

THIRD

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BRITISH AND CANADIAN

# SCHOOL SOCIETY,

PRESENTED TO THE

GENERAL MEETING.

HELD ON

Chursday, Dctober 27, 1825.

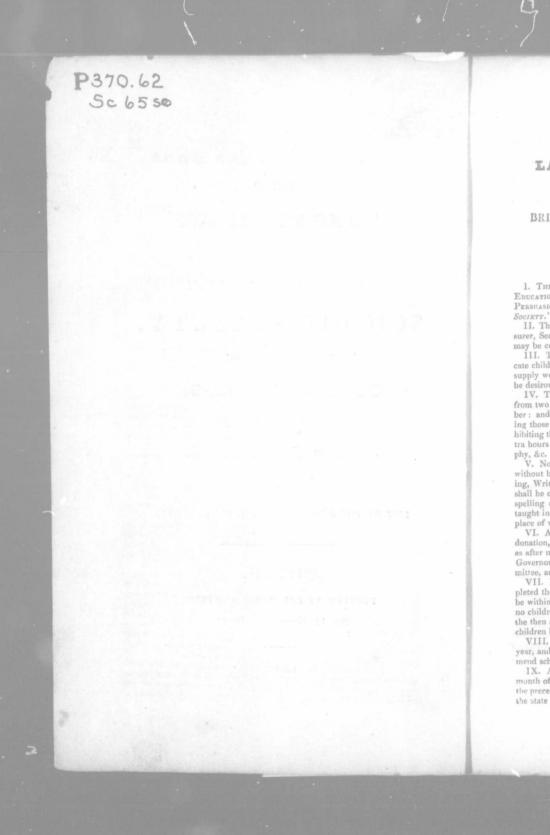
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LIST OF THE SUBSCRIBERS AND BENEFACTORS.

Montreal:

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1825.



## LAWS AND REGULATIONS

#### OF THE

### BRITISH AND CANADIAN SCHOOL SOCIETY,

### ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 21, 1822.

1. THIS Society shall be designated "THE SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING THE EDUCATION OF THE LABOURING CLASSES OF THE PEOPLE OF EVERY RELIGIOUS PERSUASION," and its title shall be "THE BRITISH AND CANADIAN SCHOOL SOCIETY."

II. This Society shall consist of a Patron, President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, Life and Annual Members; together with such Officers as may be considered necessary for conducting the affairs of the Institution.

111. The Institution shall maintain a School on an extensive scale to educate children. It shall train up and qualify young persons of both sexes to supply well instructed teachers to such of the inhabitants of Canada, as shall be desirous of establishing Schools on the British system.

IV. The School hours shall be from nine to twelve in the morning, and from two to five in the afternoon, from the first of April to the first of November : and from two to four in the other months, (Saturdays excepted.) During those hours the School shall be open to the public, for the purpose of exhibiting the system of teaching. The Monitors shall be allowed to attend extra hours during the week, to receive lessons in English Grammar, Geography, &c.

V. No book, pamphlet, or other paper, shall be introduced into the School without being first presented to, and approved of, by the Committee. Reading, Writing, Arithmetic and Needle work shall be taught; the reading lessons shall he confined to the Holy Scriptures, or extracts therefrom, and lessons for spelling and arithmetic; no catechism or peculiar religious tenet shall be taught in the Schools, but every child shall be enjoined to attend regularly the place of worship to which its parents belong.

VI. All Subscribers of Twenty Shillings a year, or Five Pounds in one donation, shall be entitled to have one child continually in the School, except as after mentioned, (and so in proportion for any larger sum;) and also be Governors of the Society, and as such, eligible to be Members of the Committee, and to vote and be present at the General Meetings.

VII. No children shall be admitted into the School until they have completed their sixth year; and whenever the number of children admitted shall be within twenty of the number determined by the Committee to be received, no children under the age of eight years shall be admitted, and the eldest of the then applicants shall be preferred. All absent Members may recommend children by proxy.

VIII. All Subscriptions shall become due on the first of October in each year, and no Governor shall be entitled to vote at general meetings, or recommend scholars, during such time as his subscription is in arrear.

