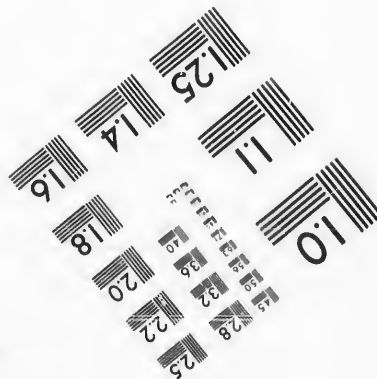
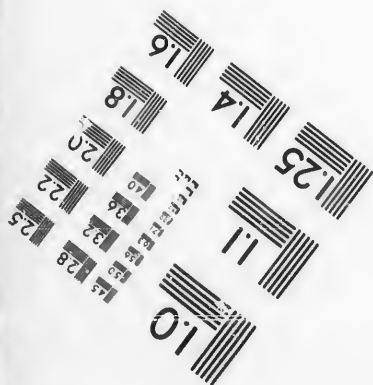
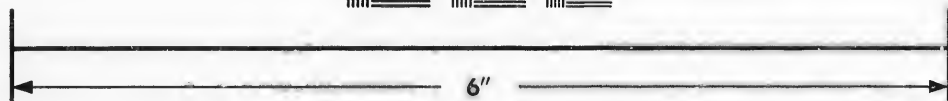
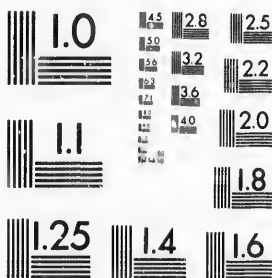


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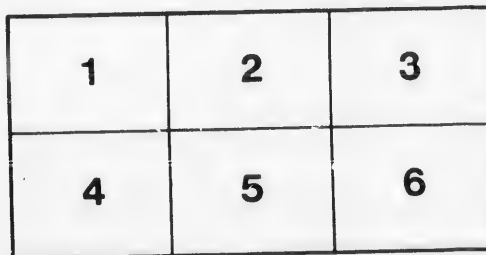
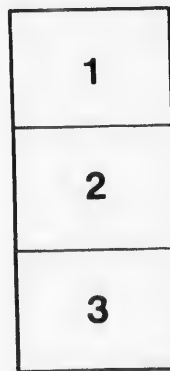
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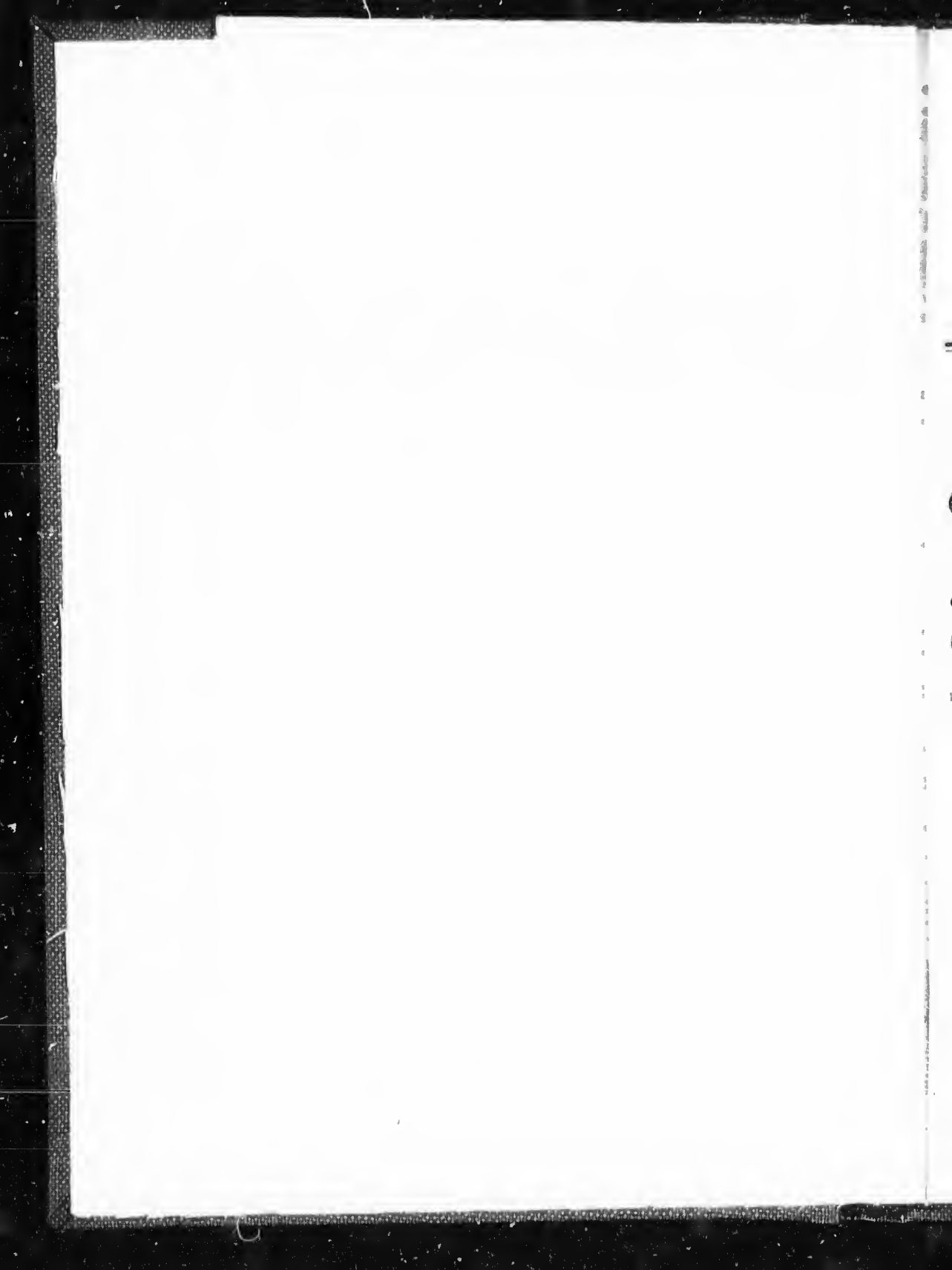
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STATEMENT  
OF THE  
OFFICE - BEARERS  
OF THE  
Hamilton Branch Bible Society.

