

# ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**MONTREAL**

**Religious Tract Society,**

AUXILIARY TO THE

**London Tract Society.**

Presented at the Annual Meeting, January 25, 1847.

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*"WHO HATH DESPISED THE DAY OF SMALL THINGS?"*

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Montreal :

PRINTED BY ROLLO CAMPBELL,  
PLACE D'ARMES HILL.

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TO BE HAD GRATIS AT THE DEPOSITORY.

—  
1847.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

SENT TO

MEMBERS

Religious Tract Society

REPORT TO THE

Religious Tract Society

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 31, 1847.

PRINTED BY HOLLIS CAMPBELL

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## Montreal Religious Tract Society.

THE Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Montreal Auxiliary Religious Tract Society, was held in the Wesleyan Church, Great St. James Street, on Monday Evening, January 25, 1847. JOSEPH WENHAM, Esq., in the Chair. The Rev. JOHN ALEXANDER engaged in prayer. Mr. JAMES MILNE read the Report.

Moved by Rev. F. BOSWORTH, M. A., seconded by Rev. J. GRIDLEY :

1. That the Report now submitted, be approved and printed under the direction of the Committee ; and that the following Gentlemen be the Office-Bearers and Committee for the ensuing year, with power to add to their number, viz. :—

HENRY VENNOR, Esquire, *Treasurer.*

Rev. J. GIRDWOOD, *Corresponding Secretary.*

Mr. JAMES MILNE, *Recording Secretary and Depository.*

### COMMITTEE.

#### MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL, resident in the City.

William Lunn.  
James Ferrier.  
James R. Orr.  
James Court.  
Henry Lyman.  
Rollo Campbell.  
Captain Maitland.

James Mills.  
Dr. Holmes.  
William C. Evans.  
D. P. Janes.  
James Roy.  
Samuel Hedge.  
Thomas Tait.

Joseph Wenham.  
David Smith.  
Charles Collins.  
William F. Grasset.  
P. Howard.  
A. F. Sabine.

Moved by Rev. CHAS. CHURCHILL, seconded by Rev. J. GIRDWOOD :

2. That it is a pleasing circumstance to learn that the Tract distribution has experienced considerable increase in one part of this City ; and we hope a greater interest may be taken, and a more extensive distribution secured, by the active co-operation of all the friends of this Society.

Moved by Rev. M. RICHEY, M. A., seconded by Rev. H. WILKES, M. A. :

3. That the funds of this Society are not only inadequate to the accomplishment of any new and important object, but are insufficient to sustain that which has always been the particular feature in its operations—a gratuitous distribution of its publications—thus shewing a great disproportion between the interest taken and the approval expressed in reference to its principles, character, and object.

Moved by Rev. R. M'GILL, seconded by Rev. J. M. CRAMP, M. A. :

4. That we regard with undiminished gratification the continued success with which the efforts of the Religious Tract Society are attended, and rejoice in the hope that, in this work of faith and labor of love, now extending to every part of the world, all those connected with it will persevere until the great object shall be attained, and its publications are found diffusing light and knowledge in every quarter of the globe.

A Collection was taken up amounting to £9 14s. 6d.

## LAWS AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

### MONTREAL RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.

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1. That this Society be denominated *The Montreal Religious Tract Society, Auxiliary to the Religious Tract Society* in London, and that the Tracts circulated by this Society be chiefly those published by the Parent Institution.
2. That a Subscriber of One Dollar per annum, or upwards, be a Member of this Society, and be entitled to receive Tracts, upon application for them *within the year*, to the amount of one-half his annual subscription.
3. That one-fourth of the funds of this Society, if practicable, be annually transmitted to the Parent Institution, in aid of its funds for circulating Religious Tracts throughout the world.
4. That the Tracts purchased by Subscribers or others of the Society, be paid for on delivery.
5. That the business of this Society shall be conducted by a Committee, consisting of fifteen members, together with a Treasurer and Secretaries, who shall be chosen at an Annual General Meeting of this Society; and that three Members constitute a quorum.
6. That all resident Clergymen be Members of the Committee, *ex-officio*.
7. That the Committee shall have power to add to their number; and shall appoint a Depositary and a Collector or Collectors; and shall hold their meetings monthly, or oftener, as may be required.
8. That an Annual Public Meeting of this Society shall be held, when a Report of its proceedings and the general state of its affairs shall be presented to the Subscribers, and Officers and Committee chosen for the ensuing year.

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## ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

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THE Committee of the Montreal Religious Tract Society, in laying their annual statement before the friends of Tract distribution, would begin by saying, that they have deeply felt the little interest which the operations of this Society excite in the minds of the members of the Protestant churches of the City. Is it because the work the Tract Society has undertaken is unimportant? or that the publications it is its privilege to distribute, are of doubtful character or tendency? neither of these suppositions can be admitted. The fact, that the declaration of the way of a sinner's acceptance with God through the atonement of Jesus Christ, is contained in the smallest publication of this Society, is enough to commend it to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. The importance of sending abroad the truths of the Gospel in this form, admits of neither doubt nor disputation. The many proofs of the Divine favour vouchsafed to the instrumentality here used, in bringing souls out of nature's darkness into the marvellous light of the gospel, is sufficient to warrant its procedure, and to stimulate afresh the zeal of its conductors. These things being stated, it may be asked, how is it, then, that the Committee Meetings of the Society are so poorly attended? that so many of the districts of the Tract Association are without distributors, and the funds necessary for the proper working of the Society so scantily supplied? Indeed, collectors for

this purpose cannot be obtained. For these reasons the Society languishes for want of aid;—its usefulness is diminished, and the opportunity of bringing the knowledge of the way of salvation within the reach of thousands denied them.

