



SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MONTREAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

OF THE

SOCIETY

FOR

PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE

1835--36.

AND

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MONTREAL DISTRICT

SUNDAY SCHOOL SOCIETY,

1835--36.

MONTREAL:

PRINTED BY ARMOUR AND RAMSAY,

St. James Street.

1836.

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ANNUAL REPORT

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MONTREAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

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FOR THE YEAR 1835-6.

MONTREAL:

PRINTED BY ANDREW H. ARMOUR AND COMPANY,

Saint James Street.

1836.

Extract of Minutes of Annual Meeting, May 10, 1831.

Resolved, "That in future no Clergyman residing within the District of Montreal, shall receive Books from the Society, at the Society's prices, unless such Reverend gentleman shall be a regular subscriber to the amount of £1 : 5 currency, per annum.

Resolved further, "That every Clergyman so subscribing and paying £1 : 5 per annum, shall also be entitled to Books gratuitously to the amount of £1 per annum."

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REPORT.

THE MONTREAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE beg leave to submit their SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT to their friends and the public, with many thanks to them for their continued support, and with devout gratitude to that Gracious Being "from whom alone all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed."

The Committee have the grateful duty of announcing, that an improvement has taken place in the state of their finances during the past year.

The generosity of the Provincial Parliament, to which, in their last Report, they so confidently looked forward, has again been experienced in the grant of £200 sterling. Of this sum, however, a great portion will be required to replace monies, which, owing to the failure, during the two preceding years, of the usual grant from the Provincial Legislature, have been diverted from their proper channels to pay the salaries of the Master and Mistress. In consequence of this unavoidable diversion, the debt to the Parent Society has been much increased. In the last Report it was stated, that the sum due to that Society for books, amounted to £70, towards the liquidation of which £50 sterling were transmitted by the Secretary after the last Annual Meeting, thus leaving a balance of £20 sterling still due.

Besides this balance of £20 sterling, a large supply of Books had, as reported last year, been received in the summer of 1834, which have not yet been paid for, and of which the Committee are unable to state the cost, as the invoice (if sent) never reached the hands of the Secretary.

The amount, however, must be considerable, and forms a serious augmentation to their present debt. In addition to these, the Committee are in expectation of receiving a fresh supply by the first arrivals from London.

In view, then, of all these circumstances, though there is cause for congratulation, when we review the prospects of the Society at its last Annual Meeting; yet there is no reason for any relaxation of their exertions, on the part of its Officers, or any cessation of their contributions on the part of its friends; for the future is to be provided for, and the demands are constant and urgent.

After this simple account of the state of their finances, the Committee proceed to report upon the two special objects of their care, viz. the distribution of Bibles, Prayer-books, and other religious Books and Tracts, and the Education of the children of the poor.

With regard to the *former* of these objects, the Committee regret, that the circulation has not been quite so great as during some previous years. The principal cause of this was the non-arrival last year of the Books from the Parent Society, the order for which, owing to unavoidable circumstances, was sent so late, that it was impossible to receive them by the regular traders of last Fall. They, however, may be expected by the earliest arrivals in the Spring; and, as great attention was paid to making out the order, and as the Parent Society have, in a letter lately received by the Secretary, promised particular attention to filling it up, the Committee feel confident that they will be found well suited for the end which the Society have in view—the Promotion of Christian Knowledge. Notwithstanding the slightly diminished circulation of last year, the Committee trust that they have been the humble instruments of doing much

good. Christian Knowledge has been extended, where, without the aid of the Society, ignorance must have prevailed. The wilderness and the solitary place have been made glad by donations of Books, which told those sitting in them of him, through whom the "ransomed of the Lord shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

In compliance with a resolution of the last Annual Meeting, a large selection of Books from the depository was placed with Mr. Wm. Greig, bookseller, of this city, to be sold by him on Commission. Of these he has been enabled to sell comparatively few, those in greatest demand having been all sold in a few weeks, whilst the others still remain on his hands. The Committee, however, would recommend that Mr. Greig be allowed to replenish his stock on the same terms as those, on which he received his selection of last year. The sum arising from the sale of Books, and from arrears paid in since last audit, amounts to, for the former, including the Books selected by Mr. Greig, and charged to him, £60 : 9 : 3, and for the latter, £4 : 13 : 5—thus making in all the sum of £65 : 2 : 8. Of this £18 : 8 : 3 have been paid by the Librarian into the hands of the Treasurer ; £4 : 13 : 2 will be paid by the Lord Bishop of Quebec, in books ; and the remainder the Committee hope to receive in a short time. Several of the Clergy and Catechists have received supplies for their respective Missions. The National and Military Schools ; the Military Hospital and several destitute places, both in town and country, have been gratuitously supplied. The following is a brief summary of the books circulated during the past year :—

