

TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MONTREAL

Religious Tract Society,

AUXILIARY TO THE

LONDON TRACT SOCIETY.

Presented at the Annual Meeting, Jan'y. 25, 1848.

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**"Who hath despised the day of small things?"**

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MONTREAL:

PRINTED BY ROLLO CAMPBELL,

TO BE HAD GRATIS AT THE DEPOSITORY, ST. JOSEPH STREET.

1848.

TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT

Religious and Social

OF THE

AMERICAN SOCIETY

FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL AMONG THE PEOPLES OF THE EAST

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1878

NEW YORK

PRINTED BY H. W. HOLT, 153 NASSAU ST. TO BE HAD GRATIS AT THE DEPOSITORY OF JEREMY BENTHAM

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TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT

RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1884

NEW YORK: PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY, 15 NASSAU ST.

1885

OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY, 15 NASSAU STREET.

1885

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Montreal Religious Tract Society.

THE Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Montreal Auxiliary Religious Tract Society was held in the American Presbyterian Church, Great St. James Street, on Tuesday evening, January 25, 1848. Dr. HOLMES in the Chair. The Rev. Mr. CORDLEY engaged in prayer; and the Rev. J. GIRDWOOD read the Report.

Moved by Rev. ROBERT M'GILL, seconded by Rev. Mr. LEISHMAN:

1. That the Report now read be adopted, and printed under the direction of the Committee; and that the following gentlemen be the Office-Bearers and Committee for the ensuing year, with power to add to their number, viz.:

HENRY VENNOR, Esquire, *Treasurer.*

Rev. J. GIRDWOOD, *Corresponding Secretary.*

Mr. JAMES MILNE, *Recording Secretary and Depositary.*

COMMITTEE:

MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL, resident in the City.

William Lunn.
Hon. James Ferrier.
James R. Orr.
James Court.
J. Keller.
Rollo Campbell.
Captain Maitland.
James Mills.

Dr. Holmes.
William C. Evans.
E. C. Tuttle.
John Lewis.
Samuel Hedge.
Thomas Tait.
Joseph Wenham.
David Smith.

Charles Collins.
William F. Grassett.
P. Howard.
A. F. Sabine.
Lieut. Pollock.
J. Dougall.

Moved by Rev. H. WILKES, A. M., seconded by Rev. F. BOSWORTH, A. M.:

2. That while this Meeting awards to the laborious and disinterested exertions of the Tract Distributors in this City, cordial approbation, it thankfully acknowledges the Divine goodness in the measure of success already obtained, and fervently prays the Spirit of all Grace to remove the obstacles to more extensive usefulness.

Moved by Rev. J. GIRDWOOD, seconded by Rev. WM. TAYLOR:

3. That this Society, as it furnishes an instrumentality admirably adapted for the diffusion of the essential principles of the Gospel, is entitled to a large share of Christian sympathy and pecuniary assistance, to enable it to meet the spiritual wants of the Province, by the adoption of a system of Colportage, and other modes of circulating religious tracts and books.

Moved by Rev. ROBERT BREMNER, seconded by Rev. Mr. CORDLEY:

4. That the thanks of this Meeting be tendered to the Parent Society in London, and to the American Tract Society, for the very liberal grants made to this Auxiliary, which lay its friends and supporters under peculiar obligations to renew their zeal in the department of gratuitous distribution.

A Collection was taken up amounting to £9 7s. 6d.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

MONTREAL RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.

1. That this Society be denominated *The Montreal Religious Tract Society, Auxiliary to the Religious Tract Society in London*, and that the Tracts circulated by this Society be chiefly those published by the Parent Institution.

2. That a Subscriber of One Dollar per annum, or upwards, be a Member of this Society, and be entitled to receive Tracts, upon application for them *within the year*, to the amount of one-half his annual subscription.

3. That one-fourth of the funds of this Society, if practicable, be annually transmitted to the Parent Institution, in aid of its funds for circulating Religious Tracts throughout the world.

4. That the Tracts purchased by Subscribers or others of the Society, *be paid for on delivery*.

5. That the business of this Society shall be conducted by a Committee, consisting of fifteen members, together with a Treasurer and Secretaries, who shall be chosen at an Annual General Meeting of this Society; and that three Members constitute a quorum.

6. That all resident Clergymen be Members of the Committee, *ex-officio*.

7. That the Committee shall have power to add to their number; and shall appoint a Depository and a Collector or Collectors; and shall hold their meetings monthly, or oftener, as may be required.