In proceeding to give the details of the transactions of the year, your Committee begin as usual with the

#### IMPORTATIONS.

The value of Books and Tracts imported this year, including two Parcels from the United States, is...	£252	3	2
Bought in the Province.....	25	6	10
Returned from Depositories in the country, &c.....	12	6	11
Add to which grants from the Parent Society of two Parcels of Tracts.....	33	6	8
Grants from Rev. Messrs. Willoughby and Wilkes.....	6	0	3
	£329	3	10

#### OPERATIONS.

The Cash Sales from the Depository amount to.....	£163	10	3
The Credit Sales amount to.....	130	10	5
The Gratuitous Distribution to.....	70	11	9
The number of Publications received into the Depository during the year amount to.....	90,889		
The total issues to.....	72,327		

The particulars of the issues will be furnished in a tabular form in the Appendix.

#### THE AGENT.

At the period of last Report your Committee were unable to say what would be the result of the attempt of this Society, in conjunction with the Canada Sunday School Union, to employ an Agent.

As far as this Society is concerned, this has not come up to our wishes; a comparatively small number of books (218 volumes) have been sold, 5746 Tracts and children's books have been distributed, and this is the whole fruits of our share of the Agency, at an expense considerably exceeding the value of the books sold.

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### GRATUITOUS DISTRIBUTION.

Under this head there is a considerable increase on the preceding year. To the Montreal Association for the Distribution of Religious Tracts has been furnished :—

English Tracts.....	31,623
French Tracts, (and 21 Gaelic).....	2,752
	34,375

The General Hospital, the Jail, the Military Hospital, and the Shipping, have been supplied with Tracts. In one of the Hospital's there has been an interesting case of conversion, the particulars of which will appear in the Report of the Association for the Distribution of Religious Tracts.

### GRANTS RECEIVED.

As on many former occasions, we have the pleasure of again recording the munificence of the RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY, LONDON. With our Spring importation we received the handsome donation of £20 sterling value in Tracts, and, with our Fall order, Tracts to the value of £10 sterling additional, making a total of 28,666 Tracts, or 254,022 pages.

From the Rev. Mark Willoughby we have received a donation of French and Gaelic Tracts, to the value of £5 3s. 10d. currency; also, from the Rev. H. Wilkes, English Tracts to the value of 16s. 5d.

By these seasonable supplies we have been enabled to meet the demands on the Depository to some extent, but the gratuitous distribution of the year will exceed the value of the grants received to the amount of £30 4s. 11d. currency.

#### THE DEPOSITORY.

The location of the Depository has been changed from M'Gill Street to No. 6 St. Joseph Street, Recollet Suburbs, where it is conveniently situated, in connexion, as heretofore, with the Montreal Auxiliary Bible Society and the Canada Sunday School Union.

#### RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY, LONDON.

In directing the attention of the friends of truth to the mighty movements of the Parent Society, they are pointed to one of the most important instrumentalities for religious effort of the present day. It pours out its streams of divine truth in about 96 different languages, and to almost every part of the earth; in forms and dress highly attractive; in size and matter suitable to every age, rank, and condition in life; embracing food for every degree of mental capacity, from the lisping infant to the sage. The numbers in which its publications issue from the press and spread over the world are immense. The issues for the year ending March 31, 1846, were 17,571,413, being 1,800,266 more than the preceding year, thereby shewing a constant and increasing demand.

During the year, 245 new publications have been added to the Society's list, 429 Libraries have been issued at reduced prices, to Day Schools, Sunday Schools, destitute districts, Union Poor Houses, &c.; independent of Libraries sent to the Colonies and to Foreign Lands.

Amongst the new publications of the year several of the "Monthly Volumes" have appeared. This is a spirited effort on the part of the Managers of the

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Society's affairs, by which works of great excellence, religiously treated, are produced at stated periods, and at astonishingly low prices.

Several valuable works in history have been brought out, and others are about to appear. The present age is under great obligations to this Society, for its gigantic efforts to oppose error in every form. The entire income of the Society has been £56,110 13s. 8d.; its expenditure £53,608 0s. 3d.; the value of the grants by the Committee £8,020 13s. 11d., being £1,902 13s. 9d. more than the free contributions received from the public. The Committee would now present a few extracts from the Report of the Parent Society, which give the most delightful evidence that the blessing of God is with the Society. The first is from the Report of the Christian Instructive Society:—

“THE ANXIOUS INQUIRER.”

A woman of very doubtful character, through the blessing of God on the persevering efforts of a female visitor of this Association, was brought to a state of reflection, and induced to read Mr. James's ANXIOUS INQUIRER, and to attend the ministry of our esteemed pastor. She was for a long time under deep conviction of sin, and suffered most severely from mental anxiety, and the persecutions of an ungodly husband. At length she has been found sitting at the feet of Jesus, in her right mind, and has been received into church-fellowship; and is now, it is believed, literally groaning for the conversion of her relatives.—(*Bromley.*)

From the Report of the Manchester and Salford Town Mission:—

TWO SWEARERS CONVERTED BY MEANS OF A TRACT.

