

* * * The Subscribers are most earnestly requested to endeavour to procure additional contributions among their friends to meet the increasing demands upon the funds.

Subscriptions and Donations are payable to the Treasurer Capt. FREER, at the QUEBEC BANK, or to any of the undermentioned Officers of the Diocesan Committee,

The Archdeacon of Quebec, V. P.

The Rev. Dr. Mills, Secy.

The Rev. E. W. Sewell, Asst. Secy. and ^{to} ~~by~~

The Rev. G. Archbold.

To constitute any Subscriber a *Member of the Parent Society at home*, a benefaction is required of One Guinea upon admission, and an annual contribution of the same sum.

The amount of contribution to the *local Diocesan Committee* is at the discretion of the Contributors, as is also the purpose to which it is applicable, whether for the general objects of the Committee, or for the exclusive benefit of the National School.

The SCHOOL-CLOTHING FUND is also an object peculiarly entitled, in this climate, to the public benevolence, the Treasurer of which for the *Girls' School*, is Miss E. TAYLOR, Esplanade; and for the *Boys'*, Mr. R. SYMES, Palace Street.

Boxes are also placed in the School-rooms, for the voluntary contributions of the public—^{whose} ~~whose~~ visits to the School are, on all accounts, desirable.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

QUEBEC DIOCESAN COMMITTEE

OF THE

SOCIETY

FOR PROMOTING

CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE,

FOR THE YEAR 1823-4.

QUEBEC:

Printed by T. CARY & Co.

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ANNUAL REPORT.



THE QUEBEC DIOCESAN COMMITTEE of the SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE have the pleasure of laying before the General Meeting the Sixth Annual Report of their proceedings.

The public are aware, that the objects of the Society are blended, in this Country, with those of the "National Society for promoting the Education of the Poor;" and the operations of the Committee may consequently be ranged under two heads—the circulation of Books and Tracts, and the diffusion of instruction upon the National system.

1. With regard to the former branch of their labours, the Committee have to report, that the demand for Religious Books continues to increase; and they confidently trust that the seed thus sown will be matured, by the divine blessing, into a rich and plentiful harvest. The amount of sales at the Depository since the last Report, is £127 : 5 : 0; and the *gratuitous* distribution

in Quebec and its neighbourhood, has been greater than in former years. Books have been forwarded to the District Committee at Montreal, and to the Missionaries at Rivière du Loup, Drummondville, Ascot, Caldwell and Christie Manors, and St. Armand, in the *Lower*, and Adolphustown, in the *Upper* Province. Two Schools of Royal Foundation in the Townships of Melbourne and Eaton have also received a supply; and a selection of such as seemed most appropriate, has been presented to a number of families, who have been sent as Settlers to the Seigniory of Nicolet, under the auspices of the *Emigrants' Society*.

As emigration from the Mother Country increases, new Settlements are every day pushing themselves, as it were, (if the expression be allowable,) into the wilder and more uncultivated parts of the two Provinces; and the Committee beg leave to remark, that they have allowed no opportunity to pass of supplying the individuals who compose them with Books, to the full extent of their means. Scattered indeed, as these people generally are, in small detached parties, and not unfrequently in single families, they are, in many instances, cut off from every means of religious instruction, except such as Books can supply.—The inhabitant of a more populous or a more civilized country, can scarcely appreciate the treasure, which a person, so circumstanced, possesses in his Bible—his Prayer-Book, the Tract, which contains the grounds and justification of his faith. And it cannot be necessary to comment upon the additional value which these Books derive, and the additional necessity which exists for their extended distribution, from the

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dispersed members of our Church being incessantly exposed, on the one hand, to the proselyting zeal, which must necessarily actuate the Members of a Church, where it is their belief that exclusive salvation resides; and on the other, to the ill-directed enthusiasm of itinerant Sectaries.

