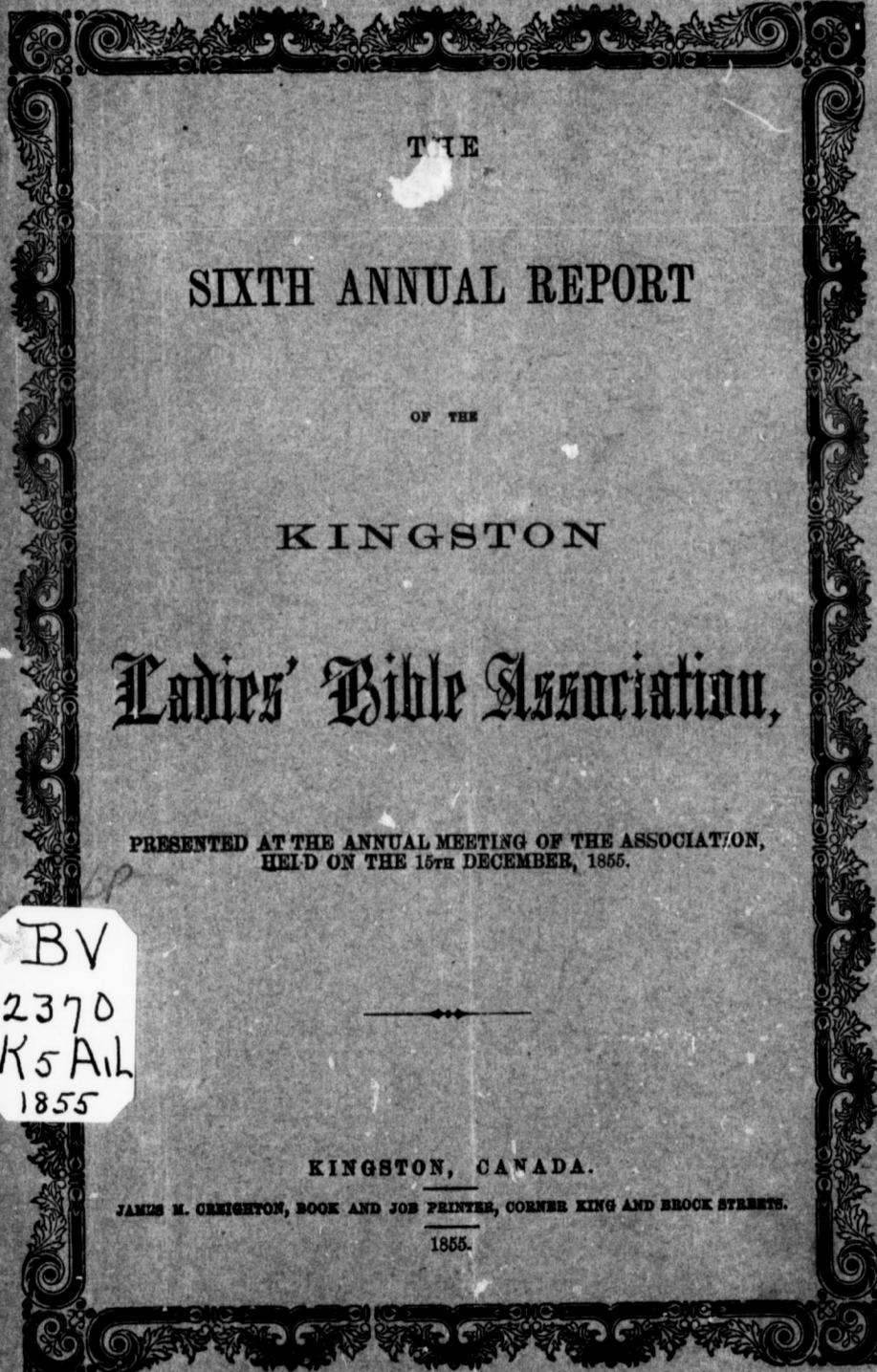


Mrs. Meir

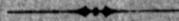


THE
SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
KINGSTON

Ladies' Bible Association,

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION,
HELD ON THE 15TH DECEMBER, 1855.

BV
2370
K5A1L
1855



KINGSTON, CANADA.
JAMES M. ORRINGTON, BOOK AND JOB PRINTER, CORNER KING AND BROOK STREETS.
1855.

The EDITH *and* LORNE PIERCE
COLLECTION *of* CANADIANA



Queen's University at Kingston

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OFFICE BEARERS.

