

THE
Eighth Annual Report

OF THE

KINGSTON LADIES'

Bible Association,

*Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association
held on the 19th December, 1857.*

KINGSTON:

JAMES M. CREIGHTON, PRINTER.

1858.

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OFFICE BEARERS.

PRESIDENT:

MRS. MACHAR.

VICE PRESIDENTS:

MRS. MCLEOD, MRS. CARTWRIGHT, MRS. MAIR, MRS. MUCKLESTON.

TREASURER:

MRS. CLARKE.

SECRETARIES:

MISS F. DUPUY, MISS SAMPSON.

COMMITTEE:

THE WIVES OF MINISTERS WHO QUALIFY AS MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION.

Mrs. Fenwick, Mrs. Irons, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. Ferguson, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Yates,
Mrs. H. Fraser, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. M'Intyre, Mrs. Paton, Mrs. Doran, Mrs.
Corbitt, Mrs. Aitkin, Mrs. Agnew, Mrs. Gale, Mrs. Bower, Mrs. Lyons,
Mrs. Lawdor, Miss Sampson, Miss Hardy, Miss Bryan, Miss Mowat,
Miss Rice, Miss Twining, Miss Robison, Miss Counter, Miss
Nelson, Miss Coy, Miss M'Intyre, Miss Verner, Miss C. A.
Dupuy, Miss George, Miss Gunn, Miss Glassup, Miss
Kirkpatrick, Miss Coverdale, Miss Wheeler,
WITH POWER TO ADD TO THEIR NUMBER.

CONSTITUTION

OF THE

Kingston Ladies' Bible Association.

I. That we form ourselves into an Association in connection with the Kingston Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, for the purpose of contributing towards the circulation of the Holy Scriptures without note or comment, particularly in Kingston and its vicinity: and that this Association be denominated THE KINGSTON LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

II. That all persons subscribing the sum of two shillings and six-pence per annum payable in weekly, monthly, or quarterly payments, or making a donation of one pound or upwards at one time, shall be members of this Association.

III. That the business of this Association shall be conducted by a committee to be chosen annually, consisting of a President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, and three Secretaries and other members.—Three-fourths of the most regular attendants shall be eligible for re-election.

IV. That the committee meet once a month, or oftener if necessary, on a day to be fixed by themselves; and that five members form a quorum.

V. That for the purpose of soliciting and collecting donations and subscriptions, either for the general purposes of the Society or for the purchase of Bibles and Testaments, by weekly or other payments, the committee divide the city and neighborhood into districts, and appoint one or more collectors to each district; and that these contributions be paid to the Treasurer at the monthly committee meetings.

VI. That the committee make it their business to inquire whether any families or individuals residing within the limits of this Association are in want of Bibles and Testaments, and unable to procure them; in which case it shall be the duty of the committee to supply them therewith at prime cost, or otherwise, according to their circumstances.

VII. That the funds of this Association, or as much thereof as the committee shall direct, whether arising from donations, subscriptions, or the sale of Bibles and Testaments, shall from time to time be expended in the purchase of Bibles and Testaments at prime cost, to be sold to the poor in the city or neighborhood as before directed; and that any surplus which may arise may also, after deducting the incidental expenses of the Association, be paid into the funds of the Kingston Auxiliary to the British and Foreign Bible Society, in aid of its general purposes.

VIII. That a general meeting of the subscribers and friends of the Association be held (on such a day as shall be fixed by the committee) each year, when the accounts as audited by the committee be presented, the proceedings of the past year reported, and the officers and committee chosen for the ensuing year.

IX. That a copy of these Rules, signed by the Secretaries, be transmitted to the Committee of the Kingston Auxiliary to the British and Foreign Bible Society, with a request that they will grant permission to lay out the funds of the Association in purchasing at the Depository of the said Society, Bibles and Testaments at cost prices.

PUBLIC MEETING.

The Eighth anniversary meeting of the Kingston Ladies' Bible Association, was held in the City Hall, on Wednesday Evening the 19th December, 1857.