	<i>Sold.</i>	<i>Given gratis.</i>
Bibles,.....	15.....	13
Testaments,	18.....	0
Prayer-books,.....	125.....	22
Books bound, unbound and stitched, .	988.....	445

It only remains for the Committee to speak briefly of the Schools under their care. Those ladies, who take an inter-

est in the Girls' School, are much pleased with the exertions of the Mistress and the improvement of the children. A decided improvement has taken place in the Boys' School, especially as regards their writing, which is in a great measure to be attributed to the praiseworthy attention paid to the School by one of the gentlemen composing the Committee of Management. Mr. William Greene, the Society's present Schoolmaster, resigns his situation in May. In his successor, Mr. Charles Rollet, the Committee have every confidence, and feel happy in recommending the School under his management to those parents, who desire for their children a good common and religious education.

STATEMENT OF PUPILS ADMITTED.

Sex.	Church of England.	Church of Rome.	Kirk of Scotland.	Protestant Dissenters.	Total.
BOYS....	76	22	28	23	149
GIRLS...	60	19	20	16	115
TOTAL...	136	41	48	39	264

The Committee cannot refuse again to urge upon the friends of the Society, and especially upon the Ladies composing "the Committee for Superintending the Girls' School," the necessity of giving their *personal* co-operation in the important work of educating the children of the poor. If they knew from experience the good they might confer upon the Schools, by shewing that they take a personal and lively interest in them, the Committee are convinced that they would feel happy, when witnessing the steady improvement of a class of persons, who, especially in these new countries, may be the instruments of much evil in the hands of the crafty and designing, if not taught in early life to "fear God and honour the King."

The Committee would also remind the Clergy of the District, that the Society's operations are not intended to be confined to the *City*, but also to extend to the *District* of Montreal; and would humbly suggest to them the propriety

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of interesting their Congregations in its behalf. At present, some of the Clergy are regular subscribers (for which the Committee feel thankful); but their Congregations do not afford that aid, which they doubtless could, and probably would give, if their attention was fairly called to it. Besides, when visiting the city, those, in want of books, would naturally call at that depository, in which they would, then, have an interest, and at which they could be supplied with such books, as, under divine blessing, might be of incalculable benefit to them.

In conclusion, the Committee implore, not only the contributions and exertions, but also the prayers (acceptable in God's sight) of all, who feel an interest in the religious principles of the lower classes, the Christian morality of the rising generation, and the peace, happiness, and prosperity of this highly favored land. Let them do *their* part, speedily, diligently, faithfully; and He, "without whom we can do nothing," will assuredly do *His*.

By order of the Committee of Management,

T. B. FULLER,

Secy. C. M., and Librarian.

The Montreal District Committee of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, in account with the Treasurer since
Cr. 25th June, 1835.
Dr.

The Montreal District Committee of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, in account with the Treasurer since
25th June, 1835.

Cr.

Dr.

1835.		Voucher.	1835.
June	6—	Bill of Exchange, favor Parent Society, for £50 stig.	0 0
July	29—	To Greene & Howard, Salaries	10 3 4
Aug.		To Stationary and Sundries	20 6 8
Sept.		To Bethune & Co. Sales	5 2 0
Oct.		To Bronsdon, Repairs	1 2 6
Oct.	31—	To Greene & Howard, Salaries	2 17 0
Nov.		To Greene, and Disbursements	7 10 3 4
Nov.		To Fuel	10 3 4
Nov.		To Assessment, 1833, 1834, 1835	12 8 9
Jan.	30—	To Greene and Howard, Salaries	4 15 0
Jan.		To Insurance	20 6 8
Feb.	26—	To Greene & Howard, Salaries	3 7 6
Feb.		To White's Account, Tinsmith	13 10 3 4
Mar.	16—	To Armour, Printing Reports	4 4 1
April	2—	To Greene & Howard, Salaries	3 0 0
		To Postage	10 3 4
		Salary for November, omitted above	0 4 6
		Balance in hands of Treasurer	17 10 3 4
			88 14 10
			£287 8 8
		Balance in hands of Treasurer, 21st April, 1836	£88 14 0

E. E.

J. S. M'CORD, Treasurer.

Examined and Approved, April 21, 1836.

