

THE
THIRD REPORT

OF THE

Upper Canada

RELIGIOUS TRACT AND BOOK SOCIETY:

READ AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON THE 11th FEBRUARY, 1835.

TORONTO:

GUARDIAN OFFICE—J. H. LAWRENCE, PRINTER.

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING.

Toronto, February 11th, 1835.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the UPPER CANADA RELIGIOUS TRACT AND BOOK SOCIETY, was held in St. Andrew's Church, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

The PRESIDENT having been called to the Chair,—

The Meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. WM. RINTOUL.

The Report was then read; after which—

The following Resolutions were unanimously carried:

I. Moved by Rev. E. RYERSON, seconded by Rev. W. RINTOUL,—

That the Report now read be adopted, and printed under the direction of the Committee.

II. Moved by Rev. A. STEWART, seconded by JESSE KETCHUM, Esq.,—

That this Society tenders its grateful acknowledgments to the London Religious Tract Society for its second liberal donation of Tracts, mentioned in the Report.

III. Moved by Wm. HEPBURN, Esq., seconded by Rev. Jas. HARRIS,—

That this Meeting learns with pleasure that the issues of the Society have increased during the past year; and, whilst it regrets the falling off in subscriptions, humbly trusts and prays that God will, by his Spirit, move the friends of the Society to such increased exertions and liberality as may be commensurate with the growing religious wants of the community.

IV. Moved by Rev. J. RICHARDSON, seconded by Rev. Mr. MERRIFIELD,—

That this Meeting humbly rejoices in the extended operations of Tract Societies through various parts of the world, and especially in the success which has attended the exertions of the London Religious Tract Society since its formation.

V. Moved by Mr. T. PARSON, seconded by Mr. NEWTON BOSWORTH,—

That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Office-bearers and Committee for their services during the past year, and that the following Gentlemen be the Secretaries and Committee for the ensuing year. (*See the list over leaf.*)

The Meeting was then closed with prayer.

OFFICERS.

PRESIDENT.

REV. DR. HARRIS, *Principal of Upper Canada College.*

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

JESSE KETCHUM, Esquire.

JOHN GAMBLE, Esquire.

CHARLES C. SMALL, Esquire.

CAPTAIN PHILLPOTTS, R. E.

REV. CHARLES MATTHEWS, M.A.

HON. JOHN H. DUNN.

DR. BALDWIN.

TREASURER.

MR. JAMES HAMILTON.

SECRETARIES.

WILLIAM HEPBURN, Esquire.

MR. J. E. MAXWELL.

DEPOSITARY.

MR. ROBERT CATHCART.

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE.

J. H. PRICE, Esq.

MR. J. M. MURCHISON,

J. EWART, Esq.

MR. P. McARTHUR,

MR. JOHN ROSS,

MR. J. BOYD,

MR. WM. CONNELL,

MR. S. E. TAYLOR,

MR. GOODSON,

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REGULATIONS.

I. THAT this Society shall be denominated THE UPPER CANADA RELIGIOUS TRACT AND BOOK SOCIETY.

II. That this Society approves of the principles on which the London Religious Tract Society is founded, as set forth in the Official Statement and declaration of that Society; and that it shall only circulate the Publications of that Society, or other publications of a similar character.

III. That Annual Subscribers paying Five Shillings, Currency, or more, shall be Members of the Society.

IV. That Subscribers of Five Pounds, Currency, and Ministers remitting Congregational Collections to the extent of Five Pounds, Currency, shall be Members for life.

V. That a Committee of ten Members, exclusive of the Officers of the Society, shall be annually chosen, to conduct the business of that Society;—that six who have most constantly attended the meetings of Committee throughout the year, may be re-elected for the ensuing year: and that the Committee for the time being shall be empowered to fill up any vacancies that may occur.

VI. That the Officers of the Society shall be—a President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretaries, and Depositary.

VII. That Ministers of the Gospel being Members of the Society, shall be entitled to attend and vote at all Meetings of the Committee.