Thomas Kirkpatrick, Esq., in the Chair.

The meeting was opened by the Rev. Dr. Machar with prayer; after which, the Report being read, it was moved by the Rev. Mr. Rogers, seconded by the Rev. Mr. Smart,

I. Resolved—That the Report now read be received, adopted, and printed, under the direction of the Committee, and that the following Ladies be the office bearers for the ensuing year.

President—Mrs. Machar. *Vice Presidents*—Mrs. McLeod, Mrs. Cartwright, Mrs. Mair, Mrs. Muckleston. *Treasurer*—Mrs. Clarke. *Secretaries*—Miss F. Du'uy, Miss Sampson. *Committee*—The wives of Ministers who qualify as members of this Association; Mrs. Fenwick, Mrs. Irons, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. Ferguson, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Yates, Mrs. H. Fraser, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. M'Intyre, Mrs. Paton, Mrs. Doran, Mrs. Corbitt, Mrs. Aitkin, Mrs. Agnew, Mrs. Gale, Mrs. Bower, Mrs. Lyons, Mrs. Lawdor, Miss Sampson, Miss Hardy, Miss Bryan, Miss Mowat, Miss Rice, Miss Twining, Miss Robinson, Miss Counter, Miss Nelson, Miss Coy, Miss M'Intyre, Miss Verner, Miss C. A. Dupuy, Miss George, Miss Gunn, Miss Glassup, Miss Kirkpatrick, Miss Coverdale, Miss Wheeler, with power to add to their number.

Moved by the Rev. Mr. Fenwick, seconded by John Paton, Esq.,

II. Resolved—That as the Bible is the only inspired record of divine mercy and the only authoritative standard of Faith and duty, in the opinion of this meeting, its general circulation should in one way or another be promoted by every christian.

Moved by the Rev. Dr. Evans, seconded by the Rev. Mr. Henderson,

III. Resolved—That the Kingston Ladies' Bible Association from the catholicity of its constitution, the necessity of its operations, but especially for the end it has in view, has strong claims on the liberality of all the Evangelical churches; and whilst its past success should excite devout gratitude to God; its continual usefulness, under God, will depend on the prayers, sympathy and support of its christian friends.

The Doxology was then sung, and the Rev. Mr. Dobbs dismissed the meeting with the benediction.

REPORT.

The expiration of another term of office, may well remind the members, and especially the Committee of our Society, of the memorable words of the Lord Jesus; "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day; the night cometh, when no man can work."

It is an honour to be engaged in any department of the Master's service; and no employment, to the christian, can be more desirable than that of disseminating the inspired teachings of prophets and apostles,—the divine revelation of God's abounding mercy—the record of the "gracious words," and holy life, and vicarious death of the Lord of life and glory.

In presenting the eighth annual Report of the Kingston Ladies' Bible Association, attention is first called to the

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The receipts for the past year amount to the sum of £105 4s. 1½d. The expenditure to £89 9s. 6d. Balance £15 14s. 7½d.

It is requisite, however, here to state, that through some inadvertence the last year's printed Report embraced the whole of December 1856, which should have been included in this year's statement, and which, had it been so, would have made the income £131 2s. 7½d,—the expenditure £115 7s. 8d.

SCRIPTURES CIRCULATED.

Distributed in the city.....	30
By Colporteurs in the country.....	1289
Total	<hr/> 1319

Which added to 9928 copies formerly issued, makes since the organization of the Association 11,247 copies of the Scriptures.

During the year the Colporteur has also sold for the Re-

ligious Tract Society 312 bound books, and distributed and sold 11,150 pages of tracts.

GRANTS.

Besides several grants of Bibles and Testaments to individuals during the year, the Association granted 6 Bibles to the Orphan's Home in the month of May; and in March a small grant to the House of Industry.

CITY VISITATION.

