REPORT

15

OF THE

QUEBEC AUXILIARY

TO THE

RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY,

FOR THE YEAR 1858.

QUEBEC:
MIDDLETON & DAWSON, PRINTERS, MOUNTAIN HILL.

1859.

Tract Society Annibersary Meeting.

FEBRUARY 2; 1859.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL FITZGERALD IN THE CHAIR.

FIRST RESOLUTION.—Moved by Rev. H. D. Powis, seconded by W. A. Curry, Esquire:

"That the report which has been read, be adopted and printed for circulation: and that the following gentlemen be appointed the Officers and Committee for the ensuing year, viz.:

PRESIDENT.—Christian Wurtele; Treasurer, N. N. Ross; Secretary, Revd. D. Marsh; Assistant Secretary, Hy. Glass.

COMMITTEE.—Jeffery Hale, J.G. Clapham, D. Logie, D. White, D. Wilkie, W. McLimont, T. S. Stayner, O. L. Richardson, Henry Fry, R. Middleton, A. C. Buchanan, Wm. A. Curry, Wm. White, J. Lenfestey, John Ross, C. Brodie, Dr. Cole, E. H. Duval, Jr., and all clergymen of the city being members of the society.

SECOND RESOLUTION.—Moved by Rev. Dr. Perkins, seconded by Revd. J. ELLIOTT:

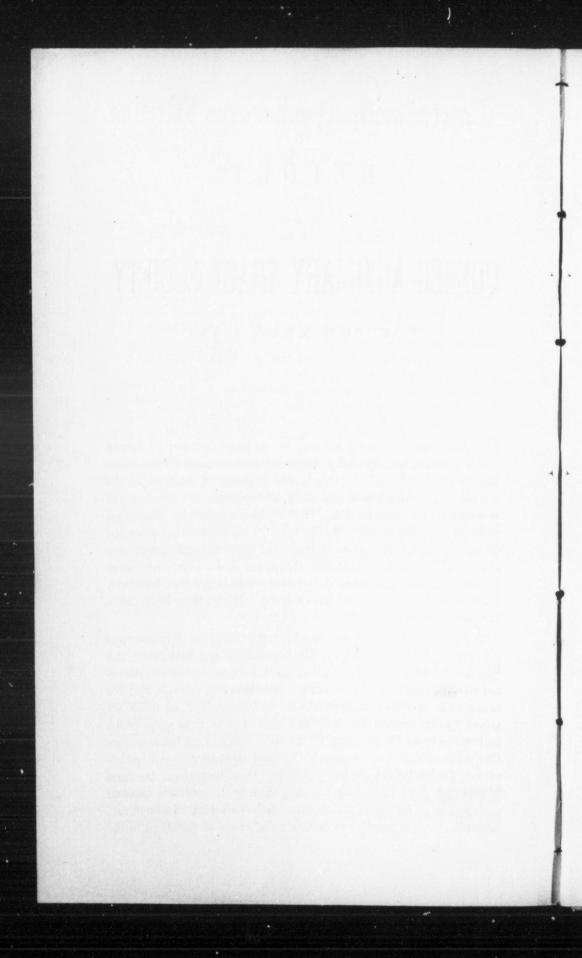
"That this meeting considering the spiritual destitution which exists in many parts of the world, and to a great extent in this Province, hails with satisfaction the constitution and operations during 59 years, of the Religious Tract Society, and also rejoices to acknowledge the labors and success of this Auxiliary in the dissemination of the saving truths of the Gospel, both by a living agency and by the distribution of religious books and tracts, and further resolves to maintain, and if possible, to extend its efficiency during the ensuing year."

THIRD RESOLUTION.—Moved by Rev. W. B. CLARK, seconded by Revd. D. MARSH:

"That this meeting, whilst regarding with wonder and adoration the display of Almighty wisdom and goodness in that Providence which governs the earth—feels that the mighty changes already accomplished in some nations, and evidently approaching in many others, call loudly on Christians for faithfulness in the service of their Lord, with constant prayer for the qualifications, guidance and blessing, which the Holy Spirit only can impart."

FOURTH RESOLUTION.—Moved by JEFFERY HALE, Esq., and adopted unanimously:

"That an expression of the cordial thanks and christian sympathy of this meeting be presented to the Rev. Dr. Perkins, together with an assurance that their earnest prayers will be offered at the throne of Grace for increasing tokens of the Divine approval of his Missionary labors among the Nestorians."