PRESIDENT :
MRS. MACHAR.

VICE-PRESIDENTS :
MRS. McLEOD, MRS. CARTWRIGHT, MRS. MAIR, MRS. MUCKLESTON..

TREASURER :
MISS GRAY.

SECRETARY :
MISS F. DUPUY.

COMMITTEE :
THE WIVES OF MINISTERS WHO QUALIFY AS MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION.
Mrs. Fenwick, Mrs. Irons, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. Ferguson, Mrs. McCormack, Mrs.
Foster, Mrs. S. Kirkpatrick, Mrs. W. Smith, Mrs. Noble, Mrs. Yates,
Miss Sampson, Miss D. Fowler, Miss Hardy, Miss Bryan, Miss
Mowat, Miss Rice, Miss Twinning, Mrs. H. Fraser, Miss
Dupuy, Mrs. Davies, Miss Glassup, Miss Kirkpat-
rick, Miss Counter, Miss Nelson, Mrs. Mc-
Intyre, Miss Coy, Miss Varner, Miss
Beach, Mrs. Paton, Mrs.
Doran, Miss Clark.

WITH POWER TO ADD TO THEIR NUMBER.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

Kingston Ladies' Bible Association.

I. That we form ourselves into an Association in connection with the Kingston Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, for the purpose of contributing towards the circulation of the Holy Scriptures without note or comment, particularly in Kingston and its vicinity: and that this Association be denominated THE KINGSTON LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

II. That all persons subscribing the sum of two shillings and six-pence per annum payable in weekly, monthly or quarterly payments, or making a donation of one pound or upwards at one time, shall be members of this Association.

III. That the business of this Association shall be conducted by a committee to be chosen annually, consisting of a President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, and three Secretaries and other members. Three-fourths of the most regular attendants shall be eligible for re-election.

IV. That the committee meet once a month, or oftener if necessary, on a day to be fixed by themselves; and that five members form a quorum.

V. That for the purpose of soliciting and collecting donations and subscriptions, either for the general purposes of the Society or for the purchase of Bibles and Testaments, by weekly or other payments, the committee divide the city and neighbourhood into districts, and appoint one or more collectors to each district; and that these contributions be paid to the Treasurer at the monthly committee meetings.

VI. That the committee make it their business to enquire whether any families or individuals residing within the limits of this Association are in want of Bibles and Testaments, and unable to procure them; in which case it shall be the duty of the committee to supply them therewith at prime cost or otherwise, according to their circumstances.

VII. That the funds of this Association, or as much thereof as the committee shall direct, whether arising from donations, subscriptions, or the sale of Bibles and Testaments, shall from time to time be expended in the purchase of Bibles and Testaments at prime cost, to be sold to the poor in the city or neighborhood as before directed; and that any surplus which may arise may also, after deducting the incidental expenses of the Association, be paid into the funds of the Kingston Auxiliary to the British and Foreign Bible Society, in aid of its general purposes.

VIII. That a general meeting of the subscribers and friends of the Association be held (on such a day as shall be fixed by the committee) each year, when the accounts as audited by the committee shall be presented, the proceedings of the past year reported, and the officers and committee chosen for the ensuing year.

IX. That a copy of these Rules signed by the Secretaries, be transmitted to the committee of the Kingston Auxiliary to the British and Foreign Bible Society, with a request that they will grant permission to lay out the funds of the Association in purchasing at the depository of the said Society, Bibles and Testaments at cost prices.

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THE SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Kingslon Ladies' Bible Association.

The close of another year reminds your Committee of the duty which devolves upon them, of giving in an account of their proceedings to their friends and subscribers; and while, with very grateful hearts, they desire to record the uninterrupted and growing prosperity which has attended this Association for above six years, they would take encouragement to commit its concerns afresh to the gracious care and superintendance of One who still testifies amidst changing scenes and varying providences—"I change not."

Of the benefits arising from the operations of this Association, your Committee might mention many. They have reason to believe that, in not a few instances, the weekly penny has been the harbinger of habits of economy, industry and self-denial; and that the penny thus contributed, is restored an hundred fold to the giver. In most cases the poor seem to be highly gratified in giving their subscriptions, many of them rejoicing to hear of a channel through which their contributions, however small, may

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safely flow into the treasury of the Lord. We give the following circumstances mentioned in the Collectors' Reports, believing that it may stimulate our kind contributors to more faith in their gifts; and also encourage our members in their labor of love.