In visiting the City two objects are kept in view by the members of this Association; the sale, or gift, when necessary of copies of the Scriptures and the collection of money in small sums from persons willing to assist the Association in its work.

Comparatively few copies of the Scriptures have been disposed of by the members themselves during the past year or two. This is partly owing to the fact that the Protestant part of the City has been tolerably well supplied, and partly to the increased attention paid to Colportage in the country. It might be well however, ere long to make another united and systematic effort to reconnoitre the whole field, and attempt to place the word of God at least in the family, of every Protestant in the City.

The second object of visitation has been most perseveringly and successfully carried out. Ladies belonging to the several churches in the City have united cheerfully in the work, and we are confident that although sometimes a little discouraged, few of them would wish to relinquish a mission which, both directly and indirectly, by its moral effect on the visited, and its reflex influence on the visitor, may be instrumental of so much good.

The plan adopted enables all to contribute to the spread of the word of God—puts this privilege in the way of the poorest—and thus prevents them from feeling that they are excluded by their poverty, from advancing the happiness of their fellowmen; while their contributions however small, help to counteract the selfishness which ever threatens to settle down upon the human heart.

One collector writes of her district: "Those persons who contribute, do it apparently with pleasure, and cheerfully; but sometimes the remark is made "we have as great heathens around us as can be anywhere." It is a lamentable

truth, any christian heart would ache to see human nature, in so many cases, brought almost to the level of the brute. "No man careth for my soul" seems to echo from those miserable places of abode. Intemperance is a great ulcer. One individual who had for a long time sold liquor, seeing the evil of it said, she gave it up for a time; but found no sale for other articles, and consequently, tried it again, she said unless all, were agreed to banish the evil, she could not make a living without it, for persons would go where they would get that, though it should be at the expense of necessary food."

COLPORTAGE.

This Association was formed, as the first article of the constitution shows, for the "circulation of the Holy Scriptures" and although this is added "particularly in Kingston and its vicinity," room was wisely left for a wider sphere of labor.

The members of the Association have been disposed and by God's blessing enabled, to embrace a more extended field. For several years Colporteurs have been engaged to carry the word of life to the destitute in the several surrounding counties, and your Committee has reason to believe that the labors of these faithful men have not been in vain.

Colporteur Henry has this year been in the employment of the Association with the exception of a few weeks, until the end of October. He was on Wolfe Island at the commencement of the period embraced by this Report, and on account of its spiritual destitution and complete isolation during the winter season, continued there with the exception of a week or two, which he spent in the more destitute parts of the City until the 2nd of March. During this period he travelled three times over the Island, visited a large number of families and several Sabbath Schools, held several prayer meetings, sold 10 Bibles, 12 Testaments, 3 religious books, and distributed 2000 pages of tracts.

Mr. Henry left the service of the Association to pay a visit to his family on the 2nd March; but resumed his duties as Colporteur on the 23rd April. The following extracts from his monthly Reports will show the places which he visited and the extent of his work:—

"22nd May.—Since the 23rd April, I have visited about 460 families in the Townships of Brock, Scott, and Thorah

—sold 211 copies of the Scriptures—60 religious books, and have given away about 1100 pages of tracts.”

“23rd June.—Since the date of last Report, I have visited about 560 families in the rear of the Townships on the South side of Rice Lake, sold 231 copies of the Scriptures—56 religious books—and have given away about 1200 pages of tracts.”

“23rd July.—Since the date of last Report, I have visited over 600 families, on my way from the Trent to Kingston—sold 213 copies of the Scriptures—49 religious books—and have given away about 1500 pages of tracts, and a good part of them to Sunday Schools.”

22nd August.—Since the date of last Report, I have visited about 500 families, in the Townships of Pittsburgh, Crosby, Lanark, and part of Drummond, sold 240 copies of the Scriptures, 45 religious books, and have given away about 1200 pages of Tracts.”

“22nd September.—Since the date of last Report, I have visited about 500 families in the Townships of Pakenham, Ramsey and Fitzroy, sold 228 copies of the Scriptures and 63 religious books.”

