

REPORT

OF THE

HALIFAX DIOCESAN COMMITTEE

OF THE

SOCIETY

FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE,

FOR THE YEAR

1832.

HALIFAX

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REPORT.

The Halifax District Committee of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, beg leave to offer to their Brethren and the public at large, the following account of their proceedings since the last Report was made.

During a period of nearly twenty years, this Committee have been endeavouring to forward the benevolent views of the Parent Society, in promoting Christian Knowledge, by distributing the valuable books which are received from their stores, and by the encouragement of national and other schools, and especially by supplying them with books gratuitously or at reduced prices, as their circumstances have required. How far the Committee have succeeded in their important undertaking, their Reports from time to time will show.

This Committee have been so long established, and the routine of their arrangements has been so regular and uniform, that their operations are extensive, possess little variety. The sale of Books and Tracts, the transmission of packages to District Committees and individuals, and gratuitous supplies to numerous indigent persons, and especially to those in distant settlements, form the great feature in our present operations. And tho' our Books by a late regulation of the Parent Society, unavoidably cost more than formerly, yet we are happy in saying that they are not the less sought after, nor less universally circulated and sold, than at any former period.

We are enabled then to say, and it is with humility, but with heartfelt thankfulness also we say it, that the good cause which it is our object to promote has prospered

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ed in our hands ; and that we have good reason to hope with the Divine blessing on our undertaking, we shall be able to carry on the work to a still greater extent, to the increase of useful knowledge and the moral and religious benefit of those around us.

The two great points, to which the Committee have always directed their attention, for the purpose of forwarding the benevolent objects of the Society are,—

- 1st, The distribution of Books and Tracts, and
- 2nd, The Christian Education of the Children of the poor.

Observing however, the plan of former Reports, we will speak to the *five* following particulars.

First, The correspondence with the Parent Society, has been kept up with great satisfaction and benefit to the Committee. The greatest attention is always paid by their Secretary to our communications and requisitions for Books : and the care and anxiety which have always been shewn in forwarding by the earliest opportunities our Packages and Cases of Books, must be here noticed with a tender of our best thanks, various supplies of Books have been received since our last Report was printed : Three large cases have arrived within the last week. Remittances have also been made to the Board at home, to a considerable amount.

Secondly, The District Committees, in connection with the Diocesan Committee are greatly increasing. Besides the flourishing Committees of Lunenburg, Liverpool, Sydney, in Cape Breton, Dartmouth and elsewhere, with whose concerns the Society are already acquainted ; Committees have been organised at Antigonish, Yarmouth, St. George's Halifax, Chester, Digby, Granville and Bridgetown. To the newly established Committees in the country, where their means are generally very limited ; the Lord Bishop is enabled to hold out some small encouragement, from a fund which has been placed at his disposal, by the Parent Society : and the assistance thus afforded, is always very gratefully received. Some of these Committees are in a flourishing state, and extending more widely every year the sphere of their usefulness. That at Lunenburg exhibits a very encouraging example.

Thirdly, The distribution of Books and Tracts from the Depository of the Diocesan Committee, continues to a

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very considerable amount, and encourages the hope and belief that the Society's Books and Tracts are found to be as desirable and beneficial, as the friends of the Institution have always endeavoured to represent them; and on this account they are particularly recommended to the public and to all who desire to improve in religious knowledge, and especially in an intelligent knowledge of the word of life, that they may be comforted and instructed thereby to their eternal welfare. The number of Books and Tracts issued from the Depository since the last Report are

Bibles	538	Other bound Books	427
New Testaments	623	Half bound Books, &c.	7397
Common Prayer	796		
			9781

Fifty eight Packages and Parcels of Books have been forwarded to the following places since the last Report, viz.

To Bunenburg	13	To Aylesford	5
Liverpool	4	Windsor	3
Sackville	2	Antigonish	3
Yarmouth	4	Arichat, C. B.	2
St. George's	3	Sydney, do.	1
Dartmouth	5	Granville	2
Chester	5	Bridge-Town	1
Digby	9	Cornwallis	1
Carlton	1		
			In all—53

It is with pleasure that the Committee are enabled to state, they have had it in their power to supply a considerable portion of their Books gratuitously, or at very reduced prices, to daily and Sunday Schools, remote Settlers in the Province and other needy individuals, notwithstanding that they now pay at prime cost for all their importations of Books.

It will be gratifying to all in this part of His Majesty's Colonies, who are anxious to promote Christian Knowledge throughout the world, to know that the Parent Society continue to increase in usefulness and importance, and are extending their benefits more widely every year throughout the whole of the British Empire. The following particulars are extracted from the Society's Report for 1831. The number of Bibles, Testaments, Common Prayer

Books, Psalters and other Books and Tracts exceeds that of any former year, amounting to 1,585,141. A large proportion of these Books have been supplied to Parochial, Charity, National and Sunday Schools, which have the privilege of receiving Books from the Society at very reduced prices.