A gentleman, resident in Longton, employed a Christian man to circulate religious tracts. The following statement, shewing the usefulness of his labours, has been given:—

About six months ago, in the course of his interesting employment, he called upon a poor, afflicted female; he immediately entered into conversation on religious subjects, and was pleased to find she was not a stranger to the hope of the Gospel. She gave him to understand that she was the subject of painful trials, and had to suffer much from the violence of a “wicked, swearing husband.” To use my inform-

ant's own words: "Before I left her, I presented her with a tract, called **THE SWEARER'S PRAYER**; but she had no hope that her husband would receive it. I then directed her to lay it in his way, that he might meet with it by accident; thinking with her, that he might pay more attention to it than if presented in the ordinary way." She acted according to the direction given, and, in a short time, the tract met the husband's eye. He read it over, and appeared agitated; he read it over several times, and became greatly alarmed; he saw his own spiritual character so strikingly set forth, that a deep anxiety for his spiritual interests, and an ardent desire for salvation, were awakened. In the midst of these impressions he sent for a companion in iniquity. They both read the tract together, and it produced similar results in the second instance. The awful statements of that tract were like "a nail fastened in a sure place." From that time they began to attend a place of worship; they yielded to the impressions of Divine grace; and both became united to a Christian Society, in which they remain.

May the trophies of the cross be multiplied daily, and may the earth soon be filled with the Divine glory!

#### A DRUNKARD CONVERTED.

One of the London City Missionaries states the following fact:— "R— became acquainted with a dissolute set of men, and from that hour prosperity and happiness left his home. His business became neglected, his children had ruin staring them in the face, and his affectionate and faithful partner was frequently found bathed in tears at one, two, and three o'clock in the morning. Many ladies and gentlemen, interested in the welfare of the family, remonstrated with and exhorted him 'to turn from his wickedness, and live;' and none were more assiduous in this good work than the pious and excellent clergyman of the parish in which he lives; but all to no purpose, and the clergyman had to depart to the East Indies as a church missionary, without seeing any reformation in him. The time was, however, coming, when a tract from this mission was to be blessed by God, not only to the outward reformation of the man, but to his spiritual enlightenment. I had long felt for him and his interesting family, and I resolved to send him the tract, **THE WAY TO BE HEALTHY AND HAPPY**. He knew not from whence it came; but he kept it in his pocket, and read it at every meal. Many inquiries did he make, and many tears did he shed over it; he 'wondered who could send it.' It mattered not; God sent it, and he has eminently blessed its perusal. R— first became outwardly reformed; he is now pious, and the sisters of his late beloved pastor are witnesses of the interesting change. The moral wilderness has budded and blossomed as the rose; and he whose delight was once in the song of the drunkard and the oath of the profane, now reads and kneels, and prays with his 'healthy and happy' family."

#### BROAD SHEETS IN THE WAITING-ROOM OF A PHYSICIAN.

A physician in London, a zealous friend of the Society, has the walls of his waiting-room for poor people covered with its broad sheets. It is truly gratifying and encouraging to state, that by this means, some years since, a poor abandoned woman was brought to

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see herself a sinner, and fled to the cross for pardon and purity; and recently, a poor old man acknowledged on his death-bed, that he was first led to reflection, to attend the means of grace, and to embrace the Saviour, from reading these little publications.

#### THE POOR OLD CORN MILLER.

As two of us were going into the country, we came up with a decent-looking old man, resting himself by the way, as he had got a hurt in his foot. We were at once known to each other from his having lodged in the Vagrant Office for a week on account of being unable to walk. On entering into conversation, he said, that it was the good providence of God that took him to that place, for he had there learned something he had never known before. He wept as he spoke, and taking out a parcel of tracts which he had carefully preserved, he said, "Here is something I can read by the way. I shall make a book of them, and they will be of great use to me at a future day." Looking at us, he said, "Does not the Lord say, 'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord,' etc. And again 'Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.'" We gave him suitable advice parting. He was then leaving town, so that we are not likely to meet with him any more. He wept as we shook his hand, and expressed his hope that we may meet again in heaven.

#### FROM A CLERGYMAN NEAR HUDDERSFIELD.

I wish to bear testimony to the benefit of one of the publications of your invaluable Institution. . . Having sole charge of this district of two thousand souls, I have spent much of my time in visiting from house to house, and scattering here and there those little messengers of mercy issued by the Tract Society. A few months ago, I called at a house where there was a young man in a declining state of health, and who, with his mother, appeared to take my solemn warnings in rather a light and careless manner; yet God was pleased to bless the warning, and strike into the young man's mind a solemn thought of his unfitness for the death to which he was fast advancing. By lending to him *THE SINNER'S FRIEND*, and by daily visits to him for prayer and reading the Bible, his convictions ripened into contrition and deep penitence. But God blessed the tract in a marked manner in comforting and consoling his mind, particularly that page upon repentance. He became, indeed, "a new man." Sorrow gave place to an ardent desire to learn of his state by nature, and the blessed provision of mercy made by the gospel of Christ. He died a few weeks ago; his whole soul was full of love, and peace, and joy. His worn and decayed countenance beamed with delight, when, even with tears, he gave on his dying bed the tract which he loved so much, to his poor and aged mother, with the expressed wish for her to keep and read it often. He died in the presence of his friends; many sighs, tears, prayers, and resolutions of amendment were then made, which eternity alone will tell the result and effect of. The pious end of this young man was much talked of among the neighbouring families; and an infidel of the lowest and vilest character, one who had often laughed at the Bible when I read it in his hearing, became

solemnly and deeply convinced that there was something real in the religion he so much despised. At his own request, I read to him portions of *THE SINNER'S FRIEND*, and the New Testament, and earnestly besought God to bless them to his mind. This man became for a long time so cast down by a view of his own heart, present danger, and past character, that I feared much for several weeks that God had given him up to the way of his own heart. He was fast declining by a rapid consumption. His objections to Christianity were all dissolved, and his doubts about hell taken away. Groans, sighs, tears, and deep ardent prayers took up the place of his former vile curses and oaths. I never in my ministerial career have met with such a monument of Divine grace; the lion was turned into a lamb, the monster into a tender-hearted child; he often expressed himself in a pleasing manner. "I always feel," he said at one time, "easy and happy after you pray for me; for I fear God will scarcely hear my prayer." I have reason to believe that the chief portion of his time (after he was confined to his bed by his disease) was spent in crying to God for mercy, for Christ's sake; and mercy indeed was given. Peace, and pardon, and love were shed over his miserable soul, and he became a monument of God's grace, such as I have seldom seen. Several times he said, "God has made you and the reading a great blessing to my soul." I asked him once what he prayed for? and he said, "that God would be pleased for Christ's sake to give him a new heart." I was by his bed-side a few hours before he died; he bade me farewell, and pressed me with his poor withered hand, saying, with the fervency of death itself, "God has made you a blessing to me; I only now wish to die; I have solid comfort and peace through my Saviour Jesus Christ." He died truly happy.