8. That an Annual Public Meeting of this Society shall be held, when a Report of its proceedings and the general state of its affairs, shall be presented to the Subscribers, and Officers and Committee chosen for the ensuing year.

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TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT.

THE proceedings of the past year have been characterized by uninterrupted harmony and union. With feelings of delight and gratitude, your Committee desire to record their thanks to God, the Author of every good and perfect gift, for this token of His approbation. They have, however, to regret that neither their own zeal, nor that of others in the labours of this Institution, has been commensurate to a work so important in itself, and in its tendency so beneficial to society. But while they have lamented over this prevailing indifference to the cause of truth and righteousness, their prayers have ascended to God for the effusion of his Almighty Spirit. Thus, it is hoped, the precious and indestructible truth of the Gospel, as communicated by your Society, may be rendered effectual in the salvation of men.

Your Committee would be admonished by the removal of an indefatigable servant of the Lord. They allude to the late Rev. Mark Willoughby. He took a deep interest in the distribution of Tracts and Religious Books; was a sincere friend of this Society, and a contributor to its funds. May many others be raised up to carry on similar works of faith and labors of love.

In presenting a Report of the transactions of the past year, your Committee begin as usual with the Importations.

IMPORTATIONS.

The value of the Books and Tracts imported during the year, including a parcel from the American Tract Society, amounts to		-	-	-	£348	9	2
Bought in the Province		-	-	-	10	10	4
To which add grants of Tracts from the Tract Society,							
London		-	-	-	17	9	1
From the American Tract Society		-	-	-	13	3	5
And from E. C. Tuttle, Esquire		-	-	-	3	7	11
					<hr/>		
					£392	19	11

With these importations, purchases, and grants, have been carried on the following

OPERATIONS.

Books and Tracts sold in the Depository for Cash	-	£197	14	7
The sales on Credit to Branch Societies, Agents, Individuals, amount to	-	189	1	9
The Gratuitous Distribution amounts to	-	57	8	3
		<hr/>		
		£444	4	7

The total number of publications received into the Depository is 78,400; and the total issues are 71,760.

The particulars of the issues will be found in the Tabular Statement in the Appendix.

DEPOSITORY.

The business of the Society is carried on in connexion with the Bible Society and Sunday School Union; and Mr. James Milne is still the efficient Depository of your Society.

BIBLES AND TESTAMENTS WITH THE SCOTCH VERSION OF PSALMS AND PARAPHRASES.

The increasing demand for the Scriptures with these appendages, induced your Committee to order largely from Glasgow last spring. The supply was received, as for some years past, from Messrs. Francis Orr & Sons; and its value is £182 15s. 2d. By this importation your Committee have been able to meet the growing demand for that

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version of the Holy Scriptures preferred by a large and influential portion of the population, in extensive sections of this Province.

The number of Bibles is 874, and of Testaments 1,549. Total number, 2,423.

GRANTS OF TRACTS RECEIVED.

This Auxiliary has again experienced the liberality of the Religious Tract Society, London, in a grant of Tracts to the value of £15 sterling. The American Tract Society has also made a very acceptable grant of French Tracts, to the number of 3,202, say 52,024 pages; value, D52 68cts. And a parcel of 2,078 English Tracts, formerly belonging to the late Rev. C. Strong, has been received from E. C. Tuttle, Esquire.

GRATUITOUS DISTRIBUTION.

The gratuitous issues for the year have amounted to the value of £57 8s. 3d. They were made to the following classes, viz. :

Montreal Association, English 27,397; French, 2,031; Galic, 73; and Select Sermons, 24; total	-	-	29,525
Hospitals 1,387, and Jail 653	-	-	2,040
Military 2,997, Sailors and Immigrants 3,703	-	-	6,700
Subscribers 1,839, Ministers and Missionaries 2,282	-	-	4,121
The Country 1,933, and Associations in the Country 855	-	-	2,788
Making a total of	-	-	45,174

RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY, LONDON.

Your Committee always refer with great pleasure to the vast operations of this great, growing, and highly useful Institution. Its progress is truly delightful, both as regards its extent, and the pleasing quality of its fruits. To say, its publications are spread to "the ends of the earth," is no exaggeration: for in every civilized portion of the earth are they found; and in many heathen lands they are scattered abroad with a bountiful hand.

