

21

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BRITISH AMERICAN

Book and Tract Society

ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

HELD AT

HALIFAX, FEB. 17th, 1879.

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye have love one to another."

DEPOSITORY: 133 GRANVILLE STREET,  
HALIFAX, N. S.,  
1879.

WM. MACNAB, PRINTER, 12 PRINCE STREET, HALIFAX, N. S.

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BRITISH AMERICAN  
Book and Tract Depository,

133 Granville St., Halifax, N. S.

The Society keep constantly on hand a large assortment of BIBLES, RELIGIOUS BOOKS, S. SCHOOL LIBRARIES, COMMENTARIES and other helps for S. S. Teachers; HYMN BOOKS, REWARD CARDS, PERIODICALS, for S. Schools and families; TRACTS, &c., &c.

How to increase the circulation of the Periodicals supplied from the Depository.

We offer the following suggestions for promoting the circulation of Periodicals, and respectfully ask clergymen and other friends of a pure literature, to encourage and aid the formation of agencies for a systematic canvass and supply of their congregations and neighborhoods.

If a clergyman, or any member of his congregation, desires to create and foster a taste for reading, let steps be taken to establish an agency, by calling together those likely to take an interest in the object.

At the meeting, the locality should be divided into small districts, and a certain number of persons appointed to call on the families of each, and canvass for subscribers. To assist in conducting the canvass efficiently, communication should be made with the Secretary of the British American Book and Tract Society, who will forward lists and specimens of Periodicals.

It will be necessary to appoint a Secretary, who should be a person of business habits, and willing to take some trouble to keep up the Agency. He should receive the lists of Periodicals subscribed for, correspond with the office in Halifax, take charge of the monthly parcels of Periodicals, meet the canvassers monthly and deliver to them the Periodicals they have ordered.

The establishing of such an Agency would doubtless give a great impulse to reading of a sound and healthy character, and help to prevent the circulation of that which is demoralizing and pernicious.

Those who have the means can do much good, by ordering parcels for distribution among such families as cannot otherwise obtain them. One liberal friend of the cause in this city has for several years expended upwards of a hundred dollars per annum in payment for monthly parcels sent to destitute neighborhoods throughout his native county.

(See third page of cover.)

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1833 ANNUAL REPORT

## NOTICE RESPECTING BEQUESTS TO THE SOCIETY.

The friends of Christ are earnestly requested to remember the Society in their last will and testament. They can thus aid in spreading abroad a knowledge of his salvation when they themselves shall have passed hence, and entered into the full possession of it.

The attention of all persons who may contemplate making Bequests is respectfully called to the following section:—

### I. VICTORIA, chap. 36, sec. 9.

“And be it further enacted, That no will shall be valid unless it shall be in writing, and executed in manner hereinafter mentioned, (that is to say) it shall be signed at the foot or end thereof by the Testator, or by some other person in his presence and by his direction: and such signature shall be made or acknowledged by the Testator in the presence of two or more Witnesses present at the same time; and such Witnesses shall attest and shall subscribe the Will in the presence of the Testator; but no form of attestation shall be necessary.

N. B.—Wills executed prior to the first of January, 1838, are not affected by the New Act; but any alteration therein, or Codicil thereto, must be executed in the manner before mentioned.

## FORM OF A BEQUEST TO THE SOCIETY.

I give and bequeath to the “British American Book and Tract Society,” instituted in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in the year 1867, the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars, to be paid out of my personal Estate to the Treasurer for the time being, whose receipt shall be a sufficient discharge for the same.

Bequests may be general, and left to the discretion of the Committee to be disposed of as they may consider best; or *special*, to be applied to any one of the following schemes, viz.:—Colportage,—Gratuitous distribution among the destitute,—the Publication Fund or Capital,—or for providing a Building for the Society.

REV. G.  
REV. E.  
J. B. MC  
REV. G.  
L. B. BAC  
HON. S.  
REV. J.

JO

JOHN S.  
REV. RO  
HON. D.  
D. BLAC  
D. HENR  
W. B. MC  
REV. AL  
REV. JO  
JAHUS  
W. H. W  
P. CART  
REV. J. I  
REV. W.  
REV. R.  
REV. C. I  
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## OFFICERS FOR 1879.

### President.

THOMAS A. BROWN.

### Vice-Presidents.

REV. GEO. W. HILL, D.C.L., HALIFAX,	HON. C. YOUNG, LL.D., CHARLOTTETOWN.
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J. B. MORROW, Esq.,	JOHN'S NEWFOUNDLAND.
REV. G. M. ARMSTRONG, ST. JOHN, N.B.	JOHN MUNN, Esq., HARBOR GRACE, N. F.
LE-BARON BOTSFORD, Esq., M.D.,	E. R. BURPEE, Esq., ST. JOHN, N. B.
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REV. J. M. CRAMP, D.D., WOLFFVILLE, N. S. W.	C. BILL, M. P. F., BILLOWN, N. S.

### Treasurer.

GEO. H. STARR, Esq.

### Secretary and Superintendent of Colportage.

ALEX. McBEAN.

### Auditors.

JOSEPH BELL, Esq., SHERIFF,	S. H. BLACK, Esq.
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### Directors.

JOHN S. McLEAN, Esq., HALIFAX.	THOS. MACLELLAN, Esq., ST. JOHN, N. B.
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HON. D. McN. PARKER, M.D.,	C. W. WETMORE, Esq., " "
D. BLACKWOOD, Esq.,	Z. CHIPMAN, Esq., ST. STEPHEN, N. B.
D. HENRY STARR, Esq.,	HON. J. J. ROGERSON, ST. JOHN'S, N. F.
W. B. McNUTT, Esq.,	JAMES GOODFELLOW, Esq., " "
REV. ALLAN SIMPSON,	HON. JUDGE HENSLEY, CHARLTOWN.
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P. CARTERET HILL, Esq.,	S. A. WHITE, Esq., HALIFAX, N. S.
REV. J. F. AVERY,	REV. THOS. DUNCAN, " "
REV. W. J. ANCIENT,	REV. J. W. MANNING, " "
REV. R. F. BURNS, D.D.,	J. C. HALLIBURTON, Esq., " "
REV. C. B. PITBLADO,	ALEX. McBEAN, Esq., NEW GLASGOW.
W. S. STIRLING, Esq.,	JOHN BOYD, Esq., ST. JOHN, N. B.
M. H. RICHEY, Esq., M. P.,	REV. ROBERT LAING.
HOWARD PRIMROSE, Esq., PICTOU.	HON. SAML. CREELMAN.
	H. H. READ, Esq., M. D.

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REV. W. J. ANCIENT,	REV. J. W. MANNING.

### Finance Committee.

D. BLACKWOOD, Esq.,	REV. JOHN FORREST.
S. A. WHITE, Esq.	P. C. HILL, Esq.,
	W. S. STIRLING, Esq.

### Distributing (Colportage) Committee.

D. HENRY STARR, Esq.,	W. H. WISWELL, Esq.
REV. ALLAN SIMPSON,	REV. E. M. SAUNDERS.
	REV. R. F. BURNS, D. D.

# ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

## British American Book and Tract Society.

THE Eleventh Annual Meeting was held in the Masonic Hall, Halifax, Monday evening, February 17th, at eight o'clock, p. m., the President, Thomas A. Brown, Esq., in the Chair.