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HAMILTON  
BRANCH BIBLE SOCIETY.

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HAMILTON, 9th DECEMBER, 1863.

THERE is no Christian enterprise which enjoys a larger share of the public sympathy and confidence than the circulation of the Bible throughout the world. It is the more to be deplored, on this account, that attempts have been made, for some time back, to influence the public mind in reference to the management of the Bible Society in this city, and to stir up strife in relation to a cause which especially calls for peace. Two of the officers of the Society have been accused as men who are unworthy of confidence, unfit to associate with Christian men, and who deserve to be cast out of society. The majority of the Committee are accused of sheltering and defending these unworthy men, and of factiously disturbing the harmony of the Committee by refusing to accede to the proposed changes in the officers. The very existence of the Society has been imperilled; and in addition to its more immediate results, still more extensive consequences have been entailed upon religion itself, by the indiscretions, to use the gentlest term, of the parties who are now identified as the minority. It is not fair to speak of both parties as equally to blame—to represent it as a mere clerical quarrel, reflecting equal disgrace upon all the Clergymen who are members of the Committee, as well as upon the other members who take an active part in the management of its affairs. Whatever differences may have existed in the Committee, it must be



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conceded that the majority have never obtruded themselves upon the public in controversial dispute, either as individuals or as a body. The letters, in reference to these differences, and the so-called reports of the proceedings of the Committee, which have appeared in the papers of the city, have been unauthorized publications. At the Anniversary Meeting, when the subject was forced upon the notice of the public, the majority again proved their desire to avoid public scandal by referring its differences to those, who by the constitution, are recognised as members of the Society.