VIII. That all Subscribers shall be entitled to have Tracts to the value of half their Subscriptions; and that Ministers or others remitting a Collection, shall be entitled to Tracts to the value of half the Collection—on behalf of the Congregation that may have made the Collection—the same being called for any time within three months of payment of Subscription.

IX. That the Committee shall meet for business at least once a quarter.

X. That this Society shall, to the utmost extent of its resources, encourage the formation of Auxiliary Societies throughout the Province.

XI. That the Annual General Meeting of this Society shall be held during the week appointed for the Meeting of the City of Toronto Bible Society.

XII. That all Meetings of this Society, and of the Committee, shall be opened and closed with prayer.

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REPORT.

WHEREVER the religion of the Gospel is received sincerely and savingly into the heart, it becomes an *expansive* principle, leading its possessor to desire, and to strive, that its comforting and quickening influences may be extended to others besides himself; and *that* is no genuine profession of Christianity which selfishly, or indolently confines its concern to one breast, or one house, or one city. When Jehovah declared that the time should come that "all the earth should be filled with the knowledge of the Lord," he no doubt designed to make use of this disposition of his people to communicate of their good things to others, as the means of fulfilling that prophecy. The efforts however of individuals, effective as they often are in producing much good, must yet of necessity be confined within narrow limits. Hence, in pursuance of his designs of mercy, God, in whose "hands are the hearts of all men," has, from time to time, put it into the hearts of his faithful servants to *combine* their efforts; and by associating themselves together, not only to assist each other by mutual co-operation, but to excite, and provoke one another to higher achievements of good works, by mutual examples of "zeal for the Lord," and "good will towards men."

Hence originated Societies for promoting, by various means, the knowledge of God and our Saviour through the world; hence originated the Bible Society; hence Societies for supporting Missions; both at home, and abroad; hence, in short, all those numberless religious Societies which adorn our mother country, and, in the midst of much that endangers her, still plead with God for her safety.

The great majority of these Societies have been formed, and have risen to energetic maturity, within the last thirty years, shedding a lustre over the commencement of the nineteenth century, brighter and purer than the splendor of victory, or even than the spreading light of that general knowledge which distinguishes the times in which we live.

One Society, however, the harbinger, as it were, of the British and Foreign Bible Society, commenced its unpretending course in the last year of the preceding century. The "London Religious Tract Society," instituted in 1799, was indeed humble at its commencement, but by the blessing of God it has since increased from

strength to strength, till it has grown to a magnitude and importance, which entitle it to rank among the most efficient instruments employed in scattering the seed of divine truth, not only throughout England, but over a large portion of the globe.

On the principle of that unassuming but valuable Society, was organized three years ago the Society whose proceedings for the last twelve months your Committee are about to report. It was considered that the circumstances of this Province, with its numerous population, widely scattered over an extensive surface, and with very disproportionate means of religious instruction, presented a field peculiarly calculated to profit by the establishment of a Religious Tract Society; and this opinion having been sanctioned by a numerous meeting which was present at the formation of the Society, it forthwith began its operations, and has since continued them, with a measure of success, which has not altogether disappointed, if it has not fully realized, the hopes and expectations of its projectors.

This reference to the formation of the Society affords an appropriate occasion to your Committee of noticing the resignation of its late Reverend Secretary, to whom, as its primary suggester, it in a great measure owes its origin; and they cannot suffer this opportunity to pass without recording their sense of the advantage, derived by the Society, from that gentleman's official services, and the spirit of Christian benevolence in which they were rendered. Your Committee might feel a disposition to regret the loss of such a fellow-labourer, did they not remember that it was ordered by Him who "doeth all things well;" and who, whilst He can raise up other servants to do his work here, may make the removal of your late Secretary from this neighbourhood the means of extending the Society's usefulness to other parts of the Province.