FROM THE SPEECH OF JOSEPH TRITTON, ESQ., AT THE  
SOCIETY'S LAST ANNIVERSARY.

I was conversing with a party who holds a very responsible situation, and stands very high in the confidence and esteem of those with whom he is connected, and he told me that, upwards of thirty years ago, when this Society was very different in extent from what it now is, he chanced to see in the desk of a companion a packet of your publications. Curiosity prompted the one to ask, and Christian readiness led the other immediately to surrender, that packet, in which was a solemn, striking tract on eternity. That tract was blessed to his conversion, and now, though incessantly and arduously employed during the week, and past the vigour of youth and early manhood, I do not believe there could be found a sabbath-school teacher more diligent, more regular, more devoted than he. And he told me further, what I am sure this meeting will rejoice to hear, that, when from time to time he revisits his native place, he finds tracts which he distributed more than twenty years ago, still preserved and bound up together, and circulated through its cottage homes. Here is surely encouragement for the Tract Society to thank God, and take courage, and go forward.

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"THE SABBATH-BREAKER RECLAIMED."

One case I wish to name. A young man, a butcher in this place, was in the habit of attending my ministry for some time, but kept his shop open on part of the Lord's Day; but a tract that was left at his house by a friend, made such a deep impression upon his mind, that when his wife returned home she found him in tears. Soon after, he was made happy in the Lord—closed his shop on the Lord's day, and has since become a member of the church, and a teacher in the sabbath-school; and I believe that he is walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comforts of the Holy Ghost. This case I am sure will delight those men of God that form the Committee of the Tract Society.

"THE HISTORY OF ELLEN."

Miss M. A. S. formed an acquaintance with an ungodly young man; little by little it was perceived that it would lead her to neglect the means of grace, if not to give up altogether attending to Divine things. Every means were taken to bring her to see that misery must result from such a union; but she could not break off the correspondence. She now absented herself from the table of the Lord, and was seldom seen in the house of God. Mrs. F. calling one day to see her, she told her how unhappy she felt, and assigned as a reason the forming an acquaintance with one who was not a Christian. Mrs. F. put into her hands that little gem of a publication, THE HISTORY OF ELLEN, the reading of which so powerfully impressed her mind, that she resolved to return to the path of duty and religion again. To God be all the glory.

AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY.

This Society continues to prosecute with energy the cultivation of the great field which Providence has assigned to it. During the past year it has issued 73 new publications in seven languages, including a number of valuable volumes; its circulation for last year has been 5,153,898. Its gratuitous issues amount to 30,705,246 pages, value \$20,470 16, making a very considerable increase on those of the preceding year. Its income from all sources has been \$153,916 16, of which \$71,132 16 were in free contributions. The expenditure has been \$153,916 16.

The proportion which the donations of this Society bear to its entire income (nearly one-half) is very much to the credit of our American friends: it shews

that they are alive to the value of the press, and their zeal for the diffusion of truth to counteract so much that is pernicious in the light literature of the present day, is worthy of all praise.

The system of Colportage (of the Society's publications) is still carried on with vigour: in five years *six million* of volumes were sold by this means! It is delightful to contemplate such a distribution; to think that the works of Bunyan, Baxter, Doddridge, Flavel, Edwards, Abbott, &c. &c., are so freely scattered over the land, is sufficient to cheer the hearts of the desponding, and to bid them "bless God and take courage."

UPPER CANADA RELIGIOUS TRACT AND BOOK SOCIETY.

Our Sister Society in Toronto continues to prosper. The issues are increasing year by year, as the fine portion of the Province where its operations are carried on expands in wealth and population. May its efforts to diffuse precious truth be blessed of God.

Its issues for the past year have been—

Books sold .....	14,780
Tracts sold .....	16,085
Gratuitous distribution .....	29,101
Sermons .....	8
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	59,974
Fourteen Libraries containing 1080 vols. ....	1,080
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Total .....	61,054

Being 3846 beyond the issues of last year.

BIBLES AND TESTAMENTS WITH THE SCOTCH VERSION OF THE PSALMS, &c.

The supply of those Scriptures has become a necessary and rather important part of our operations. The number imported this year is greater than on

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any former occasion, the sale they have met with encourages still farther additions to the orders; and also the hope that so many copies of God's Holy Word may be made effectual, through the operation of the Divine Spirit, to the enlightening of many amongst the respectable denominations of Christians who use these versions. The number of Bibles and Testaments of the above kinds that have been imported this year is 1901, the particulars of which will be found in the Table in its proper place.

#### TRACT DISTRIBUTING ASSOCIATION.

This noble band of self-denying labourers in the arduous and often thankless work of distributing from house to house the messengers of sovereign mercy, continue to discharge their duties with zeal and fidelity. We have pleasure in bearing testimony to the devotedness of those engaged in the work; at the same time, we regret to say that several of the districts have been vacant the greater part of the year. But we rejoice to say, that our Wesleyan friends have organised among themselves a Branch Association, and have undertaken the Quebec Suburbs as their portion of the work. May the Lord prosper them in the undertaking, and may "their zeal provoke very many." As a first-fruits, this infant Branch has paid into our treasury two pounds ten shillings.