IX. A General Meeting of the Governors shall be held every year in the month of September, at which meeting, the proceedings of the Committee for the preceding year shall be read, and if approved, confirmed, and the funds and she state of the School considered, and a report thercof for the information of

the Subscribers, approved, and such additional regulations and resolutions adopted as may be deemed necessary, and a Fresident, Vicc-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, and other Members of the Committee elected, or re-elected, with power to fill up vacancies during the year.

X. Special Meetings of the Governors shall be called at the request of the Committee (seven or more of them being present) or by twelve Governors, seven days previous notice being given thereof, and of the business proposed to be transacted.

XI. No question shall be decided by ballot unless demanded in writing, and signed at the General Meeting (wherein the question shall arise) by at least ten Governors, and all Fernale and absent Governors shall be entitled to vote by proxy, at such ballot, which shall be taken seven days subsequent to such General Meeting.

XII. The Committee shall meet on the first Monday of every Cale.dar month, or oftener, three members whereof shall constitute a quorum.

XIII. No member of the Committee shall be employed in any business respecting the Society, for which he is to receive a pecuniary compensation. XIV. The Committee shall at each of their Monthly Meetings, appoint

Alv. The Committee shall at each of their Monthly Meetings, appoint two Inspectors for the cusuing month, who shall attend at least, twice in each week, at the School-Room, for the purpose of ascertaining the progress of the Children in their learning. They shall minute in a Book the time of their attendance; and after having inspected the Master's Reports, &c. they shall enter any remarks thereon, and on any other matter respecting the School which they deem proper, in the said Book, and sign the same; which shall be laid before the then next Monthly Meeting of the Committee.

XV. A Committee of Ladies shall be appointed at the General Meeting, to manage the affairs of the Female Department of the School: they will be expected to make an Annual Report of their proceedings to the General Meeting.

XVI. Every recommendation of a child to the School, shall be signed by a subscriber, and shall specify the parents' names, places of abode, number in family, occupation, circumstances, (or average of weekly earnings.) and denomination of religion; also the name and age of the child recommended; which recommendation shall be left with the Master or Mistress, who shall enter the same on the register of candidatas.

XVII. If any child so recommended shall be rejected by the Committee as incligible, or in the event of a vacancy happening with respect to any of the said children, the subscriber recommending such child, shall immediately be informed thereof by a written notice signed by the Master or Mistress. Whereupon such subscriber shall be at liberty to recommend another child to supply the vacancy, but if such subscriber shall neglect to do so for two weeks after notice shall be sent, the Committee shall fill up such vacancy, and the subscriber lose his recommendation for that time.

XVIII. No child shall be admitted with any infectious disorder, and the children shall come to School properly washed, and with their hair cut short and combed.

XIX. The School Master and Mistress, in their repective departments, shall enter or cause to be entered, daily in a book, an account of the absentees from School, and from their respective places for worship on Sundays, and shall keep a weekly account of the causes of such absence. Each Teacher shall produce such accounts to the Inspectors, and also an account of the children who have passed from class to class, in consequence of proficiency in learning during the preceding month—and of the rewards distributed. Hono

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### PATRON,

## HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONORABLE **THE EARL OF DALHOUSIE**, GOVERNOR IN CHIEF.

### PRESIDENT,

### HORATIO GATES, ESQUIRE.

#### VICE-PRESIDENTS,

HONORABLE L. J. PAPINEAU, PETER M'GILL, Esq. P. DE ROCHEBLAVE, Esq. P. DE ROCHEBLAVE, Esq.

A. FERGUSON, Esq.-Treasurer,

W. LUNN, Esq.-Secretary.

### COMMITTEE.

Mesers. O. Berthelet, D. Handyside, D. Fisher, John Torrance, Michael Scott, John Frothingham, John Mackenzie, Joseph Masson, Andrew Shaw. Messis. G. Davies, J. R. Kimber, John M'Cord, Charles Tait, J. D. Bernard, James Leslie, HENRY MACKENZIE, John Macdoneel.

The Committee meet on the first MONDAY in every Month.