REPORT

OF THE

QUEBEC AUXILIARY TRACT SOCIETY,

FOR THE YEAR 1858.

The Kingdom of God is likened, by its great founder, to leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till the whole was leavened. The silent but powerful influence of the truth of the Gospel of the Kingdom is here strikingly asserted, and not less the necessity for its dissemination. History has wonderfully illustrated and confirmed the Saviour's words, since it has shewn, that when the divine and spiritual leaven of truth has been diffused among the nations of the earth, it has been the power of God unto Salvation to every one who has believed it; and where it has been withheld, darkness, and sin, and death, have reigned. Where there is no vision the people perish.

The great work of promulgating his truth Christ has devolved upon his people. He has made them its depositaries and witnesses. All who are Christ's, without exception, share in the honor, the blessedness and the responsibility of this work. All christians are qualified for this by the renewing of their minds, by the teaching of the Holy Ghost, by the constraining love of Christ, and by those gifts which he bestows upon all severally as he wills. While all believers are thus prepared and made responsible by their spiritual gifts and qualifications, Divine Providence has distributed them throughout the mass of mankind, most intimately blending them by the ordinary ties and associations of life, from which arise daily occasions of labour and influence. It is principally to facilitate the labors of christians in the

various spheres in which God has placed them, and not to furnish a substitute while they remain idle, that the Tract Society offers its services and fulfills its course. And considering how valuable in many respects the services and operations of this Society are, it is lamentable that among so many who approve its constitution and objects, and also its publications generally, so few should be found who lend it their active services. How few do so in Quebec in one form, might be seen by an inspection of the committee's minute-book, which records attendance during the year. Are there, indeed, no young men to be found in the evangelical congregations of the city, willing to engage in the good cause, and whose harnessing for the work would be an event peculiarly cheering to some who are growing gray in the service, and would also be valuable to themselves, as discipline for the future?

In laying before their friends a report of the yearly proceedings of the Quebec Auxiliary Tract Society, the committee do not perform an ungrateful task, yet while discharging this necessary duty they would remind themselves that they are involved in other and weightier responsibilities than those which they owe to their constituents. The records contained in the Annual Reports of our Societies are not the only records which are kept of our doings; nor is the approval or disapproval of the Annual Meeting the only judgment. Assuredly there is not much occasion for self-complacency in reviewing the year : no great things have been accomplished, no mighty sacrifices have been made, no appalling dangers have been braved, no extensive revival of religion has arisen out of the labors of your Society. On the contrary, the minute-book shews a thin attendance of Committee, the subscription list exhibits no augmentation of funds; indeed, it has been with difficulty that gentlemen could be found to act as collectors, and as was the case last year, one of the districts of the city remains yet unvisited by the collectors. The work of the Tract Distributing Association in the city has also declined, though something has been done by individuals; and, doubtless, the faithful labors of the City Missionary, Mr. Davis, and also of your own Agent, Mr. Blyth, will yet be followed by blessed results.

"Though seed lie buried long in dust,
It sha'nt deceive our hope,
The precious grain can ne'er be lost,
For grace ensures the crop."

AGENCY.

The labors of the travelling agent have been uninterrupted through the year, and we feel sure that good has been accomplished in many parts of the extensive district of Quebec. From Megantic and the Eastern Townships, down to Gaspe, and the Bay of Chalcurs, he has been enabled to prosecute his arduous work with much encouragement. All the Branches, he says, are holding on and progressing, with only two exceptional cases, where little progress has been made. In some instances when the books which had been sent remained unsold, the agent has taken them round with him on his visits, and thus disposed of many of them, returning those which were not sold. In some cases the depository is not central or public, and some have advised a change, but caution is necessary, as offences easily come and it is very undesirable to alienate from the Society any who are willing to work.

During the year, says the agent, I have visited over five hundred families, and have held more than fifty meetings on week-days and sabbath-days; besides meeting with children in schools and private honses, addressing them and teaching them the Sabbath School Melodies. My attention has been much directed towards the young, bearing in mind that they will soon be filling the places of the retiring generation of their fathers. With the aid of some of the more considerate of the parents, I have succeeded in establishing three Sabbath Schools where none existed before; and I have also re-established four others which had become defunct. I have also sent to these schools the needful books for conducting them. I am aware that I am not distinctly commissioned to do this work, my proper business being to attend to the Branch Societies and to the general spread of Bibles and Tracts, and I can truly say that this work has never been neglected. There are many other places which I have in view and which I should like to visit, but the Protestant settlers are very few. Oh! when will the veil be taken from the eyes and hearts of those poor deluded creatures who are taught to dread and to reject the Bible and those who bring to them the words of the Saviour.