The Report of the Association, which is of an encouraging character, will be printed in the Appendix of our Report.

**FINANCES.**

The income of the Society from all all sources has been	£332	5	10
Subscriptions and Donations .....	39	3	11
Remittances from Branch Societies, Agents, &c. ....	119	11	8

The principal items of expenditure during the year have been—

Remitted Religious Tract Society, London, for publications imported .....	134	14	5
Remitted Francis Orr & Sons, Glasgow, for Bibles and Testaments with Psalms, &c. ....	93	9	1
Remitted American Tract Society .....	19	3	4

**CONCLUSION.**

In drawing this Report to a close, your Committee would devoutly desire to give glory to God for some good effected through the instrumentality of the tracts distributed under their auspices. We are permitted now and then to behold some fruits arising from the seed sown; much more good, we have no doubt, has been done than we shall ever know of in this world; but we cherish the hope, that at the day when the secrets of all hearts shall be revealed, and that which was hidden shall be brought to light, many will be found clothed in the garment of the Redeemer's righteousness, who have been brought to the exercise of faith in the precious "blood of the Lamb" through this feeble, and it may be much despised, means of grace. Believing as we do, that the truth of God is "mighty to the pulling down of strong holds," and that the knowledge of the name of JESUS shall cover "the earth as the waters cover the sea;" that although we are called to mourn over the lukewarmness of some—the indifference of others—of whom better things might be expected; and to contend against the corruptions of the human heart, and the striving of the man of sin; yet we would bear in mind the fact, "that greater is he that is that for us than all they that be against us."

(Signed,) HENRY VENNOR, Treasurer.

£332 5 10

£332 5 10



JAMES MILNE'S ACCOUNT TO THE BRITISH BIBLE SOCIETY

**STOCK ACCOUNT.**

**DR.**

	£	s.	d.
To amount due Religious Tract Society, London	219	17	9
To amount due Francis Orr & Sons, Glasgow, for Bibles, &c.	104	1	9
To amount due American Tract Society	9	18	8
To amount due Canada Sunday School Union	9	9	4
To Stock Account	239	5	11
	£582		13 5

**CONTRA.**

**CR.**

	£	s.	d.
By Books and Tracts in the Depository, per Inventory	362	14	9
By amount due by Branch Societies, Agents, and others	219	13	3
By Cash in the hands of the Treasurer	0	5	5
	£582		13 5

(Signed,) **JAMES MILNE,**  
*Depository.*

JAMES MILNE,  
*Depository.*

*Statement of Publications received and issued by the Montreal Auxiliary Religious Tract Society,  
from 1st January to 31st December, 1846.*

	ENGLISH.		FRENCH.	
	Received during the Year	On hand, 31st Dec. 1846.	Received during the Year	On hand, 31st Dec. 1846.
Tracts and Sermons.	48310	6665	10935	3913
Hand Bills.	69667	3800	3703	3825
Broad Sheets.	117977	10465	14638	7738
32mo. gilt edge.	..	711	200	94
Select Sermons.	61	513	6	1612
32mo. Children's Books.	128	..	4398	773
18mo. Rewards.	8176	4614	1658	21
Bound Volumes.	802	214	773	1529
64mo Series.	1182	1440	645	1629
Periodicals.	290	361	35	..
Children's Tracts.	365	..	4363	128
Gaelic Tracts.	3200	410	14124	3247
Tracts.	10935	3913	125	80
Hand Bills.	3703	3825	76	14
Bound Books.	14638	7738	200	94
32mo. Children's Books.	200	94	4398	773
Edinburgh Bibles.	..	27	35	645
Edinburgh Testaments.	200	67	4363	128
Tracts for the Blind.	..	29	29	21
<b>TOTAL.</b>	<b>89170</b>	<b>90889</b>	<b>107732</b>	<b>72327</b>