A Collector writes :—

"The Lord will provide." I had known M. H. for ten months, during a long illness. After her recovery, but still weak and helpless, she asked me to advise her in the best way to give a penny per week to the Lord: I recommended the Ladies' Bible Association, showing her how the money was expended by supporting a Colporteur, who visited country places, where they could not get the Scriptures, or were indifferent about them; also the benefit derived by the poor of Kingston from Ladies visiting among them, and collecting their small donations. She said—"here is my first earnings after ten months sickness. I give it to the Lord." I could not hesitate in accepting it, and said, I believe the Lord accepts your thank offering; you give it in faith, and I am sure "that which you have given, will He pay you again;" (*Prov. xix. 17.*) and now for the third time has the 1s. 3d. been given, which determined me to speak of this poor girl's money. How many things did she want; yes, this is true, but did the Lord Jesus tell the poor widow to take back all her living: do we not suppose His merciful eyes and heart followed her to her house. We believe it, and the "barrel of meal and cruse of oil failed not."—(*1 Kings xvii. 14.*) The Lord has provided M. with a comfortable home, and she is continuing her business of needle work. Should this meet her eye, let her remember that she is still an unprofitable servant, having done but that was her duty to do. But we prove the truth of our motto—"The Lord will provide."

Another writes :—

"In my district I receive subscriptions from several poor families. They having Bibles and prizing them, are willing to assist in sending the blessing to others. It is very desirable to encourage a Missionary spirit amongst this class, as their contributions, however trifling, bring

with them a peculiar blessing, and it is evident that their assistance can only be obtained through the medium of a regular system of visiting, such as that practiced by the "Ladies' Bible Association." They can avail themselves also of the opportunity of distributing tracts, from which many have derived much good. A remarkable instance may be given in the case of a farmer who was calling at a house, and received a tract which he carried home; on his way he met with a person circulating notices of races about to take place in the neighborhood where he lived. He asked him to distribute some, which he consented to do on his arrival at home. He looked at the tract which was upon the subject of races; read it carefully, and was so affected by the contents, that he immediately threw the notices of the races into the fire, and read the tract to all the neighbors within reach."

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Receipts for the past year amount to the sum of.....	£111	17	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
The Expenditure to.....	133	13	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Balance on hand.....	£ 2	9	6 $\frac{1}{2}$

CIRCULATION OF THE SCRIPTURES.

Number of Volumes distributed in the City.....	34
By the Colporteur in the Country.....	1336

Which added to 6333 of former years, make since the organization of this Association 8903 volumes.

Since the last Annual Meeting your Committee have had cause to regret the removal of two of their most active Collectors and warm supporters of the Society. MRS. GORDON, a Vice-President, and MISS HAYWARD, Treasurer. We trust that they may be equally useful in their present sphere. We have been fortunate in having their places efficiently supplied.

Your Committee engaged the services of Mr. John Elmslie, as Colporteur, in April last. He has been untiring in his labors, and zealous in promoting the cause of Christ. Being of good capacity, he is well able to cope with the errors and infidel principles so lamentably disseminated in the present day. His report will shew what he has accomplished during the short time he has been employed. We are very sorry to state that in consequence

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of indisposition, his labors in the country will be suspended during the winter. Should his health improve, the mild weather, will, we trust, find him again at his post.

An extract from Mr. Elmslie's report :—

“During the period of my employment by the Ladies' Bible Society, as Colporteur, I have visited the greater part of the Townships in the Counties of Frontenac, Addington, Hastings, and the Prince Edward District.

Visited.....2933 Families.
 Sold.....1336 Copies of the Scriptures.
 Sold.....1054 Religious Books,
 And given away 20,852 pages of Tracts.

Also, some copies of the Scriptures to those who were unable to purchase. There is great need of spiritual laborers. In my own short experience I have frequently met with those who had a desire for the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus, and in a number of cases, an appreciation of the value of that truth. These, with one or two exceptions, availed themselves of my call to be furnished. In the front Townships the people are well supplied with Bibles and Religious Books. Sabbath Schools, with their libraries, proving themselves a great blessing. God has peculiarly marked this important means of juvenile instruction with his favor, and thousands among that great multitude which no man can number, assembled around the throne of God and the Lamb, will bless the day they entered a Sabbath School. Education in many places is but a name,—unqualified persons often being placed as teachers. The youth are kept at home in summer for work, and in winter irregular in their attendance. Indeed there is a lamentable prevalence of ignorance, which can alone be removed by the light of Gospel truth. I visited several Romanists, but was told that they were prohibited by the Priest from receiving Bible agents. In one instance I prevailed on the father of a family to purchase a Bible. Previous to the opening of the navigation I visited the vessels in harbor, and distributed a number of tracts. On two steamers small book cases were placed under charge of the Steward, with publications of the Tract Society, for sale to the passengers.

