THE



THIRD REPORT

TR 361. 8113

OF THE

YORK AUXILIARY

BIBLE SOCIETY:

1832.

WITH AN APPENDIX.

Bork:

ERINTED FOR THE SOCIETY, AT THE CHRISTIAN GUARDIAN OFFICE.

W. J. Coates, Printer.

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THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE YORK, U. C. AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY—was held in the ONTARIO HOUSE, on Tuesday the 9th January, 1832:

THE HON. JOHN HENRY DUNN, PRESIDENT IN THE CHAIR.

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. Wm. RINTOUL.

The President having addressed the meeting.—The Rev. WILLIAM RINTOUL, at the request of the Secretary, read the annexed Report.

1st.—Moved by the Rev. Dr. HARRIS—seconded by the Rev. WM. JENKINS of Markham—

That the Report now read be approved of, and printed under the direction of the Committee.

2nd.—Moved by the Rev. E. RYERSON—seconded by the Rev. GEO./BARCLAY—

That this Society acknowledge with much gratitude, the continued support and co-operation of the parent Institution.

3rd.—Moved by the Rev. Charles Matthews—seconded by Robert Baldwin, Esq.,—

That this meeting rejoice in what has been done for the Chippewa Indians—That they recommend the further prosecution of the work—and give thanks to those who have contributed to the translation.

4th.—Moved by the Rev. Wm. RINTOUL—seconded by Joseph Wenham, Esq.

That the measure of success which has attended the operations of this Society for the past year, calls for thanksgiving to God,—while the rapidly increasing population of the province demands from the Committee an increased activity in circulating the Holy Scriptures, and an increased dependence on God, for a still more abundant blessing.

5th.—Moved by the Rev. D. Fraser—seconded by the Rev. James Harris, Secretary.

That this Meeting, under a deep impression of the importance and value of the services rendered by Branch Societies, tender them their grateful thanks; while they recommend a continuance of their exertions, and invite the friends of truth, to form Branch Societies wherever it is practicable.

BALDWIN.

That the cordial thanks of this meeting be given to His Excellency Sir John Colborne, &c., &c., &c., for his continued patronage.

7th.—Moved by the Rev. Wm. Boulton—seconded by Jesse Ketchum, Esq.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Hon. John Henry Dunn, President, for his unwearied attention to the affairs of this society.

8th.—Moved by the Rev. T. F. CALDICOTT—seconded by Edw. W. Thomson, Esq.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretaries, Depositary, and Committee, for their gratuitous services for the past year.

9th.—Moved by the Rev. ALEX. STEWART, Secretary—seconded by Charles Small, Esq.

That the following gentlemen compose the Committee for the ensuing year, with power to fill up vacancies, and to add to their number if necessary.—(Vide 5th page.)

10th.—Moved by the Rev. WM. RINTOUL—seconded by the Rev. ALEX. STEWART.

That Capt. PHILIPOTS, be added to the Vice Presidents.

11th.—Moved by Capt. Phillpots—seconded by the Rev. Dr. Harris.

That a subscription be now opened, to afford to the friends of the institution an opportunity to subscribe;—and that a collection be taken at the door, from those who may feel disposed to forward the objects of the society.

The meeting was closed with prayer, by the Rev. E. RYERSON.

VOR:

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OFFICERS OF THE

YORK AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

PATRON:

HIS EXCELLENCY, SIR JOHN COLBORNE.
PRESIDENT:

THE HONORABLE JOHN HENRY DUNN.

Vice-Presidents:

DR. BALDWIN, DR. MORRISON, ROBT. BALDWIN, ESQ. JAS. E. SMALL, ESQ. JESSE KETCHUM, ESQ. HON. JUSTICE SHERWOOD, REV. DR. HARRIS, CHAS. C. SMALL, Esq. GEO. MONRO, Esq. CAPT. PHILLPOTS.

TREASURER:

PETER PATERSON, ESQUIRE.

SECRETARIES:

REV. JAS. HARRIS-REV. ALEXANDER STEWARTS

ACTING DEPOSITARY :

EDWARD HENDERSON, JUN.

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE.

Messrs. Joseph Wenham,
J. R. Armstrong,
Jas, Cockshut,
H. M. Mosley,
Jas. Lesslie,
John Ross,
Malcom M'Lellan,
Thos. Armstrong,
Edw. Henderson, Senr.
Hugh Carfrae,
John Murchison, Junr.
Robert Cathcart,
John Hogg, Yonge Street,
Robert Petch,
Thos. Park.

