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THE
FOURTEENTH ANNUAL
REPORT
OF THE
QUEBEC DIOCESAN COMMITTEE
OF THE
Society for Promoting
CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

May, 1832.

Montreal.
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MAY, 1832.

The Committee have much satisfaction in laying before the Members of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge the Report of their proceedings during the past twelve months, feeling thankful for the success which has attended their labours. In a Society like our own we are perhaps not to look for any striking and brilliant results: for the march of moral improvement is not usually rapid, and consequently though there is no doubt that the exertions made, and making, cannot under God fail of producing the best and happiest effects, still, whatever amelioration may take place in the religious and moral condition of any community, such amelioration must of necessity be progressive.

Under the firmest conviction that the seeds of religious instruction sown in faith through the instrumentality of this Society, will not be without a corresponding blessing; the Committee are determined that no relaxation of effort on their part shall tend to diminish that degree of success with which their labours have hitherto been favoured. The enlarged sphere for increased exertions on the part of the Society in this District of the Province, call for fresh zeal and labour, not only on the part of your committee, but also from every member of the Institution, who wishes well

to the interests of true religion and morality. In the new Settlements, on all sides around us, receiving a portion of that mighty tide of Emigration flowing into these Provinces, we have fields for our exertions ; indeed vast many of these poor and destitute individuals are unavoidably cast afar off from any place of worship, where they might hear the word of God preached ; and perhaps without a copy of the sacred volume, are left to indulge in distress and the solitude of the wilderness, their anxiety to explore those holy pages, to here the exposition of which in their native land, they were constantly invited,—or more deplorable still, perhaps are living in the heart of the forest, and have learned to regard with a degree of apathy and unconcern the possession of those spiritual blessings, of which they have been long deprived, and are now more intent upon obtaining the meat that perisheth, than the bread which endureth unto life eternal. It is the duty of this Society to step forward to the relief of those benighted & destitute individuals, and in instances where your committee have been made acquainted with the spiritual wants of persons residing in such remote situations, assistance has cheerfully been afforded. But, it must be acknowledged that applications of this kind have hitherto been far from numerous, chiefly owing it is supposed to ignorance of the existence of our Society : to obviate which evil, perhaps some more affective measures might be in future adopted. It may be recollected that at the anniversary meeting of the members of the Institution in May, 1830, a resolution was passed to adopt “measures to diffuse information more widely in this community respecting the views and objects of the Society,” but the address which in pursuance of the Resolution was drawn up and widely distributed in this community, could not avail those who are removed from the immediate vicinity of Québec, into whose hands it never came. It may be satisfactory to know that the address in behalf of the Society, and the appeal then made to the public for their support, though not attended by the success which might reasonably have been expected, was yet not made in vain.

A communication was made to the Secretary of the Parent Society in December last, the object of which was respect-

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fully to suggest to the Board the propriety of establishing a rule for the Colonies, which would authorize Subscribers to the Parent Society, when stationed abroad without loosing their membership, to pay the amount of their subscriptions during their residence in the Colonies, to the Committee, which may be established on the spot, and vice versa. That persons who have connected themselves with the Committees in the Colonies, should upon removal to England, become attached to the Parent Society. A list of subscribers so removing being from time to time forwarded by the local Secretaries. There is little doubt that in the event of a measure of this kind being adopted, it would tend much to the benefit of the funds of the Society; saving many subscriptions which, under present circumstances, are perhaps wholly lost, merely for want of being applied for. The advantages of adopting a rule of the kind proposed, is particularly observable in this city, where the military society, (of which many become members of the Society during their residence here) is continually fluctuating. No answer up to this date has been received to this communication.

By the last Report received, which contain the address to His Majesty upon his accession to the throne, the satisfactory intelligence is conveyed of the increasing prosperity of the Parent Society, and, that its labours have been continued on a scale of progressive extension,"— which intelligence is indeed fully established by a review of their proceedings for several years back. For the last twelve months, to which the audit account contained in the last report refers, the total number of Bibles, Testaments, Common Prayer-books, and other Books and Tracts issued, amount to the large number of 1,715,560; and it is further satisfactory to know, as stated in the Report, that a large proportion of these books have been supplied to parochial charity, National and Sunday schools—the funds of which schools have in consequence benefitted to a great degree from the privilege of obtaining books at greatly reduced prices. The total of receipts for one year ending April, 1830, amount to the sum of £67,018 9 0—intelligence indeed of a highly gratifying nature has been received.