After singing the hymn,—

“ All hail the power of Jesus' name,”

the Rev. Thomas Duncan read the 72nd Psalm and led the meeting in prayer.

The President delivered the opening address. An abstract of the Annual Report was read by the Secretary.

The following resolution was moved by the Rev. R. F. Burns, D.D., and seconded by the Rev. W. J. Ancient and unanimously adopted :—

*Resolved*, “ That the Eleventh Annual Report be adopted, and printed under the direction of the Executive Committee, and that the thanks of the Society be tendered to all who have contributed to its funds—especially to the friends who have been so signally liberal in their support of Colportage ; also, to those who have aided in collecting funds and circulating its periodicals ; and finally that the Society devoutly acknowledge the hand of God in the prosperity which has crowned its operations during the past year.”

The following hymn composed for the occasion was sung :—

To this work, Lord, Thou hast called us,  
Make us faithful, strong and true ;  
Make us do with joy and courage  
All Thou givest us to do.  
In past years Thou hast been with us,  
Thy kind hand has been our guide ;  
Thou hast heard our supplications,  
And no good thing hast denied.

Be our Helper in the future,  
As we in Thy cause engage ;  
Bless each message that Thou sendest  
By us through the printed page.  
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That would lead the lost to Thee ;  
 Bless them in the lonely forest,  
 Bless them by the sounding sea.

Grant our Colporteurs Thy wisdom,  
 Make them strong in faith and love,  
 And may thousands through their labours  
 Flee from death to life above.  
 Grant us favour with Thy people  
 While we humbly work for Thee,  
 And the fruit of all our service  
 To Thy glory, Lord, shall be !

The following resolution was moved by the Rev. Geo. W. Hill, D.C.T., seconded by the Rev. J. W. Manning, and unanimously adopted :—

*Resolved*, " That this Society is worthy of the cordial approval and liberal support of all true-hearted Christians, on account of its catholic spirit and noble aims and objects, its earnest endeavors to supply all classes with a pure evangelical literature by furnishing Christian laborers with publications fitted to help them in their work, by supplying the best issues of the periodical press at the lowest prices, and by means of a well devised system of colportage, bringing the choicest religious books within reach of the poorest and most destitute."

A collection was taken up in aid of Colportage.

On motion by D. Blackwood, Esq., seconded by W. H. Wiswell, Esq., a Board of Directors for the current year was elected as found on the third page.

After singing the Doxology in the 72nd Psalm—

Now blessed be the Lord our God,  
 The God of Israel.

the meeting, which was one of the most interesting and encouraging ever held by the Society, was closed with the benediction by the Rev. John Forrest.

## ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

THE past year has been one of unexampled pecuniary depression, seriously affecting the operations and receipts of all Religious and Benevolent agencies.

In the work of our Society, while there has been a falling off in the sales of the Depository, there has been a considerable increase in receipts from Colporteur sales and Donations and Subscriptions in aid of the current expenses of Colportage, a number of Christian friends having given liberally for the extension of this department of the work. The spiritual results in conversions reported are cheering. For these tokens of the Divine favor we devoutly thank the great King and Head of the Church.

Edward Binney, Esq., a Director of the Society, died Feb. 23rd, 1878. At a meeting of the Executive Committee, the following Minute was adopted and placed on their Record:—"The Executive committee of the British American Book and Tract Society record their deep regret at the death of Edward Binney, Esq., who for the past ten years was a member of the Board of Directors, and for two years a member of the Finance Committee. Mr. Binney was more or less intimately connected with all the leading charitable and benevolent Institutions of this city. His gifts were as numerous as they were liberal; Churches, Benevolent Institutions, the sick, the poor, the distressed sharing his bounty. He was a regular contributor to the funds of this society, and his donations are part of the permanent capital which doubtless will prove productive of good, while pure evangelical religion and literature are cherished in these provinces. He has gone to his reward and his works do follow him."

### RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

The receipts for the year ending December 31st, 1878, have been, in donations and subscriptions \$3,363.17 (of which \$25 were for capital fund); for periodicals \$2654.56; store sales \$10,132.69; for

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Colporteur sales \$10,799.74 ; from other sources \$160.00. Total resources of the year \$27,110.16.

The expenditures have been : for publications \$15,821.68 ; for colportage \$5,232.77 ; all other expenses, as per items in the Treasurer's Report, \$6,055.71.

Receipts as compared with 1877 :

Colporteur sales (increase).....	\$3,816.84
Donations for colportage " .....	998.72
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	\$4,815.66
Periodicals (decrease).....	\$ 193.34
Store sales " .....	2,212.22
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	\$2,410.10

#### THE DEPOSITORY

Has now become widely known as a general Depot for Religious Literature. Bibles, Sabbath-school Libraries, Standard Religious Books, Periodicals, Tracts and Scripture Cards are sent from its shelves in a constant stream throughout the length and breadth of the Maritime Provinces. During the last eleven years the aggregate amount circulated, through all channels, including Colportage, by sale and gratuitous distribution, is upwards of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars worth, or more than seventy dollars' worth for each working day of the year.

When it is stated that a copy of the New Testament is sold for five cents, a Bible for fifteen cents ; Come to Jesus, or Sinner's Friend for two cents ; the Pilgrim's Progress, or Annals of the Poor, or Baxter's Call to the Unconverted for four cents ; God's Way of Peace, by Bonar, for seven cents ; 1600 pages of Tracts for fifty cents ; beautifully Illustrated Children's Papers for one cent, some idea may be formed of the many hundreds of thousands of Bibles, Books, Papers and Tracts thus scattered over the land, all pointing anxious sinners to Christ, and comforting the careworn and afflicted.

Pastors of Churches, Missionaries, Y. M. C. Associations, Sabbath-schools, visitors among the poor, the sick, the seamen, and Humane Institutions have been aided by such liberal grants in tracts and reduction in prices of books as the resources of the Society permitted.

May every page and every line of these issues be in the interests of a pure evangelical christianity, and be wholly sanctified to the furtherance of the cause and kingdom of our common Lord and Master.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS OF FRIENDS.

In the last Annual Report it was stated that a friend in New Brunswick had undertaken the support of a Colporteur in that Province. During the year other friends have given with like liberality. One furnishes the Society with the means necessary for the maintenance of a Colporteur in Charlotte Co., N. B. Another does the same for one labouring in the Western Shore Counties of Nova Scotia. A lady has kindly volunteered to raise the funds for another in York County, N. B. A Friend of some years standing has given \$180 for Colportage in Cape Breton. The Committee of the National Bible Society of Scotland generously voted £50 in aid of five Colporteurs. The Committee of the Religious Tract Society with their accustomed liberality have given a free grant of £50 worth of Tracts, also £60 worth of Books for Colportage at half subscribers prices, and £150 worth of S. S. Libraries at the same rate.