Messrs. Jas. Ross, York Township,
Jas. Mitchel, Yonge Street,
John Cummer,
do.,
Robert Thomson,
Edward W. Thomson,
Tim'y Parson,
Thos. Sandilands,
Colin Drummond,
Geo. Nicol.

Added by the Committee.

Messrs. Walter Rose,
Bernard Turquand,
J. Tolfree,
T. F. Caldicott.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

YORK AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

RULE 1st.—This Society shall be denominated, The York, U. C. Auxiliary Bible Society—having the same object in view as the British and Foreign Bible Society, viz:—the circulation of the Bible without note or comment—to act in concert with the Parent Society, or separately, as circumstances may require

RULE 2nd.—The Society shall consist of all who are disposed to promote the object of the Institution, without regard to difference of religious sentiments.

RULE 3rd.—Every subscriber of five shillings annually, shall be considered a member as long as he pays his subscription.

RULE 4th.—A subscriber of five pounds, shall be a member for life. Donations of any amount, small or great, will be thankfully received.

Rule 5th.—The business of the Society shall be conducted by a President, Vice Presidents, a Treasurer, two Secretaries, a Committee of twenty-seven of its own members, and a depositary of its Bibles. Nine of the committee shall go out annually—and five shall be a quorum. Ministers of all denominations, who subscribe, shall be stated members of committee.

RULE 6th.—The Committee shall meet on the second Mondays of November, February, May, and August, or when called by the chairman, or any three of the committee.

RULE 7th.—The Society shall meet annually on the second week in February, in York. The day and hour to be fixed by the committee, and advertised—at which meeting the committee shall give an account of their transactions and funds.

RULE 8th.—Every subscriber of one pound five shillings annually, shall be entitled to purchase Bibles and Testaments, to the amount of five pounds, at the reduced prices of the Society.

Rule 9th.—The Committee shall be empowered to sell the scriptures, or to give them gratis when they find well authenticated claims. They are to purchase from the Parent Society to supply their wants, and, if there are any overplus funds to spare, to remit the same to the Parent Society, for the purpose of supplying other nations with the pure word of God.

Rule 10th.—No alterations shall be made in these laws, but at a General Meeting of the Society.

PRICE OF BIBLES AND TESTAMENTS IN THE YORK DEPOSITORY.

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Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me.

LONG PRIMER.

Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

BOURGEOIS.

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous.

MINION.

We have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever-ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he will give it you.

NONPAREIL.

If ye walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christhis Son cleanseth us from nll sin.

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REPORT.

The Annual Meetings of Societies that are engaged in any enterprize of Christian benevolence are most salutary. It is needful for the faithful and vigorous application of their resources, that there should be such a deliberate review of the proceedings of every past year, as that which an Annual Report is expected to furnish; and then this review brings before the directors the lessons of experience which the past may suggest, and enables them to take a more accurate survey of the work that remains to be done. And while occasions for praise and thanksgiving to the Author of all good, or of humility and self-abasement before Him, are presented to the members of a society, according as their exertions have been vigorous or feeble, successful or unsuccessful; there is also afforded an occasion for mutual encouragement and incitement, in the addresses delivered at the Public Meeting.

Anniversaries like ours sometimes prove religious festivals: the hearts of Christians are lifted up within them, in contemplating what God has done, and in anticipating the still greater works which He shall perform in the final accomplishment of his purposes of mercy towards our world. And the obligations to christian devotedness and to brotherly love and unity are then felt with increasing force. Yet who that has attended religious meetings, has not sometimes seen that an excitement of apparently gracious affections has speedily subsided into tranquil indifference, and that pledges publicly given of an increased devotedness to a good cause, have never been redeemed. Some of us, perhaps at this moment, remember, that we have been the subjects of a periodical excitement at anniversaries like this, and yet have been little if at all elevated to a more vigorous tone of feeling and exertion throughout each successive year; and it may not be out of place in prefacing a Report, which is itself but introductory to the business of a public meeting, to suggest that our excitement is of a false kind, when in reviewing any measure of past success, we take the glory to ourselves instead of ascribing it wholly to God, and do not at the same time recognize the disproportion which the actual success may bear to the means of doing more with which we may have been intrusted: and when in our anticipations of future success, we do not take a minute and comprehensive survey of the difficulties that may be in our way, and of the various conditions on which it may be practicable for us to surmount these difficulties.

The short review now to be submitted to you, of the proceedings of the York Auxiliany Bible Society for the year that has just closed, calls for thanksgiving to God in respect to the increased circulation of His Holy Word, while it may well produce self alase.

ment also in your committee, since all the success, which at the last anniversary had not unreasonably been anticipated for a succeeding year, has not been realized.