Missionaries of every name, who preach Christ crucified, are the recipients of its bounty. Sunday Schools, Day Schools, Union Houses, destitute Districts, Factories, &c. &c., have been privileged to receive its valuable libraries. Of these, 558 have been issued in the year ending 31st March, 1847. Altogether, 4,245 have been granted since 1832, at a cost of £11,744 2s. 4d. sterling. The new publications issued during last year amount to 238. Amongst these are some of great value. Of the Monthly Volume, 12 have been sent forth. This is a series highly esteemed, both for its intrinsic merit, and its very low price.

The income of the Society, from all sources, amounted to £56,913 10s. 4d. Its benevolent income was only £5,918 19s. 9d.; while the value of its grants amounted to £7,936 9s. 7d., being £2,017 9s. 10d. more than its free contributions, besides paying all the expenses of its own management. These are facts which show most clearly the truly benevolent character of the Parent Society.

The issues of the Society for the year were 18,224,836; being 653,423 publications more than the preceding year. Since the commencement of the Society, there have been put into circulation, in about one hundred languages, four hundred and forty-two millions of copies of Religious Tracts and Books.

A few quotations from last Report will show some of the blessed effects produced by the reading of its publications.

JOY IN THE LORD.

A few months ago one of our visitors had some interesting conversation with a poor pious woman: her husband was in a very desponding state of mind, and a tract was left for him entitled, "JOY IN THE LORD," from the reading of which he derived much consolation; he was soon after taken very ill, and has since died

triumphantly; and often prayed to be there.—(

A poor woman which time she the tracts; cons and she at length attend public w illness, which so of her situation, took frequent of her, and engaging reply to question "was resting w righteousness w to him for salva joy that perfect impart.—(Cha

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triumphantly; he was visited very frequently during his illness, and often prayed with by our visitor, who generally found it good to be there.—(*Ebenezer Chapel, Shadwell.*)

IN DUE SEASON YE SHALL REAP.

A poor woman was under visitation for nearly two years, during which time she appeared entirely indifferent, and generally refused the tracts; constant visitation, however, overcame her objections, and she at length received them, and was subsequently induced to attend public worship, which she continued to do till prevented by illness, which soon terminated in death. She appeared fully aware of her situation, and often thanked the visitor for the tracts, who took frequent opportunities of seeing her, reading the Scriptures to her, and engaging in prayer, which she seemed much to enjoy. In reply to questions proposed to her on that subject, she said she "was resting upon Christ;" her views of the Saviour and his righteousness were such as to lead to the hope that she was looking to him for salvation; amidst severe sufferings she appeared to enjoy that perfect peace which the hope of the gospel could alone impart.—(*Chapel-street, Soho.*)

A DYING THIEF AND A DYING SAVIOUR.

A married female lately died in one of our sections, who appeared to have been brought to a knowledge of the truth by means of the tracts left with her. While on her death-bed, she stated to the visitor, that she had previously neglected all the means of grace, but had derived much benefit by the perusal of the tracts, especially "A DYING THIEF AND A DYING SAVIOUR." And there is reason to hope that she died in the faith of the gospel.—(*Buttesland-street.*)

A HINT TO PARENTS.—BE CAREFUL WITH WHOM YOU PLACE YOUR CHILDREN.

(*From the Ninth Report of the Manchester and Salford Town Mission*)

L.—This man is about to join a Christian church, and has prepared the following account of his conversion:—"When young, I took great pleasure in attending a Sabbath school, and felt much interest in hearing and reading the word of God; but, unhappily, my father put me out as apprentice to a man who did not fear God, and had in his employment those who, like himself, despised the word of God, and lived in the daily practice of vice and immorality. I had not strength to resist the temptations to which this situation exposed me; I therefore soon embraced infidel views and principles, and for many years lived in a very profligate and wicked state. In this way I remained till about five years ago, when Mr. H., the town missionary, came into our neighbourhood; my wife was benefitted by his visits, and requested him to call on the Sunday afternoon, when he would be likely to meet with me. He kindly did so, and spoke to me in a very plain and faithful manner, and what he said left a deep impression on my mind. I had been in the habit of spending my Sunday evening at the 'Hall of Science,' but I could no longer take pleasure in going there; I saw I was a sinner before God, and there I heard nothing of a remedy. In a most unhappy state of mind I remained some time, until it pleased God to lead me to a knowledge of Jesus as my Saviour. This happened in a way I little expected. On returning home one eve-

