FIRST REPORT

THE

OF THE

TORONTO

CHURCH OF ENGLAND

TRACT SOCIETY,

PRESENTED AT

THE ANNUAL MEETING,

HELD FEBRUARY 27, 1841.

TORONTO:

PRINTED FOR THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND TRACT SOCIETY, AT THE DIOCESAN PRESS.

H. ROWSELL, PRINTER.

1841.

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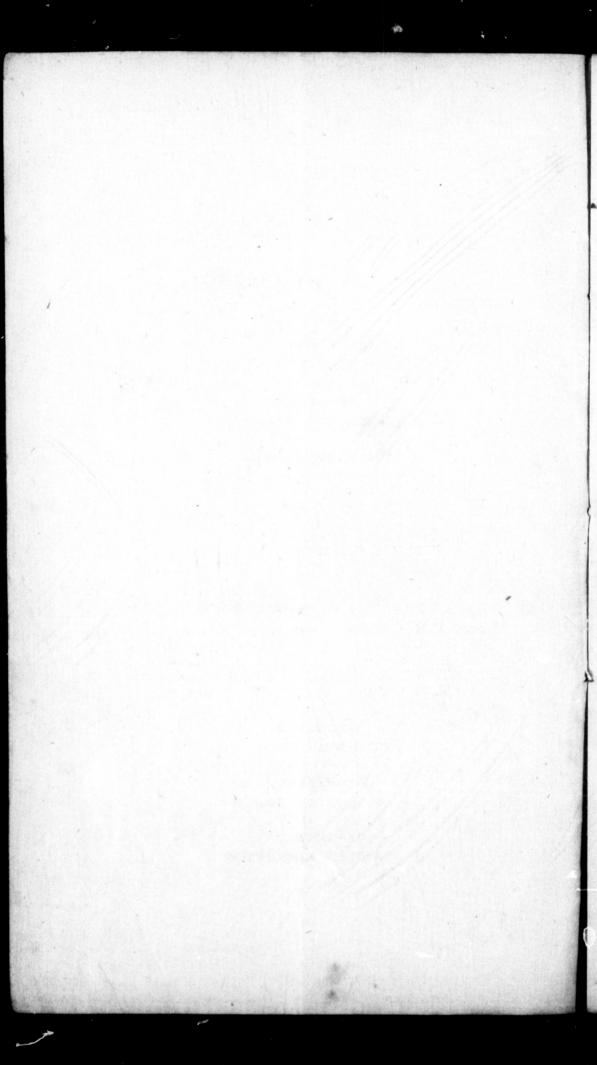
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OFFICE BEARERS:

PATRON:

THE LORD BISHOP OF TORONTO.

PRESIDENT:

THE REV. H. J. GRASETT.

VICE PRESIDENTS:

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THE	HON.	MR. JUSTICE MACAULAY,
THE	HON.	MR. JUSTICE JONES,
THE	HON.	MR. JUSTICE HAGERMAN,
THE	HON.	L. P. SHERWOOD,
THE	HON.	R. A. TUCKER,
THE	HON.	J. S. MACAULAY.
THE	HON.	W. ALLAN,
THE	REV.	H. SCADDING.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT:

MESSE	IS. J. H. CAMERON,	MESSRS.	A. BUBNSIDE.
66	H. Rowsell,	66	L. O'BRIEN, M. D.
66	R. C. HORNE,	66	J. T. WILSON.
66	T. W. BIRCHALL,	1	W. M. WESTMACOTT,
"	M. C. CROMBIE,	"	W. A. HARVEY.

TREASURER,

JOHN MOSLEY, ESQ.

SECRETARY,

G. W. ALLAN, ESQ.

DEPOSITARY, H. ROWSELL'S, KING STREET.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

I. That this Society shall be denominated "The Toronto Church of England Tract Society."

II. That Annual Subscribers of Five Shillings Currency shall be Members of this Society.

III. That Subscribers of Five Pounds Currency, at one time, shall be Members for life.

IV. The smallest Donation or Subscription to the funds of this Society will be thankfully received.

V. That the business of this Society shall be conducted by a President, Vice Presidents, a Treasurer, and Secretary, and a Committee of ten Members, six of whom may be re-elected, five to form a quorum.

VI. That all Clergymen of the Church of England, being Members of this Society, shall be entitled to a seat and to vote with the Committee.

VII. That the Committee shall meet for business once a quarter, or when called by the Secretary.

VIII. That this Society shall have for its principal object the circulation of such Religious Tracts as may be approved by the Bishop of the Diocese, among the poor and destitute inhabitants of this city and its vicinity.

IX. That all Meetings of this Society shall be opened and closed with prayer.

X. That the Annual General Meeting of this Society shall be held in the last week of February in each year.

XI. That no alteration or amendment shall be made in these laws, except at a General Meeting of this Society.

RESOLUTIONS.

