

REPORT,

OF THE

HOME DISTRICT COMMITTEE,

OF THE SOCIETY

FOR

PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE,

FOR 1827.



YORK U. C.

PRINTED BY R. STANTON.

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REPORT

YORK COMMITTEE
OF THE SOCIETY
FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE

A Meeting of the Committee was held on the 11th
November, 1827, at the residence of the Secretary,
Mr. R. C. B. Parry, in the
City of York. After Prayer the Secretary read the follow-
ing Report:—
In presenting a Report of the proceedings of the
Committee of the Society for Promoting Christian
Knowledge, little more appears necessary than to
mention the actual issues of Books which have taken
place since the 31st April 1825, the date of our last
meeting. On that occasion it became my duty to
state, that owing to the disappointments and delays
in procuring Books from England, the Diocesan Com-
mittee at Quebec, with which we had been associ-
ated, was not able for a long time to furnish us with
an adequate supply of Bibles and Tracts, and
had there not been a considerable number in deposit
it would have been impossible to have answered the
frequent calls which have been made on us for copies
of the Bible and Tracts. Since our last meeting the
Diocesan Committee have furnished us with Books
and Tracts in full of the quantity which we had
sent them, and as the Committee, with the approbation
of the Lord Bishop, will hereafter communicate
directly with the Parson Society, the difficulties which
we have hitherto experienced cannot in future be im-
agined. The principal evil which has attended
these delays has been the interruption of our
meetings, and the consequent non-payment for some

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YORK COMMITTEE,
OF THE SOCIETY
FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

A Meeting of this Committee was held on the 13th November, 1827.—His EXCELLENCY SIR PEREGRINE MAITLAND, K. C. B. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, in the Chair.—After Prayers the Secretary read the following Report :—

In presenting a Report of the proceedings of this Committee of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, little more appears necessary than to mention the actual Issues of Books which have taken place since the 9th April 1825, the date of our last meeting. On that occasion it became my duty to state, that owing to the disappointments and delays in procuring Books from England, the Diocesan Committee at Quebec, with which we had been associated, was not able for a long time to furnish us with an adequate supply of Bibles and Prayer Books, and had there not been a considerable number in deposit it would have been impossible to have answered the frequent calls which have been made on us for copies of the Bible and Liturgy. Since our last meeting the Diocesan Committee have furnished us with Books and Tracts in full of the remittance which we had sent them, and as this Committee, with the approbation of the Lord Bishop, will henceforth communicate directly with the Parent Society, the difficulties which we have hitherto experienced cannot in future be anticipated. The principal evil which has attended these delays has been the interruption of our annual meetings, and the consequent non-payment, for some

years, of many subscriptions, but this is an evil which all have now an opportunity of remedying.

Since our last meeting two hundred and nineteen Prayer Books, many of them bound up with the New Testament, have been issued, and sixty four Bibles, making an aggregate of two hundred and seventy seven. On a few of them small payments have been made, which though far less than the value, tend to keep up the fund, and give an opportunity to persons of independence of mind, to contribute something towards the purchase of the Book which they receive.

The reason why the number of Prayer Books issued so greatly exceeds that of the Bibles arises from this, that one hundred and ninety-five Bibles, and twenty-three New Testaments have been distributed by a Branch of the Bible Society established in this Town, the funds of which, though supported almost entirely for some years back by the members of this Committee, have been always kept separate.

It will be seen by inspecting the books of distribution that a very large portion has been issued to Emigrants, either proceeding to their Locations or already upon them, and that many families have the privilege of Bibles and Prayer Books to cheer them in the woods, to comfort them in their solitude, and enable them after the labors of the day to unite in family worship, who but for you would have been destitute of these blessings. Effectual aid has been extended to many Sunday Schools, sometimes by donations, and sometimes for a small part of the original cost.

It is pleasing to observe that in the list of distribution we find several Indians who have been supplied with Bibles and Prayer Books, and indeed the happy change which is now in progress among them cannot fail to excite in the minds of all Christians the warmest sentiments of gratitude and praise to our Heavenly

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Father through Jesus Christ, who bringeth such mighty things to pass. And to the members of this Institution still more than to others ought this turning of the Indians from darkness to light be matter of Joy, as from our first formation we have had their conversion earnestly in view, and endeavoured by every means in our power to effect it.

It is refreshing to turn from this distant corner of the Empire to the wonderful exertions of the Parent Society, which appears by the last Report to be rapidly increasing.

The total number of Books distributed gratuitously, or on the terms of the Society, by the report for 1826 was as follows :—

| | |
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| Bibles, | 68,008 |
| Testaments and Psalters, | 93,556 |
| Common Prayer Books, | 165,152 |
| Other Bound Books, | 95,233 |
| Small Tracts half bound, | 916,742 |
| Books & Papers Gratuitously, | 162,000 |

Total, 1,490,691

Expenditure, £64,201 7 4

Total Receipts, . . . £65,314 16 5

It only remains to recommend the designs of the Society at large, and of this Branch established among us, to the cordial encouragement, zealous co-operation, and earnest prayers, of all who wish the Kingdom of God to come.