Mr. Melrose of Edinburgh has generously remitted £40 for Colportage in addition to his liberal contributions towards reducing the prices of the many excellent books for Colportage received through him.

Nearly one thousand dollars have been contributed in special donations for the extension of Colportage.

The many friends of the Society throughout the Maritime Provinces have given cheerfully. In some instances subscriptions have been reduced and occasionally withheld on account of inability, but this has been done usually with expressions of regret. The cordiality manifested towards the Society by the Christian public everywhere, is truly encouraging. We here tender our cordial thanks to all contributors and solicit their continued support. We also earnestly request that others may give similar aid according to their ability in helping to extend the benefits of this Society's work to every needy section throughout our field.

#### COLPORTAGE

Is as urgent a necessity as ever in these Provinces. The narratives of our Colporteurs show that in all the Provinces there are neighborhoods where there is destitution of a preached Gospel and Sabbath

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School instruction, that there are many householders where there is little or no saving literature, and where families, parents and children, are living in ignorance and neglect of the Gospel.

There are also most cheering evidences in those reports that the Bibles, Books and Tracts distributed, and the earnest prayerful words spoken are owned and blessed by the spirit of God. We have in the work of the year additional proof that the truth in the printed page is an instrumentality chosen and ordained of God for the salvation of men. We can not tell the happy results that may, by the Divine blessing, follow the reading of a single book or tract in a family or community. The influences often extend far and wide and from generation to generation.

#### STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Eighteen Colporteurs have been employed during the whole or part of the year, viz.: Eleven in Nova Scotia and Cape Breton; one in Prince Edward Island; three in New Brunswick, and three in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The aggregate time of their labour is equal to that of one man for eleven years, six months and one day. Sales of Bibles and religious books, \$10,793.26, and gratuitous distribution \$625.30. They held or took part in 333 prayer meetings, and had personal religious conversation, reading the Scriptures or prayer with 11,409 families. Total number of family visits reported, 29,163.

#### SUMMARY VIEW OF COLPORTAGE FOR ELEVEN YEARS.

No. of Colporteurs in Society's Service.....	80
Time employed.....	1293 months, 20 days
No. of miles travelled.....	173312
Cash received for sales .....	\$106748.08
Value of Grants of Bibles, Books and Tracts. ....	7692.89
No. of Prayer Meetings addressed .....	6482
No. of families destitute of all religious books except the Bible.....	1996
No. of Protestant families destitute of the Bible. ....	1142
No. of families of Roman Catholics visited .....	13191
No. of families conversed with on personal religion or prayed with .....	112,213
Total No. of families visited.....	268,339

## EXTRACTS FROM COLPORTEURS' REPORTS.

Mr. H. J. F., one of the Society's Colporteurs in Newfoundland, having labored nearly seven months in the harbors between Channel and Burin, Placentia Bay, makes the following interesting statements respecting his field and labours:

"The fishermen in most of the harbors I visited would not be likely, during the term of their lives, to get the chance of reading such books as the Society sends out if the books were not brought to their doors, as very few of them go to St. John's, being supplied with the necessaries of life by merchants and traders, who live among them and whose aim is to make all the money they can out of the poor fishermen. I met a young man who had come from some distance to the 'Merchants' Room' with fish to the amount of £25, taking up part of it in flour and pork. Wishing to buy a few books he went to the office, asking for a dollar, and telling what he wanted for. He was refused, although money was due him.

"Education until recently was out of their reach; and now there are many harbors with from thirty to forty children where there are no day schools, Sunday schools or Evangelical preaching. The mothers are more anxious than the fathers to buy books for the children, although perhaps unable to read. They say 'that it is well to have books in the house; some one in the harbor can read and we will get the books read to us in the winter nights.' The mothers also are anxious to procure alphabet cards and first readers for their children, as there are generally two or three who can read and teach the children to read. One woman I met had been trying for six months to get a book for her boy who was eager to learn to read. With a few exceptions I did not see a Sunday school paper or a child's paper of any description during the whole of my journey.

"In many places three times in the course of the year is as often as a clergyman visits the people; consequently Sunday is spent in eating, sleeping, or telling stories. This is the reason why I ordered such a large number of Mr. Moody's sermons,—I think about 250 copies, which I disposed of, taking care to sell some in every harbor I called at.

"One of the old residents of a harbor in which are twelve or fifteen families informed me that, although people had been living there nearly one hundred years, until twelve months ago they had been without a school and without a service on Sunday. The clergyman who lives about fifteen miles distant, visits them three times in the year. Not more than 40 cents could be had in the harbor to buy books. The old School master who reads prayers on Sunday, wished to buy a few books, especially 'Sermon books,' but all his money was at the merchant's. I gave him two volumes of Moody's sermons, 'Wondrous Love' and 'Great Salvation,' his intention being to read

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two sermons every Sunday to those who came to hear prayers read. I had a service there to which all came,—old and young, mothers with their babes in their arms. I may remark here that wherever I got an opportunity I had a service. At Codroy, as there was no other way of holding a service, I used to go in the evenings, where a number of men were building a large schooner, and where the people used to collect together. I read to them from a work of Dr. Newton, the great 'Pilot and his teachings' which interested the weather-beaten fishermen very much.

"At Western Point I called at a house where the inmates were without money to purchase books. I left a few tracts and a copy of 'Come to Jesus' on the table. Calling there the next day, a woman who had been an invalid for some time, told me that after I left the day before, her husband on taking up the small book I left on the table said, 'why wife, this is the book you have been looking for the last eleven years.' Some one living in the harbor had received a copy from a Wesleyan minister, and that had been lent around until it was nearly in pieces.

"One man to whom I gave a tract written in verse, with the request that he would lend it to his neighbors to read, as it was the last I had, showed me ten tracts he had stitched together, which he had obtained at various times. Some of them were yellow with age. He said he would sew the one I gave with his volume. I met him the following Sunday going from house to house with the tract in his hand. He could read fairly and was tired from reading to the families he had visited. Another informed me that a book called 'The Great Pilot' was bought by him from a Colporteur a few years ago, and had been sent to three or four harbors to be read by his friends. I gave a copy of the 'Sinner's Friend' to a woman. Thirty miles from the place she lived, I met a young man who told me that his mother had sent him a small book that I had given her. It had done her good, and he himself was blessed by reading it.

"After conversation with parties on personal salvation (which to many with whom I conversed seemed something new and hard to understand), I usually gave a copy of 'Come to Jesus' or the 'Sinner's Friend.' I gave away about 300 copies of the 'Sinner's Friend' and 400 of 'Come to Jesus.' Conversion was what they themselves thought they did not need. I adopted the plan of reading a tract, by H. G. Guinness, 'Twenty-two solemn questions concerning life, death, judgment, heaven, hell and salvation,' which seemed to shoot arrows of conviction to their hearts and shake the foundation of their hopes. I put one question to them at a time and then required an answer.

"One young man, who wanted to buy a 'yarn book about pirates,' I induced to buy a volume of Dr. Talmage's sermons. I happened to drop in where he lived, a night or so after, and found a room full

of young men and women and a man (the best reader) sitting at the table and reading in a loud voice and very earnestly, a sermon out of the same book, entitled, 'Wreck of the Ville du Havre.' He intended to read one every night until the book should be read through.