(Signed)

JOHN BETHUNE.
W. P. CHRISTIE.

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FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MONTREAL DISTRICT

SUNDAY SCHOOL SOCIETY,

IN CONNEXION WITH THE

QUEBEC DIOCESAN

SUNDAY SCHOOL SOCIETY.

MONTREAL:

PRINTED BY ARMOUR AND RAMSAY,

St. James Street.

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REPORT.

THE COMMITTEE OF THE MONTREAL DISTRICT SUNDAY SCHOOL SOCIETY, IN CONNEXION WITH THE QUEBEC DIOCESAN SUNDAY SCHOOL SOCIETY, beg leave to lay before their friends and the public, their first Report, grateful to them for their liberal support, and thankful to that Gracious Being, "without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy."

In making this Report, the Committee are obliged to retrace the past history of the Society, and naturally recur to its first formation on the 20th March, 1832. At that time, each of the schools, as well that of the boys, as that of the girls, was divided into six classes, with a teacher for every class, and a Superintendant for each School.

Among other plans then adopted for the benefit of the schools, was that of dividing the city and suburbs into eleven sections, to each of which were appointed two visitors, whose duties were to ascertain the number and residence of the children attached to our Church, within their several sections—to endeavour to persuade their parents to send them to the school, and to set before them the advantages which would be derived from their children's punctual attendance.

This plan so admirably adapted, under God's guidance, to effect a good purpose, was almost entirely marred by the dreadful malady with which this Province was visited early in the month of June following. What had already been effected by the teachers was rendered useless, and they were stopped in their labour of love by the terror and dismay with which all classes of society were seized in that eventful year. From the blow then received, the girls' school soon recovered: but the case was far different with the boys. It long continued in a very low state, so that in May, 1834, there were attached to it no Superintendent, only four regular teachers, and about fifty scholars, a great majority of whom, belonging to the day school, were obliged by the rules of that Institution to attend a school on the Sunday. From that time, however, it has steadily improved; new and efficient teachers were induced to embark in the important labour of instructing the rising generation in the principles of our most holy religion, and with the addition of such teachers, there were soon added large numbers of promising and attentive children. Still a want was felt by all interested in the school. It was without a Superintendent. This want was well supplied by a gentleman from Halifax, who zealously embarked in the cause, and brought a superior and well regulated mind to bear upon the best interests of the school. Under his superintendance it attained to a degree of usefulness, which encouraged its friends to hope for good fruits from it.

In March, 1835, a meeting of the teachers attached to this school was called by the visiting Clergyman, to consult upon the best means to be used for promoting, through the grace of God, the important undertaking in which they were engaged. At this meeting it was resolved that the teachers should meet on the first Monday evening of every month. This resolution has been carried into effect with the most beneficial results. They advise one with the other, about their several classes—they propose such plans as

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appear to them beneficial, and receive such advice and encouragement as may seem necessary and useful. At one of the first monthly meetings of the teachers, the plan of dividing the city and suburbs into sections, was revived, and nine sections having been formed, each person present undertook the duty of visiting in the ward allotted to him, and of interesting the parents and children, attached to our Church, in the Sunday Schools. By this plan, which was immediately carried into effect, many children, whose precious Sabbath hours had previously been spent in the streets, where they were exposed to the worst company and surrounded by the most contaminating examples, were brought to attend where they are told of him, who loved little children, "took them up in his arms and blessed them," "who came to seek and to save those that were lost," and "who died that they might live."

As the school improved, it struck many interested in its prosperity, that a well selected library would be of great service both to the teachers and children. It was therefore unanimously resolved, at one of the "Teachers' Monthly Meetings," that the teachers themselves would give according to their several abilities, and also use their exertions amongst their friends in order to raise funds sufficient to procure a suitable library. In consequence of this resolution, the Superintendent took upon himself the trouble and responsibility of sending to London for a library, which arrived early in the fall. Soon after the resolution was made, the teachers raised funds nearly adequate for the purchase of the library, and would doubtless have quickly raised much greater ones, had not the intelligence of their exertions reached the Rev. President of the S. S. Society, who said that the Society would do what the teachers themselves purposed doing, and called a meeting to submit to it the proposal. He submitted it, and the Society having accepted it, placed at the disposal of the Superintendent funds sufficient to cover any expenses he might incur in pro-