Your Committee will now proceed to detail the operations of the Society during the past year. It appears from the return of the Depositor that there have been issued, by all channels, from the Depository, between the 31st Jan'y. and the 31st Dec. 1834—

12,548 Tracts, containing 123,932 pages,

4,565 Hand-bills,

2,560 Books,

7,959 Christian Almanacs. Making a total of

27,632 publications.

The Tracts have been distributed as follows:

37,500 pages taken out for half subscriptions,
1,500 given gratis,
10,320 distributed by Associations in the City,
74,612 sold.

Total, 123,932

The increase in the issue of Tracts during the year just expired, over that during the preceding year, is 18,546 pages, of which 10,320 were distributed through the City by members of Associations formed for that purpose. The increase in the number of Books issued last year was 1,135.

The total receipts by the Treasurer up to the 31st Dec. 1834, were, £153 5 11½, of which £118 5 11½ was from sales at the Depository, and £35 from subscriptions. The total of debts due to the Society was £110 13 1½. The liabilities of the Society, including £46 7 11½, being the balance of a sum advanced two years ago by the kindness of a Vice-President, amount to £196 15 3¼,—whilst the stock at the Depository is valued at £106 13 6½, and there was a balance in the Treasurer's hands of £65 19 11½.*

It will be observed that there is a material diminution in the amount of subscriptions for the last year. Whence this diminished support to the Society has arisen, it is not for your Committee to attempt to account; it rather belongs to them to urge the humbling fact upon the consideration of Christians, in the hope that it will rouse each individual zealously to exert himself, and to interest others in the cause, that the deficiency may be compensated during the ensuing year.

Notwithstanding however this seeming indication of declining interest in the operations of the Society,—and although, on reviewing the above statements, your Committee cannot but feel that what *has* been done bears a very inadequate proportion to what remains to be done, and to what *might* have been done, among the many souls that in this flourishing country are “perishing for lack of knowledge,”—there

* Since the making up of the Treasurer's accounts, the proceeds of further sales, added to this balance, has enabled the Society to remit a payment of £222 currency to the London Society with a large order for a further supply.

are nevertheless not wanting considerations of a sufficiently encouraging nature to make them bless God for the measure of success which has attended the Society since its formation, and for the prospect of its yet becoming the honored instrument of introducing the knowledge of evangelical truth into many remote districts which are beyond the means of other religious instruction, and of thus keeping alive some sense of religion where otherwise it would perhaps altogether expire.

A hundred and twenty-four thousand pages, each bearing some "testimony to the truth as it is in Jesus," cannot, it is believed, be dispersed from one end of the Province to the other without producing some "convictions of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment,"—2,500 volumes, addressing themselves in so many varied tones of persuasion, and warning, and example, to the souls of men, cannot *all* fail of awakening a concern about "the one thing needful;" and if but *one* soul be saved through the instrumentality of this Society, its formation will have caused "joy in heaven, more than over ninety and nine just persons that need no repentance."

It is also encouraging to observe that many of the publications of the Society are very generally sought for, and that a taste for such works seems to be extending itself even among those who do not support the Society by their subscriptions; and it may reasonably be hoped that as the Society's nature and objects become more widely known, it will gradually conciliate to itself more general support.

Had the Society the means of furnishing distant agents with small stocks of Tracts and Books without looking for immediate re-payment, its operations might be indefinitely extended; but as this would require a very material increase in its resources, such a plan cannot be attempted at present. In the mean time it is hoped that individual exertion, taking advantage of every favorable opportunity for disposing of the Society's publications, will continue in some degree to supply the defect of stated agencies. This has already been done by some few friends, and particularly by two, formerly office-bearers of the Society in this City, whose removal to Brockville and Cobourg has thus been the means of furthering the designs of the Society in those neighborhoods.