ning from my employment, as I entered the house I saw a paper lying on the floor; having picked it up, and looked at the title, (which was, 'WHAT MUST I DO?') I gave it to my wife to read. Every sentence seemed to suit my state, and I could not refrain from tears as she went on. The tract, I afterwards learned, had been given her by the missionary at one of his meetings; and she had put it on the floor, hoping I should pick it up and read it. The impression it made on my mind led me to go to a place of worship the next Sabbath—the first time for many years. The change in my views was soon manifest to my former companions, for I could no longer enjoy their society. Yet I did not feel fully satisfied regarding my state until one Sabbath afternoon, when four of the town missionaries were holding an out-door meeting. Mr. H. addressed the meeting from the words, 'Turn ye to the stronghold, ye prisoners of hope.' I saw I had been looking to the wrong thing for comfort, and I was enabled to rest my whole hope on Christ. I now take a deeper interest in attending chapel, and have often been comforted when a sense of my great sinfulness had almost extinguished my hope. May the Lord enable me to walk worthy of my heavenly calling."

• TRACTS LEAD TO PUBLIC WORSHIP.

(From a Minister in Yorkshire.)

We have several young men who station themselves every Lord's day evening opposite our place of worship, for the purpose of giving away tracts to careless persons, and also of inviting them into the house of God. This has been done for nearly two years, both in summer and winter, in fine and bad weather. When A. has persuaded a person to come into the chapel, he hands him over to B., who conducts him to a pew; and in this way they brought 700 individuals into our place of worship in the year 1845. My admiration of their conduct is almost without bounds, and I have done all in my power to encourage them in their labour of love.

THE SUCCESSFUL COLPORTEUR.

Tracts lead to the Bible.

I met with a man who made such objections as led me to suppose he was an Infidel. I put into his hand a tract entitled, WHY ARE YOU AN INFIDEL? and stopped till he had read it through. I asked him what he thought of it. He said it was very good, and would induce him to read the Bible for the future.

"THE SINNER'S FRIEND."

(From a Lady in Yorkshire to the Writer of the Tract.)

I have another sweet, cheering event to tell you, and let it gladden your heart. A good old man here, whom I often see, and to whom I give tracts, told me that, some time ago, as he was sitting in his poor, little, humble apartment, an ill-looking man came in, and begged to sit down to rest, and to light his pipe, saying, he was going to the races. The poor old Christian man endeavoured to dissuade him from going to such a scene of riot and sin; and then, producing a copy of THE SINNER'S FRIEND, which I had given him, he entreated his visitor to listen while, in his own poor way, he read to him some parts of the little book. The visitor was a very drunken wicked character, but still he let him read on. Pre-

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sently, the big tears began to roll down his cheek, and he said, "I will not go to the races now, but will go home; but you must let me take that book with me." It was given to him, and, by the blessing of God upon it, the man became quite a changed character, and is now an humble, pious Christian.

AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY.

This great and influential Society moves on with its accustomed energy, widening its course, and sending streams of truth through the length and breadth of that immense country, and even far beyond it. During last year it has issued 5,325,605 Tracts, and 515,975 volumes, making 5,841,580 publications. Its total issues of Tracts and Books in 22 years amount to 89,963,713. Fourteen Agents have been employed in the various States, advocating the Society's interests and collecting funds. Two hundred Colporteurs have been employed, either for the whole year or a part of it, in distributing its publications. By these labours the Tracts and Books are sent into almost every family, and hence the great increase of the Society's operations. Through this agency a powerful influence is exerted in favor of truth. Religious Books and Tracts are sold and given, personal conversation is had with the people, and Prayer Meetings are held in places where Ministers of the Gospel are seldom able to reach. Its income for the year amounts to \$160,131 12 cents. Of this sum \$67,770 88 cents are free contributions. This is highly encouraging. May it prove a stimulus to many to go and do likewise.

UPPER CANADA RELIGIOUS TRACT AND BOOK SOCIETY.

Our fellow-labourer in the Canadian field proceeds with steady and increasing diligence. The issues for the year have been,—Books, including

50 libraries, 16,834, and Tracts 46,455; total, 63,289: showing an increase on the issues of the previous year of 2,235 publications. The gratuitous distribution amounts to 33,582. Its value is £57 7s. 1½d. The income of the Society for the year was £688 19s. 3d.; and its expenditure amounted to £691 9s. 9d.

May this Institution still continue to advance in usefulness, and keep pace with the wants of the rapidly increasing population of that part of the Province which Providence has assigned to it.

MONTREAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE DISTRIBUTION
OF RELIGIOUS TRACTS.

This Association continues to prosecute its arduous, yet important labours. There has been defection from its ranks, by some whose places have been filled up by other more zealous friends. Your Committee regret to say, there are yet several Districts only partially supplied with Distributors. The friends of truth are affectionately and urgently solicited to come to the aid of those who have borne the burden and heat of the day.