Your Committee call your attention First, to the issues of the copies of the Scriptures, and these they rejoice to say have almost equalled the issues for the two preceding years. The Depositary's statement affords the following results:

	Total	3
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Making the grand total of copies of the Scriptures issued since the formation of the Society 3432. Of the copies thus issued there has been a number to the value of £58 7 4, given in donations, and these chiefly to Societies.

Your Committee have received freely and abundantly from the Parent Society, and they have felt the obligation to dispense a part their bounty, for the encouragement and support of auxiliary societies in different parts of the Province.

There now remains in your Depository 1807 copies of the Scriptures. Your Committee are called on to acknowledge with gratitude, the very ample grant from the Parent Society of two thousand copies of the Scriptures. These however your committee regret to say have not yet reached your Depository; for though they reached Montreal early in the season they were yet detained in the King's warehouse there, until an order could be obtained from the competent authorities to remit the Provincial import duty,-in obtaining this, a considerable delay occurred; and it is but due to state that when the interposition of the Patron of the Society, His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, was sought, through your President, it was readily granted. When they were at length despatched from Montreal they were arrested by the early frost, being now on board of a vessel in Presqu'ile Bay. Your Committee intrusted the superintendance of Branch Societies to a sub-committee, under whose direction one of the Secretaries visited the Societies in Newmarket, Toronto, Gore of Toronto, Markham, Colborne, Cobourg, Port Hope, Darlington, and Whitby. In some places your committee regret to say the cause languishes, while in others considerable zeal and activity have been displayed. Whitby and Walsingham have alone come forward with free contributions to your funds.*

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^{*} The Toronto Society has voted £5 for the Indian translation since this Report was read. The Richmond Hill Society have also voted £5 for the same purpose.

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ties in Newmarket, Cobourg, Port Hope, committee regret to erable zeal and actiam have alone come Your Committee delegated the superintendance of the translations into the Chippewa, to another sub-committee. That sub-committee who have bestowed much pains on the important object intrusted to them, have drawn out a report of their proceedings, which your com-

mittee subjoin in the Appendix to this report.

You will be happy to learn that the Gospel of St. Matthew is now passing through the Press in York, and that there is reason to believe that the Gospel of St. John is now printed in London. And thus another Dialect of the many-tongued earth is made for the first time the printed Depository of the glad tidings of a Saviour. The expenditure in this work, for the past year, is as you will perceive from the statement of the Treasurer, considerable, but as the value of a version of the Scriptures depends mainly on its accuracy—and the additional expenditure has been chiefly made in securing this, your committee trust that you will not reckon this quality of the Chippewa Translation, to be too dearly purchased.—"For wisdom, which is Divine Truth, cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious Onyx, or the Sapphire. The gold and the crystal cannot equal it, and the exchange of it shall not be for Jewels of fine gold."—Job. xxviii. 16, 17.

The contributions to the Society, specially destined for the Translating Fund, have amounted to £7 3s. 6d .- of this sum, £2 10s. was the offering of an anonymous friend, and the remainder was contributed by the two societies above named. Your Committee respectfully invite to the support of this Fund, the contributions of those who excuse themselves from joining your society, by their connexion with another society, which has for one of its objects, the circulation of the Holy Scriptures. And here your committee acknowledge, with pleasure, the friendly interest which the committee of the Kingston Auxiliary to the Parent Society, have in their last report expressed towards your translations into the Chippewa language.-The subscriptions and donations for general purposes, have amounted to £89 18s. 6d.; and here your committee are sorry to acknowledge a considerable falling off from the amount of receipts on the same account last year, as that also had come short to a similar amount of the receipts of the year preceding.

The receipts for sales have been correspondent to the increased issues, much greater than those of last year—amounting to £195 12 0

The gross receipts have thus been,................. 381 2 7

The expenditure has been as follows:-

Paid to translators, from Feb'y 18th till Dec. 29th.,	77	0	7	
For printing Report, Rent of Depository, and sundries,	24	17	4	
Remitted to the Parent Society,	118	6	8	
Balance in hand,	158	0	81	

There are in these details ample grounds for encouragement: and while the diminution of one source of revenue is deeply to be regreted, it is hoped that the full and deliberate recognition of the evil, and the investigation of the cause of it, will lead another committee to

more energetic measures for obtaining the public support, and for the

more extended circulation of the divine word.