The National School has, as usual, been furnished *gratuitously* with Books, both as prizes, and for the daily use of the Scholars, and this continues to be a heavy drain upon the resources of the Committee. The Regimental Schools here and at Montreal have been supplied at a *medium* rate, between the price charged to the public, and the charge to Members of the Society. *Gratuitous* supplies have also been furnished to the Gaol, and to the Asylum recently established for the Parish poor—to the former, to the amount of about £3, and to the latter, to the amount of £2, currency. The Books at the Gaol, with the exception of a few Tracts of inferior value, which have been distributed in the different Wards, have been placed, as a sort of Lending Library, under the immediate superintendence of the Gaoler; and from his report, and that of the Members of the Gaol Association, the Committee have sincere pleasure in being able to state, that the applications for them are continual, and that they may reasonably be expected, at no very distant period, to produce the most beneficial effects on the morals and habits of the Prisoners.

The Report of the Parent Society for the year, ending April 1822, which was received last summer, presents the same gratifying picture, as in former years, of progressively increasing means and extended usefulness. No other Books have been received at the Depository during the past

year ; but the large stock on hand, alluded to in the last Report, is now nearly exhausted, and it is intended to send home, without delay, an order for a fresh supply. It is also in contemplation to apply to His Majesty's Government for a farther supply of Bibles, and Prayer-Books bound up with the Testament, to be procured, as before, from the "Society for promoting Christian Knowledge," and intrusted to the disposal of the Clergy of the Established Church in the two Provinces ; and the measure is the more necessary, as applications for Books of this description, to a large amount, have been repeatedly made to the Diocesan Committee, as well from other quarters, as from a "Bible and Common Prayer-Book Society," which has been for some years established at Amherstburgh, in the Upper Province.

No remittance has been received this year from the District Committee at William Henry ; but the sum of £4 : 1 : 1 has been transmitted by the Rev. J. REID, from Missisquoi Bay, and of £22 : 10 by the Venerable Archdeacon STUART, from Kingston ; the District Committee at which place will commence its operations, as soon as the Diocesan Committee shall be enabled to furnish them with the requisite supply of Books.

2. The Committee now proceed to the consideration of that branch of their exertions, which has reference to the diffusion of Education upon the Madras System, and may be viewed in connection with the designs of the National Society.

The first object which demands their attention, is the completion of the School-House. It is unnecessary here to recount the various obstacles, with which the Committee have had to contend, in the progress of the work, and they will confine

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themselves to the truly gratifying circumstance, that they are all at length surmounted. It will be recollected, that, at the period of the last Report, the Contractor had failed in his contract; and though the Committee had a legal claim upon his securities for a penalty of £500, in consequence of his non-fulfilment of his engagements, yet, after mature consideration, it was thought the best—as assuredly it was the most liberal—course, not to institute a suit against the parties, and they accordingly took into their own hands the completion of the edifice. The immediate management of the work was intrusted to Mr. TREMAIN, and the Committee take this opportunity of publicly testifying the sense they entertain of that Gentleman's kindness in undertaking, and exertion in executing a task, so replete with difficulties.

The expence has been much greater than the Committee could have foreseen—more than twice the amount of the original contract; but the work is considered by judges, at a moderate estimation, as worth at least £300 more than it has cost, and the building is so neatly finished, as to be really an ornament to the town. The two School-rooms for the Boys and Girls measure 42 by 30 feet each, and 10 feet in height, and the apartments for the Master and Mistress have every convenience, which could be wished. The Committee have been obliged to borrow the sum of £150, currency, from the Quebec Bank, upon the security of their President, the LORD BISHOP, to enable them to complete the Building; and £40 or £50 more will be required to put up the fences, and defray other minor disbursements, which are indispersably necessary. It has not been possible to prepare for this Meeting, a detailed account of the whole ex-

penditure, but the following general statement of the gross amount of Receipts and Disbursements may not be unsatisfactory to the Subscribers:

Dr.		
Received at various times from the Committee, including £150 borrowed from the Quebec Bank,	£1073	6 7
Received for the old Guard-House.....	9	0 0
		<hr/>
		£1082 6 7
Cr.		
Cash paid to Contractor, who failed in the performance of his agreement....	£386	5 0
Expended under my direction, of which a detailed account will be rendered at the next general Meeting.....	652	17 9
Probable amount of outstanding debts not yet settled, about.....	40	0 0
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		—1079 2 9
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(Signed) B. TREMAIN.