SUMMARY OF TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR.

The cash sales amount to	£197 14 7
The payments by Branch Societies, Agents, &c.....	130 15 6
The free contributions amount to.....	39 0 4
Total income.....	£367 10 5

THE DISBURSEMENTS HAVE BEEN,—

Remitted to Parent Society	£138 14 0
To Francis Orr & Sons, for Bibles and Testaments..	113 6 1
To American Tract Society.....	16 14 11
Charges, per Treasurer's Account.....	72 12 4
Total expenditure	£341 7 4

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CONCLUSION.

The benefits flowing from the operations of this Society must not be estimated by the diminutive size of the volumes, but by the inherent value and excellence of the truths contained in them, and by the incalculable benefits which accompany and follow the reception of the truths themselves. The means thus employed may resemble the ruddy stripling, David, with his sling and smooth stones, going forth to meet Goliath, clad in complete armour: but, like David, your instrumentality is rendered efficient by the will of God.

If adequate means were furnished, this Society might be rendered useful to an indefinite extent. Were your Committee enabled to encourage a system of Colportage, much temporal and eternal good, by the blessing of God, would be accomplished. Of this, the experience of the Parent Society, and that of the American Tract Society, in this mode of Tract distribution and the sale of religious books, is a decided proof.

As so much apathy prevails, your Committee behold with alarm the mighty power of the press, so constantly and vigorously employed by ungodly men, in sending forth streams of books to fascinate and corrupt the young,—to bolster up those in middle life in a course of infidelity,—and to divert the aged from the consideration of eternal realities.

They feel that upon the church of God rests a solemn responsibility to deluge the world with tracts and religious books of an evangelical character; and to employ every possible means to induce persons of every rank and condition in society to peruse them. Whenever the church of God adopts this course in reference to your Society, then will it become manifest that it holds a prominent place

among the benevolent and religious Institutions of the age. The Tract often leads from light literature to the Bible; from the haunts of dissipation to the Temperance Hall, thence to the church of God. It often destroys a taste for the theatre, and leads to the house of prayer. Without the Tract, the labours of every missionary would be circumscribed within narrow limits. The publications of the Tract Society are admirably fitted to expose the various forms of religious error. They meet and correct the superstition of the devotee—the self-righteous spirit of the Pharisee—the acrimony of the polemical is sweetened—and the bigotry of the sectary is softened: for they breathe the spirit of the gospel, and speak the truth in love. Amidst all the noise, tumult, and distraction of the times, your Society is heard saying, “Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world.” It lifts the cross, and bids the world find refuge there. It proclaims the acceptable year of the Lord.

(Signed,)

HENRY VENNOR, *Treasurer.*

£367 15 10

By Balance brought forward ...

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...

... £24

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£367 15 10

Dr. RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY in Account with HENRY VENNOR, *Treasurer.*

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	£	s.	d.
To remitted Religious Tract Society, London Exchange, £45 sterling, at 8 per cent. ...	54	0	0
To remitted do. do., £16 sterling, at 12½ per cent. ...	20	0	0
do do 50 do 14½ do ...	64	14	0
do Francis Orr & Sons, exchange for £60 sterling, at 8½ per cent. ...	72	13	4
To remitted do, £32 19s. sterling, at 11 per cent. ...	40	12	9
do American Tract Society ...	16	14	11
To paid Duties on Publications imported ...	10	4	7
do for Books bought ...	3	8	3
do for printing Annual Report, &c. ...	12	15	6
do refitting Shop Furniture in 1846 ...	4	12	10
do 1 year's Rent and Management of the Depository to Bible Society ...	30	0	0
do Expenses of last Annual Meeting ...	1	19	8
do for Light, Fuel, Insurance, Postage, Stationery, Advertising, &c., &c. ...	11	13	6
To Balance in the hands of the Treasurer ...	24	6	6
	£367	15	10

	£	s.	d.
By Collection at last Annual Meeting ...	9	14	6
By Donations made at Annual Meeting. .	6	16	3
By Collections by Wm. C. Evans, Esq. ...	6	2	6
do by James Mills, Esq. ...	3	15	0
By Donation from the Quebec Suburb Branch Association ...	5	5	3
By Annual Subscriptions and Donations received at the Depository ...	7	6	10
By Cash Sales of Books and Tracts ...	197	14	7
By Remittances from Branch Societies, Agents, and Individuals ...	130	15	6
By Balance from last Account ...	0	5	5
	£367	15	10

By Balance brought forward ... £24 6 6

(Signed,) HENRY VENNOR, *Treasurer.*

REMITTANCES FROM BRANCH SOCIETIES, AGENTS
AND OTHERS.