We must as a Bible Society, constantly keep in view, that our field of exertion is a widening one. And independently of what has been done, and of the greater exertions, yet we trust to be made in behalf of the aborigines of Canada, and its more extensive confines.-Very much must be done in circulating the Scriptures amongst the rapidly increasing population of the province-if indeed we would fulfil the important trust committed to us by Providence. No settlers it is presumed, bring with them a superfluity of Bibles; and a great majority it is believed, of those who have recently arrived in this province, are from a land in which, until recently, there was an utter famine of the word of God, and in which the want is but partially removed. The Parent State it is true, has her duty to discharge to those who are leaving her shores to colonize the distant provinces: yet, it is to be feared, that a care for their spiritual wants, even to the extent of seeing them furnished with the oracles of God, is but little entertained. But we also have a duty, and the duty is perhaps more imperious on us, to care to the utmost extent of our power, for the spiritual necessities of those who are setling down in the forests which surround us, to change them into cultivated fields, and gardens, and orchards, and pasture grounds: for truly so numerous and powerful are the tendencies of our nature to sin and crime in every form, that unless the word of God be plentifully circulated, and its truths received, we can only expect a population more wicked and depraved, in proportion to their greater knowledge and energy, to rise up in the room of the benighted Indian hunters, whom they shall have displaced.

Your Society, through its new committee, must therefore bestir itself to increased exertions. The population and commerce of York, are increasing with a rapidity that surprises even those, who are familiar with the rapid growth of communities in this western world: and blessed be God, the number of churches, and of benevolent and religious institutions are also increasing, and therefore York must increase its energies in circulating the word of the living God-and to this end, your committee recommend the formation of one or more Branch Associations in the town, for enabling the labouring classes to supply themselves with Bibles, by small periodical instalments, and to receive the gratuitous contributions of those who might be disposed to promote the general objects of the society, by payments small-

er, and more frequently made than an annual subscription.

Experience has amply proved the efficacy of Ladies' Associations, for promoting the circulation of the Holy Scriptures-they are at present extensively useful in supplying the local wants of Britain, and they hold no inconsiderable place amongst the tributaries which swell that current of liberality, which the Parent Society is sending forth throughout the earth. And your committee would venture to express the hope, that the Ladies of York, some of whom are now so laudably engaged in providing for the temporal wants of the poor. may be induc furnishes at o

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adies' Associations, s—they are at prets of Britain, and e tributaries which Society is sending e would venture to f whom are now so wants of the poor. may be induced to associate for the circulation of that Word which furnishes at once clothing, medicine, food, yea, and life to the soul.

Your Committee trust, that throughout the ensuing year increased exertions will be made to form new Branch Associations, and to foster those which have been already formed, as it must never be forgotten that Associations branching throughout a country, and centring in one common head, form the most efficient instrumentality for supplying local wants of the Scriptures, and for combining the exertions of a country or province, in aid of their universal diffusion throughout the world. And the relation of a metropolis, which York holds to the rest of the province, invites your society to take the honourable station of a head, at least to the societies in the upper districts of the province. Your Committee regret, that they have not received the last annual report of the Parent Society, and are therefore ignorant of its recent proceedings -The rumour of dissension having occurred at its last Anniversary has indeed reached our remote province: but we would humbly trust that under the blessing of God, the uniting principle of love to his word, will be found sufficiently powerful amongst its members, to repel from it every evil practice or principle which could become a source of disunion and of weakness: and that amidst all the changes in the world, which are occurring or foreboded, the British and Foreign Bible Society with all kindred institutions is destined to endure and to prosper, even until the full ushering in of a better age, as that age for which the Church sighs and groans, shall certainly not have come until "the knowledge of the glory of the Lord cover the earth as the waters cover the sea."

ABSTRAOT.

THE TREASURER IN ACCOUNT WITH THE YORK BIBLE SOCIETY.

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PETER PATERSON, TREASURER.

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APPENDIX.

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE.

The Sub-committee appointed by the General Committee of management, to provide for the printing of the Chippewa Indian Transplation of St. Matthew's and St. John's Gospels, beg to report:

1st. That they availed themselves of the opportunity of Mr. Peter Jones's visit to England last Spring, to send by him the gospel according to St. John, with a letter addressed to the Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, requesting its aid in printing that translation, which the circumstance of Mr. Jones being present to correct the press, would greatly facilitate. With this request the committee understand (though they have had no direct communication on the subject from England) that the Parent Society has complied by printing 1000 copies; having first, in accordance with a suggestion from this committee, submitted the translation to a revision by Mr. Jones in conjunction with one of the Secretaries of the Society. The Committee believe that the translation thus printed only waits a favourable opportunity of being forwarded to this Society.