The Committee have the satisfaction of stating, that some material encroachments, which had been made by a few proprietors of ground in the rear of the School-Lot, have been removed through the medium of the Advocate-General, whom His Excellency the Governor in Chief was kind enough to employ for this purpose, at the request of the Committee. His Excellency has also been pleased to comprise in the original grant a small point, or corner of ground, running towards St. John's Street, from the North end of the School House. The whole Lot, (as may be seen by the plan now on the table,) is exceedingly valuable; and the Committee owe it as a debt of gratitude to His Lordship, which they would be doing violence to their own feelings not to pay, to express, in the most public manner, especially on the eve of His Lordship's departure from the Province, the lively sense they entertain of his uniform attention to their wants, and desire to promote the

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objects of the Institution, as evinced not only by the grant of the Lot in question, but also by his liberal and voluntary donation of £200 towards the erection of the Building, from funds at the disposal of the Crown, and of £50 from his own private purse.

The new School-Rooms were opened, and the Scholars transferred there from Hope-Gate in the beginning of last month, and the public annual examination of the children of both Schools took place in the Boys' School-Room on the 15th, in the presence of His Excellency the Governor in Chief and the Countess of Dalhousie, and a numerous and respectable meeting of the Inhabitants. The total number present on the occasion, were—Boys, 84 ; Girls, 74—158 ; and the whole number now on the Lists of the School is only—Boys, 89 ; Girls, 77—166, presenting a lamentable diminution of nearly one-half, since the last Report. This great decrease of numbers is partly owing, perhaps, to accident, and partly to causes, to which the Committee will shortly have occasion to advert. The children, of both sexes, were examined in Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, and the Girls exhibited samples of knitting and needle-work, as on former occasions ; and if the general result of the examination was not so satisfactory as might have been wished, it must be recollected, that the Master and Mistress are new to the system—that the irregular attendance of the children is an evil, for which no exertions on the part of the Committee have been able hitherto to provide an adequate remedy* ; and that, even

* The readers of this Report will be pleased to bear in mind, that it was prepared and submitted in manuscript to the Annual Meeting, in May, 1824 ; since which date there has been a great augmentation in the number of Scholars, and a marked improvement in other respects.

if they *do* attend regularly, the School is liable to continual fluctuations, as the parents of the children, who are principally Emigrants, remove from Quebec every summer, with their families, to the Upper Province; or to the United States.

One branch of the examination, however,—and that the most important—was in the highest degree satisfactory—the answers of the Children to the questions put to them by the Committee, from the Holy Scriptures, Crossman's Introduction, the Church Catechism, and other Books of this description used in the School. These answers evinced, in general, a quickness and intelligence, not unworthy of persons of maturer age; and the Committee have, at the same time, sincere pleasure in reporting, that the manners and habits of the Children appear to be progressively improving, and afford a truly gratifying proof of the beneficial effects of that religious instruction, which forms so essential a part of the National system.

The prizes to the Girls were presented by the Countess of DALHOUSIE—who very obligingly undertook the office—and to the Boys, under the direction of the Archdeacon of Quebec.—The indigent children, in attendance at the School, have been furnished with articles of Clothing, since the last Report, to the amount of £44 : 10 : 8, out of a fund, formed by the monthly payment of the small sum of one shilling, on the part of a numerous list of contributors.