The report of the Midland District Committee has been received.—This Committee established at Kingston, which, owing to various reasons, had not for a long time been in operation, is likely, through the valuable exertions of its present officers and members to realize the expectations that were formed upon its reorganization.

The District Committee at Cornwall has received a supply of Books, direct from the stores of the Society in London, and that as well as the other district committees established in this diocese, it is believed, is in active operation and increasing in usefulness.

The Committee now proceed to lay before the public a detailed account of their operations in each branch of the Institution; the first of which is the distribution of Books and Tracts:—

The total amount of sales at the Repository since May last, is £157 15 5, including £43 13 6 charged to the Sunday School Society, being amount of books sold for Sunday Schools. Books to the amount of £19 19 2, have been procured by the Lord Bishop of Quebec and during the year, packages of books have been sent to the following Clergymen, Catechists and School-masters:—

The Rev. J. L. Alexander, Leeds,

The Rev. Mr. Brown. for the Sunday School in the Mariner's Chapel.

The Rev. J. B. Lindsay. Williamsburgh, U. C.

The Rev. John Bethune. for the Sunday School at Montreal.

The Rev. J. Doolittle, Paspebiac, District of Gaspé.

Mr. Andrew Balfour, }
Mr. Francis Burton, } Quebec.

Catechists and School Masters.

Mr. Knight, Frampton, E. & W.

Mr. Anderson, Leeds. Ireland, and parts adjacent.

Mr. A. Hoffman, Val Cartier, and all the circumjacent Settlements.

Mr. D. Eddleston.

Mr. O'Neil, Catechist at Aubert Gallion, and parts adjacent.

Mr. Forest, Catechist at Chateauguay and parts adjacent.

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Miss. E. Hall, for a Sunday School at Broughton.

Mr. James Gibson, School-master at Broughton.

Mr. Willam Anderson, for the Sunday School at St. Roch.

Mr. James Proctor, for a Sunday School.

A small package of books was also sent to the Fever Hospital at Point Levi for the use of the Protestant patients; and the books required for the use of the Sunday School, established in the Chapel of the Holy Trinity, have also in a great measure been obtained from the stock of the Committee at the Repository.

The resident clergy in Québec have, as in former years, availed themselves of the privilege granted to them of distributing books to a limited amount to the poor and sick in the hospitals and at their own houses.* It is gratifying to state that several of the sick in the hospitals make not unfrequent applications to the attending clergyman for a change of books, and that those which are put into their hands appear to be read with attention. The books recently added to the catalogue of the Parent Society, will, it is thought, be more acceptable to the generality of readers, on account of the more easy and familiar style in which they are written. The cost to the Committee for books distributed in this way, amount to £13 17 6½. The cost of books obtained for the use of the National School, amounts for the year to £12 7 9½. The different Sunday Schools in connection with the Church of England, of which there are now four established in this city, have also been supplied with such books as were necessary from the Repository, One of these schools has been organized since the last anniversary meeting, and is situated in the populous suburb of St. Roch. It opened on the 5th of March, in a building lent by the kindness of Mr. Finch last year, for a week-day evening lecture on the scriptures and fitted up by subscription for that purpose. Mr. Finch, Mr. William Anderson, Student in Divinity, with others, as assistants, have been assiduous in attending this

*The Society's Tract entitled a Serious Address to Godfathers and Godmothers, is distributed gratuitously at baptisms to such person as have not stood in that capacity.

Sunday School, which commenced with nineteen children and is now increased to forty-two. The Sunday School at Presde-Ville, formerly held in a private dwelling, through the liberality of the gentleman who occupied it, and which served also as a place of worship, preparatory to the erection of the Mariners Chapel, has been successfully revived. The lower flat of the new building where the scholars are received in a large and commodious school-room, sufficiently spacious to contain at least 200 children. The whole number of children at present on the list is 98. The average number in attendance during the last four months is, boys 42, girls 29—total, 71. There is every reason to believe, that under the Divine blessing, this school is instrumental in producing much good. It is under the judicious management of individuals who are zealous and persevering, and the Committee has again to acknowledge in particular, the services of Mr. Thompson, the superintendent. Books have been supplied to this school from the Repository, to the amount of £2 13 9.

The Sunday School Society, to which allusion was made in the last Report, has been organised, and according to the original intention, is made up of four Central Committees. The additional officers of each Committee, at Quebec and Montreal have been appointed.