"Large print books are in great demand. Thirty volumes of 'Precious Truths,' very large print, sold quickly. An old man, who addressed me as I landed in, one of the harbors, said, 'Are you the man who has books for sale? have you a large print Bible?' On informing him that I had one left he replied, 'Bless the Lord: my ooman and I must have that; our old Bible is all in pieces.' He bought, besides the Bible, a volume of McCheyne's sermons, one of Moody's and several other books, all of which, with the exception of the Bible, he intended lending to his neighbors. He was continually praising God that I came along with such good books, and said it did their hearts good to meet some one who would talk to them about Christ. The old woman remarked, while I was reading to her, 'that there was no book like the Bible. Other books be good, but they have to take something from the Bible, and that makes 'em sweet.'

"Occasionally I met some who told me when I asked them if they wanted to buy a good book that they had plenty of good books in the house. They had bibles, prayer-books and hymn-books and that there was no need of any other books.

"I held a number of temperance meetings, pledged 614 individuals, giving 550 of them pledge cards, and also distributed Temperance Tracts.

"Before concluding I may state that I received great kindness from all the Wesleyan ministers I met and also from other parties."

Mr. J. H. P., labouring in Guysboro' Co., N. S., writes of one neighborhood he visited:

"There is a number of families here in a truly deplorable condition. Seven mothers of families were found living near together, only one of whom could read. One of them speaking of her children, remarked, 'We are raisin 'em just like heathen.' There never has been a school-house or school in the place, and of course ignorance, superstition and temporal and spiritual want abound.

"At the harbour, four or five miles further down there is a school-house and generally a school. The Church of England Clergyman made some efforts to get a church building erected, but the frame, boards and shingles are still lying on the beach in a cove as mementoes of his zeal in a good cause. I think no intelligent Christian could visit this place without seeing the great need of a missionary among those who are thus perishing for lack of knowledge.

"As I went round from house to house, I gave notice of a Prayer-meeting to be held on Sabbath and all seemed interested and freely

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promised to attend; but a heavy storm set in, and I had to say 'Thy will be done not mine.' One of the boys of my hostess went out on the Sabbath and began to chop wood. She bought a New Testament and asked me quite seriously what kind of a book that was. I visited the R. C. Priest at——and had an hour's friendly talk with him. He bought a Teacher's Bible and a volume of Cook's Lectures, and invited me to repeat my visit when I came again.

"There are some noteworthy incidents connected with the reading of our books. An influential Christian man bought a copy of 'Healing Leaves,' and thought so much of it that he sent it to his son in California. In my next visit he wanted two or three copies; I had none but recommended 'Precious Truths for Every one.' He took one and when we met again he told me with joy that he had got clearer ideas of Faith from it than he ever possessed before. Another, a well-known merchant, who was once a rum-seller and a terror to his family, got a copy of the same book from me and afterwards told me he believed it was the best book I ever had for sale. I have known many persons greatly benefitted by its perusal, and the author's prayer in the preface is no doubt fully answered."

Mr. G. T., in Digby and Yarmouth, N. S., writes:

"A woman told me that the reading of a tract entitled, 'Almost a Christian,' and the advice I had given her, were the means of her conversion. A Frenchman and his wife, were converted by reading a Bible I gave them."

Mr. H. S., in Prince Edward Island, writes:

"I have spared no pains in visiting every Protestant family in the Eastern part of the Island. I found a great want of Bibles, Testaments and other religious books. Some are 60 miles from a bookstore. I meet with many opportunities of pointing sinners to Christ and speaking words of comfort. I met one in whose conversion God was pleased to make me instrumental. Another dates her awakening to conversation with the Colporteur, and is now united with the people of God. I endeavor to say a good word in every family.

"How my heart should go out in prayer for God's blessing to attend the reading of the books going out of my hands from day to day."

Mr. J. W., in New Brunswick, writes:

"I was much pleased, while staying over Sunday with a family who kindly entertained me, to learn that a book they had purchased from a Colporteur had been the means of leading a son to the Saviour. His mother told me that her son had stated this on his dying bed. She said she rejoiced that ever that man came to her house, for that book had been the instrument under God of bringing her son to Christ and to heaven."

## CONCLUSION.

WE have thus as concisely as possible laid before the Christian public a summary of the work of the Society for the past year. By the good hand of God upon us, we have now been permitted and privileged during eleven eventful years, to sow the seed of Divine Truth, far and wide, and to know assuredly that the seed has taken root in prepared soil, has sprung up and ripened to the glory of our Saviour and the salvation of many souls. Our Society has done much to forestall in the homes of our people, a godless and debasing literature, and to beautify and sweeten those homes by the choicest productions of sanctified genius. Every Sabbath day, every day in the year, the publications sent forth from our Depository, tell, at least in three different languages, the story of redeeming love, in the lone cottage, in the rude hamlet, by many a bedside of the sick and dying, in the lumberer's camp, in the shanty of the railway navy, in the humble hut of the fisherman, in the cabin and the fore-castle of many a vessel in port and on the billowy main.

Heavenly bread and living water are thus dispensed far and near to hungry and thirsty ones who otherwise might perish unpitied and unheeded. And it is on behalf of the perishing, that we appeal to the Christian public for continued help. To die by reason of bodily hunger is dreadful. What would we not give—what would we not do—in presence of the ghastly face, the staring eye, the shrivelled limb, the pleading feebleness of a dying brother: But ah! how infinitely more appalling is the appeal of the hungry, famine-stricken, perishing soul. Satan's poison—literature of a corrupting, degrading, polluting character—will occupy the fields that we do not reach. There will be either famine or moral putrefaction if the bread of life and the light of Divine Truth be withheld. This Society does not seek to promote the interest of any one sect or church. It has no message of sectarianism to any soul of man. God forbid that it ever should leave its high vantage ground of evangelical Christianity, to become merely the feeble tool of proselyting zealots. To do so would be to prove false to the honorable record of eleven years of labour in the Lord's vineyard,—false to its own principles,—false to manly honour and to faith in God. We have been privileged to expend a quarter of a million dollars in diffusing Bible Truth. In the past year we circulated 15,000 copies of the Holy Scriptures, and in the

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eleven years of our existence we circulated no fewer than 165,000 copies.

It is surely a high honour thus to be fellow-workers with God, in making known the pure message of redeeming love. It is our firm purpose to continue in this work which our Master has given us to do for Him,—not turning aside to the right hand or to the left, not seeking to make men leave this church or join that church, but to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and follow Him.

#### REQUEST FOR PRAYER.

We renew our request for prayer on behalf of the Society, its officers, colporteurs and tract distributors; that their hearts may be filled with the love of Christ and animated with His Spirit; that divine guidance and support may be granted in conducting its operations, and that the truth may be accompanied with the power of God.

One liberal benefactor of the Society's work kindly assures us, that not a day passes without his offering earnest prayer on our behalf.

#### CHEERING PROMISES.

There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.—Prov. xi, 24. God loveth a cheerful giver.—2 Cor. ix, 7.