We extract the following incidents from the journal and report of Mr. Blyth:—

"At our annual meeting of one of the branches below Gaspe there was present a Mr. M. whose breath indicated that he had been taking liquor. He took but small part in the meeting, but afterwards invited me to his house, which invitation at first I declined, but was eventually induced to go. He sent for my trunk to the house where I had been staying for two nights. A friend, a pious man, accompanied me. After tea the conversation was turned very properly on the souldamning sin of drunkenness, the great evil of the present day. I pulled from my pocket the tract entitled "self-deceived," and was

invited to read it. I did so, and when I reached that part of the tract where it says, 'He survived till next morning, when he was heard to exclaim, I am damned, I am damned, and then expired,' my host was much affected and gave utterance to his strong convictions of sin. We read the 51st Psalm, my friend who accompanied me engaging in prayer; afterwards we finished the tract. Before retiring to rest we had family worship. I remained three days with him before my work in the neighborhood was finished, during which time he never tasted drink. What his course has been since then I do not know. There were other pleasing circumstances connected with his case during the time I stayed there, but the want of the stated means of grace to sustain such a work is a great injury. We know how easily good impressions are effaced."—Journal, March 25.

"To-day went to the mountain range and visited eight families, in three of which houses I was told that I was the first who had ever read the Scriptures and prayed with them. The people are much neglected. I may say, no man careth for their souls. Many of the people wept as I spoke to them; they seem awake to their state but have none statedly to visit them.

"Late on Saturday night as I was staying at the house of Mr. B. who is a magistrate, two men (Roman Catholics) came in much agitated, having had a quarrel with their neighbors, in which damage had been done on both sides. After their story had been told a warrant was agreed upon, and the magistrate would hear both sides on Monday morning. They stayed a little while and began to smoke. I had been reading and asked permission to say a few words. I read the 12th chapter of Romans, and Mr. B. made a few remarks on peace and forgiveness of injuries. 'It is the glory of a good man to pass by an injury.' When they went away they said to the magistrate 'never mind about the warrant this time.' They bade us good night saying, 'God bless you both.' I offered them each a tract, but neither of them could read. Mr. B. remarked what a pity these men are prohibited from reading the Bible; their hearts are as susceptible of impression as any others."

It would be improper to omit the mention of much faithful labor in the distribution of French tracts among the Canadian population both in Quebec and in various parts of the district. No formal report has been furnished; nor at present is your committee at liberty to make more than a general reference to the fact which is interesting chiefly as an indication of what may be done when Divine Providence shall have opened a door for the work in answer to the prayers of the faithful and earnest servants of the Lord Jesus.

The following extract of a letter just received from the treasurer of the Boston Religious Tract Society will also shew at once the necessities of this district and something of what has been done in the Eastern Townships. A door is evidently open there and a loud call for the joint labor of our respective societies demands our serious attention:—

" Colportage in Canada East was commenced by the American Tract Society of Boston, in the year 1851. Before that time however some temporary labor had been performed, and quite a number of Books and Tracts circulated among the population in Stanstead county. The aggregate and details of the work of 1851-2 you will find in a Special Report we published on the subject, a copy of which I send you with our last Annual Report. In 1852-3 the Rev. R. V. Hall of Stanstead, Canada East, labored as a Colporteur six months and sixteen days-sold publications to the amount of \$774.00, and granted to the amount of \$105.00; visited 1482 families, &c. &c. In 1853-4 Rev. R. V. Hall and Mr. Archibald McKillop labored one year and three days-sold to the amount of \$812.00; granted to the amount of \$118.00; visited 1834 families. In 1854-5 Mr. Hall labored six months and five days; sold to the amount of \$598.00; granted \$81.00, and visited 1263 families. In 1855-6 Mr. Hall labored six months—sold \$350.00; granted \$49.20; visited 1204 families, &c. During this time we had secured a circulation of the Messenger and Child's Paper, mainly in Canada East, to the number of several thousand copies. In the summer of 1855, Rev. Y. Hickey, Agent of the New York American Tract Society, and having special charge of the Rochester Agency, visited many of the most important points in Upper and Lower Canada, and proposed that all efforts so far as Tract operations were concerned should be concentrated, and so far as labor and publications are desired from the United States, they should be furnished by the Rochester Agency. This was understood to be agreeable to all parties, and consequently the Tract Society at Boston withdrew entirely from Canada, and has not had any connection with it, as a Society, since that time."