The whole matter in dispute has been so much misrepresented, and is now so much misunderstood, that we, as office-bearers of the Society, in the absence of the President owing to severe illness, deem it our duty to present to the public a statement tracing both the true spirit and the real facts of the case. In doing so we do not dissemble our fear that what we say will be received in some quarters with a strong prejudice against it. In as far as regards the determined followers of a party we cannot expect to write acceptably; but for those who are not tied to party and who are willing to think for themselves, we should greatly grieve if they were prevented by prejudice from reading fairly what they will find in this statement. We bespeak a candid examination of our views as necessary to the removal of the evils which have arisen from the painful and vexatious agitation of the public mind; and however severely our assertions may be scanned, let this only be done fairly, and we believe that, through the dust and din and smoke of this conflict, the public will judge righteously in reference to the matters which have been brought to the bar of public opinion by the action of the minority.

To form a true judgment of the difficulties in the Bible Society, it is necessary to take a retrospective glance at their origin and history. The disputes in the Committee have existed for some years, and have always arisen from the same parties, while the

majority have invariably acted simply on the defensive.—The attacks upon personal character were from the first of a vexatious kind, and they have been renewed from time to time with increasing vehemence and intensity.

The interruption in the harmony of the Committee originated in a question in reference to the election of Mr. W. Kennedy as a member of Committee. At a meeting held on the 4th of Nov., 1861, the names of persons who were to be nominated as members of Committee were agreed upon; but at another meeting, held about two months afterwards, on the 6th of January, 1862, it was moved by the Rev. T. Pullar, and seconded by the Rev. Dr. Irvine, that Mr. Kennedy's name be submitted to the public meeting as an additional member. On the objection being raised that Mr. Kennedy was not a member of the Society, and therefore not eligible for election, Dr. Irvine promised to pay the subscription necessary to his membership, and the proposal was agreed to.—The collector was then soliciting subscriptions, and there was ample opportunity of paying the money either to the collector or to the Treasurer before the time fixed for the anniversary. The public meeting was held in Knox's Church on the 15th of January, 1862. On that evening, before the meeting was constituted, a difficulty occurred in the vestry of the church. A number of gentlemen who were to address the meeting had assembled in the vestry, and after some of them had gone into the church, Dr. Irvine asked to look at the list of names which had been proposed for officers. After looking it over, he made a strong assertion that some names had been omitted from the list, and in reply to the Secretary's question as to who they were, he gave the name of Mr. Kennedy. The Secretary stated that it was necessarily dropped, as he had not subscribed and was ineligible. Dr. Irvine replied that he would pay Mr. Kennedy's subscription. Whereupon Dr. Ormiston proposed to add his name, and did write it on the list. It was proposed and carried, and appears in the minutes of that meeting

in Mr. Walker's hand-writing. There is, in the minutes of the Society, no list of the officers for that year on which Mr. Kennedy's name does not appear.

At a meeting of Committee held about a month afterwards, on the 17th of February, Mr. W. Kennedy read and laid on the table a paper, in which he protested "against Mr. Walker's being again permitted to act under the sanction of the Committee," on the ground that Mr. Walker "had made from the minutes of the Committee a false extract, in which his (Mr. Kennedy's) name was omitted, after the Committee had passed a resolution in which his name is recorded." It was then moved by the Rev. R. Burnet, seconded by the Rev. T. Pullar,—“That this Board having had laid on their table a protest reflecting on the conduct of the Secretary having tampered with the minutes, agree to record their want of confidence in Mr. Walker for the future.” On this motion being put to the Committee, four members voted for and eleven against it.

The next trouble arose from the complaint of a respected gentleman of this city, which was laid on the table of the Committee at a Special Meeting, held on the 5th of March, 1862. At the next meeting of the Committee, which was held on the 18th of November, 1862, a motion growing out of this complaint was made by the Rev. R. Burnet, seconded by the Rev. T. Pullar, in which it was declared that the Committee "feel called upon to record their entire disapprobation of Mr. Walker's conduct, and hereby do so in order to free the Society from being considered as in any way connected with such illegal, unconstitutional and improper proceedings." It was agreed, on motion of the Rev. Dr. Ormiston, seconded by Mr. W. Powis, that the complaint and motion thereon be referred to a Special Committee. That Committee reported at a meeting held on the 26th December, that an ample apology was due to that gentleman for certain irregularities in the matter complained of; and, while disclaiming

all intentional discourtesy to that gentleman, they found that the blame of these irregularities rested upon the Committee and not upon the Minute Secretary. They also embodied in their report a statement made by Mr. Walker in reference to certain words used by him in Committee, in which he disclaimed having used an objectionable word with reference to the complainant. This report was adopted by the Committee, Mr. Burnet, Mr. Pullar and Mr. W. Kennedy dissenting.