I distributed several Testaments in a very desolate part of the neighborhood of Kingston, which were received by some with a promise of attentive perusal, and on calling afterwards I found that a few had been used and carefully read. We are warranted to hope that God's Word, left among the profligate, will, by the aid of His Holy Spirit, find its way to the heart of the sinner. The Country Branches, in connection with the Kingston Bible Society, require stimulation in disposal of Bibles. I have sold a number of Bibles at the doors of agents. There are others needed to be instituted. The demand for the Scriptures cannot diminish but increase—as where, at first, one or two copies have been thought sufficient in a family, the possession of these often begets a thirst for more. Knowledge seeks food. The rising generation is in advance of their fathers in intelligence, and will not be satisfied with the present superficial state of religious and moral education. God has wisely ordained this as the progressive means to bring about glorious results. The Scriptures are alone able to make us wise unto salvation, and God has promised His Spirit to lead us into all truth, by opening the eyes of heathen and anti-christian idolaters, and dead professors in Christian lands. “His word shall not return unto Him void.” It is therefore not only the duty, but the privilege of Christians to further the spread of the Gospel by every means in their power, accompanied by earnest prayer for God's blessing, being assured, that it will be returned tenfold into their own bosoms. May God bless every effort put forth for his glory.”

Your Committee have incurred unavoidable expenses during the past year; a horse and waggon having to be purchased for the Colporteur, and the high price of provisions, entailing upon them a considerable increase in their expenses. In addition to this they have supplied many of the poor with the Word of God gratis. They were glad to have it in their power to present to an Association lately formed of the Young Men's Christian Society, a few copies of the Scriptures, and also some Bibles to the General Hospital. And now, in drawing this brief review of the past year to a close, your Committee would thank God for the success which has attended them in their feeble efforts, and

take courage. The amount in their treasury is certainly very small, but they know that He in whose cause they are laboring, and who has all things at His command, can open hearts and incline them to give of their substance abundantly, so that the blessed work may be carried on which it is their privilege to be engaged in. May the walk and conversation of all who take a part in it, be the means of recommending not only the Society, but also the precious book which it circulates; and the God of Peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the Sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do His will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. *Amen.*

ABSTRACT OF ISSUES OF THE SCRIPTURES

BY THE

KINGSTON LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

from the 6th November, 1854, to the 7th November, 1855.

10

BY WHOM ISSUED.			
	Bibles.	Tests.	Total.
Kingston Ladies' Bible Association.....	17	17	34
Mr. John Emslie, Colporteur.....	517	620	1137
Do. do. do. with Psalms in metre.....	238	61	299
Total copies of Scriptures.....	772	698	1470

THE TREASURER IN ACCOUNT WITH THE KINGSTON LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

FROM NOVEMBER 7th, 1854, TO NOVEMBER 30th, 1855.

DR.

1855.			
Nov. 30,	Balance on hand from last year.....	£29	5 4½
	To Cash from Collectors for Bibles and Testaments for Colporteur and General purposes of Association.....	99	17 2½
	“ from members.....	6	10 0
	“ Donations.....	5	10 0
		£141	2 7

CR.

1855.			
Nov. 30,	Salary of Colporteur Emslie.....	£47	6 8
	By Cash for travelling expenses of Colport'r	23	0 1
	“ for Bible Depository.....	6	19 2½
	“ for Stationery.....		15 10
	“ for Distributing.....	1	3 0
	“ for Carriage of Books.....		16 8
	“ for hire of Conveyance.....	1	2 0
	“ for Horse and Waggon.....	43	5 0
	“ for Harness.....	3	5 0
	“ for Boxes.....	1	0 0
	Donation to the Gentlemen for the use of the room for two years.....	10	0 0
	Balance on hand.....	2	9 6½
		£141	2 7

JANE GRAY, TREASURER.

EXAMINED AND FOUND CORRECT,

E. MAIR, }
F. DUPUY, } AUDITORS.