The Committee must not omit to mention, that the Sunday School, alluded to at the last Annual Meeting, was opened almost immediately afterwards. It is in as flourishing a state, as could possibly have been anticipated by its most sanguine promoters, and is every day increasing in

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numbers, and improving in systematic arrangement.

The Committee have adverted to causes, which have operated to the disadvantage of the National School, and though they touch upon this topic with reluctance, they cannot omit, in justice to themselves, to mention, that more than *twenty* of their best Scholars, all of them Members of the Church of England, have already been removed to a School of more recent establishment, in this City; and they are bold to assert, whatever advantages, real or imaginary, may be derived from the change, will be dearly counterbalanced by a falling off in that knowledge, which is above all price—the knowledge of the “one thing needful:”—For experience has fully shewn, that to advance in this, with any thing like satisfaction, it must not be left to the chance instructions of parents or others, (who may—or may not—take any trouble about the matter,) but must be ingrafted, as it were, upon the very stock of the system of Education, and interwoven with every part of its texture.

A letter has appeared before the public* from the Secretary of the British and Foreign School Society in England, in which some reflections are passed upon the principles of those, who are attached to the system of the National Society, but in which the defect of accurate information which is betrayed, must sensibly diminish the force of any remarks, which it contains upon the subject. When it is stated in that letter, that the *National Society* renders no service to the cause of Education, except in England, the Committee, having no intention and feeling no necessity to stand forth as the Champions of that Society, are satisfied to leave it

* In the Mercury of 13th March, 1824.

to the Reports of its proceedings to speak for themselves,† but when it is affirmed, with a *particular reference to this country*, that the more newly imported system is the *sole* system adapted to embrace the Roman Catholics, it becomes impossible for the Committee to forbear noticing a statement, which is at once injurious to their own institution, and repugnant to facts in their possession.—The truth is, that *shortly after* the public annunciation of the School in connection with the *British and Foreign School Society*, some alarm was evidently in activity as to the religious tendency of Education conducted under Protestant auspices, which visited in its effects the *National School*, and caused every child belonging to the Roman Catholic Church to be withdrawn from it, with the exception of about a dozen,—withdrawn, let it be observed, *not* to be transferred to the School, which is supposed to be so peculiarly accommodated to the Members of that Church, but to different establishments of the Roman Catholics themselves in this City,—although *previously* to the above-mentioned annunciation, the *National School* had been formally visited by a respectable

† “It will be gratifying to those who take an interest in the substantial melioration of the condition of the lower orders, as it is promoted under the auspices of the National Society in this Kingdom, to be informed that their system of Education, which has been found so beneficial in its operation here, has recently been adopted in Sweden, under the sanction of his Swedish Majesty and the nation in general. An official communication to this effect, under the signatures of the President and Vice-President, Jacob de la Eardie and Archbishop Rosenstein, has been addressed to the General Committee of the National Society, containing a strong testimony (founded as is stated on experience) to the great use of “the method of mutual instruction;” together with a grateful acknowledgment “of the debt which the Swedish Society feels on this matter to the Revd. Dr. BELL and the British National School Society;”—and inclosing the first Report of its proceedings.”—*Christian Remembrancer for Decr. 1824.*

Roman Catholic Priest, with the express view of ascertaining whether any interference was exercised with the Religion of the children belonging to his communion, and he expressed himself perfectly satisfied with the result of his inquiry.—In addition to this, it may be observed, that the National School at Montreal—which, the Committee rejoice to remark, is in a most flourishing state, no less than 199 Boys and 197 Girls—Total 396—being at present on the Lists of the School—has, at this date, May, 1824, a large proportion—upwards of 100—of Roman Catholic children.

