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THE  
SECOND ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
AMHERSTBURG BRANCH BIBLE SOCIETY,  
PRESENTED AT THE  
ANNUAL MEETING, 28th JANUARY, 1842.

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Seek ye out of the Book of the Lord and read.—*Isiah.*

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**Sandwich,**  
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REPORT OF THE

AMHERSTBERG BAPTIST CHURCH SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JANUARY 1911

AMHERSTBERG  
BAPTIST CHURCH SOCIETY

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DR. J. W. BIRD	DR. J. W. BIRD
DR. J. W. BIRD	DR. J. W. BIRD
DR. J. W. BIRD	DR. J. W. BIRD
DR. J. W. BIRD	DR. J. W. BIRD

MEMBERS

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DR. J. W. BIRD, VICE-PRESIDENT  
DR. J. W. BIRD

DR. J. W. BIRD, TREASURER  
DR. J. W. BIRD



OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

## REPORT.

Your Committee have unaffected satisfaction in being permitted to meet you again, for the purpose of presenting their second Annual Report. Much cause have they for congratulation on the success which has hitherto attended their labours, and they feel it to be their duty to offer up their ardent and devout acknowledgments to the Author and Giver of every good and perfect gift, for the blessing He has bestowed upon their work, and for opening a prospect of usefulness, which they fervently trust may yearly continue to be more and more extended and enlarged.

The good seeds of this Society are, indeed, only now beginning to be scattered abroad; yet your Committee entertain the hope that they have not been committed to an unproductive soil, and they have every encouragement to look forward to a rich and abundant harvest. They are not prepared to say they have enjoyed a complete immunity from disappointments, or that no obstacles have presented themselves in the pursuit of their plans of usefulness; but to these disappointments they have been enabled to submit with patience, and these obstacles have not, for a moment, caused them to relax their efforts, or to lose sight of the great object which they had pledged themselves, to the fullest extent of their ability, to promote.

Your Committee are impressed with a deep conviction of the importance of their undertaking, and more particularly in a section of the Province where much moral darkness and error still prevail.— And although they are sensible that a long course of unwearied exertion will be necessary to effect a material change, they do not, from such a contemplation, yield themselves to a feeling of despondency; but confiding in the promises of Him who has declared that His everlasting Word shall spread over the world, even “as the waters cover the sea,” the reflection of their own weakness as an instrument in the hands of Providence, affords but fresh incitement to redoubled perseverance in the great cause in which it is their happiness to be engaged.

The Report of your Committee for the year ending in January, 1841, adverted with much propriety to the specific objects of the Parent Society, the principles upon which it was founded, and the extent of its operations in the four quarters of the globe.

Your Committee, who succeeded them, deem it not inexpedient to recur to this topic, as in the prosecution of their labours they have

met with instances where a misconception has prevailed as to the general designs of the Society, or a want of information has been manifested as to the particular character of its plans. To such they cannot render more concise information than that which is contained in the two first of its "laws and regulations," and which are as follow : I. "The designation of this Society shall be the British and Foreign Bible Society, of which the sole object shall be to encourage a wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures without note or comment: the only copies in the languages of the United Kingdom, to be circulated by the Society, shall be the authorized version. II. This Society shall add its endeavours to those employed by other Societies, for circulating the Scriptures through the British Dominions; and shall also, according to its ability, extend its influence to other countries, whether Christian, Mahometan or Pagan."

A regulation adopted at a subsequent meeting provides that "the fundamental law of the Society, which limits its operations to the circulation of the Holy Scriptures, be fully and distinctly recognized as excluding the circulation of the Apocrypha."

Such, then, are the objects of the distinguished Society, which, with increased, and yet steadily increasing, success, has continued its career for a period of thirty-seven years—diffusing spiritual light, in the first place, through the Kingdom in which it was founded, and from thence extending its rays in every direction, and illuminating the benighted nations of the earth, who for ages had lain in darkness and in the "shadow of death." And such are the objects—though on an infinitely more limited scale—such are the objects of this Society, established a few years since in Amherstburgh, and revived, when it had become nearly extinct, by an Agent sent to us by the Parent Association, in the year 1839.

Your Committee lament that, where such an obvious blessing to mankind is intended, and where motives of so unquestionable a nature are exhibited, there should be any confliction of sentiment whatever; yet active opposition to the Bible is but too frequently maintained, and in their own field they have been furnished with too many proofs that the same baneful prejudice operates against the dissemination of the Word of Life. But although they have to regret the existence of these obstacles, they are gratified in being enabled to state that pleasing exceptions are not wanting among the number of those over whom gross darkness still broods. Notwithstanding the principles of a Faith professing to be grounded on God's revealed word, are opposed to the general circulation of that divine revelation, a desire for personal examination into its sacred truths has, in several instances, been unequivocally manifested; and with the candid temper of the noble Bereans, they are now "searching the Scriptures daily, whether those things are so." This temper is, so to speak, of spontaneous growth, and has not been forced into birth through any importunate agency

of your Committee. They gratefully recognize in it the influence of a higher Power, and they rejoice, therefore, in believing that inestimable results will grow out of that spirit of inquiry which is daily, though, perhaps, almost imperceptibly, gaining ground around them. While on this subject, they cannot refrain from noticing with pleasure *one* instance in which more than usual eagerness was evinced to explore the pages of the sacred volume, and to exercise that judgment which God had bestowed, in spite of prohibitory injunctions from a quarter to which, on all matters involving spiritual jurisdiction, implicit respect and obedience are yielded.