A third number of the U. C. Christian Almanac, for the present year, has been published by the Committee; and they have the satisfaction of stating, that there is no reason to doubt that its sale will

at least cover its expenses, if it do not add something to the general funds. Your Committee is of opinion that if this work should *only* repay the cost of its publication, it is desirable that the Society should continue it; since the circulation of eight or nine thousand *tracts* of this description, which perhaps invite the perusal of many who would not look at a *merely* religious Tract, is no slight addition to the means of effecting the Society's objects. The additional number of pages of religious matter thus put into circulation, independently of the "Daily Texts," amounts to not less than 50,000.

Your Committee have again to record the liberality of the London Religious Tract Society, evinced in a further donation of Tracts to the value of £10 sterling, which accompanied the last shipment ordered by this Society.

With regard to the proceedings of the London Society, your Committee rejoice to have it in their power to state that it is still advancing in its career of usefulness, gaining new friends, and sending forth increasing numbers of its silent preachers. During the year preceding its last anniversary, 146 new publications had been printed. The total number of publications circulated was 14,339,197, being an increase of 1,743,956 beyond the issues of the preceding year; making a total of religious publications sent forth by the Society since its formation, amounting to nearly 197 MILLIONS, in 75 different languages. These, by means of the Society's agents, had found their way to China, to India, to Persia, to New South Wales, to Africa, to the Continent of Europe, and the Mediterranean, to the West Indies, and to British North America. The total receipts of the Society for the year had been £48,299, which was £8,298 above those of the year previous. £42,197 of this was the produce of sales, being £7,700 above the proceeds of the year before.

Thus it would appear that the friends of religion and truth are not inattentive, in England, to the increasing demands for Christian activity to sow the wheat, whilst the enemy is so busily engaged in scattering tares; and the remark made by the London Committee in their Report two years ago seems no less applicable at present, viz: "That although the Religious Tract Society, and kindred institutions, have circulated a large number of religious publications for many years, they seem only now to be commencing their labors. In these times many are boasting of the *march of intellect*,—let Christians endeavor to direct its progress towards the Cross; and though mere human

reason may smile at the means employed to attain that object, yet let us rejoice that God has shewn that he will bless them. It is still true that he "has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise, and the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty."

In the neighboring States the American Tract Society is still vigorously prosecuting its work. Its Committee, having last year succeeded in raising a sum of \$20,000 for exclusive appropriation to Tract operations in Foreign and Pagan lands, have resolved on the attempt to raise \$30,000 for a similar purpose this year. One great incitement to which endeavor, they represent to have been the success which had already attended the distribution of Tracts in the vast Empire of China. The instrumentality of Tracts has indeed been wonderfully manifested in the opening they have made in this hitherto impregnable strong-hold of superstition and paganism. In the hands of a British Missionary, Tracts first proved the weapon to overcome an opposition to the entrance of Gospel light, which has been long considered insurmountable; and the zeal of American Christians has since most strenuously joined in promoting the work among the millions of Chinese idolators.

In France too a Tract Society, encouraged by the assistance of the English and American Societies, is prospering, having been instrumental in distributing at the rate of 900 Tracts a day among the people of that land of spiritual darkness. The blessing of God seems also to rest on the active exertions of Tract Societies in India, in Germany, in Russia, and various parts of the world.

Such are the inciting examples in Europe, Asia and America,—shall *British* America be left behind in the work?

If there be found so much room for the profitable circulation of Tracts in the land of our fathers, where there are so many facilities for the acquirement of religious knowledge, how much more here, where, through many and many a mile of thinly settled country, it may truly be said, from the scarcity of ordinances, that the "word of God is precious?" We profess to be followers of that Master who enjoined his disciples to approve their profession to the world by their love to one another. Let us obey the injunction; and wherever we see our brother have need of the bread of life, let us not shut up our bowels of compassion towards him, but give freely what we have so freely received.