### FEMALE DEPARTMENT.

### PATRONESS,

### THE RIGHT HONORABLE

### THE COUNTESS OF DALHOUSIE.

#### MRS. LUNN, PRESIDENT.

MISS DAY, SECRETARY,

### COMMITTEE.

Mrs. BANCROFT, Mrs. FROTHINGHAM, Mrs. N. JONES, Mrs. JNO. TORRANCE, Mrs. FERGUSON, Mrs. J. HALL, Mrs. D. FISHER, Mrs. D. HANDYSIDE, Mrs. J. MACDONELL, Mrs. WATKINS, Mrs. ORKNEY, Miss BANCROFT, Miss ARNOLDI, Miss M'CORD, Miss SOLOMON, Miss HEDGE, Miss GATES, Miss ISABELLA JONES, Mrs. CHRISTMAS.

The Committee meet on the first TUESDAY in every month.

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AT THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE BRITISH AND CANADIAN SCHOOL SOCIETY, HELD I THE SCHOOL-HOUSE, ON THURSDAY THE 27TH OCTOBER, 1825;

### HORATIO GATES, Esq., PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

MR. GATES introduced the business of the Meeting with a suitable address, and called on Mr. Davies to read the Report.

### On the Motion of John Frothingham, Esq., seconded by William Lunn, Esq., it was

RESOLVED UNARIMOUSLY :---

I. That the Report which has been read, be received and printed under the direction of the Committee.

### On the motion of Peter M'Gill, Esq., seconded by George Davies, Esq., it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY :--

II. That this Meeting rejoices to hear of the formation of a Society in London, for the promotion of education and industry among the Indians and destitute Settlers in Canada.

### On the motion of John M<sup>4</sup>Cord, Esq., seconded by John Mac-Kenzie, Esq., it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY :---

III. That the Committee, while they gratefully acknowledge the many liberal donations received during the last year, regret that they are again compelled to solicit assistance, to enable them to build their projected School-house; relying fully on their past experience, that the citizens of Montreal will generously aid the erection of an establishment of such general utility.

On the motion of F. A. LaRocque, Esq., seconded by David Handyside, Esq., it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY :----

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IV. That the sincere thanks of this Meeting be respectfully presented to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Earl of Dalhousie, for his continued patronage and liberal support to this Society.

## On the motion of John Boston, Esq., seconded by W. K. M<sup>4</sup>Cord, Esq., it was

### RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY :----

V. That the thanks of this meeting be given to the President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary and Committee, for their services during the past year, and that the President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer and Secretary, be requested to continue in office, and the following gentlemen compose the Committee for the year ensuing , with power to fill up vacancies.—(Vide page 5.)

### On the motion of Michael Scott, Esq., seconded by Pierre De. Rocheblave, Esq., it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY :---

VI. That the most grateful acknowledgments be presented to the Right Honourable the Countess of Dalhousie, Patroness, and to the Ladies' Committee; and that the following Ladies be the Committee for the year ensuing, with power to add to their number.—(Vide page 6.)

### On the motion of John M'Cord, Esq., seconded by Peter M'-Gill, Esq., it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY :---

VII. That the thanks of this meeting be presented to the President for his able conduct in the chair. THE lower cl ments of (leaving building enough of these to diffus seeds of to any of all relig

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THE public advantages derivable from the education of the lower classes of society, or the practicability of teaching the elements of christianity upon a principle of neutrality as to creeds, (leaving to the ministers of the different persuasions the task of building upon the foundation thus laid,) few will now be bold enough to dispute. There was a time, indeed, when the negative of these propositions was maintained; when it was asserted, that to diffuse knowledge among the poor, would be to scatter the seeds of political evil,—to impart instruction, without reference to any ecclesiastical system, would be to sap the foundation of all religion—to make way for the prevalence of infidelity.

Happily, however, these days are gone; thanks to the spirit of inquiry which has of late years so generally prevailed, these denunciations were but short-lived; the phantoms raised by bigotry and prejudice, have fled before the light of reason; the darkness, which for a time overspread the horizon, is now softened into the more chastened ray of liberality and philanthropy; and the experience of years, instead of verifying the predictions of these (it is believed) well meaning, though misguided, men, has served but to show that all the sad vicissitudes of human affairs offer no more humbling spectacle than the "fears of the brave and the follies of the wise."

