SECOND REPORT

OF THE

NIAGARA DISTRICT

Committee,

IN CORRESPONDENCE WITH

THE

Quebec Diocesan Committee,

OF THE SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING

CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

HELD AT

NIAGARA, SEPT. 22, 1828.

NIAGARA:

PRINTED AT THE HERALD OFFICE.

1828.

His Excell

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PATRON.

His Excellency Sir PEREGRINE MAITLAND, K. C. B.

PRESIDENT.

THE HONOURABLE AND RIGHT REVEREND THE LORD BISHOP OF QUEBEC.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

The Rev. ROBERT ADDISON, Niagara.
" "WILLIAM LEEMING, Chippawa.

" GEORGE R. F. GROUT, Grimsby.

" R. LEEMING, Ancaster.
" E. PARKIN, St. Catharines.
The Hon. THOMAS CLARK, Chippawa.
THOMAS BUTLER, Esq. Niagara.
GEORGE ADAMS Esq. St. Catharines.
MAJOR LEONARD, Stamford.
GEORGE KEEFER, Esq. Thorold.
JOHN WARREN, Esq. Fort Erie.
MAJOR KIRBY, Fort Erie.
ROBERT NELLES, Esq. Grimsby.
ROBERT BARRIE, Esq. Ancaster.
JOHN BRANT, Esq. Grand River.
ROBERT DICKSON, Esq. Niagara.
JOHN ROSS, Esq. Dundas.

TREASURER.

THOMAS McCORMICK, Esq.

SECRETARIES.

THE REV. THOMAS CREEN, CAPTAIN PHILLPOTTS, Royal Engineers.

STANDING COMMITTEE.

JAMES MUIRHEAD, Esq.
GEORGE BALL, Esq.
CHARLES RICHARDSON, Esq.
GEORGE CONNOLLY, Esq.
And all officers of the Society.

NIAGARA DISTRICT COMMITTEE

OF THE SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING

Christian Anowledge.

REGULATIONS.

THE OBJECT OF THIS SOCIETY IS,

- 1. To circulate the Bible (either with or without the Prayer Book,) and such other of the Society's publications as appear calculated to be useful in this Province.
- 2. That to constitute a Member of this local Committee, an annual subscription of 12s. 6d. shall be sufficient; and all the money thus raised shall be expended under the direction of the Committee.
- 3. That an Annual Meeting of this Society shall take place during the Assizes for this District, on the first day of the Court, at 10 o'clock.
- 4. That the Quarterly Meetings of the Standing Committee be held on the 2d day of the Quarter Sessions, which commence on the second Tuesday in January, April, July and October, at the hour of 10 o'clock.

Subscriptions and donations may be paid to the Treasurer, or at the Depository.

* * Persons at a distance wishing Books to be sent to them, are requested to forward orders to one of the Secretaries, by application to the Vice Presidents in their neighbourhood.

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REPORT, &c.

From the Committee to whose management the affairs of a benevolent institution are consigned, an Annual Report is naturally expected. For though in the continued history of such an useful establishment, there may be little novelty to gratify the taste of the curious, yet to the pious Christian who is interested in the welfare of his fellow-creatures, the perusal of an account of its proceedings, when well regulated, will always afford much gratification, and supply him with abundant matter for

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In the prosperity of all institutions calculated to do good, to advance Christ's kingdom on earth, and to reclaim either nations or individuals from the dominion of sin, as well as to direct them into the paths of true religion and happiness, the community in general is concerned, and every friend to the best interests of society particularly interested. It is, therefore, truly gratifying to observe that the work of evangelizing the world, by disseminating a knowledge of divine truth, has assumed a due importance and dignity in the eyes of great and good men, both in Europe and in this country, and has given rise to associations whose labours and exertions have been crowned with astonishing success.

To the individual members of any Christian community, who have cordially co-operated in this benevolent undertaking, it will al-

ways be gratifying to learn that, however inconsiderable may be the success which attends their labours, still their exertions have been well directed, and no means left unemployed to promote the great objects of the Society with which they are particularly connected.

In this populous section of the Province, so far removed from our highly favoured Parent State, religious books of every description were formerly very rare, and to be obtained only at a great distance, at very advanced prices. Under such circumstances it was not to be supposed that families or individuals generally could be well supplied even with the most essential books-such as the Bible and publications calculated to illustrate and enforce its sacred truths, and much less with works adapted to the rising generation, and to promote general instruction. In consequence of this, a Bible Society was formed here some years ago, in order to circulate the Holy Scriptures in this wilderness, which institution opened the way for a more extended plan of supplying the wants of this destitute region; and, in the good providence of God, this Committee was subsequently formed, combining the objects of the Bible Society-by circulating the Word of Truth, with those of the venerable Society for promoting Christian knowledge—by circulating also at reduced prices our incomparable Liturgy, and such religious and moral publications as seem adapted to every age and station in life.