In accordance with the system which had been acted upon during the preceding year, sub-committees were appointed from your Committee to visit the several Districts embraced within the sphere of the Society's labours, for the purpose of inquiring into the existing wants of the people, and of taking up the subscriptions which had become due. The statements furnished by these sub-committees are, on the whole, encouraging, and although the total amount, as exhibited in the Treasurer's report, will be found not to equal the collection made in 1840, they have reason to believe that it may be attributed to the existence of a temporary pecuniary depression. But the contributions, without exception, were bestowed in a spirit of cheerfulness and good will, and with a ready acknowledgment that they could not be devoted to a cause possessed of higher claims to liberality and support. From a statement by the Depository, which is annexed to this Report, it appears that a disposal has been made of one hundred and twenty-nine Bibles and Testaments during the past year, and this result cannot but be considered satisfactory when it is borne in remembrance that two, at least, of the Districts within the reach of the operations of the Society, have already been, from various sources, well supplied with the Word of God. Nevertheless, your Committee are fully sensible that much yet remains to be done, and that a more strict inquiry would lead to the discovery that ~~but~~ a few are still destitute of that word which must ever sanctify their temporal prosperity—furnish them with consolation on the bed of death, and which is alone "able to make them wise unto salvation." + not

During the month of August last, a general meeting of this Society was convened, to fulfil an appointment previously made with the Rev. James Richardson, the Agent of the Upper Canada Bible Society; the object of whose visit was, to form new Societies in this neighborhood, where practicable, and to revive and re-establish those which might wear a drooping aspect. Your Committee were much refreshed on this occasion; and with the opportunity afforded them of taking "sweet counsel" with this zealous friend to the Bible cause, they were animated to proceed in the discharge of their important duty with additional zeal and faithfulness, and derived fresh encouragement to prosecute with energy their "labours of love." Com-

munication had been held with the Rev. F. Gore Elliott, of Colchester as to the expediency of forming a Branch Society in that Township, and they have satisfaction in stating that a completion of this desirable measure was effected on the arrival of Mr. Richardson. They have since placed themselves in correspondence with its Committee, and have furnished them with a supply of Bibles and Testaments, sufficient to meet their present wants. The following extract from a letter, received from the Secretary, exhibits an outline of their proceedings during the brief period of its establishment.

“The Rev. Mr. Elliott, our worthy President, having put into my hands your letter of the 8th instant, requesting me to give you what information I can respecting our Branch Bible Society, be pleased to accept the following:—Our Society was formed on the 10th day of August, 1841. The list of officers is as follows: [vide Appendix.] We obtained from the Amherstburg Bible Society, Bibles and Testaments to the amount of five pounds. We have sold three Bibles and three Testaments—have given none gratis as yet. Our subscriptions for this year amount to but a trifle more than the sum due the Amherstburg Society, which our Treasurer was to collect and pay before this time.—Some of the Committee are about to visit all the Inhabitants of the Township to ascertain their wants, and solicit subscriptions. There are, at present, twenty one subscribers, and the sum subscribed amounts to £5 12 6.

“GORDON BUCHANAN, Secretary”.

It is the sincere desire of your Committee to cultivate the most kindly feeling with this newly formed Society, and to join in a cordial co-operation with them in all their undertakings, persuaded that advantage must arise from friendly intercommunion, and from mutual encouragement in their respective labours.

In drawing their Report to a close, your Committee rejoice in being able to review with satisfaction, the operations of this Society during the year which has recently terminated. The liveliest sentiments of gratitude are also awakened in their hearts in finding that their own subordinate efforts, in furtherance of the important design committed to their charge, have not proved unavailing,—efforts which, if undertaken with a “single eye to the glory of God” and a sole view to the salvation of men, cannot fail to call down a secret blessing from on High.

Your Committee would dwell with great earnestness on the imperative duty incumbent upon all who are themselves abundantly furnished with water from the well of Life, to distribute supplies commensurate with their ability, to those around them, who are perishing for lack of it. No higher object can be found for the exercise of their Christian charity,—no more pressing want can be presented to them for relief,—and no act of love can be discharged which will more fully meet with the approving smile of Heaven. While daily appeals are made and as readily responded to, for the supply of *temporal* necessities, the more urgent *spiritual* destitution should not be permitted to pass under notice without exciting the most



tender compassion, and prompting a desire, as far as it may be in our power, to relieve it. Let fresh exertion then, be put forth by this Society and its friends to proclaim as widely as possible, the glad tidings of salvation, and to give extension to the eternal word of God: let the Holy Bible be placed within the reach of *All*:—let it sanctify the town abode, and shed its cheering ray in the solitude of the wilderness: and while it must ever remain the only chart by which men are guided through “the waves of this troublesome world to the land of everlasting life,” let not indifference to its circulation be charged upon us by those, who being unprovided with it, are continually exposed to the perilous quicksands of ignorance and error.