The Annual Meeting of the Toronto Church of England Tract Society was held in the District School House, on the 27th February, 1841.

HIS LORDSHIP THE BISHOP, in the Chair.

The Meeting was opened with prayer, after which the following Resolutions were adopted :---

1. Moved by the Hon. Chief Justice Robinson, seconded by His Honour the Vice Chancellor,

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

2. Moved by the Rev. H. J. Grasett, seconded by the Rev. Dr. McCaul,

That while this Meeting would humbly acknowledge the goodness of Almighty God for the measure of success which has already attended the labours of the Society in this city, they would earnestly urge upon their fellow-churchmen, to come forward and aid in diffusing Gospel truth, through the medium of Tract distribution.

3. Moved by the Rev. Charles Mathews, seconded by the Hon. J. Jones,

That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Committee and Tract Distributors, for their valuable services during the past year, and that the following be the office bearers for the ensuing year.—(See page 3.)

4. Moved by the Hon. R. A. Tucker, seconded by the Rev. H. Scadding,

That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the "Bristol Church of England Tract Society," for the kind notice of this Association contained in their 28th Report, and that we hail with satisfaction the prospect of their extended usefulness.

5. Moved by the Hon. W. Allan, seconded by Dr. O'Brien,

That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Lord Bishop, for his services in the chair.

REPORT.

The Committee of the Toronto Church of England Tract Society, in presenting to the public the first annual Report of their proceedings, deem it necessary to commence with a short account of the origin of the Society.

The want of an Institution that would furnish the means of procuring and circulating religious knowledge in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England, had long been felt among all classes of Churchmen. The Teachers of the Sunday School in connexion with the Cathedral Church of St. James in this city, whilst engaged in visiting the families of their scholars, had frequent opportunities of observing the lamentable ignorance of Church principles so prevalent among the humbler classes of society. To remedy this evil, they projected the formation of an association for distributing among the poor on the Loan system, a variety of plain and simple tracts, unfolding the saving doctrines of the Gospel, and setting forth the Scriptural claims of our Apostolic Church; and also the establishment of a depot, for the general sale of such publications.

Their design having been communicated to the Bishop, his Lordship was pleased to signify his approbation of their undertaking, and kindly consented to become the Patron of the infant Society; a meeting was then called, office-bearers chosen, and the Society organized. A subscription list having been opened in the month of January last, a liberal sum was raised; with it the Committee purchased a small supply of the Bristol Tract Society's publications, which had been imported a short time previously by the Rev. H. J. Grasett and Thos. Champion, Esq.; the amount of their cost was remitted to England with an order for a further supply; a small depot was thus at once established, and the work of distribution on a limited scale commenced.

The Society thus formed, its first and principal object is, by the circulation of the publications of the Church of England, such as the Lives of her Reformers and Martyrs, and other Tracts illustrative of her primitive History, Constitution, Doctrine, and Discipline, to furnish the poor with sound religious reading, to dispel the prejudices of the ignorant, and to confirm the attachment of its members to the Church of their forefathers.

The second and scarcely less important, is to form a depot, from which to supply the public at large, and to furnish country Clergymen with Tracts, at a very low rate, for distribution in their respective parishes.

To carry out the first object of this Society, ten distributors have been voluntarily engaged during the past year in circulating tracts in different parts of this city, and through their instrumentality, three hundred families are visited every week, and supplied with sound religious reading.

But a great deal yet remains to be done, and your committee feel that they cannot too strongly urge upon every pious Churchman, the vast importance of this work, and entreating their co-operation, in sowing the seeds of Divine truth, and disseminating a better understanding of the Discipline and Doctrines of our Church, particularly among the poorer and more uninstructed orders of Society.

The Tracts have been uniformly received with the greatest readiness and thankfulness, by all denominations, (Roman Catholics alone excepted,) as the following extracts from the notes of some of the Distributors will show.

One Distributor says—In many cases the people meet me at their doors with the Tracts in their hands, at the regular hour of distribution.

Many of the Distributors also report that not only are the people thus ready and eager to receive them, but if any thing should occur to prevent them from going round on the regular day for distribution, great disappointment is expressed by all. Another says that they often express their gratitude for receiving them, and whenever they have met with any thing that particularly pleases them in the course of their reading, are sure to mention it the next time he visits them.

Another reports that in many cases where a person has left his district and removed elsewhere, they have begged for a few tracts to take with them.