At the Annual Meeting of the Society, held in St. Andrew's Church, on the 15th of January, 1863, Messrs. Burnet and Pullar addressed a joint letter to the President. This letter was not read at the Public Meeting, but these gentlemen afterwards published it in the daily papers of the city, and it is as follows :

"HAMILTON, 15th Jan., 1863.

"TRISTRAM BICKLE, Esq.,

*"President of the Bible Society.*

"DEAR SIR,—We feel ourselves reluctantly compelled through you to apologize to the annual meeting of the Hamilton Branch Bible Society for our absence to-night. We abstain from being present because in Committee, we have, for reasons assigned, protested against the proposal of Mr. James Walker as Minute Secretary ; and we are therefore unwilling—even by our presence—to seem to assent to his election. And secondly, because we do not desire to countenance a report which we have never seen—and which, if presented as the Committee's report, is sanctioning a falsehood. Two different courses were open to us in this matter. We have chosen the present, which has been commended to us by love to Christ—to truth and righteousness. No other cause could have prevented us taking our position at the meeting. With respect for you and your opinion,

"We are, dear sir,

"Yours truly,

"ROBT. BURNET,

"THOS. PULLAR."

Mr. Kennedy also published a letter of similar import. The difficulty in the Committee was thus thrust upon the public notice by the act of these gentlemen.

On the 10th of November last the Committee met to complete their arrangements for the Anniversary.

The nomination of officers was taken up, and when that of the Minute Secretary was brought under the consideration of the meeting, it was moved by the Rev. T. Pullar, seconded by the Rev. J. Cheetham, that Mr. P. W. Dayfoot be Minute Secretary for the ensuing year. Mr. Dayfoot, being present, declined to be put in nomination. It was then moved by the Rev. Dr. Irvine, seconded by the Rev. J. Cheetham, that the Rev. R. Burnet be nominated as Minute Secretary. In amendment, it was moved by Mr. James Watson, seconded by the Rev. S. D. Rice, that Mr. Walker be nominated as Minute Secretary. In the course of the discussion on these nominations, fresh attacks were made upon Mr. Walker's character, reiterating charges of fraudulent conduct in reference to the minutes, which had already been disposed of by the Committee. On the vote being taken, the amendment nominating Mr. Walker was carried; whereupon the Rev. Dr. Irvine, the Rev. T. Pullar, the Rev. J. Cheetham, the Rev. C. Shaw, and Messrs. W. Lawson, W. Kennedy and N. D. Fisher, desired to record their dissent.

Such is a brief statement of the historical facts in reference to the attacks upon Mr. Walker's honor and integrity, up to the 18th ult., when the public meeting was held. The vituperative character of these attacks will be understood by those who have heard the speeches of those gentlemen at the public meeting, or who have read their communications through the press. It must be admitted that some of the acts of the Committee have been irregular, as in the case of the gentleman already referred to, to whom the Committee tendered an apology, and also in the case of Mr. W. Kennedy, in allowing his name to be put in nomination at all,