A meeting, the object of which was to appoint the Central Committee for the District of Montreal, was held in February last, at which the Archdeacon of Quebec presided. The Rev. J. Bethune was requested to accept the office of Vice President, and Mr. J. Short the office of Secretary and Librarian, and J. S. M'Cord, Esq, the office of Treasurer.—The officers of the Central Committee, together with the Committee of Management of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, were constituted a Committee of Management for the affairs of the Institution. Sunday, the 27th May, was fixed upon for the first Annual Sermon and Collection, in aid of the funds of the Society.

The Central Committee at Quebec numbers at present ten schools in connection, at which the system of instruction recommended by the Society is adopted. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts has contributed

£200 sterling to the Institution. Knowledge is the object, in the supply of the Society here used in the been prepared the National Repository has been distributed separate accounts.

The issue for the year is satisfactory. The following works of a

The following be inserted in the Repository 22d, May Bibles Testament Psalms. Common Other bound Half bound and care

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£200 sterling towards the establishment of this most important Institution—and the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge has granted a large amount in books for the same object, in consequence of which liberal grants, a large supply of books was forwarded to the President of the Society here, last summer. A catalogue of the books to be used in the Sunday School and Lending Libraries, has also been prepared, and may be obtained at the Repository in the National School-house, which will serve also as the Repository of the New Society; and to avoid confusion, it has been determined to unite the stocks of each Institution: separate accounts being kept.

The issues of Books from the Repository during the last year is satisfactory, and exhibits an increasing demand for works of a moral and religious tendency.

The following statement, which was procured too late to be inserted in the body of the Report, exhibits the issues from the Repository from the date of the Report of 1831, to the 22d, May 1832.

Bibles	67
Testaments.	173
Psalms.	131
Common Prayer books.	183
Other bound books.	419
Half bound books, Tracts. and cards	4, 459
Total.	5, 432

With regard to the financial concerns, your Committee has great satisfaction in stating that at no period has the Institution been in a more promising state. The balance in the Treasurer's and Secretary's hands amount at present to £307 12 11, a sum of £60 currency is due to the Committee by the Treasurer of the National School Committee of management, which sum it was necessary to advance to enable him to pay the salaries of the school-master and mistress: but which will be returned to the Committee at no distant period,

This unusually large amount of funds is partly explained by the circumstance that no remittance has been made during the last year to the Secretary of the Parent Society;

and the order for £100 worth of books not having been carried into effect, it has since increased by order of your committee to £200 currency, and a supply to that amount to meet the demands augmented in a great degree by the formation of the Sunday School Society is expected in the course of the summer, The stock on hand having become very low it was found necessary to purchase a number of Bibles from the Quebec auxiliary to the British and Foreign Bible Society, on which occasion 40 Bibles were obtained at the extremely reduced price, of half a dollar a copy—with an understanding, however, on the part of the Committee, that they should not be re-sold either to subscribers or to the public, but kept exclusively for the use of Sunday Schools, in order to encourage which excellent Institution the Society is willing to suffer a material loss; the sum demanded being very much below the intrinsic value of the book.

The other branch of the Institution which embraces the education of the poor on the Madras system, has engaged the anxious attention of your Committee, and it is with much pleasure that they are enabled to announce that the central schools in this city under their inspection and control have been ably and zealously conducted by the respective master and mistress. More than 240 children have enjoyed during the year all the advantages of religious and moral instruction, which that excellent system, under faithful and judicious application, can bestow. The excellence of the system under which these schools are conducted, and that which recommends them to the members of the Church of England, is the circumstance, that with the instruction requisite to fit the children for the discharge of their duties as members of society, and to acquire an honest livelihood, the care of the soul is not neglected, nor that knowledge which is above all price forgotten to be imparted. When it is considered how small a portion of time the labouring classes have it in their power to dedicate to the religious instruction of their offspring, how little capable they are of affording that instruction as it ought to be given; even supposing that there be no apathy or unwillingness on their part, (which is not unfrequently the case,) to take upon them the

discharge of these establishments in their hands, the scripture passages who appropriate education, and the habits of industry will advance with a highly useful and happy influence on the soul.

In imparting with the education particularly of the Holy Scriptures of that pure doctrine the Church far from the diffusion of the children with injuries not given; which religious minds of the same nature are the fairest to a formed nation of Christ.

The whole of the National Society probable number 79—in the last Report of the institution schools.