Rev. James Anderson, Durham	...	...	...	£2	9	6
Mrs. Filder	...	...	...	0	3	5
J. H. Maitland	...	...	...	0	10	5
Thomas M. Taylor	...	...	...	0	2	3
Duncan M'Millan, Finch	...	...	...	0	5	0
Kilmarnock Bible Society	...	...	...	2	0	0
Smith's Falls do do	...	...	...	1	7	9
George Kerr, Perth	...	...	...	3	19	0
Hearle, Waterman & Co.	...	...	...	2	2	11
William Forrest, Horton	...	...	...	2	15	0
Mrs. Dr. Grant	...	...	...	0	5	0
Joseph Leeming, Kemptville	...	...	...	0	6	9
Mrs. Day...	...	...	...	0	0	7
L'Orignal Branch Society	...	...	...	3	0	0
Louis Marie, Colporteur	...	...	...	5	11	1
William Speir	...	...	...	0	9	9
R. D. Wadsworth	...	...	...	0	2	0
William Cantwell, Russeltown...	...	...	...	0	16	6
Montreal Bible Society	...	...	...	74	0	0
Alfred Tait, Burr'tt's Rapids	...	...	...	1	5	0
Onesimus Larwill, Buckingham	...	...	...	0	17	6
Edwardsburgh Branch Society...	...	...	...	2	16	3
John Andrew, Brockville	...	...	...	1	0	0
John Barnard	...	...	...	0	15	0
Charles Wales, St. Andrews	...	...	...	2	0	0
Mrs. Dunn	...	...	...	0	10	0
James Smillie, Barnet	...	...	...	4	0	0
Philipsburgh Branch Society	...	...	...	0	18	0
J. Wenham, Esq., for Wm. Hulbert	...	...	...	6	15	8
R. & A. Millar	...	...	...	1	12	5
Rev. John Edwards, Clarence	...	...	...	0	12	0
P. Hubbard, Stanstead	0	5	0
Brockville Bible Society	6	18	9
George Wright	0	3	0

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7 9	A. Cowan	0 5 0	Lieut. Pollock, R.A.	0 5 0
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11 1	G. D. F.	0 5 0	James Mills... ..	0 5 0
9 9	J. Dougall	0 5 0	Robert Anderson ...	0 10 0
2 0	A. F. Sabine	0 5 0	Messrs. Gibb & Co.	
16 6	M. Holland	0 2 6	per R. M'Dougall,	1 5 0
0 0	Rev. C. Churchill ...	0 5 0	J. C. Beers	0 5 0
5 0	J. Palmer	0 2 6	James R. Orr	1 5 0
17 6	A member of St. Gab-		Rev. R. M'Gill ...	0 10 0
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10 0	Joseph Plimsoll ...	0 5 0	counter in Deposi-	
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15 8	Mrs. John Leeming.	1 0 0	counts were made	
12 5	William Gemmill ...	0 10 0	up, from T. Sawtel,	
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NINTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MONTREAL ASSOCIATION

FOR THE

Distribution of Religious Tracts.

ANOTHER year has departed;—gone with its joys and sorrows, its cares, trials, and perplexities for ever;—a year that will long be held in sad remembrance by the inhabitants of this City, for the destructive pestilence with which we have been visited, and the record of misery and death it has presented. In its course we have had to lament the loss of many of our most useful citizens, who have fallen victims to their philanthropy. Our little band has not escaped unscathed; sickness has afflicted many of our members, and one of them, a most zealous and active distributor, has been called from time to eternity, removed, we trust, from this scene of suffering to that blessed place, where “sorrow and sighing are done away, and where God himself shall wipe away all tears from all eyes.” May we all, on entering upon the duties of another year, be prepared to walk in the footsteps of our departed brother, and in God’s grace, determine from henceforth to be untiring in our efforts to save souls, remembering that “time is short.”

There have been during the past year distributed by the Association in the districts remaining under

our immediate supervision, of English Tracts, Handbills, and Select Sermons.....	20,022
French Tracts.....	1,666
Gælic Tracts.....	73

Total by the Association.....21,761

And of the publications of the London and American Tract Societies there have been distributed, by the Quebec Suburb Branch during the year, of	
English Tract.....	7,399
French ditto..... ..	365
	7,764

Total number distributed..... 29,525

The Quebec Suburb Branch made a contribution of five pounds five shillings and three pence through the Association to the funds of the Montreal Auxiliary Tract Society.