2dly. That the Sub-committee have themselves with the assistance of the Rev. Messrs. Dade and Matthews, (to whom they are much indebted for their participation in the labour) been for a considerable time engaged in similarly revising the translation of St. Matthew; and that this translation is now passing through the press, the printer having entered into an engagement to complete the work within three months from its commencement.

Although the mode of revision adopted by the committee has unavoidably occupied so much time, and has also added much to the cost of the translation, in the expenses of Messrs. J. Jones and P. Jacobs, whose constant attendance has been necessary; the committee nevertheless feel persuaded that both the delay and increased expenditure, will be fully compensated by the greater accuracy of the translation, which has probably been thus rendered as correct and plain as the present state of the Indian language will admit.

The Sub-committee are anxious, in justice to the translators (the two Messrs. Jones) to state distinctly, that, notwithstanding the revision which it was thought desirable the translation should undergo, not the slightest reflection is intended on either the fidelity or ability with which they were originally executed: on the contrary they had evidently been made with much care and consideration—but in a language which has scarcely before been written, and which has no words to express a great number of ideas and objects familiar to

prore civilized tongues, it was not possible to avoid many obscure and imperfect expressions; and this the committee found to be so much the case on investigation, as to make it absolutely necessary, in order to convey any idea whatever of some passages, to adopt (with the concurrence of Messrs. Jones and Jacobs) several English words into the Indian translation.

In presenting this report the sub-committee cannot but congratulate the Society on the near prospect of its being enabled to send with among the numerous Chippewas, two entire gospels in their own language; and whilst the committee doubt not that under the divine blessing, these will be instrumental in encouraging and confirming many native converts in their Christian course; and will thus afford a new motive for continued exertion on the part of the present friends of the Society, they also indulge the hope that this fruit, so unquestionably and positively good, of the efforts of the Bible Society, may induce others to join in its support and promotion.

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RULES.

RECOMMENDED FOR BRANCH SOCIETIES.

- 1. That a Society be formed, in connexion with the British and Foreign Bible Society, through the medium of the York Auxiliary Bible Society, for the purpose of contributing towards the circulation of the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment. The English, of the authorised version only.
- 2. That the Society be denominated "THE-BRANCH BIBLE SOCIETY."
- 3 That all persons subscribing five shillings or upwards, or one pound five shillings at one time, shall be Members of this Society.
- 4. That the business of this Society shall be conducted by a President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretaries, and a Committee, consisting of not less than—other members. Five to constitute a quorum.
- 5. That all Ministers of the Gospel, who join this Society, shall be reckoned Members of Committee.
- 6. That the Committee shall meet quarterly, or oftener—the time and place of meeting to be fixed by themselves.
- 7. That the Committee divide their sphere of operations into districts, and appoint two of their own members for each district, to solicit subscriptions and donations from the inhabitants; as also, to ascertain the wants of the people regarding the Word of God.
- 8. That the whole of the subscriptions and donations received by this Society shall be appplied, after deducting incidental expences, to the purchase of Bibles and Testaments from the York Society, to supply this neighborhood; (which copies of the Scriptures the Committee are to sell to all at cost price; to members at the reduced price (one-fourth less), and to give gratis to those who they know cannot purchase); and that the overplus be remitted half-yearly to the York Society, for the purpose of translating the Word of God into the Indian languages, and supplying other nations, through the Parent Institution, with the pure Word of God.
- 9. That a general meeting of the subscribers be held on the day of in each year, at —, when the accounts shall be presented, the proceedings of the past year stated, a new committee appointed, and a Report agreed upon—the Report to be published under the direction of the Committee.
- 10. That in the formation of a new Committee, the President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretaries, and such three-fourths of the other Members of Committee as have most frequently attended, shall be eligible for re-election for the ensuing year.

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SPEECHES

DELIVERED AT THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE YORK AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

---BY THE HONORABLE J. H. DUNN, PRESIDENT.

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We are assembled this evening to give you an account of the proceedings of the past, to adopt measures for the present year, and to solicit at your hands further aid for the advancement of this most excellent Institution: and while I state that the expenses of this have been greater than of any previous year; yet, it is my conviction, that when you are made acquainted with the objects to which your funds have been directed, you will be satisfied that they have been dispensed agreeably to your wishes.

A large proportion has been expended in the translation of the Gospel of St. Matthew into the Chippewa language; but it is expected, from the pains which have been bestowed upon it, that this version will prove the most correct which could, under all circumstances, be effected-the sub-committee, to whom this work was entrusted, and to whom our best thanks are due, having spared

no labor in rendering it such.