The advantages presented generally by procuring the valuable publications of the Parent cannot ence of ion that our part and ge means of piety; a by the vifrom the which is since the mittee:

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Society at such reduced prices, the Committee cannot too highly appreciate from the experience of the past year, which justifies the opinion that continued and increased exertions on our part, aided and encouraged by a grateful and generous community, will be the best means of promoting Christian knowledge and piety; and that these exertions are called for by the wants of the public, will fully appear from the following statement of the books which have been issued from the Depository, since the last Annual Meeting of this Committee:—

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In the Report of last year the Committee remarked that the books received from England had been charged by the Parent Society at the full cost prices in consequence of a new regulation of that Society, by which all claim to any part of the subscriptions collected by Foreign District Committees was given up, one third of which had been previously remitted to them. This advanced charge was then authorised by the Lord Bishop to be reduced to the Society's prices to members in England, until his Lordship should communicate with the Parent Society on the subject ;—the result of this communication has not yet been received, but as the utility of this institution in this District will be so much diminished by a non-compliance with this request, the Committee feel no doubt that his Lordship's recommendation will be acceded to, and therefore they feel justified in continuing to dispose of the books to the members here at the same reduced prices as are charged to members in England, knowing that a contrary course of proceeding would put the books out of the reach of many persons for whom they are particularly desirable; for the sums collected by subscriptions here are so small, compared with the number of books sold, that it would be impossible to reduce the prices charged by the Parent Society from any funds at the disposal of this Committee, which are barely sufficient to pay the expences necessarily attendant on an institution of this kind, and consequently it is even now necessary to make a considerable addition to the Society's charge, in order to cover the expense of freight, insurance, &c., which already makes the books sufficiently expensive for members in this country. When all these circumstances, therefore, are communicated to the Parent Society, the Committee feel no doubt that their usual liberality will induce them to accede to this request, which they are aware will be a source of much expense to that benevolent institution.

During the last year, Depositories of books have been placed in various parts of the Distrect, in order that persons residing at a distance might more easily enjoy an opportunity of procuring the most useful publications of the Society. A large supply of all the different books on hand was sent to St. Catharines in the winter and placed in the store of Mr. H. Mittleberger,

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Ma of the by ord the L please to him sterlin who kindly offered to take charge of the Depository in that place under the direction of George Adams, Esq. V. P. who has taken a lively interest in the concerns of the Society, where he will now be assisted by the Rev. E. Parkin, who has lately been appointed to that important mission.

At Lundy's Lane a number of books have been placed in the Depository which is kept in Mr. C. Leonard's store, under the direction of the Rev. W. Leeming and Major Leon-

ard, Vice Presidents.

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An extensive variety of books, to the value of £20, have been also sent to St. Thomas's, in the Talbot settlement, under the direction of the Rev. Alexander McIntosh, assisted by Mr. Welman.

The benefits resulting from the establishment of these smaller Depositories under the direction of this Committee are so important that it is most strongly recommended to all the Vice Presidents at a distance to endeavor to follow this example, in order that no family or individual in the remotest corner of the District may have any difficulty in procuring, at all times, Bibles, Prayer Books, and other helps to religious instruction, according to their circumstances and capacity.

Many books have also been sent to several of the Clergy in different parts of the Province by order of the President of this Committee, the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, who has been pleased to direct that they should be charged to him, and the expense, amounting to £70 sterling, his Lordship has accordingly defray-

ed, by a draft on the Parent Society, in part of a handsome grant lately voted to be placed at his Lordship's disposal by that excellent institution, which instance of their concern for the spiritual welfare of the inhabitants of this Province demands our warmest gratitude.

Independently of the benefits which must necessarily result from the circulation of so many excellent books, the Committee will now be enabled, by the proceeds arising therefrom, to order a fresh supply, for which purpose the Treasurer has upwards of £110 sterling in his hands, in addition to the Bishop's draft on the Society for £70 above mentioned.

The Committee have now to perform a most pleasing duty in recording an act of very laudable liberality on the part of the Directors of the Bank of Upper Canada, which enables them to send their remittances to the Parent Society without the charge of any premium.

The following is a copy of a letter from the President of the Bank, the Hon. William Allan, in reply to the application made by the Lord Bishop in behalf of this Committee:—

My Lord, York, 13th August, 1828.