When, again, the manifold evils that spring from ignorance are considered—the misery and vice that follow in its train—the contagion of bad habits which it spreads—nay, all the crimes that swell the catalogue of guilt, which, in countless instances, it has been known to beget,—of what incalculable benefit to a community must be reckoned the institution that sets itself down (like a drop of healing oil in an ulcer) in the worst part of cites to diffuse the word of God, and the rudiments of knowledge, among the lowest of mankind; which, at a price within the reach of all but the poorest, and to them also with a very moderate assistance from their happier brethren, extends the blessings of education to the indigent of society ; which seeks to make knowledge as common as the light of the sum, by facilitating in a

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wonderful degree its acquisition; which acts towards helpless youth as a persuasive monitor to awaken the dormant capacities of their nature, and making them see and feel the delights which Providence has attached to their exercise !

The Schools lately established in this country upon the British system of education, are institutions of this description ; and it is the progress of one of these, during the third year of its existence in Montreal, that the Committee of Management are about to report to the Society, under whose auspices it was formed.

Shortly after entering upon their functions, your Committee deemed it advisable to subject the attainment of the children, attending the school to the test of a public examination. For this purpose a respectable number of Ladies and Gentlemen visited the

school, pursuant to public intimation, on the 15th of March last. The exercises commenced with reading, wherein the boys acquitted themselves to the satisfaction of all present. They were next examined minutely on geography, the different questions on the rudiments of which science, they answered with a readiness that evinced their thorough acquaintance with what they had learned. The examination then turned upon arithmetic, and was rendered very interesting by the children questioning each other in the numerical tables, and upon those of weights and measures, on which they discovered much proficiency. Specimens of writing too were exhibited, which demonstrated that in that necessary and useful art, their attainments were very respectable. The whole number of boys examined was 174; and the visitors of the school expressed their highest gratification-some of them their wonder and delight-as well at the progress of the pupils, as at the operations and arrangements of the school. Indeed, the boys discovered a proficiency in all the branches upon which they were examined, highly satisfactory to your Committee, and creditable to the teachers .- Both the assembly convened and your Committee, were gratified too, to witness the decent and orderly deportment of the pupils, and to see, that though a large portion belonged to the poorer classes of society, and were consequently but indifferently dressed, yet that their apparel (such as it was) was perfectly clean.

The female pupils also underwent examination ; but this part of the business of the day the Committee of Ladies will report. Your Committee, however, in passing, cannot help bearing testimony to the zeal and capacity of the school-mistress, Mrs. Chapman,

whose valuable services they regret the institution is about to lose. The number of boys in constant attendance upon the school is between 160 and 170; of girls there are 93.

It has been the duty of your Committee to take care that the children were enjoined to attend public worship at the different churches to which their parents belong; and your Committee

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have had the satisfaction of learning that the conduct of the boys in this important particular is exemplary.

Since the formation of the School in September 1822-short as is the period during which it has been in action, and cramped as its operations have been by many untoward circumstancesthere have been admitted into it, of boys 664, of girls 444, making a total of 1108 children, mostly of the poorer classes, educated by this branch alone, in the town of Montreal ! Is it possible, (your Committee will stop to ask) to doubt if such a thing be useful? The education of the poor is as valuable for what it prevents as for what it teaches .- A boy has remained two years at a charity school .- What would he have been doing had he not been there? What sort of habits and principles would he have contracted ?-In remote parts of the country, the question perhaps is, whether a boy is to be an unintelligent or intelligent being. There, temptations are so few that his moral and religious character will remain the same ; but in towns, and their vicinity, the alternatives are, intelligence and virtue, or ignorance and vice. In such scenes of activity, a child will do and learn something. If you do not take care that it is good, he will take care that it is evil .- When a poor lad is educated, many valuable principles of religion and morals may be fixed on his mind, which could not conveniently be taught him by any other means. At school he is under the influence of the master; for some years afterwards at home, under the influence of the parent. They have an interest in directing his newly acquired power aright, and in turning the bias of his mind to what is good ; and this at a period, which generally decides the character of the future man.

A more beautiful, a more orderly and a more affecting scene, your Committee will venture to assert, than a school upon the British system exhibits, it is hardly possible to behold. The progress of the children is rapid almost beyond belief, and evinces in the most gratifying manner, the extraordinary effects which are produced upon the human mind by the arts of cultivation.

As an evidence of this progress, your Committee will lay before you a scale of the classes as they are divided upon the record of the school.