For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so shall my Word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it,—Isai. lv. 10-11.

QUESTION. Will the reader aid the Society in its beneficent, soul-saving, God-glorifying work?

Statistics of Colportage for the Year ending December 31st, 1878.

NOVA SCOTIA.

NAME.	COUNTRY.	Time devoted to Society's service.		No. miles travelled.	Cash received for sales.		Value of tracts, Bibles, and tracts.		No. of public meetings addressed and prayer meetings held.	No. of families desirous of all religious books except the Bible.	No. Prot. fam. desirous of the Bible.	No. fam. of Roman Catholics visited.	No. Prot. fam. who habitually neglect attending evangel. col. preaching.	No. of families conversed with on personal religion, or prayed with.	Whole number of family visits.
		Mo.	Days.		Dols.	cts.	Dols.	cts.							
E. Brymer	Lunenburg & Queens.	4	4	681	267	16	31	85	43	16	16	34	8	1745	9240
Matthew Lodge	Cumberland	9	13	1280	563	45	66	13	60	1	5	17	...	1063	1573
James Morrison	Colchester & Hants.	12	15	2095	813	46	65	85	14	...	...	24	...	2361	3487
J. H. Piers	Guysboro' & Halifax.	9	13	1442	538	63	62	53	65	...	...	76	...	321	1917
C. Skinner	Kings & Annapolis.	11	22	2379	1030	84	77	98	34	...	...	39	...	650	1804
G. Tufts	Yarmouth & Digby.	5	19	...	614	67	68	53	...	...	...	...	...	...	2655
C. Campbell	Pictou.	7	6	...	590	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
J. Campbell	Cape Breton.	8	8	...	454	59	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
John McNeil	Cape Breton.	3	16	...	296	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Thomas Mifflin	Halifax.	8	21	...	468	90	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Henry Sterns	Halifax City	4	28	...	445	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		84	20	7877	6010	44	372	87	218	17	21	192	8	6920	17676

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Henry Second	P. E. Island	11	15	1854	1161	36	1835	...	...	1	3	43	12	2315	2521
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Henry Seord.....	P. E. Island.....	11	15	1854	1161	36	1835	...	1	3	43	12	2315	2521
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**NEW BRUNSWICK.**

Joseph Tweedy.....	Northern Counties....	11	15	1778	1544	69	115	14	15	...	4	...	504	2492
Job Wade.....	Charlotte.....	6	9	1209	503	66	33	73	7	...	90	...	1289	2985
Thomas Wait.....	Victoria & Carleton...	8	11	1195	405	25	24	53	7	...	3	5	...	1780
		26	5	4182	2453	60	173	20	29	...	3	99	1798	7258

**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR.**

D. Killock.....		4	11	160	306	50	1	80	56	1	5	41	...	...
H. J. Furneux.....		6	22	...	556	93	41	18	...	108	6	1	...	182
J. Thompson.....		4	9	...	304	58	17	90	30	4	7	52	2	199
		15	12	160	1168	01	69	88	86	113	18	94	2	381

**SUMMARY STATISTICS.**

Nova Scotia.....	84	29	7877	6010	44	373	87	218	17	21	192	3	6920	17676
New Brunswick.....	26	5	4182	2453	60	173	20	29	...	3	99	...	1793	7258
Nfld. & Labrador.....	15	12	160	1108	01	60	88	86	113	18	94	2	381	1708
P. E. Island.....	11	15	1854	1161	31	18	35	...	1	3	48	12	2315	2521
	138	1	13973	10799	74	625	30	333	131	45	419	17	11409	29163

Summary of Colportage for Eleven Years.

Time charged to Society's service.	No. miles travelled.		Cash received for sales.		Value of grants of books, Bibles, and tracts.		No. of public meetings addressed and prayer meetings held.		No. of families desirous of all religious books except the Bible.		No. of families of Roman Catholics visited.		No. of families converted with, or proselyted with, on personal visit, or forwarded with, or proselyted with, on personal visit.		Whole number of family visits.
	Mo.	Days.	Dols.	cts.	Dols.	cts.	No. of public meetings addressed and prayer meetings held.	No. of families desirous of all religious books except the Bible.	No. of families of Roman Catholics visited.	No. of families converted with, or proselyted with, on personal visit, or forwarded with, or proselyted with, on personal visit.	No. of families of Roman Catholics visited.	No. of families converted with, or proselyted with, on personal visit, or forwarded with, or proselyted with, on personal visit.			
Seven Colporteurs, 1868	41	13	8118	1882 89	173 85	108	184	69	17	629	52	2489	6818		
Street Colporteurs, 1868	44	9	7385	3158 91	354 71	250	47	17	699	41	646	2548	11228		
Thirteen Colporteurs, 1870	76	4	11079	5696 69	559 88	612	364	586	411	943	411	9643	17388		
Twenty-eight " 1871	171	4	23711	14647 65	974 17	1187	684	364	2333	767	17096	31610	31247		
Twenty-nine " 1872	182	22	25877	15593 41	908 97	1048	114	113	1788	225	1204	32147	35217		
Twenty-nine " 1873	182	22	25877	15593 41	908 97	1048	114	113	1788	225	1204	32147	35217		
Twenty-six " 1874	164	29	22873	13073 10	1208 09	968	354	107	2072	105	14069	38357	38357		
Twenty-six " 1875	164	29	22873	13073 10	1208 09	968	354	107	2072	105	14069	38357	38357		
Eighteen " 1876	68	26	7447	6080 97	559 26	329	409	28	488	34	488	17478	17478		
Eighteen " 1877	83	3	9576	6982 80	529 55	368	119	12	303	78	594	18168	18168		
Eighteen " 1878	138	20	138973	10749 85	625 90	853	131	45	419	13	11400	29163	29163		
				106748 08	7622 89	6482	1906	1142	13191	1965	112213	296889	296889		

Summary of Receipts for Eleven Years.

Cash received in the year 1868	For Periodicals		For State Sales		For Colpr Sales		In Donations and subscriptions, other Sources.		Total.
	\$	cts	\$	cts	\$	cts	\$	cts	
1868	2603	18	1176	50	1886	82	3156	32	6513 46
"	1870	2983	18	5898	48	6713	85	300 40	50531 08
"	1871	3205	31	8880	49	14914	51	5991 74	30050 13
"	1872	3794	70	7863	65	15196	90	3337 73	32265 56
"	1873	4000	99	8137	73	15871	11	4684 13	32866 04
"	1874	4470	91	11676	31	15801	40	3189 47	37089 19
"	1875	3881	93	9711	33	9913	11	2268 35	27089 19
"	1876	2847	60	12344	91	6882	80	14616 30	29852 40
"	1877	2654	56	10182	69	10799	74	3503 17	27110 16
"	1878	2654	56	10182	69	10799	74	3503 17	27110 16
		\$35602 20		\$96717 99		\$100754 46		\$35002 20	\$2226 09
									\$27374 18

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EXPENDITURES FOR ELEVEN YEARS.