**JAMES MILNE,**  
*Depository.*

# SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS IN MONTREAL.

<i>Collected by Mr. W. C. EVANS.</i>		<i>Collected by Mrs. WOODBURY and</i>	
Joseph Savage ...	£1 0 0	<i>Miss DUCLOS in Recollet and</i>	
A. Savage ...	0 10 0	<i>St. Antoine Suburbs.</i>	
J. Keller ...	0 5 0	Mrs. T. M. Taylor... £0	5 0
Henderson Brothers	0 5 0	Mrs. B. Lyman ...	0 5 0
J. W. Redpath ...	0 5 0	Mrs. Morrison ...	0 5 0
Tait, Fowler & Co.	0 10 0	Mrs. Hutchinson ...	0 5 0
Small sums ...	0 5 7½	Mrs. Burns ...	0 5 0
Mr. Willoughby ...	1 0 0	Miss Young ...	0 2 6
A. Hamilton ...	0 5 0	A Friend... ..	0 2 6
S. J. Lyman ...	0 10 0	Mrs. C. Fitts ...	0 2 6
G. Hagar... ..	0 5 0	Mrs. Peck ... ..	0 2 6
C. Freeland ... ..	0 10 0	Mrs. Thomas Tait ...	0 2 6
W. C. Evans (second)	0 5 0	Mrs. A. Hamilton ...	0 2 6
<hr/>		Mrs. Norman S. Frost	0 2 6
<i>Collections by Mrs.</i>		George B. Muir, Esq.	0 2 6
<i>Woodbury and Miss</i>		Mrs. Wilkes ... ..	0 2 6
Duclos ... ..	4 2 6	Mrs. W. A. Wilkes	0 2 6
<hr/>		Miss Lyman ... ..	0 2 6
<i>Subscriptions made at last Anni-</i>		Mrs. David Ferguson	0 2 6
<i>versary.</i>		Mrs. Gordon ... ..	0 2 6
E. C. Tuttle ... ..	1 5 0	Mr. Newcombe ...	0 1 3
R. Campbell ... ..	1 0 0	Mrs. A. Fitts ... ..	0 1 3
L. Russell ... ..	1 5 0	Mrs. Lawley ... ..	0 1 3
James Cooper... ..	1 0 0	A Friend... ..	0 1 3
A. M'Donald... ..	0 5 0	Mr. R. Lawley ...	0 1 3
John Leeming ...	1 5 0	Miss M'Jane ... ..	0 1 3
T. E. Woodbury ...	1 5 0	A Friend... ..	0 1 3
R. Le'ham ... ..	1 5 0	Mrs. W. Ross ... ..	0 1 3
A Friend to the Tract		Mrs. Fisher ... ..	0 1 3
case ... ..	1 5 0	Mrs. Lapelletrie ...	0 1 3
James Thomson, La-		Mrs. Montgomerie ...	0 1 3
prairie ... ..	0 10 0	Mrs. Rodd ... ..	0 1 3
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<i>Collected by Mr. J. MILLS.</i>		Mrs. Sculthorpe ...	0 1 3
Mrs. Muir ... ..	0 10 0	Mrs. M. H. Seymour	0 1 3
J. R. Orr ... ..	0 15 0	Mrs. Perkins ... ..	0 1 3
H. Lyman ... ..	0 5 0	Mrs. John E. Mills	0 1 3
R. Anderson ... ..	0 10 0	Mrs. Matchitt... ..	0 1 3
James Mills ... ..	0 5 0	Mrs. M'Dowall ...	0 1 3
J. Holland ... ..	0 5 0	Mr. H. Irish ... ..	0 1 3
B. Symn ... ..	0 5 0	Small sums ... ..	0 2 8
J. Birks ... ..	0 10 0		
D. Fraser ... ..	0 10 0		
Joseph Wenham ...	1 0 0		

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James Mil  
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R. Craik  
Collection  
Meeting  
Dr. M'Di  
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J. Ferrier  
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Geo. Kerr  
Rev. R. L

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John Lloy  
Joseph Sav  
J. Barnar  
P. Murph  
Miss E. P  
Mrs. Dr. C  
S. Hedge  
Mrs. Carr  
Joseph Lee  
George Ker  
Rev. W.  
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Rev. D. ...  
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# EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MONTREAL ASSOCIATION

FOR

**THE DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS TRACTS.**

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AGAIN our Anniversary is at hand—to the man of the world a matter of little moment; and it would appear, that even with the religious community, the efforts of the members of this Association to promote the eternal welfare of their fellow-beings, are almost undeserving their notice. But we know and are persuaded that the work is the Lord's, and with the smile of Heaven upon our labours (which we rejoice to be enabled to state we have enjoyed during the year), we can estimate the favour of man at its proper value, and "endure all things, as seeing him who is invisible." Though the proceedings of the Tract Distributor may now appear in no striking light, yet, by the Divine favour, the influence he exerts will extend to that period when the heavens and the earth shall be no more, and time, with all its concerns and delusions, lost in the vastness of eternity. How encouraging is the thought, that in the multitude of the redeemed around the throne of the Eternal, many there will be, who will trace their first inclination heavenward, to the perusal of the

Tracts distributed by this Association. "Therefore comfort ye one another with these words."

The result of the distribution in the City and Suburbs, during the past year, is as follows:—

English Tracts.....	32,700
Handbills.....	1,573
French Tracts.....	2,764
Gælic do .....	20
	<hr/>
Total .....	37,057

A great increase will be perceived in the distribution of the past year, in comparison with that of the year preceding, owing to the more efficient plan of distributing at present adopted, and to a more faithful discharge of their duty on the part of the Distributors.

Each District (the City and Suburbs being divided into six) is thoroughly visited at least once a month, and a tract left at every house where it will be received. The Distributors regret they can report but little success with the Roman Catholic population, there being few of that persuasion who can be induced to take the Tracts, from the influence of their priesthood, whose opposition still continues unabated. The number of those connected with the Association who speak French is very small, and without Distributors who understand that language, we cannot expect to do much good with the Canadians. Are there no young men, conversant with the French language, who will lend their assistance in this important work?

We have again to record our sincere thanks to the "Montreal Auxiliary Tract Society," for their continued gratuitous supply of the Tracts distributed by this Association. This year, however, they have exceeded their former kindness, in permitting us to

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select from the catalogues of the London and American Tract Societies such Tracts as were considered best suited for distribution in this neighbourhood, and ordering of those selected to a very large amount, for the special use of the Association. The public, who reap the benefit of this liberality on the part of the Montreal Auxiliary, will we trust respond to it in the same spirit, and which can be shown by this year doubling the usual receipts of that Society.

The following interesting narrative of the conversion of a soldier in the Military Hospital, from the reading of a Tract, was received with the October Reports. It was drawn up by the Hospital Serjeant, Mr. Wilkinson, at the request of the Distributors in the Hospital.