To those who conscientiously differ from us, the utmost charity is due, and has always been practised in supplying them with the Scriptures and useful Tracts; but without forgetting that it is our first duty, in disseminating Christianity among the young, or in re-

claiming the careless to inculcate that form prescribed by our own Establishment—a form distinguished above all others in purity, doctrine, and discipline, and approaching more nearly to the primitive model; and were we not most earnestly to promote its dissemination, our sincerity might justly be called in question. But of our zeal in this good cause there can be no doubt, for every true member of the Church of England, while strengthening the hands of civil Society by disseminating our holy Faith, gratifies the wishes of his own heart, because he feels that he is destroying the influence of error and sin, and that he is promoting a rational and Scriptural acquaintance with that Gospel which our blessed Saviour brought down from Heaven.

Before closing this Report, I beg permission to call the attention of the Meeting to the subject of Education. In England Committees of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, have almost always a School on the National Plan under its protection; the Children *it* supplies with Books—superintends their Religious Instruction, and frequently assumes the whole charge. On our part, much less than this will be required: the National School in this Town is supported by the munificence of His Majesty's Government; and little is left for us to do, in the way of expense, except occasional donations of useful Books. All, indeed, that appears wanting, is the meeting of the Children on Sunday, that they may regularly attend Church, and the free admission on that day of those Children whose Parents may permit them to come. In this way, a Sunday School might be established on a more systematic and efficient plan than the one which was for several years conducted with very considerable success, and which at length was discontinued, owing more to the want of diligent Teachers than any backwardness of attendance on the part of the Children. Not only will

such Children by regular and habitually corresponding to the Church of England—minds—they in a serious and require an intermit the advantage to sing; and instruments of Service. Instruction in music Religious habits cite the proper attached to a the place and persons alive which present melodies!—a can feel, and every voice, c

The following carried unanim

1. That the
2. That the Reverend Dr. paid to the discharge of Secretary deacon.
3. That the Secretary, for
4. That the able Justice S Wells, be requested arrangements for

such Children acquire pure Religious instruction, but by regular attendance on Divine Worship, they will habitually connect our form of sound doctrine with a correspondent practice. The forms and tenets of the Church of England will become familiar to their minds—they will make the responses of the Liturgy in a serious and becoming manner, and gradually acquire an interest in what they are doing. Nor can I omit the advantage to be derived from teaching them to sing; and thus enabling them to become the instruments of reviving this neglected part of our Church Service. Instead of grown persons, whose instruction in music has never perhaps been associated with Religious habits and ideas—who neither feel nor excite the proper emotions, and who are too frequently attached to a light sort of music, wholly unsuited to the place and to the occasion, we should then have persons alive to that ancient Psalmody of the Church which presents to us the finest examples of sacred melodies!—a species of music which every breast can feel, and in which every devout mind, and almost every voice, can join.

The following Resolutions were then moved and carried unanimously:—

1. That the Report be accepted.
2. That the thanks of the Society be given to the Reverend Dr. Phillips, for the great attention he has paid to the distribution of the Books, and doing the duty of Secretary during the absence of the Archdeacon.
3. That the thanks of the Society be given to the Secretary, for his Report.
4. That the Venerable the Archdeacon, the Honorable Justice Sherwood, Justice Willis, and Colonel Wells, be requested to form a Committee to make arrangements for establishing a Sunday in connection

with the National School; and instructing the Children in Sacred Music.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor having retired, it was unanimously resolved, that the thanks of the Meeting be given to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, for his kind condescension in acting as Chairman.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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| His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, £ | 10 | 0 | 0 |
| The Chief Justice, | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| The Archdeacon, | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Levius P. Sherwood, | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| John B. Robinson, | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| John Walpole Willis, | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Thomas Ridout, | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Lieutenant Colonel Wells, | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| John H. Dunn, | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| George Hillier, | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Henry J. Boulton, | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| Samuel P. Jarvis, | 0 | 11 | 8 |
| Robert Stanton, | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| C. Forster, | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Joseph Spragg, | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Charles C. Small, | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| Nathaniel Coffin, | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Duncan Cameron, | 2 | 10 | 0 |
| William B. Jarvis, | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| D'Arcy Boulton, | 1 | 5 | 0 |

Lady Sarah
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 James B. M
 Mrs. Robins
 R. C. Horne
 William All
 George Croc
 John McGill
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 Mrs. Baldwi
 John Small,
 Simon Wash
 George Dug
 George Dent
 James FitzG
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 D. Cameron,
 Robert Ander
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| | James B. Macaulay, |
| | Mrs. Robinson, |
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| . 2 10 0 | George Dennison, |
| . 5 0 0 | James FitzGibbon, |
| . 2 10 0 | John Beikie, |
| . 2 10 0 | D. Cameron, |
| . 2 10 0 | Robert Anderson, |
| . 5 0 0 | Mrs. Boulton, |
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James Chewett,
John Munro,
George Munro,
Mrs. Munro,
Thomas Stoye,
John McIntosh,
Joseph Rogers,
William Smith,
John Murchison,
James Nation,
George Ridout,
Thomas Ridout, Jun'r.
Joseph Wenham,
Alexander Legge,