when he was not a member of the Society, and the proposal that he should be made a member for the sake of being eligible for office, was one which should not have been entertained for a moment. There is, no doubt, room for differences of opinion as to the regularity of Mr. Walker's official acts as Secretary, and there is no reason why they should not be fairly criticised; but neither his official acts nor his general character justify the conduct of the minority towards him in their persistent accusations of falsifying the Minutes. The Society owes much of its past success to his unwearied efforts on its behalf; yet the effort has been repeatedly and violently made to dismiss him from office, with a stigma upon his moral character. The question which so long agitated the Committee has not been merely the change of the Minute Secretary. Had this been all, it would have been conceded by the Committee, Mr. Walker having frequently during the past two years expressed his willingness to retire from the office. It has been a question seriously affecting the moral character of Mr. Walker, and for the Committee to have assented to the change in the office under the circumstances in which it has been persistently placed before them, would have been substantially to acknowledge the truth of the charges brought against him. The demands of the minority to yield to them, for the sake of peace, were of such a character that peace could only have been purchased at the expense of justice. The minority have not only tried to overrule the majority in this matter, but have publicly assailed both Mr. Walker and the Committee, beginning with the letters of Messrs. Burnet and Pullar, published by them in January last, and culminating in the disgraceful proceedings of the recent public meeting. As men guided by the precepts of the Bible, we have all along withstood, and we do still withstand, the attempts to inflict a great moral wrong upon one who has faithfully and energetically served the Society for twenty-two years.

We come now to the case of Dr. McQuesten. At the meeting already referred to, held on the 10th of November last, when the

nomination of Treasurer was before the Committee, it was moved by the Rev. R. Burnet, seconded by Mr. A. F. Wood, that Mr. F. W. Watkins be nominated as Treasurer. In amendment it was moved by the Rev. S. D. Rice, seconded by Mr. James Osborne, that Dr. McQuesten be nominated as Treasurer. In the debate on these nominations, it was stated by those who opposed Dr. McQuesten's nomination that they had strong conscientious objections to Dr. McQuesten, arising not out of unfaithfulness on his part in the discharge of his duties as Treasurer, but seriously affecting his moral character. The specific charge was not stated till after the vote was taken. The Committee, with full confidence in the Dr.'s moral character from long and intimate acquaintance with him, refused to dismiss him from his office on such grounds, and by a majority his nomination was carried. Whereupon the Rev. R. Burnet read and laid upon the table a protest with a reason in which the charge of intemperance was brought against the Treasurer. The Chairman ruled that this protest was out of order. This decision was disputed by the minority, and a discussion ensued in which it was stated in support of the Chairman's decision, that it had been customary in such cases simply to enter dissents against the decision of the Committee, and that the document on the table was disorderly, unjust and unrighteous—inasmuch as, if allowed a serious charge against one of the officers would be recorded on the minute book, though that charge had not been substantiated by any proof, and the Committee had no right to constitute itself into a court to sit in judgment on such a charge. After a time the protest was taken from the table by Mr. Burnet, and the following gentlemen recorded their dissent in the usual way:—Rev. R. Burnet, Rev. T. Pullar, Rev. Dr. Irvine, Rev. J. Cheetham, Rev. C. Shaw, Messrs. A. T. Wood, W. Kennedy and W. Lawson.

It had been stated by the minority that they intended to take further steps to gain their ends, and it was suggested by some of the majority that the remaining business be delayed and another meeting called before the time fixed for the public meeting when

measures might be taken to prevent public scandal. This was no acceded to, and it was moved by Mr. Pullar that the present members of the Committee be nominated for re-election, and the meeting adjourned.

Nothing had been said in Committee of the foundation of the charge against the Treasurer, or of the proofs by which it could be substantiated; but at the public meeting, the whole history of the case was brought out by Messrs. Pullar and Burnet on the one side, and by Dr. Ormiston on the other. From the various statements, publicly made, we condense the following history of the charge: Early in the present year and before the public meeting of the Bible Society, held in January last, Messrs. Burnet and Pullar waited on Dr. Ormiston, and brought a charge of intemperance against Dr. McQuesten, who is an elder in the Central Presbyterian church, alleging that two days before, on a certain Friday afternoon, about five o'clock, they met Dr. McQuesten on the street in a state of intoxication. Dr. Ormiston stated to them that at half past six, on the same evening, Dr. McQuesten had met with the session—Dr. Ormiston being also present—and that he had noticed nothing unusual in his manner. As, however, they still persisted in the charge, Dr. Ormiston promised to enquire into it.—When the matter was investigated by the session, the result was that Dr. McQuesten was acquitted, and stood higher than ever in the estimation of his fellow-elders. These elders had all met with him at half-past six on that evening, and one of them had met and conversed with him before six o'clock, and their unanimous testimony was, that Dr. McQuesten was then perfectly sober, and could not, at the time mentioned by Messrs. Burnet and Pullar, have been in the state described by them. Now that the facts are before the public (and they never were before the Committee until they were brought before the public,) we are quite ready to give all credit to the gentlemen who have accused Dr. McQuesten for integrity and shrewdness, for everything necessary to their case—short of infallibility, and there remains the irre-