"Private W. S.—, being ill with fever, was admitted into the Military Hospital early in October. The first Sabbath he was in Hospital, two Distributors (one a converted Canadian) came round as usual with Tracts, and as they passed through the wards put one in his hand, which had these very solemn words for its heading, 'This may be your last Sabbath.' To a person in his situation, nothing could be more pointed or appropriate. He took up the Tract to read, but no sooner did his eye rest upon the above words, than his hand fell powerless upon his bed, to use his own words, 'They struck me like a thunderbolt.' A sudden trembling seized his frame; the example and admonitions of a pious father—his Sabbath-school instructions, and early impressions—all rushed upon his memory with a force that could not be resisted or described. He thought, 'If this is to be my last Sabbath, I am lost! My soul is lost!' It may readily be supposed that whilst the Spirit of God was thus powerfully operating, he was the subject of emotions that could not easily be concealed. He requested the surgeon to have him removed to a ward by himself, which was kindly granted. As it is my custom to converse with the patients on serious subjects at fit opportunities, and being aware of his case, I endeavoured to point him to the sinner's Friend and Advocate, assuring him of the sufficiency of the atonement to meet his case, and of God's willingness, by virtue of that atonement, to save him then. We engaged in prayer, and from his deep sighs, penitential tears and fervent responses, I had no doubt of his sincerity, but was led to hope that the hour of his redemption drew nigh; although upon this occasion he received no joy, yet his awful forebodings of coming wrath were in a measure subdued, and he began to exercise hope in the mercy of God. Thus he continued to plead with his Maker for three days, now and then reading his little Tract, which he held in his hand day and night until it went to pieces. But deliverance was at hand;

whilst we were earnestly engaged with God in prayer, with hearts and eyes uplifted to the mercy seat, the Sun of Righteousness arose with healing in his wings, the clouds were dispersed, and the new-born soul sweetly praised the God of his salvation.

As one proof of the reality of this work, I would mention, that no sooner was he made a partaker of God's saving grace, than he sent for his 'comrade,' and besought him to give up sin and seek the Lord."

We may remark, that from his recovery to the present time, the soldier above referred to, has continued "steadfast in the faith," notwithstanding the opposition and ridicule of those who knew him as he had been in his days of thoughtlessness.

What a remarkable proof is here presented of the efficacy of Tract distribution in turning sinners from the error of their ways. May it have the effect of inciting the Distributors to redoubled diligence in this work, and "in due season they shall reap if they faint not."

A change of great importance was effected late in the year in the Quebec Suburb District; that District, from Dalhousie Square, having been constituted a Branch of the Association, and has been given up to a Society formed in connexion with the Wesleyan Church in that part of the City, under the following circumstances:—Several members of that Church having united to form a Tract Society independent of this Association, for special effort in that quarter; it was represented to them, that unpleasant interferences would take place, with two societies, having the same object in view, labouring in the same neighbourhood. Accordingly, application was made by those who were about to form the new Society, through their minister, to have the whole of the Quebec Suburb assigned to them, and to admit the contemplated Society as a Branch of the Association. The application was favourably received, and the District, with limits as above, assigned to the appli-

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cants—the Military Hospital not to be included. The Tracts used are the same as are distributed by the Association. A monthly report is to be given of their proceedings, and their members have the privilege of attending the meetings of the Association. It will thus be perceived, that in reality there is but little change in the position of the Association as regards that part of the City. The chief consideration by which we were influenced, in giving up the exclusive control of that District, was, that it would have been unjust to deprive those living there of a more satisfactory and efficient distribution, than we could possibly accomplish with our limited number of assistants.

That the new Society works well, the following Report will abundantly testify:—

“QUEBEC SUBURB BRANCH, JANUARY, 1847.

This Branch commenced operations on the 13th November last, and since that period 593 families have been visited weekly by 31 Distributors, and 2648 Tracts have been circulated.

A meeting is held every Friday evening, at which the Distributors exchange their Tracts and make their reports. It is matter of devout thankfulness to Almighty God that we are enabled to record, that their humble efforts have been crowned with no small measure of success. Thirteen children have been gathered into Sabbath schools, and twenty persons persuaded to attend Church, of whom are five hopeful conversions.

The success that has thus far attended the labours of the Distributors in this section of the City, has been truly encouraging. In general, the Tracts are received thankfully, and the Distributors resolve, in prayerful dependance on the Father of all mercies, to persevere in this glorious work.”

There are several matters in this Report deserving of our special notice. The plan of simultaneous weekly distribution throughout the District, is we think most excellent; but one, which from our paucity of numbers, we have as yet been unable to undertake. We perceive, also, that the “loan system” has been adopted by the Quebec Suburb

Branch; a plan that we were compelled to give up, after a lengthened trial, from the same cause as prevented our distributing weekly. The time spent in looking for the Tract to be exchanged was found to be so great, that but a very limited distribution could be made on the Sabbath. We hope, however, by the accession of new members, soon to be enabled again to adopt the loan system, and to carry on a regular weekly distribution through the whole of the Districts. When it is considered, that for the supply of this large City and Suburbs with Tracts, we have no more Distributors than is found necessary for the proper performance of the work in the Quebec Suburb by the new Society, some idea may be formed of the disadvantages we labour under.

We want assistance; but if ministers and their people prefer engaging in Tract distribution in connexion with their several Churches, we will not object to their so doing. It matters little to us whether those who labour in this work are immediately under the control of the Association or not, so that the duty be faithfully performed. If the ministers will not support us, let them take the work into their own hands, and ensure a faithful Tract distribution for the City. It cannot surely be expected that twenty or thirty individuals, no matter with what zeal they may be possessed, or how diligently soever they may labour, are sufficient for carrying on this work in a proper manner. We hope there are still amongst us many whole-souled Christians, who can unite in a cause like this, without its being under the surveillance, or in connexion with any particular denomination. Let such, then, cast in their lot with us, and assist in our Catholic Crusade against the powers of darkness.