The Parent Society has evinced the greatest readiness and liberality in giving us every assistance, and have, at their own expense, printed 1000 copies of the Gospel according to St. John, in the same language; thus, both these Gospels will, in a short time, be completed for the use of the poor Indians-an encouraging circumstance to them and to us. Let us, therefore, proceed cheerfully in this good work, until we are able to afford them all the means of a knowledge of their Blessed Redeemer, whom to know is life eternal.

There is another object which has been considered as presenting a claim upon this Institution, and which will probably increase more and more every year: Many emigrants, I am sorry to say, arrive in this Province without being possessed of a copy of the Word of God; and it would be a most happy circumstance, if, through the exertions and liberality of this Society, every family settling in the more remote parts of the Province, were induced or enabled to take one with them.

The advantage resulting from the employment of an Agent to travel through the Country for the purpose of visiting those Branch Societies which have been already formed, and establishing others, is more and more evident to me; and until this is done more extensively than it has been hitherto, I fear we shall not fully realize those intentions, and that desire which we must all have of furnishing our scattered neighbours with this Book of life and consolation.

I shall not take up more of your time, and will therefore conclude these few and general observations, by requesting you to take the views and objects of our Society into your serious consideration, and to afford that assistance which will enable us to dispense its inestimable benefits to all; and remember, that as the salvation of the soul is the grand design and end of the Gospel, therefore, we owe it is a duty to ourselves and our fellow creatures, to use our best exertions to supply all those who are destitute, with this Word of Truth, which is the Power of God unto Salvation, nor can we rest satisfied until this object is attained.

BY THE REV. DR. HARRIS.

Mr. PRESIDENT:

I rise to propose a motion for publishing the Report which

has just been read.

In that Report, there is matter as well of regret, as of satisfaction;—of regret, at the still diminished amount of contributions; and of satisfaction, that notwithstanding this diminution, the number of copies of the Scriptures issued has so greatly exceeded that of former years. I know not how to account for the diminution of subscriptions; for, I would hope, that those who have once supported the Society, are too well satisfied of the excellency of its objects to retract their support, while they are too much influenced by the precepts of the Book we disseminate, to look back and halt, having once put their hand to the plough of Christian charity. The fact, however, exists; and its effect upon us should be, to call forth renewed exertions to prevent its recurrence.

The other prominent fact on the face of the Report, namely, the greatly increased distribution of the Scriptures, proves to us, that if the hand of man has relaxed, the arm of the Lord has not been shortened, who has himself promoted the work, and thus asserted it for his own. But let us not hence be inclined to argue, that our efforts may, therefore, be dispensed with. It is true, God can effect this, and every other benevolent end, by the slightest exercise of His Omnipotence, which stands in need of no aid that man can give: but, it is among the most merciful dispensations of His Providence, that He ordinarily makes us His instruments in promoting each others' welfare, that so he may make every good we do to our fellows, for His and Christ's sake, return with a richer blessing on our own heads.

And with respect to the actual prospects of the Society, though its operation has widely increased during the last year, notwithstanding the falling off in its funds, this cannot continue to be the case, as the greater the number of Books circulated, the greater first be the loss sustained by the Society, independently of the debt

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due to the Parent Society. It should also be remembered, that there is one object in which this Society is engaged, which, while it draws heavily on the resources, makes no pecuniary return whatever; I mean the Indian translation. As this subject is noticed in the Report, I forbear to say more on it, than that it is a part of the Society's operations, which has peculiar claims on the support of all Christians; for whilst it is common to other Religious Societies to disseminate the Scriptures in our own tongue, this is the only Society which has undertaken to any extent a Chippewa translation of the Sacred Writings; that these natives of the soil, which God so abundantly blesses to our prosperity, may also read His Word in their own language.

In saying, however, that this translation gives this Society a particular claim to universal Christian support, let me not be understood as implying that there is any thing in the designs of the Bible Society which may not be most warmly and conscientiously supported by the warmest and most conscientious friends of every Society whose object is Christian instruction. The one simple object of the Bible Society, is to send the Bible, whether in our own or other tongues, to houses, and countries, where it has not hitherto been; and, with such an object, its principles are hostile to no Society, except such as advocate vice and infidelity, and would therefore rather banish from the world, than assist in distributing, the volume which contains the grounds of Faith, and the foundation of all virtue.

I beg to move, Sir, "That the Report now read be approved, and printed under the direction of the Committee."

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BY THE REV. C. MATTHEWS,

MR. PRESIDENT:

Ladies and Gentlemen.