sistable conclusion from the evidence—that however honest in their convictions of what they stated, they were labouring under a false impression—that at the time specified Dr. McQuesten was not in a state of intoxication, or anything approaching to it

Eight or ten days after the first interview of Messrs. Burnet and Pullar with Dr. Ormiston on the subject, these gentlemen addressed a letter to Dr. Ormiston, the following copy of which was read by Mr. Burnet at the public meeting, and afterwards published in the daily papers, from which it will be seen that even at this early period, they sought to mingle up their charge with the affairs of the Bible Society :

“ HAMILTON, 15th January, 1863.

“ REVEREND & DEAR SIR,—As we have not heard from you in regard to the matter of Dr. McQuesten, we conclude the charge is fully admitted, although to our surprise we hear that he officiated last Sabbath at the Lord’s supper as usual. That our intimation to you was not premature is evident from the fact, that three other clergymen saw him last week in a similar state. We beg to suggest to you that, in present circumstances, you should advise your Elder to withdraw from the Bible Board.

“ Yours faithfully,

“ ROBERT BURNET,  
“ THOMAS PULLAR.”

The conclusion to which these gentlemen came is not warranted by the circumstances. The true Christian inference to have drawn from the facts stated by them, would have been either that they had been mistaken, or that all the ends of discipline had been served without proceeding to further measures. The end of Christian discipline is not to punish, but to reclaim. Nothing, however, will satisfy Messrs. Burnet and Pullar but that Dr. McQuesten be suspended from his office in the church, and dismissed from his office in the Bible Society, as a debased drunkard. It is

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now eleven months since this report about Dr. McQuesten was first circulated by these gentlemen among some of the members of the Committee. We do not need to describe the course pursued at the public meeting, and from that day to this. What shall be said of proclaiming and publishing alleged accounts of private conversations, which took place in the confidence of friendship or familiar acquaintance? This is an offence which cannot be too severely reprobated. It opens the door to every kind of abuse, and is an outrage against the common proprieties of life. Is it to be wondered at that amidst all this, and with five ministers of the Gospel heading such a movement, all kinds of rumours are rife respecting Dr. McQuesten, and these very rumours which have originated through these gentlemen, and the scandal which has resulted from their charge, are pleaded by them and their apologists in vindication of the course which they have pursued. An appeal has been made to the spirit of censoriousness, and the response has come in many ways—in the whispered insinuation, the suggested suspicion, the eagerly retailed scandal, the general eulogy which prepares the way for some condemnatory *but*, the prejudiced judgment and the undiguisèd utterance of bitterness and wrath. But the fact remains, that, up to the time when this agitation began, in all that constitutes character—in all that gives a claim to public respect, Dr. McQuesten's position was unquestioned. He was thoroughly acceptable to the supporters of the Bible Society, until it was attempted to destroy his position in the community by the recent violent and unchristian attack upon him. For a quarter of a century he has maintained an emblemshèd character; for more than twenty years he has been the Treasurer of the Bible Society; and he is now an office-bearer, in good standing, in one of the churches in this city. The Committee of the Bible Society is not a court to which man can appeal against the discipline of the proper authorities in any church; and the attempt to do so, if tolerated, could only have the effect of alienating all right-thinking men from the Society; and the tendency of such a course would

be to break up all similiarly constituted benevolent Societies. It is not claimed for Dr. McQuesten that he has been a total abstainer from intoxicating drinks, but the tee-total pledge is not a term either of membership or office in the Bible Society. Many of its officers indeed, are tee-totallers, a majority of whom have expressed their confidence in Dr. McQuesten. The only charge against Dr. Mc. Questen of intemperence, has been adjudicated upon by the proper authorities of the church to which he belongs, and deciaired by them to be unfounded, and here, as in the case of Mr. Walker, the Committee are surely justified in withstanding the attempt to dismiss a faithful officer of the Society, on the ground of such a charge; though Dr. McQuesten has expressed his readiness to retire from office, the Committee have felt bound to protect his personal honor, and to resist the attempt made to stigmatize him as a drunkard.