There are now eighteen Branch Societies in connection with this Auxiliary; three new branches having been formed during the year, viz: at West Frampton, Riviere au Pin, and Lamby's Mills. The pressure of the times has been felt in all the country districts so much that sales have not been made equal to the amount of last year. There has been received by the Treasurer only the sum of £17 15s. 11d. while there is still owing £53 17s. 1½d. We trust however that better times will soon give us to see a new order of things in the whole of this part of the Province.

DEPOSITORY.

The Depository, as regards the supply of books, is in a more efficient state than at any former period, and notwithstanding the difficulty generally felt in regard to money matters, the sales effected at the depository have amounted to £1550s. 3d. being a considerable increase upon last year, and making a total with the branch Societies of £172 16s. 2d.

The value of the books now on hand in the depository is £251 5s. 8d.; so that when the balance still due to the Parent Society of £111 9s. 10d. is taken into the account, the Auxiliary is found to be in a better pecuniary condition than at the close of any former year.

The committee deeply regret that a second time they have to report that the subscriptions in the Lower Town district of the city have not been collected. The gentlemen who had been appointed and who had agreed to collect them have unfortunately not been able to find the time requisite for the work. The Society can ill afford to lose in its still weak condition so considerable a portion of its customary support, and that for two successive years. It is to be hoped however that gentlemen aware that their names are on the list of subscribers, if they remember that they have not been called on, will kindly forward their subscriptions to the treasurer. The event however which the committee most deeply regret is the retirement from office, on account of protracted indisposition, of their highly esteemed treasurer, C. Wurtele, Esquire, to whose zeal and unremitting attention the resuscitation of the Society in 1854, and its subsequent progress is, under the blessing of God, chiefly attributable. That his health may be permanently restored, and his life long spared and made increasingly useful, is the sincere desire and prayer of the committee.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORT OF PARENT SOCIETY.

The estimate of the Society's tracts formed by the public at large is evinced by their vast distribution by all branches of the Christian Church at home and abroad; a distribution which, during the past year, has reached thirteen millions eighteen thousand four hundred and eighty-four, exclusive of 5,053,750 handbills. During the past year, your committee have issued Two Hundred and Sixty-one new publications. These consist of tracts of the different series, and books, among which are particularly noticed the 5th part of "The Annotated Paragraph Bible," containing the Gospels. "The Atonement:" this

is a work of rare excellence, consisting of four discourses, two by Divines of the Church of England, and two by Non-conformist Ministers. By this union of writers it will be seen how the same great subject presented itself to the practical pastor, the philosopher,

the poet, and the theologian.

"Elements of Moral Science," by Dr. Wayland, of America; with notes and analyses by Dr. Angus, what has long been an acknowledged want in the educational works of the country,-a system of ethics formed upon the teaching of Holy Writ. To these may be added works of general instruction, books for youth and children, and almanacks; but we beg particular attention to the following remarks about periodicals: The difficulty of determining the style really adapted to the less instructed classes of society is illustrated by the remarks sometimes heard as to the Leisure Hour and the Sunday at Home. They are too advanced, observe some friends, for the working classes; their subjects and their language are interesting only to the more educated. While intended and prepared for family reading, they are favorites where they might least be expected to be understood. The common lodging-houses of London are visited by the most degraded of its population, and yet amongst their inmates, as the last report of the open air Mission declares, these periodicals are much in request and often gratefully referred to. In the coffee-room and the public-house, as City Missionaries state, they are often found to be as well thumbed as those which address themselves more specifically to the prejudices of their readers. Among the miners of the North, as your committee heard with much pleasure from the Rev. J. G. Blenkinsop, they are read with intelligent interest; whilst few publications are more acceptable to the privates of the army, or crews of ships, or the inmates of convict prisons.

FRANCE.

The 36th Report of the Paris Religious Tract Society states the distribution for the year ending April, 1858, to have been 1,119,057 tracts for adults and children. The receipts of the Society at its origin were not more than 4,000 francs; but so rapidly has it grown in public estimation that, including the donations from the English and American Tract Societies, its receipts amounted, at its last anniversary, to 75,952 francs, but as the expenses reached 85,692 francs, the year closes with a small debt.

TOULOUSE.

The Toulouse Religious Book Society, leaving the publication of Tracts to the metropolis, confines itself to books, chiefly translations

from English and American writers. The last report announces the value of donations for the year to be 38,192 francs 15c., and as their benevolent receipts only reached 37,649 francs 86c. their donations exceeded the receipts by 572 francs 29c.