If it be not inappropriate to the occasion on which we are met, it certainly will not be to the season, to congratulate the friends of the Society, and the Society itself, on the commencement of a new year, and express a fervent hope that it may be marked in its progress and conclusion, with an accession of temporal and spiritual prosperity to both.

Mr. President—We are ever looking forward, and seldom back. ward: one reason for which, may be, that few of us so employ our time, as to secure satisfaction in the retrospect. Not, however, that this is the case with our Society: which, though it promises greater things for the future, than it can refer to in the past, may neverthe. less, appeal with confidence to the due and cautious improvement of every portion of the current time, since its institution. Indeed, it is founded upon a principle so just—it is engaged in a cause so holy and a work so good, that it cannot, under any circumstances, stand

still: it is so sanctified and blessed in its objects, that nothing but the most culpable neglect, and shameful perversion of them, can endanger its success. Perhaps there never was broached in all time, a design in aid of the diffusion of religious truth, so simple and efficacious, of such easy and general application, as that of the Bible Society .-This assertion verifies itself in the history of its rise and progress in the country which gave it, and so many of ourselves, our common birth, and its subsequent rapid extension throughout the world. Nor does it suffer contradiction in the humble but authentic records of that branch of it established in this capital. The good which, under Divine Providence, it has been enabled to do amongst us, has been the subject of grateful acknowledgment to God, and congratulation to the society, in more than one Anniversary: and it has pleased Almighty God, that another shall not be permitted to pass, without recording an addititional claim of the society to the thanks of the country, and confirming its title, already well established, to the support and good wishes of every friend to humanity and religion.

British settlers have hitherto reaped the greatest benefit from this society, in the circulation of its Bibles, offered, entire and complete in themselves, to all indiscriminately—upon the broad principle, that no one has a right to assume the restrictive or partial distribution of the common property of scripture—and that we may, with as much justice, seek to restrain investigation into the operations of Nature, as inquiry into the pages of Revelation—both works of the same great Creator, and designedly spread out by him for research and contemplation before the mind of man.

I said the British settlers had hitherto been the greatest gainers by Society; but, expanding its views, like a true scion of the parent stock, (in obedience, perhaps, to the stimulus supplied by the indefatigable and signally successful exertions of many of its warmest supporters in their peculiar field of benevolence, the religious instruction of the native tribes,) the Society conceived the design of putting gradually into the hands of a large and interesting portion of the Chippewa race, the most valuable gift they could bestow in an accurate version of the Holy Scripture in their native tongue.

It would detain you too long to insist on the advantage to be derived to the Indians from such an undertaking: he, however, can most readily appreciate the value of such a boon, who knows the importance, necessity, and privilege, of that divine precept, "Search the Scriptures," (which for the first time since the publication of the sacred Records, the poor Chippewa will soon be enabled to do for himself,) and who considers how slow and embarrassed, and after all, imperfect the progress of a pupil must be, who has no other access to knowledge, than through the medium of colloquial or congregational instruction. Suffice it to say, that a translation of the Gospel of St. Matthew, (originally executed by Mr. Peter Jones,) has been carefully revised under the auspices of the society, and is now partly through the press.

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The immediate task of revision having fallen on a part of the committee, too much commendation cannot be given to those gentlemen for the perseverance with which they have brought their undertaking so near completion: and though the testimony of an associate in their labours may be less acceptable, yet I see no good reason, why it should be withheld, when it can be sincerely borne, to the anxious pains unremittingly bestowed on the work of revision, by all his colleagues, not forgetting our Indian assistants, whose intelligence, patience, and gentle deportment, entitle them to honorable mention.

It is almost unnecessary to add, that as opportunity offers, it will greatly enhance the benefit already conferred upon the Chippewas, to present them with the remaining portions of Holy Writ, in as rapid succession as possible, till the whole Canon shall be completed. Thus the grand principle of the Society will be vindicated, in bestowing not only nothing but Scripture—but Scripture entire. I have great pleasure in submitting the motion influsted to me—"That this meeting do rejoice in what has been already done for the Indians, and recommend the prosecution of the work."

THE REV WILLIAM RINTOUL,

In rising to move the second resolution, stated, that respect for the assembly whom he addressed, might in his present circumstances have imposed silence on him, as the part he had taken in preparing the business of the meeting, had prevented him from arranging his thoughts for an address to them but that his love to the cause for which they were assembled, and the circumstance of its being the first Bible Society meeting, which he had attended on the American continent, moved him to give utterance to a few sentiments, in connexion with the resolution he was about to propose.