We must add a few words in reference to the public meeting.—The attacks made upon the Treasurer and Secretary at the Anniversary meeting, are not only of an entirely novel aspect, but they give rise to alarming forebodings. That men should, under any pretence whatever, make the Bible Society's meeting a place of strife, is surely a breach of decorum; but that a promiscuous assembly is to sit in judgment upon the moral character of members and office-bearers in Christian Churches, and to settle questions of the greatest difficulty and delicacy, is surely a still more alarming innovation. To avoid this, as far as possible under the circumstances, after the charges had been made in the meeting, the following resolution was moved, seconded and agreed to :

“That, whereas this Branch of the Bible Society has been accustomed to accept the nomination to office made by the Committee, to whom the conduct of its affairs has been committed; and, inasmuch as it is impossible, in a meeting like the present, to arrive at a just conclusion of the matter aimed at in the amendment now proposed :—Be it resolved that that part of the resolution appointing the Officers of the Society be not now considered,

but be referred to a meeting of the Society to be convened by the President, by circular, within two weeks of the date of this meeting."

After the other business of the meeting was finished and while the collection was being taken up, it was proposed to move an adjournment on the alleged ground that the term of the officers expired with that meeting, and that this adjournment would have the effect of keeping the Society in existence.—The Rev. Mr. Burnet accordingly moved that the meeting adjourn till that day three weeks; but on his attention being called to the fact that the previous motion had fixed the time of meeting within two weeks of the date of the meeting, he altered his motion to that day fortnight, hereby recognizing the first resolution. It was understood by the whole meeting that this adjournment was not designed to alter the character of the meeting as defined in the former motion, and Mr. Burnet himself seems to have so understood it from the readiness with which he conformed his motion to it in the only respect in which they were obviously at variance.—Not a word was said about reconsidering or rescinding the first motion—such an attempt would certainly have been opposed. Yet, when the President in accordance with the resolutions of the public meeting, notified the members of the Society that the adjourned meeting would be held in the Good Templars' Hall, on Tuesday evening, the 1st of December last, the five clergymen whose names have so often appeared in this statement, issued large placards declaring that it would be a public meeting and not a meeting of the Society, in open defiance of the President's decision. On the Sabbath preceding the day fixed for the meeting intimations of a similar import were made from their pulpits, and some of them accompanied the intimation with appeals to the passions of the people, urging all whether members of the Society or not to attend the meeting and *to go early*. Thus publicly and most improperly they proposed to *pack* the meeting, and to crowd the actual members of the Society out of the small hall in which the

meeting was to be held. In this emergency the office-bearers, to avoid still greater evils which were obviously impending, postponed the meeting. Hand-bills were immediately issued, and an advertisement inserted in the evening paper on the authority, as stated by the Editor, of Messrs. Burnet, Irvine, Pullar, Cheetham, and Shaw, declaring that the meeting would be held. Then we have the scene in John Street, where amid fresh appeals to the excited feelings of the crowd, this informal and unauthorized meeting was constituted, and adjourned to the Congregational Church, where free vent was given to the minority in their attacks upon the officers of the Society. Their apologists plead in defence of this course, first, the eighth law of the Society which is as follows:

VIII.—That a general meeting of the subscribers and friends of this Society, shall be held annually in Hamilton, when the accounts, properly audited, shall be presented, the proceedings of the past year reported, and officers for the ensuing year appointed.