We make the following extract from the first Annual Report of the Quebec Suburb Branch to the Association, it will be found very interesting :

“ The number of Districts, including the Jail, is twenty, most of which have been regularly visited. The large number of Tracts, amounting on an average to about five hundred weekly, which have been distributed during the past year, cannot, we believe, but have produced effects which eternity alone will disclose, and which it is hoped will result in the salvation of many immortal souls.”

“ The testimony borne by the distributors to the cheerfulness and apparent gratitude with which the tracts are received, not only by Protestants, but also by some Roman Catholics; and the signs of penitence and concern for their souls, which in many instances have been obviously manifested, excite our warmest gratitude to Almighty God,—several of such instances have occurred. Many have been induced to attend the house of God, who were habitual neglecters of sanctuary privileges.”

“ Though we cannot lay before you as satisfactory an account of success as we could desire, yet much good has undoubtedly been accomplished: one poor woman who held the tenets of the Romish Church, having been led to the discovery of her error, through the reading of tracts left at her house, was induced thereby to attend the Sabbath service, and ultimately to praise God with her hus-

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band, that the distributor ever called upon her. This person has since left Montreal, but, up to the time of her departure, she appeared to be fixed in her purpose to live in, and abide by, the Protestant faith."

Bibles were furnished to several persons, and amongst them a Roman Catholic shewed great earnestness to read the word of God. An aged widow also exhibited much gratitude to her distributor, on being told that a Bible would be given to her. From the above it will be seen, that a desire has been created (it is believed through the reading of tracts) in the minds of those persons to acquire a knowledge of that word which is "able to make wise unto salvation."

Our Wesleyan brethren, in whose charge the Quebec Suburb Branch is placed, made application in the early part of last year to have our Griffintown District also handed over to them. On mature deliberation this was agreed to by the Association; and the Griffintown Branch Society was soon after formed. The conditions agreed on were the same as in the case of the transfer of the Quebec Suburb District. The smallness of our numbers will, we trust, form a sufficient excuse for transferring those Districts to those who we know must, with their many advantages, and the large number of distributors they could procure, be enabled to perform the duty of tract distribution much better than could possibly be done by the Association as it then stood, and still, we regret to state, now remains, crippled for want of that countenance and support of the Christian public it should receive. Owing to the prevailing sickness, the Griffintown Branch was compelled to suspend its operations during the summer months, but soon we hope to hear of its being again in active operation.

The Superintendent of District No. 1, the City proper, and under the charge of the Association, reports as follows:—

“Though somewhat discouraged by the want of assistants, being almost alone in this extensive District, yet I feel determined to persevere in this work, knowing it is of the Lord. I find that nearly all the Protestants in the District gladly receive the tracts, also the soldiers in the guard-house accept of them with pleasure; and though I am not acquainted with any conversions directly resulting from the tracts distributed, yet it is my firm conviction that tracts of so faithful a character as those distributed by the Association, cannot be read seriously from time to time without producing in some instances favourable results, both for time and eternity.”

District No. 2, St. Antoine and Recollet Suburbs. The Superintendent reports,—

“That though occasionally we have had several assistants, until recently there were but two regular distributors. We have gone over the District as much as possible every week, with scarcely an exception; and have endeavoured to discharge the duty entrusted to us to the best of our ability. We have pleasure in reporting the conversion of a young woman in this District, through the reading of the tracts left with her Sabbath after Sabbath. The touching truths they contained reached her heart, led her to see her state and condition as a sinner, and at length, through the grace of the Lord Jesus, she found sweet peace in believing, and we believe to this hour continues in the enjoyment of heartfelt religion.”

Districts No. 3 and 4 embrace the St. Lawrence and part of St. Louis Suburbs. Two of our long-tried friends act as Superintendents of these Districts. One of them has recently been appointed Tract Distributor to the Temperance Society, and in this capacity has during the week many opportunities of introducing religion and religious tracts while engaged in his duty. These opportunities are not neglected. Much good will be done in this way with the divine blessing. One case of conversion is reported, resulting, under God, from the reading of a tract entitled, “Refuge in Christ,” and which was left in the General Hospital. The poor woman spoke of the tract as having given her great consolation. The change in her was most

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undoubted, and is still manifested. Some encouraging circumstances in connection with the French Canadians are reported, and the distribution is carried on regularly; though, from the few distributors in one of the Districts, it is not so frequent as is desirable. Seamen and the unfortunate emigrants, with the sick in the several hospitals, were not last season neglected; though from the malignant nature of the disease that prevailed there was not so much done as was desirable. As to seamen, they have been well attended to by one who, though he has but recently joined us, has shown himself alive to the importance of the work, and animated we believe with the spirit of his Master. Rev. Mr. Osgood and his assistant, Mr. Duncan, have done much in distributing to the emigrants during the past trying season.