He reminded the meeting, that when the advocate of Bible Societies was seeking to stir up his audience to the support of these institutions, he was always thrown back on the excellencies of the Bible itself—that it is just because the Bible is THE WORD of THE LIVING GOD, written under the guidance of his spirit-revealing his glorious character and dispensations for the salvation of sinners, and withal an instrument for communicating to them that salvation; that Christians must labour and pray for its diffusion throughout all the earth. He remarked, that it was no newly discovered fact in the history of Christianity, that the reading of the Holy Scriptures, even in the absence of preaching, and other ordinances, may suffice for the conversion of sinners unto God: yet that this fact had been more fully brought out to view since the commencement of the exertions now happily in progress, to fill the world with Bibles, than at any former And the history of almost every Bible Association, afforded instances of conversions as the fruit of the reading the Holy Scrip-

He then mentioned a case illustrative of the fact alluded to, and which at the same time shewed the great energy which the human mind in the most unfavourable circumstances can put forth, when under the influence of a motive so powerful as that of the desire of salvation, viz;-that of a woman, who had spent a long life in gross ignorance and unconcern about spiritual things. She had rarely, he said, been in any place of worship, and at the 80th year of her age, she was unable to read-yet, after that period she was happily visited with a concern to prepare for death and judgment-and this concern according to the account which she herself gave, led her to mingle prayers with her tears and cries to the Saviour, that she might be able to read his word; and her endeavours, aided by an occasional lesson from a Christian lady in her neighborhood, were abundantly blessed to this end, for as Mr. R. stated, when he became acquainted with her, in her 82nd year-and she was living he added, when he left the shores of Cumberland, she could read the New Testament; and in so far as the daily reading its pages, and meditation on its truths, and hope and joy in the prospects of dying, are proofs-she proved, that she had found him, of whom the Evangelists and Apostles testify, Jesus the Son of God, and Saviour of sinners.

Mr. R. dwelt at some length on the necessity for the universal diffusion of the inspired Records towards the full success of those other great means for the Evangelization of the world-the preaching of the gospel--the instruction of the young in Sabbath Schools. congratulated the meeting on the increased activity of the York Society in circulating the Holy Scriptures-and reminded them that according to the terms of the resolution he was about to propose, God was to be acknowledged in the success of their operations .-He urged the necessity of increased activity and liberality, from the peculiar circumstances of the population of the province, and its rapid increase; and strongly recommended the formation of a Ladies' Bible Association in the town of York. He mentioned that a great part of the work of collecting the small weekly contributions of the laboring classes in England, for supplying themselves with the word of God, or aiding in its general dissemination, was performed by Ladies-and stated his conviction, that notwithstanding the number of copies of the Scriptures which had been circulated in the town of York, a great want of them would be found if a minute survey were made, and this principle recognized—that every person who can read, should possess a copy of the word of God. He also stated, that the blessings which ladies, who employed themselves in circulating the Holy Scriptures received for themselves, were only second to those, which they imparted to their fellow creatures.

And in reference to the dependence on God for an enlarged measure of success, which the resolution he was about to read, called on the meeting to cultivate. He observed, that a spirit of prayer was an element absolutely necessary to success in their operations—that the prayerful acknowledgment of God in the deliberations of their committee—and the acknowledgment of him, whether silent or expressed,

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Ladies and

The this evening, Honorable J. the interests put into my h that I have th supporting a this meeting. ceded me, you and objects of any thing upo again to those your hearts-i of the Institution which I trust y me in giving, to the worthy so long continu the interests of in the transmission of the scriptures from the shelves of their Depository to the hands of their agents, or of the immediate purchasers, would conduce to the bringing down a gracious influence on the hearts of the readers of their Bibles; and thus, they might assure themselves that their exertions for the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom, would not be in vain.

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BY THE REV. WILLIAM BOULTON.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Resolution which I have been called upon to advocate this evening, is, "That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Honorable J. H. Dunn, for his constant and unwearied attention to the interests of the Society." It is the same motion which was put into my hands at your last Anniversary; and I can only say, that I have the same cordial satisfaction how which I had then in supporting a resolution so congenial to the wishes and feelings of this meeting. In the remarks of those gentlemen who have preceded me, you have heard explained so fully and ably the principles and objects of this Institution, that it is unnecessary for me to say any thing upon the subject. I shall, therefore, merely refer you again to those remarks, and with them in view, I shall appeal to your hearts-if you approve of the principles, and value the objects of the Institution, and sincerely desire to contribute to its prosperity, which I trust you all do, you cannot fail uniting most cordially with me in giving, what is so justly due, our warmest acknowledgements to the worthy Gentleman who now occupies the chair, and who has so long continued his zealous and benevolent exertions to promote the interests of the Society.

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