Cash paid for Publications.....	\$170,467.60
“ “ Colportage .....	47,073.18
“ “ “ Duty.....	7,890.43
“ “ “ Store expenses.....	7,805.71
“ “ “ Postage (including postage on periodicals) .....	4,804.52
“ “ “ Advertising and Printing.....	4,087.76
“ “ “ Freight.....	2,802.91
“ “ “ Stationery, Wrapping Paper and Twine.....	618.54
“ “ “ Insurance.....	392.23
“ “ “ Salaries and Travelling expenses.....	27,976.30
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	\$273,414.18

HOW TO AID COLPORTAGE.

TO THE CHRISTIAN PUBLIC.

The Colporteurs of the Society are laborers in the cause of the Gospel, disseminating in the families and neighborhoods they visit, by printed truth and personal effort, a knowledge of Christ and His salvation. They are sent forth by a religious, benevolent and undenominational society, whose single aim is to promote the highest welfare of those among whom their agents labor. The work is supported by the free contributions of the friends of the cause. While many thus contribute, the great majority of those for whose benefit the work is carried on have not the opportunity of aiding in this way; but you can often render equally important service by extending your kindness and hospitality to our Colporteurs, cheering their hearts, helping them by your prayerful co-operation in promoting the beneficent objects of the Society.

In the name and on behalf of the Directors of the Society we tender our warmest thanks to all who have helped thus in the past. May Heaven richly reward you! Our Colporteurs come to you in the name of our blessed Saviour, and what you do for them, you do for Him. We commend them to you in His name. Brethren, aid the Colporteur in every way you can in his labour for the Master, remembering the highest of all motives in every good work—"For My sake." "In as much as ye did it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye did it unto me."

- D. HENRY STARR,  
*Chairman,*
- ALLAN SIMPSON,  
*Pastor Poplar Grove Presbyterian Church,*
- W. H. WISWELL.
- E. M. SAUNDERS,  
*Pastor Granville St. Baptist Church.*
- R. F. BURNS, D.D.,  
*Pastor Fort Massey Presbyterian Church.*

Distributing (Colpor-  
tage) Committee.

\$23714 18

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The following is a report of Tract Distribution among the Seamen by the Y. M. C. Association of this city :—

"The work of Tract Distribution commenced regularly on the 1st Sabbath of May, and is still continued; the usual season extends from May to November, but as several of the distributors were anxious to continue their labors, the Committee thought it advisable to carry on the work to a limited extent during the winter."

"During the year 35,000 tracts, papers, and leaflets were distributed. The field of labor is the same as in former years. The number of distributors at work was 12. We take pleasure in noticing the heartiness with which our brothers went into their work. "Where duty calls" was their motto. It is with great pleasure that we report a new feature in this Summer's work. In the beginning of the season we purchased a boat at a cost of \$22.70, which amount was paid by a few members of the Committee. Under the able management of Messrs. Elk. Niekerson and R. E. Saunders, this boat has done good service, all honor to the crew who were so indefatigable in their labour of love. During the season 480 visits were paid to barques, 161 to brigs, 780 to schooners, and 225 to steamers, in all 1646 visits—these, were it not for our boat, would have been entirely neglected."

"In submitting this our annual report we would take this opportunity of urging upon the Association the great necessity and importance of disseminating good wholesome religious reading matter among all classes but especially among our seamen. A class not only willing but anxious to receive the tracts and papers given away,—Brethren pray for the Tract distributors and their work, and do not let this work be confined to the few who have it now in hand, but let us all become tract distributors. As we are passing the mile stones in the journey of life rapidly, let us be up and doing, remembering that time is short."

"In conclusion your committee would most heartily thank the British Am. Book and Tract Society for their very liberal grant of 38,000 tracts and papers."

Y. M. C. A. Association

W. H. W. SWIFT  
J. M. PARSONS  
H. F. BARKER, D.D.  
W. H. W. SWIFT

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

We are largely indebted to Messrs. Allan Brothers, proprietors of the Royal Mail Steamers, who continue to carry our packages free of freight, and thus greatly aid the benevolent work of the Society;

Also, to the Nova Scotia Bible Society for the liberal terms on which the publications of the British and Foreign Bible Society are furnished to our Colporteurs;

To the National Bible Society of Scotland for the very favorable terms on which Bibles are supplied, and for £50 towards the support of five Colporteurs;

To the Religious Tract Society for a free grant of £50 worth of Tracts, £155 worth of S. S. Libraries, and £60 worth of Books for Colportage at half subscriber's prices; 6000 Illustrated Family Almanacs and 1000 Bound Volumes Cottager at half price;

To Messrs. John Melrose and David Paton, Edinburgh, for Books of a superior class for Colportage, at greatly reduced prices;

To the Trustees of the Drummond Tract Enterprise for a free grant of Tracts, value, £20;

To James B. Morrow, Esq., for free passage to the Secretary, by Str. Delta, from Sydney;

To the Press, both religious and secular, for kindly inserting notices of the Society's operations, reports of annual meetings, &c.

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“THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY,” LONDON.

This noble institution is doing a world-wide work. We are exceedingly gratified to learn from the last Annual Report published that great and continued progress is being made in the number of publications issued, as also in the abundant evidence of their usefulness, as the following statements show:—

“The total amount received from sales, missionary receipts, and all other sources, including last year's balance, is £148,557 11s. 8d. The total expenditure in both trade and grant departments has been £146,231 18s. 1d., leaving a balance in favor of the Society of £2,325 13s. 7d.

"The total amount received from subscriptions and other contributions, part payment for grants, dividends, and legacies, is £28,083 14s. 9d., the whole of this sum being available for the missionary objects of the Society. The missionary expenditure has amounted to £36,266 5s. 1d. It consists of foreign money grants, foreign grants of paper, electrotypes, and publications, grants to emigrants, to congregational and individual applicants for tracts, libraries to schools, seamen, coffee palaces, prisons, workhouses, colporteurs, etc.

"The amount of grants thus exceeds the missionary receipts by £8,182 10s. 4d.; which has been supplied from the trade funds.

"There have been issued during the year 500 new publications, of which 201 were tracts.

"The total circulation from the Home Depôt, including Books, Tracts, Periodicals counted in numbers, Cards and Miscellaneous Issues, has reached 52,783,265, of which 24,640,395 are Tracts. The Issues from Foreign Depôts may be safely stated at 10,000,000, making a total circulation of nearly 63,000,000, and of very nearly 1,783,000,000 since the formation of the Society."

While the Society does not engage directly in Colportage it renders valuable aid to those organizations which have adopted this system. They state the case as follows :—

"The acknowledged principle of the Society on this subject has always been, that the Society employs no part of its funds in the support of colporteurs in the United Kingdom. It does not provide the machinery for distribution. This it leaves to societies or individuals interested in this special work. It makes large grants of tracts free or at reduced price, and of books at reduced prices for permanent lending libraries : but otherwise it looks for circulation of its books and the development of its business to the ordinary channels of the trade.

"At the same time, the Committee have always acknowledged the importance of colportage, having for its object the circulation of evangelical Christian literature, especially in a country like Ireland, where the opportunities of purchasing books, except in the large towns, are so rare, and where the Protestants are in many districts so few and scattered.