In this imperfect review of the proceedings of the Association during the year, it will be perceived that some good has been effected. Three cases of sound conversion to God are reported as resulting from a perusal of the tracts distributed: and how much have these silent messengers effected which we can never be here apprised of? how many poor, afflicted believers must have received consolation from the precious truths contained in these tracts? and who will say that many sinners may not have been induced to ponder well their ways, and resolve while these powerful little pleaders for God were at work on their hearts, to turn from sin and folly to the paths of religion and virtue? The influence of a faithful religious tract distribution is incalculable, and its effects are never ending. We again appeal to the evangelical Christians of Montreal for assistants. Year after year has this petition been presented, and still with no adequate successful

result: this time we fondly hope the appeal will not be in vain. Let it not be said that in a city like this, forty or fifty individuals could not be found willing to sacrifice an hour or two weekly, to sustain and carry out the designs of an Association of such acknowledged usefulness as that with which we stand connected. Thanks to the Auxiliary Tract Society of this city, we have at command as many tracts free of expense as we can distribute. Nothing is wanting but willing hands to do this great work; for great and important it is, compared with all secular duties. It is the work of the Lord, and they who seek to please him must not omit engaging in some efforts for the good of others. We specially stand in need of those who understand the French language, so as to be able to hold conversation with the people on the momentous subject of personal religion, and to explain if necessary the contents of the tracts which may be presented. The day of Gospel light and liberty cannot be far off with this people. In tract distribution we have a door wide and effectual to reach their hearts and consciences, and which has hitherto been almost entirely neglected from not having connected with us those conversant with the language. The religion of the Gospel is eminently aggressive in its character, and to those who profess to be under its influence is entrusted the maintenance of this its peculiar characteristic. Awake, then, ye slumbering Christians of this generation, and come to the help of the Lord against the mighty. Let the spirit of a Luther again be manifested in our day, so that the strongholds of bigotry and superstition that abound in our midst may be overturned, and the advent of that blessed time be hastened when the "knowledge of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea."

Mr. J.

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Miss M'Corma

LIST OF MEMBERS.

Mr. JOHN M'WATTERS, *Chairman.*

Mr. J. ADAMS MATHEWSON, *Sec'y and Treas'r.*

SUPERINTENDENTS.

**Messrs. John M'Callum,
John M'Watters,**

**Messrs. George Morrison,
William Morrison.**

DISTRIBUTORS.

**Messrs. John Birks,
John Gibson,
J. Kirkpatrick,
H. Jersey,
H. Frelich,
J. M'Watters, jun.
Henry Buckham,
— Ritchie,
— Mochrie,**

**Messrs. J. Telfer,
R. M'Lean,
Louis Barré,
J. Dunbar,
Joseph Jackson,
G. Mentzies,
F. Grafton,
W. Hibbard,
P. W. Wood.**

**Mrs. Milne,
" Woodbury,
Miss M'Cormack,**

**Miss M. Mackenzie,
" Connell,
" M. Fletcher.**

CONSTITUTION.

1. That this Institution be called *The Montreal Association for the Distribution of Religious Tracts.*
2. That this Association shall consist of all such pious persons, who may be disposed to unite their operations in carrying out the objects of a general Tract distribution, according to the plan now proposed.
3. That all persons desirous of becoming members of this Association, shall be received by a vote of the Society, at any General or Monthly Meeting, but not admitted to full Membership until they have been engaged for three months in distributing.
4. That it shall be the duty of the Members of this Association to distribute Tracts, to converse with those they visit on the important subject of personal religion, and to urge an attendance on public worship, as well as a regard to the other means of grace.
5. That the Members shall meet stately once a month for prayer, in connection with the object in view, when each Member shall present a written report, and give a statement of such facts as may have occurred in the course of distribution.
6. That all monies contributed shall be received in aid of the funds of the Montreal Religious Tract Society.
7. That the Officers shall consist of a Chairman and Secretary, to be chosen annually by the Members.
8. That it shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a record of the proceedings of each Meeting, and also the Reports of the Distributors. He shall also take charge of all monies received by the Association, and account for the same.