STRASBOURG.

The Strasbourg Religious Tract Society circulated, during the last year, 63,965 tracts and religious books.

BELGIUM, SWEDEN, AND DENMARK

Have each their Societies in active operation, and are now publishing themselves, as well as distributing the publications of the London Society.

GERMANY.

There are fifteen societies engaged in the dissemination of Protestant tracts throughout the German speaking population of the Continent. Of these, the Strasbourg Society belongs to France, and two are located in Switzerland. All, however, are accustomed to meet by their representatives at the annual re-union of the German Protestant Clergy, called the Kirchentag.

ITALY.

We pass by the rest of the countries of Europe and make only an extract from Italy. In Piedmont the publication of evangelical truth is enlarging every year. The Society at Turin in connexion with the Vaudois Church has received the valuable gift of a printing press from some ladies resident in Dublin, and this enables them to undertake works of a larger size than simple tracts. Besides the Vaudois there are churches of Italians converted from Popery in various towns of Piedmont, who labour diligently in the Gospel. To one of these brethren, well known to your committee, £100 have been voted for a translation of the Bible Hand-book, and the stereotyped plates of a new edition of Paleario on the Death of Christ; a volume happily as popular among the Italians as it is useful. These churches enjoy the assistance and sympathy of the Italian Evangelization Committee of Geneva. They employ Colporteurs who, during the year, have sold 2,063 Bibles, 1,709 Tracts and 10,500 copies of an Almanack entitled "L'Amico de Casa."

SARDINIA.

How long Sardinia may be open to the efforts of Evangelists, it is impossible to say; already many of them have been subject to imprisonment and fines, for religious liberty is but in its infancy and receives but little support from the operation of law or the influence of public opinion.

Passing by Turkey and the Mediterranean, where the Society's operations are being carried on with vigor and success, we make a short extract from India. To this part of the world the attention of your committee has naturally been turned with painful interest. It is nct necessary to repeat the tale of disasters at which civilized nations stood aghast. The losses of our fellow-countrymen are known to all, and your committee hastened to do their share in meeting the calamity. Books and Tracts were supplied to the soldiers embarking for the scene of blood, for which your committee received the cordial thanks of the Secretary of War. Large supplies of Tracts were despatched to Calcutta for distribution among the troops when they should arrive. Books, to the extent of hundreds of pounds, were gratuitously sent to replace those destroyed by the mutineers. An appeal was made for special assistance towards these extra efforts, which has been generously responded to; especially when the increased contributions to Missionary Societies are considered. English have received immediate attention, the work for the natives continues to be pursued. Whatever the crimes of the Sepoy army, the people have been quiet. The more those crimes have revealed of the cruel nature of their superstitions, the more claim have the Hindoos to christian pity and exertion. The friends at Agra and Calcutta have therefore been urged to proceed vigorously in the publication of vernacular tracts. Large supplies of paper have been despatched for such pecuniary help as may be required. In the midst of all the agitation your committee rejoice to think that "the Dairyman's Daughter," "The Missionary at the Ganges," "Extracts from the Upedeshall," "Baxter's Guide to Heaven," and a new and improved edition of "Barth's Bible Stories," have issued from the Calcutta press in Bengali. The evidence of the effects produced on the native mind by tract distribution, increases from every part of the British Dominions in India. A Baboo who is an enemy to the gospel, remarked to a Missionary, "that our books were more effectual than our preaching, inasmuch as they remain with them;" every one gets them; they are liked by very many. "We have need to guard against them," he continued, "lest we be caught, for your books are good."

It is the conclusion of all thoughtful observers, both in India and in England, that the failure of the prophecies, circulated among the people, of the destruction of British power, on the termination of its

100 years duration, coupled with the evident providence of God in subduing all opposition by the hands of a comparatively few of the strangers from the West, will predispose the people at large to receive the mild instruction of Missionaries more favorably than before the outbreak. It may be so. But should this expectation be disappointed, one thing is certain, that "we know not what a day or an hour may bring forth," and even British dominion may melt away in a night. It becomes christians to use all agencies in spreading the everlasting Gospel with a quickened vigor and determination to make the best use of the opportunity still extended to them.

There are many interesting statements from various parts of India, China, America, and the British Colonies, but we pass them by, just glancing at the conclusion.

FUNDS, &C.