It is obvious, however, that the meeting of subscribers and friends was held, and that by a resolution of that meeting the question of the disputed nominations was referred to a meeting of the Society, consisting of its members. The reasons and effects of that resolution were plainly and repeatedly stated, and were thoroughly understood before the resolution was put to the meeting. If that meeting had a right to elect, it also had a right to refer the election to a meeting of the members to be called by circular from the President. The attempt of unauthorized parties to change the character of the meeting fully justified the office-bearers in postponing it; and the question referred by the public meeting to the Society remains still to be settled whenever the meeting shall be duly called.

It is further urged that these gentlemen were justified in the course which they pursued by the final motion of adjournment.— But that motion did not rescind the former. It was declared that

it was merely formal—to keep the Society in existence. It must therefore have been specially worded with a view to deception, or the construction now put upon it must have been an after-thought.

Unhappy as have been the more immediate results of these agitations of the public mind, we cannot but hope that the steady and timely resistance to the course of the minority, on the part of the Committee, will not only avert evils that must otherwise have fallen upon this community, but will ultimately lead to good results in the establishment of those principles of justice, fairness and honour, without which civilization itself must be extinguished, and a people relapse into barbarism. We have no wish to screen abuses, but we cannot give countenance to reckless and persistent attacks upon the moral character of our respected citizens, and we believe that the good sense and good feeling of the community, now that our difficulties are understood, will sustain us in the position which we have taken.

E. JACKSON,	} <i>Vice-Presidents.</i>
E. CARTWRIGHT THOMAS,	
JAMES WATSON,	
F. W. WATKINS,	
W. ORMISTON, <i>Cor. Secretary.</i>	
D. McLELLAN, <i>Depositary.</i>	

DECEMBER 17, 1863.

Since the foregoing was written, the Office Bearers resolved to call the meeting of the members of the Society, which, for the reasons stated, had been postponed, a circular was therefore issued by the first Vice-President, inviting the members to attend a meeting, to be held in the hall of the Mechanics' Institute, on the evening of the 11th inst. On the afternoon of that day large placards were posted in conspicuous places throughout the city, of which the following is a copy :

"BIBLE SOCIETY.

"Friends and Subscribers, be at the Mechanics' Hall, at E. Jackson's Meeting, this Friday evening, at seven o'clock, to protect the rights of the Bible Society."

At the hour appointed for the meeting, a large number of persons had convened, comprising members, subscribers and friends

of the Society, and some who were obviously neither subscribers nor friends. The party styling themselves the minority of the Committee, although they had already held a meeting, at which they went through the form of electing Office-Bearers, as the published reports of their meeting state, were early in attendance, and occupied the platform on the right of the chair. They offered most strenuous opposition to the right and election of the first Vice-President to occupy the chair. In this they were overruled. They then, by a determined and, in our opinion, organized opposition, prevented the business of the meeting from being proceeded with. One of their supporters, under their approval, at least, if not by their direction, strode upon the platform, armed with a heavy stick, and took his seat behind the chairman, then raising his stick, fiercely threatened some of the clergymen who were quietly sitting there, adding insolently that he would throw some of them out of the window. After a little, finding that order could not be secured, the minority repeatedly refusing to listen to the chairman, or give place to the speaker, whom he declared to have the floor, and believing all further action or deliberation to be utterly hopeless, the chairman, with the consent of the officebearers present, declared the meeting dissolved, and left the chair.

Then followed a scene, which has been already pourtrayed by the reporters who were present, and on which it is painful to dwell. A number of violent men rushed hither and thither, shouting and yelling, swinging their clubs and breaking the seats—converting the hall for a short time into a scene of the wildest uproar and lawless disorder. The officebearers have thus again been precluded from submitting the question at issue to the consideration of the Society; and from the reiterated assertions of the minority, that they will keep up the agitation, even “from generation to generation,” they see no prospect of further co-operation in the matter. Painful as it is to make these statements, the officebearers feel that they have done what they could to avert the deplorable issue to which affairs have been madly driven, and they leave their conduct in this matter to the candid consideration of the members, and the unprejudiced criticism of an intelligent public.

E. JACKSON,  
F. W. WATKINS, } *Vice-Presidents.*  
JAMES WATSON, }

W. ORMISTON, *Cor. Secretary.*

D. McLELLAN, *Depositary.*

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