Rev. 11, 1035, By balance to next account, £72 8 6

1834.	Feb. 13, To cash paid Rev. W. Rintoul, for postage,	£ 5.	d.
	April 2, To Home Society, per bill, £25, Sterling,	0 2	0
	" 2, To postage on do.	28 17	9
	Sep. 11, To Guardian Office, for printing Reports,	0 4	2
	" 11, To Mr. Feighan, transport of Books, &c.	3 10	0
	Oct. 31, To Guardian Office, for printing placards,	1 8	5
	Dec. 29, To Guardian Office, for printing 10,000	0 10	0
	copies of Upper Canada Almanac, 1835,	50 10	0
	" 31, To eleven month's wages to the Depositor,	22 18	4
	" 31, To sundry charges,.....	0 16	8
	" 31, To Depositor's expences on Almanac,.....	6 5	0
1835.	Feb. 10, To Collectors' fees,.....	2 32	0
	To Balance,.....	72 8	6
	£ 189 12 10½		
1834.	Feb. 13, By balance from last year,.....	£ 5.	d.
	" 13, By cash received in collection at the Anti-	27 16	4
	versary meeting.....	1 19	9
	" 13, By cash recd. from St. Andrew's Church	0 9	0
	Sabbath School, for books,.....	0 9	0
	April 11, By cash received from Mr. Corbitts, for	0 15	0
	Almanac,.....	0 5	6
	May 25, By cash from Mr. Chep, Ancaster, for do.	0 5	6
	Aug. 19, By balance of Mr. Leslie's account, for	9 1	33
	Almanac, 1833,.....	105 15	7
	Dec. 31, By cash from Depositor amount of money	43 10	4
	1835, for sale of Tracts and Books, last year,.....	105 15	7
	Feb. 10, By cash, total amount of subscriptions, ...	43 10	4
	£ 189 12 10½		

N. B. After the closing of this account a Bill was remitted to the London Society, for £77 11 2, St^g with a large order for a fresh supply of publications.

Audited and approved.

JOHN M. MURCHISON, }
Auditors.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

NAMES OF SUBSCRIBERS AND DONORS.	Subscriptions.	Donations.
A.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Abbey, Jonathan—of Yonge-street,.....	0 5 0	
A Friend to the spread of the Gospel (en- closed to R. Cathcart,).....	1 5 0	
Armstrong, James R.—Esquire,.....	0 5 0	
A Friend,.....	.....	0 1 3
Atkinson, William.....	.....	0 2 6
A Friend,.....	.....	0 1 3
B.		
Bidwell, M. S.—Esquire, Speaker of the House of Assembly,.....	0 10 0	
Beatty, James.....	0 5 0	
Berry, Mrs. ....	.....	0 0 7
Boyd, John.	0 5 0	
Badjero, John—to Treasurer,...£0 5 0		
Dr. Baldwin, to do. 0 5 0		
C.		
Colborne, His Excellency Sir John—K.C.B.	2 10 0	
Colborne, Lady	1 0 0	
Cathcart, Robert	0 5 0	
Clinkunbroomer, Chas.	0 5 0	
Cameron, J. M. A.	0 5 0	
Crookshanks, Hon. G.	0 10 0	
Carfrae, Thomas—Esquire,.....	0 10 0	
Connell, William	0 5 0	
Campbell, William	0 5 0	
D.		
Dunn, Hon. J. H.—V.P.	2 0 0	
Drummond, Colin	0 5 0	
E.		
Ewart, John—Esquire,	0 5 0	
F.		
Freeland, Peter—Esquire,.....	0 10 0	
G.		
Gapper, Mrs.—of Yonge-street,.....	0 5 0	
Grafton, Mr.—of Yonge-street,.....	0 5 0	
Gordon, John E.	0 5 0	
Goodenough, R. A.	0 5 0	
Gamble, John W.—Esquire, V.P.	1 0 0	
Gurnett, George—Esquire,.....	0 5 0	
Goodson, Mr.	0 10 0	