That the glorious light of divine revelation shall universally prevail, and that its beams shall penetrate into the darkest recesses of those nations who are still strangers to its influence, we have the unfailling declaration of God himself. His unalterable fiat has gone forth—Jehovah has said “let there be light,” and there *will* be light. Great should we esteem the honor and the privilege of being instruments in his hands of contributing, however small in degree, to so blessed an end; and your Committee in commending this object to the prayer of all the supporters of this Society, entertain the confident hope that the Divine blessing will be abundantly bestowed upon it, to the glory of His holy name, and the conducting of many who are now wanderers from the Redeemer’s fold, into the way everlasting.

## APPENDIX.

*Statement of Bibles and Testaments received and issued by the Amherstburg Branch Bible Society during the year 1841-2.*

## STOCK.

	Bibles.	Testaments.	Total.
On hand per last Report,.....	21	12	33
Imported from the Upper Canada Bible Society.....	90	110	200
Total	111	122	233

## DISTRIBUTION.

	Bibles.	Testaments.	Total.
Sold at cost.....	50	74	124
reduced price.....	1	0	1
Given gratis.....	2	2	4
On hand*.....	58	46	104
Total	111	122	233

\*Cost price £18 19 9.

LEWIS G. GORDON,  
Depository A. B. B. Soc.

Amherstburg, 28th January, 1842.

*Abstract of the Treasurer's Account with the Amherstburgh Branch Bible Society, year ending 23th January, 1842.*

	RECEIVED.	£.	s.	d.
From the late Treasurer, balance on hand per report				
29th January, 1841, .....		4	5	11½
"    Subscribers, 1840-1, .....	3 15 0			
"    do    and donors, 1841-2, ..	12 15 8½			
		16	10	8½
"    Depository for sales, 1840-1, .....	10 7½			
"    do    do    1841-2, .....	18 17 2			
		19	7	9½
		£40	4	5½

1841.		P A I D.			
Mar. 30.	Paid a free contribution to U. C. Bible Society, per receipt, .....	5	0	0	
Oct. 18.	Remitted to do. on acc't of invoice of Bibles 1842. and Testaments, 12th July, .....	14	3	2	
Jan. 28.	Remitted to do. in full, .....	16	9	1½	
	Printing Report, .....	2	0	0	
	Postages, .....	3	2		
	Allowance to T. Johnson for collecting subscriptions, .....	5	0		
			2	8	2
	Balance cash on hand, .....	2	4	0	
			£40	4	5½
	Balance cash on hand, .....	2	4	0	
	Due to the Society for Books sold, .....	1	17	2	
	104 bibles and testaments, at cost price, .....	18	19	9	
			23	0	11

JAMES DOUGALL, Treasurer.

Amlherstburgh, 28th January, 1842.

### Officers of the Colchester Branch Bible Society.

*President*—The Rev. F. GORE ELLIOTT.

*Vice President*—The Rev. SOLOMON SNEIDER.

*Secretary & Depository*—GORDON BUCHANAN, Esq.

*Treasurer*—JOHN WRIGHT, Esq.

*Committee*—Messrs. THOMAS WRIGHT, ASA WILCOX, Jr., GEORGE WRIGHT, Maj. R. LACHLAN, Dr. T. HAWKINS, JOHN G. BUCHANAN, FRANCIS WRIGHT, ADAM SNEIDER, Jr., CHARLES CORNWALL, JOHN FERRIS and JOHN BUCHANAN.

The preceding Report having been read, the subjoined Resolutions were unanimous. Adopted:

1. Moved by the Rev. GEORGE CHEYNE,

Seconded by JAMES DOUGALL, Esq., and

Resolved, That this meeting, regarding the Word of God as the only standard of divine truth, and feeling thankful for the success which has attended the operations of this Society, conceive it to be

the duty of every Christian to contribute to the diffusion of the word of God, highly approve of the Report now read, and direct it to be printed for general circulation.

2. Moved by THOMAS PAXTON, Esq.

Seconded by Mr. ISAAC ASKEW,

Resolved, That the noble and holy end which the British and Foreign Bible Society has in view, to send the Word of God, without note or comment, abroad into every country throughout the world, merits the approbation of this meeting, and demands the support of the Christian public.

3. Moved by ROBERT PEDEN, Esq.

Seconded by Mr. ALEXANDER BORROWMAN,

Resolved, That relying on the unfailing promise of God that the light of divine truth shall one day fill the whole earth, and regarding the Scriptures as the great means of diffusing that light, this Society feels itself honored in being privileged to contribute to the accomplishment of this great and desirable object.

4. Moved by the Rev. HENRY BYERS,

Seconded by COLONEL W. AMBRIDGE,

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be given to the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Depositary, Secretary and Committee who have acted during the past year, and that the following be the Committee for the ensuing year. (*see page 3.*)

5. Moved by LEWIS G. GORDON, Esq.

Seconded by Dr. G. R. GRASETT,

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Rev. Mr. Mack for the ability he has displayed as Chairman of this meeting.