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The most pleasing part of the Report of the new Branch is, that already five conversions have been incidentally the result of their labours in that section. In a single month, so many "brands plucked from the burning," through the instrumentality of Tract distribution. "To God be all the glory."

We have now for several years advocated the establishment of a City Mission in Montreal, through this, the only means of our communication with the public; but as yet we regret to see that no action whatever has been taken towards commencing that undertaking. How trifling would be the sum necessary to support a single missionary—five or six pounds from each congregation would more than suffice for that purpose. Will nothing be done in this matter? Its importance and usefulness cannot be questioned. Will the Protestant ministers of the City not exert themselves, and agitate the subject? To the decision of the "Canada Evangelical Alliance" we commit the question.

Although at the risk of being set down as departing from our sphere, in touching upon subjects with which, as an Association for Tract distribution, we may be supposed to have no connexion, yet we cannot close this Report, without expressing our fervent hope, that the "Asylum for Female Servants out of Place" (the necessity for which was shewn so forcibly in the extracts from the Monthly Reports of the Distributors, published in our last Report) will not be overlooked by a benevolent Christian people; but that the safety of those who contribute so much to the general happiness of society will meet with becoming solicitude.

Until the close of the last century, when the true missionary spirit began to be felt in the Mother

Country, it was the stigma of Christianity, that men, for the sake of gain, would encounter hardships of every description, and wander amongst the most brutal savages, with no other object than to amass wealth; whilst the professed followers of the Redeemer were making, we may say, no efforts, combating no difficulties, to carry the Gospel to the dark places of the earth; but resting satisfied with their labours in their own land, and amongst their neighbours and countrymen. But this reproach has been wiped away. In the remotest countries, and most fatal climates, the Soldier of the Cross may now be found instructing the barbarous and long-neglected races of men in the way of salvation, pointing them to the regions of blessedness beyond the grave. Yet even now, how backward are Christians in supporting enterprises that have the eternal good of man for their object. How different, for instance, is the zeal manifested in the support of the missionary cause, with what would be displayed in the promotion of any project of trifling temporal importance; and in that department with which we are connected—the distribution of Tracts—how feeble do our efforts appear, when contrasted with the labours of the men of the world in the dissemination of their views and opinions on temporal matters by the same instrumentality. The great political and commercial changes, and the social reforms, so lately effected in the Mother Country (which already are felt in the remotest corners of the earth, and whose influence will extend to the latest posterity,) are mainly the result of extended and persevering labour, in sending from one end of the land to the other, a deluge of information through the medium of short, pithy

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Tracts. Shall such a powerful engine for influencing the public mind for good or ill, be so much neglected in the work of the Lord as it is at present? Will the followers of Christ any longer suffer themselves to be outdone in zeal in this cause by political agitators? We hope not. And let the nothingness of all worldly objects, and the awful importance of eternal things, influence many in forming a correct and prompt decision. In this cause all may unite; here is presented a broad field, where no compromise of minor differences on religious matters is required, but where true "Evangelical Union" may be beautifully exhibited to the world. Let there, then, on the part of the Churches of this City, be a vigorous united effort to sustain this Association in its labour of love; and by a hearty co-operation, enable us to prosecute this enterprise with means somewhat proportioned to the extent and importance of the undertaking.

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## LIST OF MEMBERS.

---

Mr. JOHN M'WATTERS, *Chairman.*

Mr. JAMES A. MATHEWSON, *Secretary and Treasurer.*

### SUPERINTENDENTS.

Messrs. David Savage,  
John M'Callum,  
James Knox,

Messrs. John M'Watters,  
William Norton,  
George Morrison.

### DISTRIBUTORS.

Messrs. John Birks,  
John Keller,  
John Gibson,  
J. M. Blackader,  
J. Kirkpatrick,  
O. Alexander,  
Alexr. Johnson,  
Wm. M'Intosh,  
James Halliday,  
— Gibson,  
Wm. M'Cunnell,  
Samuel Wilson,  
H. Jersey,  
H. Freligh,  
W. Morrison,

Messrs. Thos. M'Waters,  
J. M'Watters, Jr.,  
J. Telfer,  
Robert Feeney,  
M. Junod,  
Louis Barre,  
R. M'Lean,  
Strathearn,  
J. Dunbar,  
Joseph Jackson,  
J. P. Clark,  
G. Mentzis,  
D. M'Cord,  
— Hicks,  
— Mochrie.

Mrs. Milne,  
Woodbury,  
Tanner,  
M'Kenzie,

Misses Stephens,  
Higgs,  
Miss Connell,  
M'Kenzie.

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### QUEBEC SUBURB BRANCH,

Mr. Raffan, Superintendent.  
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## CONSTITUTION.

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1. That this Institution be called *The Montreal Association for the Distribution of Religious Tracts.*

2. That this Association shall consist of all such pious persons, who may be disposed to unite their operations in carrying out the objects of a general Tract distribution, according to the plan now proposed.

3. That all persons desirous of becoming members of this Association, shall be received by a vote of the Society, at any General or Monthly Meeting, but not admitted to full Membership until they have been engaged for three months in distributing.

4. That it shall be the duty of the Members of this Association to distribute Tracts, to converse with those they visit on the important subject of personal religion, and to urge an attendance on public worship, as well as a regard to the other means of grace.

5. That the Members shall meet stately once a month for prayer, in connection with the object in view, when each Member shall present a written report, and give a statement of such facts as may have occurred in the course of distribution.

6. That all monies contributed shall be received in aid of the funds of the Montreal Religious Tract Society.

7. That the Officers shall consist of a Chairman and Secretary to be chosen annually by the Members.

8. That it shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a record of the proceedings of each Meeting, and also the Reports of the Distributors. He shall also take charge of all monies received by the Association, and account for the same.