“27th October.—Since the date of last Report, I have visited about 460 families in the Township of Portland, and in my way up to my own place, sold 193 copies of the Scriptures and 50 religious books. My sales this month would have been greater had it not been for the scarcity of money.”

During these last six months, according to the Depository's statement, Mr. Henry has sold 1267 copies of the word of God, 309 religious books, and distributed 9150 pages of Tracts.

He has visited in doing this work about 3050 families.

To the above we add one or two extracts of a general character:—

“The people here appear to be more anxious for the Scriptures than they were when I visited the same place four years ago, and although they have been visited by other Colporteurs, I found two families, who had no copy of the Scriptures, one having only a few leaves of the New Testament. They both supplied themselves, and seemed very thankful for the chance of getting them so cheap.”

“I found the people very ready to purchase, and a number of them very thankful for the visit. There is also a

desire for Tracts. They say that those I have left among them on former occasions, have done good."

Regarding another field, he says—"the desire for the word of God is increasing," and he instances the case of a woman who followed him after having borrowed means for the purchase of four Bibles, and expressed much gratitude to the Ladies of Kingston for sending out such cheap Bibles.

Mr. Henry closed his engagement with our Association on the 29th October—and we cannot more fitly conclude our account of the labors of this faithful and devoted Colporteur than, by citing his parting words, we regret to think, in all probability, his last to your Committee as their servant—"I think my sales for the last six months have been equal to any in the same length of time since I entered your service, which shows there is still need for persevering in the good cause, and as the infirmities of age, oblige me to quit your service, I hope the Lord will send you one more fitted for the important trust."

In connection with this department of labor, it may be stated that, the Committee anxious to ascertain the religious condition of the City, and to have the Scriptures not only circulated but read, engaged Mr. William Darroch for a month. His engagement ended on the 2nd November. His report indicates with painful emphasis, the need of additional effort to raise the fallen, and to point the wanderer to the fold of God.

IN CONCLUSION.

The review of the past year is fitted to inspire the friends of the Association with gratitude and hope. Both as to issues of the Scriptures and Income, it bears a favorable comparison with former years.

The "seed of the kingdom" has been sown; but to the "Lord of the harvest" we must look for the effectual blessing; and to Him would we now look and humbly cry, "Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children, and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea the work of our hands establish thou it."

KINGSTON LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATION.

Abstract of Issues of the Scriptures in the City of Kingston, and by the Colporteur of the Kingston Ladies' Bible Association.

Date.	By Ladies' Bible Association.			Colporteurs.			With the metrical version of Psalms.			Total Scrip.			Value.			Colporteurs.		Value of R. Books.			Total Value.		
	Bibl.	Test.	Total.	Bib.	Test.	Total.	Bib.	Test.	Total.	Bib.	Test.	Total.	£	s	d.	Religious Books.	Pages Tracts.	£	s	d.	£	s	d.
From 1st Dec. 1857 to 1st Dec. 1858.	25	5	30	377	628	1005	141	143	284	543	776	1319	16	12	6	312	11,150	51	1	7½	98	11	1½

The Treasurer in account with the Kingston Ladies' Bible Association, from December 1st, 1856, to November 13th, 1857.

DR.		CR.
1856.		1856.
Dec. 1st. Balance in hand.....	£20 16 3	Dec. 1st. By cash for salary of Colporteur, and travelling expenses for nine months.....
Subscriptions from members.....	3 7 6	To Depository for Bibles and Testaments.....
Donation from Captain Smith.....	5 0 0	Printing and Stationary.....
To cash from Collectors for Bibles and Testaments, Colporteur and the general purposes of the Association..	76 0 4½	Contingent expenses.....
	£105 4 1½	Nov. 13th, 1857, Balance in hand.....
		£89 9 6
		15 14 7½
		£105 4 1½

Examined and found correct.

J. C. HALK.

D. CLARKE, TREASURER.