The following are the particulars of the issue for 1831 :

Bibles - - - - -	62,019
Testaments and Psalters - - -	83,685
Common Prayer Books - - -	147,537
Other Bound Books - - -	115,246
Small Tracts, half bound, &c.	1,176,654

The whole number of Members and Annual Subscribers in the year 1831, amounted to 14,400, and the receipts of the Society for the same year amounted to the large sum of £67,270 3 0.

Fourthly, The Accounts of the Committee next claim our attention; and we are happy in being able to present a favourable statement, having, by our late remittances considerably reduced our debt to the Parent Board.— Since our last Report, Books have been issued from this Depository to the amount of £555 0 0. We have remitted to the Parent Society at different times since the last Report, the aggregate sum of £737 4 5, leaving a balance due to the Society, according to a letter of the Reverend William Parker, dated London, February, 28, 1832, of £415 11 8.

To stand against this debt we have money in

hand to the amount of	£100 0 0
Debts from various individuals, and District Committees about	200 0 0
Stock of Books in value about	400 0 0
	<hr/>
	£700 0 0

Making the sum of Seven Hundred Pounds supposing the debts paid and the Books sold.

Fifthly, The Committee have now the pleasure of entering upon the subject of Education, to which their attention has always been directed as one of their leading and most important objects.

The National School in Halifax claims our first notice, having had from its establishment to the present day, all

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the support and countenance the Committee could extend to it. It affords to the children of the poor who may not receive religious instruction at home, the advantage of obtaining it within its walls. Every child may be taught the first principles of our common faith, his duty to God and man, and the plain truths of the gospel. The Trustees aware that education without the inculcation of religious knowledge is defective in its most important point, early determined to make the system strictly a religious system of education; and this they humbly hope is, with the wise and considerate, the School's best recommendation. It is known that provision is made for the instruction of the children of the poor of every denomination who may apply for admittance. A large majority of the present scholars are gratuitously taught. The School for boys continues to be conducted by Mr. Abel S. Gore, and that for girls by Miss Maria Barnett.

Since the division of the Parish of St. Paul, (which comprehended the whole of the Town and Suburbs of Halifax) and the establishment of Schools in the Parish of St. George, under the active superintendance of the Rev. R. F. Uniacke, the Rector of that Parish, the number of scholars, both male and female, has experienced some diminution. The average number however, since the last Report, exceeds 170 boys and 80 girls. Since the opening of this School in 1816 upwards of 3000 children have been admitted within its walls, all of whom have received more or less benefit according to their capacity, time of attendance and other circumstances. Schoolmasters continue to be instructed at the Central School to carry instruction into the different parts of the Province. The whole number of Masters thus qualified since 1816 is 80 and 6 mistresses. Miss Barnett the present Mistress having signified her wish to retire from the School, the Trustees have reluctantly accepted her resignation; and have appointed Miss Margaret Coyle to succeed her, who is now going through a course of instruction in the Madras System to qualify her for the undertaking.

Some parents of the first respectability, as well as those in the humbler walks of life, have availed themselves of the advantages which this useful School affords; and many individuals of both sexes, who received their entire education in them, are now fulfilling the various duties of

life with credit to themselves and benefit to those with whom they are associated. Though the Trustees, during a period of nearly sixteen years have met with some difficulties and discouragements, yet from a fair statement of the results. They feel confident that their labours will not appear to have been in vain, and that the benefits conferred will continue to be very generally acknowledged. They are therefore encouraged to persevere in their work, while funds can be procured to support the institution, and while one poor uneducated child solicits admission within its walls.

The Legislative Grant to the National School of £100 per annum for three years, having ceased with the last year, it is with great thankfulness and satisfaction that we here notice the renewal of the Grant by the Legislature in their late Session for the same sum, and the same period, for which the gratitude of all who feel an interest in this institution is due.

The Sunday Schools are increasing: And as several young gentlemen have lately undertaken to teach classes, it is hoped the number of persons who attend them will increase to a greater extent than heretofore. The young ladies who have so long superintended their Classes in the Sunday School for girls, assisted by the ladies who are the monthly superintendants of the National School, continue their exertions with unabated zeal. Our best thanks are here offered to the Teachers in both Schools, who have so kindly undertaken to devote their time on Sundays to so good a cause—the cause, we trust of God and man, tending most effectually to promote the temporal and eternal interests of the rising generation.

This Report of the Halifax Diocesan Committee of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge is submitted to their friends and the public at large, in the humble hope that their labours will be approved, and that it may excite more general interest in the minds of the pious and well disposed towards the concerns of the Society, and a desire to increase their exertions to promote its benevolent designs.

In behalf of the Committee,

ROBERT WILLIS, D. D. *Secretary.*

HALIFAX, June 1st, 1832.

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