The Committee have no desire to enlarge upon this topic; but they remark, as they dismiss it, that they see all reason to adhere firmly, though, as they trust, temperately to the principles, with which they commenced their undertaking; and with respect to that spirit of *prejudice*, by which it has been more than insinuated that they are governed, they have only to say, that challenging for themselves simply the same liberty of opinion, which they are perfectly ready to concede to others, they presume that their right will not be questioned to exercise their own judgment, in choosing that mode for the promotion of Christian Knowledge and the diffusion of Christian Education, which they believe to be the best in itself, as well as the most consistent with the interests, which it is their duty to maintain. They conceive also (of course collectively speaking,) that if their judgment is fallible, it is not more so than the judgment of those who differ from them; nor can they be yet brought to regard it as an unworthy and unwarrantable prejudice, which prompts them to connect and identify their proceedings with Institutions

which are coeval* with Christianity itself, and with establishments, both civil and religious, which have come down to them purified, strengthened, and secured by the wisdom of their forefathers, and, under the protection of Divine Providence, have been seen to rise again from overthrow, and to survive some desperate struggles through which they have passed. They cannot be persuaded to consider, that it is time for them to desert the cause, to which they are attached, because it is assailed in the present day in a new shape, by the operation of those lax and levelling opinions in Religion and that system of indiscriminating patronage, which, although in many instances they are unquestionably coupled with the most upright and benevolent views, are indebted for their prevalence and sway rather to their popular and plausible character, their prolific production of attractive novelties, and, it must be added, their precise adaptation to the undisciplined feelings of our fallen nature, than to their accordance with the spirit of a Religion which enjoins, in the most solemn and unequivocal manner, the preservation of settled order—the maintenance of respect for established authorities—the observance, in proceedings connected with Religion, of uniformity in plan, and of coherence in outward discipline.

Whatever good may be effected by other systems; whatever merit may belong to them; whatever purity and piety of motives may actuate their supporters; whatever right those who dissent from the Establishment may have to provide

* The excellent little publication called the *Claims of the Church*, which is to be procured at the Repository in Quebec, ought to be in the possession of every Member of the Church who can read.

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their own way of education among themselves, all which the Committee are not in the least disposed to call in question—they have no hesitation in avowing their fixed belief, that the safety of our venerable Constitution in Church and State DEMANDS THAT A STAND SHOULD SOMEWHERE BE MADE; and that if the principles usually denominated more *liberal* than their own, were to “leaven the whole lump”—were to actuate the Guardians themselves of the British Zion and the whole mass of her disciples—were to regulate the public and standing establishments of the Country, the flood of loose opinions thus let in would sweep away the hallowed fabric, which ages have reared, and which ages will never cease to admire.

The Committee cannot conclude their Report without earnestly recommending the important objects for which they are associated,—in connection with those valuable Institutions—the “*Society for promoting Christian Knowledge*,” and the “*National Society*,”—to the continued and increased support and co-operation of all, who are duly impressed with the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord—that knowledge, which, “to the Jews a stumbling-block and to the Greeks foolishness,” mocks the pride of human research, and represses the towering flight of human speculation—that knowledge, which alone can make us wise unto salvation, and in comparison of which, all other attainments, however valuable, all the various devices of this world’s wisdom, are as dust in the balance, and “altogether lighter than vanity itself.”

By desire of the Committee,

J. L. MILLS, D. D.

Quebec, May 4th, 1824.

Secretary.

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* * * *Orders will be received and executed at the Repository, National School-house, near St. John's Gate, for the following periodical publications :*

The **CHRISTIAN REMEMBRANCER** ; or, Churchman's Biblical, Ecclesiastical, and Literary Miscellany—containing a great variety of interesting information connected with religious proceedings at home and abroad. Published monthly, 1s6 sterling, each number.

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The **NATIONAL SCHOOL MAGAZINE** ; (commenced 1st Novr. last)—calculated to be generally useful and amusing among children : each Number contains two Engravings. Published twice a month, one penny each number, or ten-pence a dozen.

N. B. A variety of other useful and familiar publications will be seen advertised upon the covers of these, and will be ordered for any Subscriber who desires it.