"They have been very glad, therefore, to hear of the thirty colporteurs, under the direction of the Presbyterian Assembly, and of the extension of this branch of the operations of the Bible and Colportage Society for Ireland. Twenty new colporteurs have been lately added to their staff, which now numbers nearly seventy, who work from the three centres of Dublin, Belfast, and Londonderry. There is every reason to believe that these colporteurs are men who go not merely as agents for the sale of books, but in the spirit of gospel missionaries.



"The work of colportage is extending also both in Scotland, where it has long been vigorously carried on by the Edinburgh Religious Book and Tract Society, and in England by various societies, the chief of which are the Christian Colportage Society, with between sixty and seventy colporteurs, and the Metropolitan Tabernacle Colportage Association, to which twenty-five new colporteurs have recently been added.

"The Committee feel that there is ample room for this work in England and that a great need is supplied when, as they believe is the case, the labors of the colporteurs are wisely directed, and the field chosen for them is such as enables them to reach places and persons who would not, in all probability, find their need of Christian literature supplied through the regular booksellers.

"While, therefore, the Committee adhere to their principle of being producers and not distributors of books, they have felt it right to show their sympathy with these efforts, and to encourage them as far as they can do so consistently with other considerations. They have accordingly adopted the practice, when they learn that new ground is being taken up, of granting a supply of books, to the value of £10, at half subscribers' prices, as the first start for the newly-appointed colporteur, and in all such cases an additional grant of tracts for gratuitous distribution is made. They have also in a few special cases supplied works of a directly religious and devotional character at half-price.

"The assistance thus given has been very gratefully acknowledged by the different societies and individuals interested in this means of spreading the truth through the press, and the Committee are assured that the considerable amount which has been thus granted has been well bestowed in assisting and encouraging a very important missionary agency."

The Secretaries conclude with the following admirable summary remarks :—

"The facts stated in the foregoing pages will be found, your Committee believe, to show that the sphere of the Society's influence continues to widen ; and the openings for the extension of its operations to multiply. They would, in conclusion, remind their friends that every fact which bears witness to the continued usefulness of the Society's work, and to the blessing which rests on the circulation of the truth, is a call to renewed prayerful effort in thankful dependence on Him from whom alone all the blessing has come,—whose is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory.

"The pages of this single report contain ample encouragement to all engaged in this work ; to all who help in it. The fact that, including the issues of the Foreign Societies, nearly 63,000,000 publications have been circulated in every quarter of the globe, either

directly from the Society's house or indirectly by the help received from its grants, shows how the seed continues to be sown beside all waters. What is the result? It is objected perhaps that much is lost, wasted, and bears no fruit. Be it so. This is no strange thing. When our Lord Jesus Christ sat in the fishing boat, on the Sea of Galilee, and spoke to the thronging multitudes who lined the shore—he who sowed the seed was the Son of Man. The seed was the Word of God spoken by His own Divine lips. Yet as He beheld the crowd who listened so eagerly to catch His words, He spoke of four kinds of ground on which that seed would fall. On three He foretold the seed would be lost, withered, or choked. On one only would it take deep root, and bear fruit to perfection. So it was afterwards when apostles sowed the seed. If some believed, more believed not. So it has been, and is still with the word spoken by the preacher's living voice. So it must be with the word sown through the press, whether in the pages of the Bible itself, or those of the book or tract which leads to it, and calls attention to its life-giving testimony to Him through whom men have access by one Spirit to the Father. Remembering this, is there not deep cause for thankfulness that the record of one year's proceedings contains so many proofs that the Lord in His goodness does permit His servants often to see that His Word, made known in the writings which they help to circulate, accomplishes His purposes of grace and love. From the very nature of the case it is generally impossible to trace out in detail the results of such sowing of the good seed as this report tells of. The Great Day alone will bring to light the hidden influence which the truth contained in book and tract and leaflet has exercised. But enough is told of facts brought to the knowledge of your Committee to show how much the Church and the world owe to such work.

“ Those who read these pages will find that they tell of the English clergyman, the minister of one of the most important London churches, thankfully declaring how a tract given on a racecourse changed the current of his life; of another, the head of one of the largest educational establishments for the poor in the same city, acknowledging how the tract, at first rejected, led him in his youth to apprehend the truth as it is in Jesus; of the German Baron, whose home has been for years a centre of light in his country, tracing all his zeal for the spread of the truth to the influence of a little book; of a lady who has so long laboured for the elevation of the wives and sisters of the Paris ouvriers, speaking of the little book *Lucilla*, which opened her eyes to the errors of the Church of Rome; of the Spanish evangelist, contending for the faith in his own country, led to Christ through the text-card given in a London hospital; of the Parsee missionary, now returned to labour among his own people, whose attention was first aroused by Christian

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tracts ; of the Scripture reader in Oude, led to Christ through a tract purchased on the Lucknow racecourse ; of the Orissa convert, brought to the knowledge of the truth by tracts given him by a half-enlightened man in Poore, the very seat of Satan ; of the Chinese farmer far beyond the missionary's reach, led to him and to the knowledge of the Truth by the tract bought from the colporteur ; of the aged Japanese converted by God's blessing on a simple tract ; of the American sailor arrested in his careless course by *The Swearer's Prayer*, and now a minister of the Gospel ; of the Syrian doctor of Damascus, so earnest in the spread of the faith, led to Christ many years ago by the study of the Arabic translation of *Keith on the Prophecies* ; of the young Greek in Thessaly, steadfast in tribulation, whose attention has been aroused by the reading of a child's paper and a Christian tract ; of the reader of the *Aryan*, thus led to decide to follow Christ, at Mirzapore ; of the Karen man reading the tracts secretly left by his pious mother in his house, and now a rejoicing Christian ; of the Roman Catholic priest, first led to a more perfect knowledge of the way of the Lord by the tract given him as he descended the steps of his church, and dying a Protestant pastor, highly esteemed for his work's sake ; of the young Italian receiving the first impression of the truth from the Italian almanack, and confirmed in it by the tracts received in France ; of tract distributors in France and England, earnest in their work, remembering the blessing which a tract had once been to their own souls. Such are surely but samples of a vast number of similar cases of which no record has been preserved. Are they not enough to cheer and encourage every producer, every publisher, every distributor of Christian books and tracts, of every one who tries to help on the work ?

" Divine truth circulated by the press is as blessed in its results now as it has been in former days. Men destined themselves to be made a blessing to thousands, and to exercise a wide-spread influence, find the truth first for themselves in the book or the tract, as they did in the days of Sibbes and Baxter and Doddridge, of Wilberforce and Legh Richmond and Chalmers—that wonderful succession of which mention was made at the Society's last anniversary. It has been so from apostolic days, when the inspired books of the New Testament circulated in the infant churches as Christian tracts ; and we need to be as earnest in promoting such circulation as the Apostle Paul was when he wrote to those whose face he had never as yet seen in the flesh : ' When this epistle is read among you cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that ye likewise read the espistle from Laodicea.' "

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## AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY.