NAMES OF SUBSCRIBERS AND DONORS.		Subscriptions.	Donations.
H.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Harris, Rev. Joseph—D.D. <i>President</i> ,....		1 0 0	
Hardy, John—of Oro, by Isaac Fell,....		.....	0 2 6
Hindman, Mrs.		0 5 0	
Hamilton, Alexander		0 5 0	
Horne, Doctor		0 5 0	
Harris, Rev. James		0 5 0	
Hamilton, James— <i>Treasurer</i> ,		0 10 0	
Howard, J. S.— <i>Esquire</i> ,		0 10 0	
Hepburn, Wm.— <i>Secretary</i> ,		0 5 0	
Hamilton, Capt.—to the Treas'r. £0 10 0			
Hamilton, Mrs.—to do..... 0 10 0			
K.			
Ketchum, Jesse— <i>Esquire</i> , V.P.		1 0 0	
King, Mr.		0 5 0	
Keating, Michael		0 5 0	
L.			
Lesslie, James		0 10 0	
Lesslie, Joseph		0 5 0	
Lesslie, William		0 5 0	
Lesslie, Charles		0 5 0	
Lugger, Rev. R.		1 5 0	
M.			
Matthews, Rev. Charles—V.P.		1 0 0	
Mosley, John		0 5 0	
McMaster, William		0 5 0	
Maxwell, J. E.— <i>Sec'y</i>		0 5 0	
Murray, C. S.		0 5 0	
— Moa,		0 5 0	
Monroe, George— <i>Esqr.</i>		0 5 0	
McArthur, Peter		0 5 0	
McDonald, John		0 10 0	
Mercer, Andrew		0 10 0	
Murchison, John M.		0 10 0	
McGlashen, Andrew		0 5 0	
McCauley, Hon. J. B.		0 5 0	
Merrifield, Rev. Wm.		0 5 0	
Mortimer, Mrs.—of Thornhill,		1 5 0	
McLelland, Malcolm		0 5 0	
O.			
O'Grady, Doctor		0 5 0	
P.			
Phillpotts, Capt.—V. P.		0 10 0	
Phillips, Rev. Doctor		0 10 0	

NAMES OF SUBSCRIBERS AND DONORS.	Subscriptions.	Donations.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Parsons, Mrs.—of Thornhill,	0 5 0	
Price, James H.—Esquire,	0 10 0	
Parsons, Timothy	0 5 0	
Paterson, P.—sen'r., Esq.	0 10 0	0 2 6
Perry, Edward .....	.....
Powell, Mrs. John	0 5 0	
R.		
Rowan, Lieut. Colonel	0 10 0	
Richardson, Mrs. R.	0 10 0	
Radenhurst, J.—Esquire,	0 5 0	
Rintoul, Rev. William	0 10 0	
Ridout, Samuel—Esquire,	0 5 0	
R. R.	0 5 0	
Rose, Walter	0 10 0	
Ross, William	0 5 0	
Ridout, John—Esquire,	0 5 0	
Rogers, Joseph—Esqr.	0 5 0	
Ross, John	0 10 0	
Ryerson, Rev. E.	0 10 0	
do. to the Treasurer, £0 5 0		
Richardson, Rev. Jas.—for two years,...	0 10 0	
S.		
Small, C. C.—Esq., V.P.	1 5 0	
Spencer, William	0 5 0	
Short, T. S.	0 5 0	
Spragge, J. G.—Esq.	0 10 0	
Stubbs, Mr.	0 5 0	
Small, Mrs.	1 0 0	
Stewart, Rev. Alex.	0 5 0	
T.		
Taylor, S. E.	0 5 0	
Tolfree, Joseph	0 5 0	
Tyner, John	0 5 0	
V.		
Vanwaggoner, Jerry—of Yonge-street, ...	0 5 0	
Vansittart, Admiral	1 0 0	
W.		
Woolverton, Jonathan	0 5 0	
Ware, William	0 5 0	
Y.		
Yonge, Miss	1 0 0	
TOTAL,	£ 42 5 0	0 10 7

Donations.

£ s. d.

0 2 6

0 10 7