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Of these are	Roman Catholics, Episcopal Church,	-75
	Presbyterians,	
	Total,	196

As the boys' school contains forms for no more than 143, two or three classes are always obliged to await instruction beyond the localities of the school. This inconvenience, your Committee trust, will be remedied in the spring, by the School-house which it is proposed to construct of dimensions commensurate to the demands upon the institution,

Your Committee are gratified to report, that the institution (which has been heretofore supported entirely by voluntary subscription) has shared in the munificence of, and received from, the Legislature of the country (a channel through which public opinion is best known) the most decided marks of approbation. This Honorable Body was pleased last whiter to vote a sum of £200 in aid of the funds of the school; which money having been paid to your treasurer, has been applied to the purchase of a lot of ground. The price of the ground was £230, of which £215 have been paid: the remainder has been withheld, to meet the payment of certain dues, the amount of which is not yet ascertained.

Your Committee have also much pleasure in reporting that a Society has been recently formed in England, for the laudable purpose of supplying means to educate such of the native Indians of these Colonies as have not been provided for by schools. A sum of £900 sterling, the remainder of a larger sum collected in England some years ago by the Rev. Mr. Osgood, and which has been in the hands of trustees since that time, is now at the disposal of the Society thus formed.

Your Committee, in concluding, recommend the adoption of measures calculated to give the system, whose operations during the past year they have superintended, all the efficiency of which it it susceptible, by hastening the completion of a School-house sufficiently capacious to admit of the reception of those children whom your Committee were under the painful necessity of rejecting on account of the limited extent of the present building. It is one of the advantages of this system of education, that with the increase of the school, the comparative expense of upholding it is diminished, and that one master can teach 1000 as well as 100. The contemplated building will indeed occasion some little additional expense; but when the importance and expediency of providing completely for the mental culture of youth (thus leaving parents whose children may hereafter grow up in igno1825]

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rance wholly without excuse) is considered, the expense is surely worth incurring. Did your Committee need to give any *impetus* to public benevolence in this country, it were easy for them without saying any thing of the happiness to be conferred by this extended establishment—without appealing to the just and generous feelings of the community—to appeal at once to their *sordid* principles, and to ask, whether they can possibly expect their burdens to be less, and the demands on their stores less frequent, when every day is bringing to maturity, those weeds of vice which have sprung up in the productive soil of idleness, and which must finally choke up that portion of the land from which the proprietor has taken no pains for their eradication? Then they must indeed "grow up till the harvest"—but what a harvest will that be!

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## REPORT OF THE LADIES' COMMITTEE OF THE BRI-TISH AND CANADIAN SCHOOL SOCIETY.

Those who have known the anxiety attendant on a new experiment, have slowly surmounted its obstacles, and joyfully greeted each favorable omen as it rose from the dark uncertainty around it; and those only, can fully participate in the sensations with which the friends of the British and Canadian School Society hail its third anniversary. The equipoise of a pivot is not more tremulous than the state of a society which for the first time appears to claim our aid, to excite our energies, and to interest our sympathies. To combat prejudice and incredulity, to contend with indolence and apathy, is the unenviable task of its supporters; but like oil which gives harmony to the discordant movements of a machine, a partial success produced by trifling causes, and apparently inefficient means, often imparts an impetus to the progress of a new system. Another year has attested the rapid growth and extended utility of the institution now under review. Another year has shown that he who spans the heavens can stoop to aid the imperfect benevolence of earth. Without this aid, man would be but a powerless agent in this moral world ; with it, a halo of success will encircle his efforts and accelerate his designs. Your Committee think it unnecessary to enter into a minute detail of the proceedings of the last year, as they have only been characterised by a stricter adherence to the original system, and the result has been a more marked and decided improvement in the pupils .- Those who were present at the public examination in March last, must be convinced of the unparalleled excellence of an institution, which can thus interweave a code of morality with the common branches of education, unsullied by the slightest shade of Sectarianism. The degree of knowledge evinced on this occasion, the clearness of apprehension manifested by the answers, and the eagerness with which they were given, were the source of much gratification to their auditors, and some who went merely to listen and approve, returned delighted and instructed.