Colportage have been for many years a prominent feature of this Society's work. We glean the following interesting statements from the last report issued:—

"The system of *Union Missionary Colportage* originated by this Society, combining the two elements of power for good, the printed truth with the living voice of the colporteur, has been prosecuted for thirty-seven years, reaching, to greater or less extent, every state and almost every territory of our wide land.

"It long since ceased to be an experiment, and for years no intelligent man, so far as the Committee know, has raised objection to the principles on which it is founded, or expressed doubts of its great usefulness. The permanence of its results, in neighborhoods reformed, Sabbath schools established, churches originated, and thousands of individuals converted unto God, impress the Committee more and more with the desire to extend its blessings into all the wastes of the land."

## SUMMARY VIEW OF COLPORTAGE FOR THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS.

Time employed, months.....	61,937
Number of volumes sold.....	11,005,080
"    "    granted.....	2,887,621
"    "    public meetings addressed and prayer meetings held.....	397,551
"    "    families destitute of all religious books except the Bible.....	939,214
"    "    Protestant families destitute of the Bible.....	602,933
"    "    families of Roman-catholics visited.....	948,620
"    "    Protestant families habitually neglecting evangelical preaching.....	1,651,720
"    "    families conversed with on personal religion, or prayed with.....	6,613,358
"    "    family visits.....	12,020,011

Two hundred and thirty-six Colporteurs were employed during the year.

A noteworthy event of the year is the "restoration of harmony between the Society and the American Tract Society of Boston," the two being now cordially united under the management of the Directors in New York.

The number of 128 new publications have been added to the Society's list during the year, in English, German, French, Spanish,

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Portuguese, and Danish, 33 of that number being volumes ; making the whole number of publications issued by the Society at its House, excluding the Periodicals, 5,955 ; of which 1,233 are volumes, the remainder paper-covered books, tracts, leaflets, cards, and handbills.

The whole number of publications at foreign missionary stations, approved by this Society's Publishing Committee, and issued wholly or in part by its funds granted for this purpose, is 4,211, of which 640 are volumes.

**CIRCULATION OF PERIODICALS FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, '78.**

The average number of copies printed monthly of the *American Messenger* for the year has been 80,250 copies ; *Child's Paper*, 154,667 ; *Botschafter*, 27,750 ; *Morning Light*, 71,500.

Whole number of copies printed during the year : *American Messenger*, 963,000 ; *Child's Paper*, 1,856,000 ; *Botschafter*, 333,000 ; *Morning Light*, 858,000.

Total number printed of the four papers for the year, 4,010,000.  
Total number of monthlies printed since beginning of issue, 170,402,200.

Total number of *Deutscher Volksfreund* (*Illustrated German Weekly*) printed during the year, 263,500.

Total number of *Illustrated Christian Weekly* printed during the year, 919,300.

The Society's receipts for the year have been in Donations and legacies ..... \$ 89,008 25  
Sales including periodicals ..... 800,004 26  
Rents ..... 14,329 08

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# AN ACT

TO INCORPORATE THE

## BRITISH AMERICAN BOOK AND TRACT SOCIETY.

Passed the 18th day of April, A. D., 1872.

Section.

1. Incorporate Purposes.
2. Real Estate.
3. Election of Officers, &c.

Section.

5. Fees for Membership.
6. Present Bye-Laws valid, until repealed.

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and Assembly, as follows :--

1st. Thomas A. Brown, George W. Hill, John Forrest, John A. Clark, John E. Goucher, George H. Starr, Alexander McBean, Robert N. Beckwith, Joseph Bell, John S. Maclean, Robert Murray, Daniel McN. Parker, Henry N. Paint, David Blackwood, D. Henry Starr, William Roche the younger, William Montgomery, William B. McNutt, Edward M. Saunders, Allan Simpson, W. Sawers Stirling, Edward Binney, Jairus Hart, J. Fraser Campbell, James B. Morrow, William H. Wiswell, Brenton H. Collins, P. Carteret Hill, Charles D. Hunter, and their Associates, Successors and Assigns are hereby constituted a body incorporate by the name of the British American Book & Tract Society, for the purpose of circulating through Colportage and other means, religious Books and Tracts among the People.

2nd. The corporation may purchase, take and hold real estate, not exceeding One Hundred Thousand Dollars in value, and may sell, mortgage, lease, convey or otherwise dispose of as may be deemed expedient for the purposes of the Society.

3rd. The business affairs and property of the Society shall be managed by a President and Board of Directors, to be elected annually, or from time to time, as the Corporation shall see fit. The Annual meeting for the Election of Officers shall be held in the City of Halifax in the month of February in each year. The corporators in the first section by name mentioned, being the President and Board of Directors now in office, shall continue in office until their successors shall be appointed.

4th. Any person may become a member of the Society for one year, by paying the sum of One Dollar to the funds thereof; and may become a member for life by paying Twenty Dollars.

5th. The Constitution and Bye-Laws now in force, and which were adopted at a meeting of the Society held at Halifax, on the second day of August, 1867, shall continue in force until altered or repealed in accordance with the Constitution.

## Constitution of the Society.

1. THIS Society shall be denominated the BRITISH AMERICAN BOOK AND TRACT SOCIETY, the object of which shall be to diffuse the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ as the redeemer of sinners, and to promote the interests of vital godliness and sound morality, by the circulation—through Colportage and other means, of Religious Books and Tracts, calculated to receive the approbation of all Evangelical Christians.

2. Any person paying one dollar, annually, into the Treasury of this Society shall be a *member*; any one paying twenty dollars at one time shall be a *life member*.

3. This Society shall meet annually on the first Tuesday of February, when the proceedings of the foregoing year shall be reported, and a Board consisting of a President, four Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, two Auditors, and thirty-six Directors shall be chosen.

4. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Depository, Superintendent of Colportage, and Secretary of the Society; and shall also annually elect by ballot, a Publication, a Distributing and a Finance Committee, each consisting of not less than three, or more than five members,—the members of which three Committees, with the President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurer, shall constitute an Executive Committee to conduct the business of the Society. The Board shall have power to enact Bye-Laws—Thirteen members of the Board of Directors present at any meeting regularly convened shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All vacancies shall be filled as the Bye-Laws direct.

5. To promote in the highest degree the objects of the Society, the Officers and Directors shall be elected from different Denominations of Christians, and shall be members in good standing in their respective Churches. The Publication Committee shall contain no two members of the same ecclesiastical connection; and no Book or Tract shall be circulated, to which any member of that Committee shall object.

6. Any Tract Society founded on the principles of this Society, and annually contributing a donation to its Treasury, shall be considered an auxiliary, and the President and Secretary of such auxiliary, for the time being, shall be members of this Society.

7. All meetings of the Society, the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee, shall be opened by prayer.

8. The President, or in his absence a Vice-President, or other officer first on the list in the city of Halifax, at the request of three Directors, may call special meetings of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have power to call meetings of the Society.

9. This constitution shall not be altered, except at the annual meeting of the Society, and by a vote of the majority of the members present, notice of the proposed alteration having been given at the previous annual meeting; or recommended by the Executive Committee, and notice of the proposed alteration posted up in the Depository one month previous to the annual meeting, and inserted in the call for such meeting.

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