, . . . . .	211

Your Committee cannot forbear remarking on the fact, that there is not at this moment a single Prayer Book in the Depository, and that numerous applications are made to the Secretary for copies. This, together with the ready sale of many other useful books, serves to shew that there is great room to hope that your Committee may still by the blessing of God, be the humble means of promoting Christian knowledge generally, and contributing to diffuse a more extensive acquaintance with the doctrines and discipline of the Church of England ; and that it only requires moderate support from the friends and members of the Church to realize that hope.

In reference to the state of their finances, your Committee are happy to be able to say that it is not altogether unsatisfactory. In May 1829 a large supply of books, (many of which are yet unsold), was forwarded by Mess. Rivingtons from London, in compliance with an order of your Committee, through the Secretary of the Parent Society. The cost of these books including package, insurance, and freight to Montreal, amounts to £76 2s. Sterling. Although no portion of this large sum has been remitted, your Committee hope to transmit the whole almost immediately from the following sums at their disposal.

In the Treasurer's hands.....	£67 4 4
In the Secretary's hands.....	18 9 6
Outstanding debts, to be collected, about	33 0 0

Besides the subscriptions for the present year, but few of which have yet been paid.

Your Committee therefore trust that they will be enabled, not only to discharge this debt, but also by a little exertion to be in funds to pay for a further supply, which it will be necessary to order. Prayer Books, as has been already observed, are much wanted, and meet with a ready sale. Such works also, as "Crossman's Introduction", "Nelson's Manuel of True Devotion", "Burnet's History of the Reformation abridged", and works of Biography, &c., seldom remain on hand. Of these your Committee hope next year to be furnished with a full supply.

Your Committee cannot refrain on the present occasion from calling to your notice the laudable exertions



of those Ladies and Gentlemen, who, as voluntary teachers, have given their attention to the Sunday School of St. George's Church, particularly the Superintendants, Mr. Askew, and Mr. H. Smith. Notwithstanding many difficulties, they have persevered with zeal in this Christian work, and merited the warmest acknowledgments of the Committee. It is much to be wished that competent persons would offer their services as Teachers; at present the number is too limited, and the addition of two or three assiduous Teachers, both male and female, would greatly contribute to the success of the school both in respect of the number of scholars and the instruction received. The larger classes might be divided, and the Teachers thereby enabled to bestow greater attention on each of their pupils. The number of scholars during the summer has averaged from 70 to 80; several of whom have made no inconsiderable progress in the knowledge of the Scriptures.

The religious education of youth is a subject too generally appreciated to need any comment from this Committee; and they feel assured that, it will always be deemed a legitimate appropriation of their funds, occasionally to devote a portion of them in the gratuitous supply of books to the Superintendants of such Institutions, not only in the Town, but throughout the District, upon assurance that they are in connection with the Church of England.

While on this subject, your Committee feel great pleasure in announcing that measures are in progress and nearly completed, towards establishing, under the

auspices of his Lordship the Bishop, a uniform system of Sunday School instruction throughout the Diocese ; and in acknowledging at the same time another instance of the liberality of the two Venerable Societies who have so generously fostered our infant Church.—The Parent Society, and the Society “for the propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts” have each contributed £200 Sterling towards the accomplishment of this most excellent object. Thus increasing our already superabundant obligations.

When your Committee review the exertions that are now making to spread abroad the saving health of the Gospel to all nations, they “thank God and take courage.” The Bible has been translated into almost every known language, and diffused into the most remote corner of the earth. The commerce, the enterprise, the curiosity of men, seem instruments in his hands, who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will, towards opening a way for the knowledge of the truth, and bringing in that time when, in defiance of all human policy, the kingdoms of this world must become the kingdoms of God and his Christ.

When such a work is going on it would betoken great heartlessness to be content to continue unconcerned spectators. Your committee therefore earnestly call on all the friends of the Parent Institution not to be wanting in their efforts to promote Christian Knowledge, and to contribute to the utmost of their power towards a Society, which is one of the oldest Missionary Associations—which was the first to send Protestant

Missionaries to the East, where, under its auspices, SWARTZ, *Kolhoff*, and (we may also say) *Middleton* and *Heber*, so zealously and so successfully laboured,—and which has so constantly befriended the Church of England in these Colonies since it was first planted up to this hour.

Your Committee hope that this appeal will not be made in vain, for, (next to His blessing, without which it were presumptuous to expect any fruit) their chief dependance is on the increased exertion and liberality of the members of the Society; with their cordial co-operation, much may yet be effected,—without it the present association must languish and die.

It only remains for your Committee to supplicate the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ to bless every endeavour to promote Christian knowledge, and to hasten that period when the fulness of the Gentiles shall come in; when the House of Israel shall be no longer estranged; and the whole earth be one fold under the Great Shepherd and Bishop of our souls.

By desire of the Committee,

ROBERT D. CARTWRIGHT, } Secretaries.  
D. BETHUNE,

Kingston, October 12th, 1831.

CATALOGUE OF BOOKS FOR SALE AT THE DEPOSITORY.

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— Nonpareil, 12mo. demy, without ref., .	4 8
New Testament, cloth, boards.....	0 10
Homilies, 12mo. bound,.....	5 11
Sellon's abridg't of the Holy Scriptures, bound,	1 6
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8vo. bound..... }	
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Stanhope's Meditations from the Greek of }	1 0
Bishop Andrews, bound..... }	
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	Dialogue on the Holy Sacrament.....	0 3
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	Horne's John the Baptist, Abel, Enoch and }	1 10
	Noah, 8vo. bound..... }	
	Besides many useful Tracts.	

\*\* The Committee hope to receive early in the ensuing spring a large supply of the most useful publications of the Parent Society:—and if the state of their funds will permit, they will then form a small lending Parochial library.

\*\* Persons in want of Prayer Books may have them procured on application to Rev. R. D. Cartwright, one of the Secretaries.

Preface on the High Commission ..... 1  
 Explanation of the Signs of the Cross ..... 2  
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