The specimens of needle-work and writing, which were first exhibited, were pronounced neatly executed, and the acquaintance which the children evinced with Geography, Grammar and Arithmetic, for the time that had been devoted to these branches, was extremely satisfactory. The questions on Scriptural subjects 1825]

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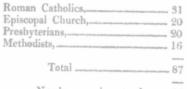
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seemed to call forth all their intelligence, and the promptitude of their replies fully demonstrated the efficacy of this simple and direct mode of imparting religious instruction. Your Committee cannot but admire that method of teaching which requires the last word or clause of a sentence to be given by the child in answer to the first part repeated by the instructor ;----an exercise of the memory and a habit of attention, are thus combined, and the one is strengthened, whilst the other is acquired.---Since October last 87 girls have been admitted.



### Number now in attendance, 93

As formerly the school has suffered much from the constant removal of families from the city, but not an instance has been known of a scholar's quitting it from dissatisfaction; two girls have gone out to service; of one of these, your Committee have been enabled to ascertain that she has been faithful to the duites of her station, and amiable in her general conduct. Your Committee trust that the institution which has hitherto held out so promising an aspect, is now established on a solid and permanent basis, yet a small cloud appears on the horizon of its future prospects; they refer to the determination of Mrs. Chapman, to resign her charge; peculiarly fitted by her talents and principles, for the task to which she has so sedulously devoted herself, and which she has so satisfactorily discharged, her loss is much to be regretted.

Though the importance of early education is a hackneyed subject, and the same remarks have been again and again repeated, till the mind listlessly assents to what the ear receives upon it; still it is to be feared that its value to the poor is yet far from being sufficiently estimated; to this we may look as the source of that tone of loftiness, or spirit of abjectness which characterises every individual of the human race,—as giving the direction to talent, the tinge to feeling, the bias to principle,—as the machine which refines and regulates the whole, the talisman which gives a brighter or darker hue to life. Often amidst the confused mass of morality which pervades the lower classes of society, a ray which has rested on the juvenile mind, may linger and brighten till it conducts the man to the sheltered haven offirm principle. Like the tree whose branches are stripped of their leaves,

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and bent and sundered by the blast, yet whose trunk stands erect and immoveable; he who is tost by the casual reverses of life, stands firm in the moral and intellectual treasures which early education bestows upon him; even the deepest dye of depravity often fails to obliterate these impressions. Your Committee regret that so few of their number have been able to fulfil the duty assigned to them, as well as the difficulty of procuring others to supply the deficiency .- What new spring shall we touch, what new inducement can we present? there is one founded in the very selfishness of human nature. It is justly said that we view with pleasure the creation of our own fancy, and delight in the results of our own industry. The farmer who looks abroad over his lands, and beholds every field bearing the marks of culture, exults in the consciousness that his hand felled the first tree and erected the first dwelling; that his own taste lies as a chart spread out before him; that it is his, not only by possession, but formation ; and we pardon, if we do not justify the natural complacency with which he surveys the work of his own hands. So in the wide waste of ignorance and vice which surrounds us, every exertion is rewarded with rich munificence, the realization of the high schemes of the statesman, the success of the author, the laurels of the conqueror, scarcely surpass that glow of feeling which is the offspring of active benevolence ; and when this is directed not merely to the personal wants and sufferings of our fellow creatures, when it takes a higher aim and imbibes a loftier spirit, by marking the mind as the object of its gratuitous attention, it then assumes an elevated rank in the class of refined gratifications. And when it witnesses the actual effects of its labours, when it beholds the knowledge of this world in connection with those principles which link man to a higher and a better being, every day infusing itself into the character, developing its beautiful and suppressing its vicious traits ; then it rises into a purity of happiness that knows no rival, and can favor no alloy. It acts on a large scale, yet it may be brought within the narrow limits of a school-room, and from that reservoir draw a deep and delightful draught for its own sustenance. Those who would first try the strength of the principle inculcated in that command of our Saviour " Look not every man on his own things but every man also on the things of others," would perhaps do well to make their first essay in this comparatively humble sphere :--even here are to be found obstacles and discouragements, but the soil which now presents so bleak and sterile an aspect, may ere long be found clothed with the deep bright verdure of moral excellence, and adorned with the fairest flowers of native intellect.

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## APPENDIX.

## SUBSCRIBERS & BENEFACTORS, M,DCCC,XXV.

The Annual Subscriptions become due on the 1st of October.

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