curing the library. The funds raised by the teachers were expended in printing forms for the teachers' Monthly Reports, and a few hundred copies of "A Plain Address to Parents," on the subject of Sunday Schools, prepared for circulation by our teachers, whilst visiting at the houses of the poor. At the same meeting of the Sunday School Society, those interested in the formation of an afternoon school in the Free Chapel, College Street, were authorised to procure a library from New York at the expense of the Society. This library, which arrived in November, as well as that from London, proves very useful to all, as well teachers and children, as the parents of those children who attend the school. The books are given out every Sunday by a librarian to the teacher of each class, to whom he looks for their safe return; and are again given out by the teachers to those children who prove themselves worthy of this reward, and are by them returned on the following Sunday after having been read as well by the parents as by themselves. Though these libraries have been expensive, yet the Committee cannot but think that in procuring them for the use of the schools they have been furthering the object which the Society has in view—the improvement and salvation of the children attached to our communion.

The Ladies' Sunday School, conducted in Christ's Church, although it does not offer much field for remark, has, nevertheless, the Committee are happy to state, continued in an encouraging condition. Much good has been done, although it has not had the advantage of a library, and has only partially benefitted by the excellent plans adopted in the other schools; for the only new measure, in the benefits of which its teachers have participated, is the establishment of very useful familiar lectures, given every Friday evening in the Vestry of Christ's Church, by the Rector and Assistant Minister, alternately, when the chapter from which the children in the schools are to be instructed on the following Sunday, is fully explained to the teachers and others who

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attend. The following table shews the present strength of the schools :—

MORNING SCHOOL.		
<i>Male Department.</i>		<i>Female do.</i>
Superintendent,.....	1	1
Teachers,	12	10
Librarians,	2	0
Children,.....	263	124

AFTERNOON SCHOOL.		
<i>Male Department.</i>		<i>Female do.</i>
Superintendent,.....	1	1
Teachers,	10	5
Librarian,.....	1	for the two departments.
Children,.....	130	56

Such is the Report the Committee are enabled to lay before their friends; cheering, indeed, when we look at the past, but truly humiliating, when we look at the little done, when compared with what the rising generation attached to our communion have a *right* to expect at our hands, and which, from *our* past neglect, has, in a great measure, been performed by others. The Committee are extremely anxious that the schools should be more efficient, and, in some measure, at least, perform that duty which is naturally laid upon them, and they would fain hope, that their own wishes on this subject differ in no respect from those of any one attached to our communion. But they can do little if unaided by those who have it in their power to assist them. The Society is *burdened with a debt of upwards of £58*, and has *no prospect of discharging it, except that derived from the well-tryed generosity of its friends.* But this is not all. At least *twelve* good teachers are wanted in the several schools, which, without this addition, must remain *comparatively inefficient.*

Yet the Committee will not despair. They know in whom they have put their trust—that he is Almighty. To him, therefore, they look in faith, assured that when the call shall be made, he will put it into the hearts of our more

wealthy brethren to give freely of their wealth, of which they have been made stewards, and that he will instil into the minds of our younger brethren and sisters, the holy resolution to devote their spare hours and their several talents to the delightful employment of pointing out the road to heaven to the young immortal—of seeking for him the graces of God's Holy Spirit, and of forming him for the company of the angelic host.

In conclusion, the Committee would remind the Superintendents of schools in the country parishes, that this Report would not have been so entirely occupied with accounts of schools in the city, if they had had any materials, from which to report on the state of the country Sunday Schools.

Nor would the Committee fail to remind those interested in such schools, of the benefit to be derived from assistance given by the Sunday School Society—which benefit has as yet, been conferred only on the schools in the city, because no other schools applied for aid, and because the only aid the Sunday School Society has it in its power to extend, has been entirely derived from Churches within the city. But there is no good reason why things should continue in this state. “Union is strength,” and if all the parishes would unite as one parish, in promoting the cause of Sunday Schools, through the instrumentality of the Society, its operations, instead of being confined as they are at present, would be in some degree commensurate to the wants of the Church, and enable it to assist all, on much more favourable terms, than hitherto it has been enabled to assist one. All are deeply interested in it. If then all will do their duty, they may look with confidence for the blessing of Him, “without whom we can do nothing,” and “whose strength is made perfect in our weakness.”

The attention of the Reverend Clergymen of the District of Montreal, and of those Ladies and Gentlemen who feel an interest in the prosperity of the National and Sunday Schools, is respectfully called to pages 6 and 7 of the first, and pages 6 and 7 of the second Report.