Your committee deprived of with whose in charge of the depository, the

discharge of this solemn duty the superior excellence of these establishments in which the whole labour is taken off their hands, and religious knowledge imparted on correct scripture principles must surely be apparent. With those who appreciate the blessed effects of a sound religious education, both as it tends to the peace of the individual and the happiness of the community at large, such Institutions will always claim a decided preference. An acquaintance with the different branches of education is indeed highly useful and important, but poor indeed if the interests of the soul are neglected.

In imparting to the children of the poor an acquaintance with the elementary branches of knowledge, care ought particularly to be taken to impart also a knowledge of the Holy Scriptures and to ground them well in those doctrines of that pure and reformed Faith to which as members of the Church of England it is our happiness to belong. It is far from the intention of your committee to condemn the diffusion of knowledge, or to say that the general education of the children of the labouring classes is always attended with injurious consequences, where religious instruction is not given; but it is their decided opinion that a system in which religious impressions are early instilled into the minds of the children, and christian principles taught at the same time that worldly knowledge is imparted, bids fairest to answer the ends for which these Institutions are formed, namely to make good citizens and faithful followers of Christ.

The whole number of children upon the books of the National School at present is, Boys 138; Girls 164: the probable number in attendance daily in the boys school is 79—in the girls 53. The actual number admitted since the last Report is 179; and since the commencement of the institution 4303 have received instruction in the two schools.

Your committee regret to state that they are about to be deprived of the services of the present master, Mr. Thom, with whose conduct during the period which he has been in charge of the school, as well as in the care of the Repository, they have every reason to be perfectly satisfied.

Your Committee feel that they would be wanting in their duty, if on this occasion they failed thus publicly to testify their unqualified approbation. Mr. Thom's desire to promote the improvement of the scholars, and his incessant attention in discharging all the duties which devolved upon him as Master, and also as Librarian, merit the warmest praise and acknowledgments. The want of funds to meet the increased amount of his salary, sanctioned by the Committee in 1831, after the expiration of the first year in which he was in charge, is the sole reason of his relinquishing the situation. The services of Mr. Dunbar Jameison, who has for some time been in charge of a public school at Three Rivers, on the Lancasterian system, and who is well qualified as a teacher, having received a classical education, have been engaged in the room of the present master.

Miss Norris, mistress of the girl's school has also recently retired from the charge of that branch of the Institution in which she had been successfully engaged for eight years. The Committee having every reason to be highly satisfied with the conduct of Miss Norris, has, as a mark of their approbation, presented her with a large Bible from their Repository. Mrs. Purcell sister of Mr. Jameison, and who is every way qualified for the office, is now in the actual discharge of the duties of School Mistress.

An application was made to the Provincial Parliament during the last Session in aid of the funds of this school; but the Committee regret to state that it was not favourably received; an application was also made for a small grant towards establishing a Day school on the Madras system, at Pres-de-ville which is very much wanted in that neighbourhood, so far removed from any of the public free schools of the city; and in this instance as well as the other, they regret the application was unsuccessful.

The Sunday Schools belonging to the Church of England composed of the children of the poor attached to the civil and military congregations are in a flourishing condition and it is hoped are effecting much good; 139 Boys and 109 Girls are the children upon the books.

The Annual Public Examination took place on the 23rd of December, and the result of the examination was satis-

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factory and creditable to the teachers—106 boys and 87 girls were present.

The Committee in conclusion trust that from the statements now laid before the members of the Society it will appear that they have not relaxed in their exertions to execute the important trust committed to them and to promote to the best of their ability the knowledge of the Truth as it is in Jesus. The sphere for the operation of their labours is becoming every day more extended, and many settlements are forming around, and must continue to increase were much larger funds than the committee are at present possessed of might successfully be employed, and whose spiritual wants call fondly for our help. The Committee feel it a duty therefore to appear to the friends of this Institution on its behalf; and they earnestly call upon all, and particularly the members of the Church to lay aside all coldness and indifference in communicating to others through the instrumentality of this Institution the blessings and privileges, which as Christians they enjoy. Much good may be affected if each member can induce even one other to become a subscriber, in which way an important augmentation to the Funds will be made.

And above all being persuaded that "except the Lord build the house their labour is but lost, that build it," they would solicit the earnest prayers of all to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that he would pour out of his spirit upon those who are more immediately engaged in the management of the concerns of this Society; and that in the discharge of the high trust committed to them they may labour zealously, wisely, and fervently, to the increase of the Divine Glory and to the good of his people.

By order of the Committee,

E. W. SEWELL, SECRETARY.

May, 1832.