Your Committee are happy to state that the total amount of funds received during the year is in advance of any previous year. The receipts for sales last year, including drawbacks of duty, were £71,498 1s. 10d., and the benevolent receipts, including special funds and legacies, were £10,366 13s. 8d., making a total of £81,864 15s. 6d. This year the receipts for sales, etc, were £75,856 7s. 11d., and for benevolent funds £13,874 1s. 7d., making a total of £88,730 9s. 6d.; being a clear increase over last year of £6,865.

ISSUES.

The total issues have amounted to 34,638,470. If to these be added the probable amount of foreign issues, the total will be 38 millions, or in 59 years 782 millions; a vast circulation indeed, but far too little for a world peopled with one thousand millions of immortal beings. It may be said, what then? of what great value is this work to mankind at large? Were the report presented of the number of sermons preached in the country in a given period, with some analysis of their contents, it might appear a dry and uninteresting detail; but when a little reflection is bestowed on the multitude of minds brought, through the instrumentality of the pulpit, into a state of reconciliation with the Father of all; of others relieved from perplexities of doubt and fear; of the multitudes strengthened to resist evil when it appeared all but triumphant; of hearts ready to break, comforted under the heavy trials of life. When these results of preaching are considered, the dry detail becomes invested with deeper human interest. Some such results, your committee believe to ensue from their labors, under the blessing of the Divine Spirit. They cannot follow their books into the cottage and the palace, where alike they know them to be read; into the nursery, the school, and the college; into the sick room, or the closet of the troubled; into the sailor's cabin or the soldier's tent. But they are assured that they all tend to lead the sinner to the Saviour, and that in ten thousand instances they are blessed of God to pour light, and peace, and joy upon the reader's heart.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, the Committee of the Quebec Auxiliary desire to record their thankfulness to Almighty God that they have been permitted to take a part, however humble, in the great work of disseminating the words of life throughout a dying world. They rejoice in the hope that they have been instrumental in bringing the richest spiritual blessings to their fellow-men, and glory to the Lord and Giver of Life. And would now commit these feeble, and in many respects, unworthy efforts during another year, to the gracious acceptance and sovereign blessing of Him who only can command success. They would also urge upon their successors in office, and upon the christian friends who support them, to go forward and not to think of retreat or failure, while so wide and necessitous and inviting a field is before them; such exceeding great and precious promises on record in the word of God; such inexhaustible resources at the disposal of Him whose servants they are, and such glorious rewards awaiting all who are faithful and endure to the end.

											Decr. 31.	1858
		To Balance	To Bible Society towards Agent	To Freight, Cartages, Postages, &c.	To Advertising & Printing	To Expenses of Annual Meeting	To paid on account of loan	To Depositary's Salary	To paid for Books	To remittances to London £135 sterling	To Insurance	
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Jany. 1. By Balance		By Subscriptions as per list	By Interest from Quebec Provi-	Riviere au Poir Lower Ireland Lambie's Mills	Metts Port Daniel	Etchemin and New Liverpool. New Carlisle Gasne	St. Sylvestre.	Stoneham	viz: New Richmond		::	1858
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Quebec, 1st Jany., 1859.

CHRISTIAN WURTELE, Treasurer.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

TO THE

Quebec Religious Tract Society,

FOR 1858.

W. McLimont for 1857 1 5 0 From one who could not attend the Meeting 0 10 0 A thank offering 25 0 0 Miss Dyke 0 7 6	Brought forward 40 3 9 Miss Lenfesty 0 2 6 F. Morgan 0 1 3 Mr. Stokes 0 2 6
R. Hale	PALACE WARD. Collected by Messrs Logie & Ross, £16 13 9.
Carried forward£40 3	9 Carried forward£48 3 9

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Brought forward	.48	3	9	Brought forward 54	8	9
D. Robertson		5	0	Jos. Reynar 0	5	0
Rev. H. D. Powis	-	5	0		5	0
J. & J. Woodley	0	5	0	0. 11011100	10	0
Rebert Glover		- 5	0	Ditting Michaelines	10	0
Mr. Hutton	0	2	6	T. H. Oliver 0	5	0
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W. Poston	0	5	0		2	6
W. Hossack		10	0	Cash 0	2	6
Dr. Marsden	0	5	0			
J. Musson		0	0			
W. B. Valleau		5	0	PROBLET CINCE WITE		
Jas. Sealy		- 5	0			
J. Bowles		10	0			
C. J. Ardouin	-	2	6		~	0
T. Cowan	-	5	0		10	0
Judge Black	0	10	0	N. N. Ross 0	10	0
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