Another distributor mentions a very interesting instance of the good effects produced by the Tracts, in the case of a coloured family at whose house he visited; it is as follows: " calling one afternoon, I found two other coloured men in company with the husband (who is about fifty years of age); when I was about leaving the house, he (the husband) asked me if I had any Tracts to give away, as he wished to give some to his two friends then present, who had come to see him, and who reside near Lake Simcoe, for, said he, 'I receive much benefit from them myself, and I wish that my friends had some of them to take home to their families;' 'That first tract,' he continued, 'you lent me on the martyrdom of the Rev. John Rogers, done me much good.' That he was sincere in what he said I cannot for a moment doubt, for as he was speaking of the sufferings of the martyr and of his strong faith, the tears, as they trickled down his face, bespoke the feelings of his soul in language not to be misunderstood." These examples, selected from a great number contained in the reports which have been sent in, shew how much good may be effected by this system of Loan Distribution. And while those at present engaged, are encouraged by the success which through the divine blessing has attended their exertions, they earnestly entreat others to come forward, to enter the wide field which still remains unoccupied, and devote a portion of their time to this work and labour of love.

The delay which occurred in obtaining from England the second supply of Tracts, which did not arrive until the beginning of December last, and the great number required by the Distributors, which drew largely upon the then slender stock of the Society, have rendered them unable to meet the demands of the public to any extent during the past year, and the sales have consequently been very trifling, the number of pages sold amounting only to about 30,000. The additional stock which they have at length received, amounting to about 21,000 Tracts from the Bristol Society, will now enable this Society to answer without difficulty, any orders they may receive from the Clergy or others.

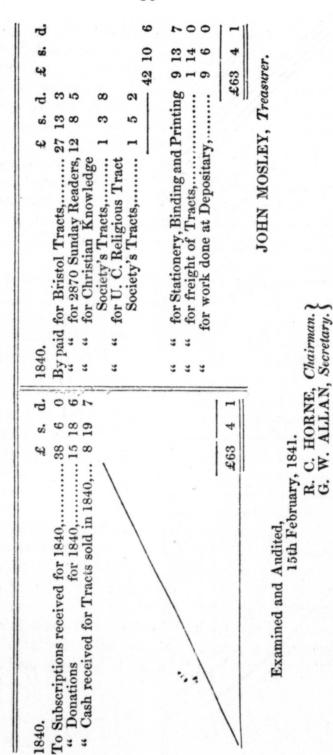
The Bristol Society kindly accompanied the tracts with copies of their 28th Report, together with specimens of two new tracts which have lately been added to their catalogue. The notice of our Society contained in their report cannot but afford much gratification to all our friends It is as follows:

"Since our accounts were closed there has been received an order for twenty-one thousand Tracts from Toronto in Upper Canada, where a Society has been lately formed entitled The Toronto Church of England Tract Society, under the patronage of the Lord Bishop of Toronto, and has received the countenance and support of the Parochial Clergy of that Province. The importance of such an institution at such a time as the present, in a part of Her Majesty's dominions where the want of truth, unity, and concord has been so lately and fearfully exhibited, will be felt by those who know how social happiness and spiritual prosperity are bound together by that bond of perfectness which it is the object of the Society to strengthen."

The Committee now conclude this brief statement of the formation of the Society and of its proceedings during the past year, by commending themselves and the important work in which they are engaged, to the sympathies and prayers of their fellow Churchmen. Their cause is the cause of Christ and his Church; on his grace they rely, trusting in the promise, that while abounding in the work of the Lord, their labour shall not be in vain in the Lord.

Cr. JOHN MOSLEY, TREASURER, in account with THE TORONTO CHURCH OF ENGLAND Dr.

TRACT SOCIETY.



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DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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His Excellency the Governor General,	5	0	0			
His Excellency Sir George Arthur,						
K. C. H., &c. &c				2	0	0
The Lord Bishop of Toronto				2	0	0
Allan, The Hon. W	5	0	0			
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Allan, G. W.				1	0	0
Anderson, R. G., Esq				0	5	0
Boulton, W. H., Esq				1	0	0
Brent, J. W., Esq				0	5	0
Brent, H., Esq				0	10	0
Baines, T., Esq.,				0	5	0
Billings, F. T., Esq				õ	5	Õ
Burne de, A., Esq				0	5	0
Britton, R				0	5	Õ
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M'Caul, The Rev. Dr				1	10	0
Mathews, The Rev. C,				0	5	0
Merritt, J. P., Esq				0	10	0
Mosley, John				0	10	0
Mortimer, The Rev. A				0	5	0
Macaulay, The Hon. John				0	10	0
O'Brien, Dr				0	5	0
Osler, The Rev. M				1	0	0
Preston, T. J				0	5	0
Perrin, J. L., Esq				0	5	0
Ridout, S., Esq				0	10	0
Robertson, J				0	5	0
Ross, C. S				0	5	0
Rowsell, H., Esq				1	0	0
Storm, T	1	1	0			
Sullivan, Hon. R. B				1	5	0
Scadding, The Rev. H				1	1	0
Somerville, John, Esq				0	10	0
Stowe, A., Esq				0	5	0
Sherwood, The Hon. L. P				2	0	0
Tucker, The Hon. R. A				1	0	0
Wilson, J. T., Esq				0	5	0
Williams, G. W				0	5	0

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