In reply to your letter of this date, which I have just received with the enclosure from Mr. Creen, on the subject of getting a Bill of Exchange for £100 Sterling, for account of the Niagara District Committee, which they wish to remit to the Parent Society,—

I beg leave to say, in the name of the Directors of the Bank of Upper Canada, that they will at all times be happy to afford the facility of making such remittances, by giving their bill for the amount required without any premium.

I have the honour to be,

Your Lordship's most ob't Serv't. W. ALLAN. The Bil the Cashie drawn.

This duly acl ter which Society.

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Wm. D in taking charge grateful Mr. Mi ing his but he l packing account

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The Bill will be given at any time upon application to the Cashier, upon his knowing in whose name it is to be drawn.

W. A.

This very satisfactory communication was duly acknowledged by his Lordship in a letter which is copied into the Records of this

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The prompt and obliging services of Mr. Wm. D. Miller, whose attention and exertions in taking care of the Depository under his charge have been unremitted, demand the grateful acknowledgements of this Committee. Mr. Miller has not only given a room adjoining his store for the reception of the books, but he has undertaken all the trouble of unpacking and arranging them, of keeping the accounts of all sales, and making up parcels and packages to be sent to distant places.

The Committee are also under very great obligation to the Treasurer, who has kindly continued to act, although a multiplicity of business would be a sufficient reason for his declining this troublesome office; but from his regard to the welfare of the Society, and the exertions he has hitherto made to promote its interests, it is hoped that we shall not be de-

prived of his valuable assistance.

The Sunday School here has been regularly attended, and supplied, gratis, with such of the Society's publications as were required. A Resolution was passed some time since, by the Standing Committee, to afford assistance of this kind to all Sunday Schools in the District; it is therefore hoped that before the next Annual Meeting some account of the number of these Schools, benefitting by this Resolu-

tion, will be received for the information of the The Committee regret that the low state of their funds has prevented their issuing many books gratuitously, but still it must afford great pleasure to every benevolent mind to reflect that no family or individual in this remote quarter of the globe can be long in want of this assistance. And they look back with satisfaction on the result of their labours during the past year. Much, however, yet remains to be done, and by the blessing of Almighty God on their diligent and persevering efforts, the Committee confidently hope that they will be crowned with success, and that a cultivation of a taste for reading books of an improving kind, and a consequent enlarged acquaintance with the all-important truths and precepts of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, will produce a practice more conformable to the spirit and tendency of the Christian Religion.

Let those public spirited individuals, therefore, whom it has pleased God to bless with the means, and who have not yet joined this Society, avail themselves of the privilege of taking a part in promoting the grand and laudable objects of this excellent institution, and let those, who have begun, continue with increased zeal to forward this good work. Finally, let all join in giving glory to God for the success hitherto vouchsafed to us, and in praying for the constant assistance of His Holy Spirit to bless and prosper our future exertions, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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FOREIGN DISTRICT COMMITTEES

OF THE SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING

CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

OBJECT.

The object of Foreign Committees is to collect and transmit information respecting the best means of promoting Christian Knowledge in their respective Districts; to establish, enlarge, or superintend Schools; to supply Settlers and Natives with the Books circulated by the Society; to promote translations, when necessary, into the language of the country; and, lastly, to make collections in aid of the Society's Funds.

RULES.

- 1. The General Rules and Orders of the Society and the Rules for District Committees shall in all cases apply to the regulation of Foreign Committees, except where the contrary is hereinafter provided.
- 2. Two or more Subscribing or Corresponding Members of the Parent Society, residing in any British Settlement or Colony, may, with the consent of the Bishop or Ordinary, form themselves into a District Committee for such Settlement, and all other Members of the Society residing in such District shall be Members of the Committee.
- 3. Members of the PARENT SOCIETY residing within the limits of any Foreign Committee may transfer their Annual Subscriptions due to the Society to the Funds of such Committee, and be supplied with Books by the Committee at cost prices, with the addition only of such a per centage for carriage as the Committee may fix.
- 4. Foreign Committees shall be supplied with Books at cost prices.
- 5. Foreign Committees shall have power to make local regulations not contrary to the foregoing Rules.

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ociety for Promoting	1827. Sept. 13 Paid O. Hathaway for transportation of a box of Books Oct. 31 — for bal. on do. 1828. Jan'y 10 — Wm. Blackwood (Montral) for expences on a cocount for Printing — H. Leavenworth, his account for Printing — Hooker & Henderson, their acc't Hooker & Henderson, their acc't for transport nof 4 cases Books for transport of paper for the Society — a quire of the society — a qu

THOMAS McCORMICK, Treasurer.

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Niagara, September 22, 1828.

Fractions omilled.

Annual Subscribers.

His Excellency Sir P N	Taitland.	£1	5	0
This Excellency on I. Martin,				0
The Lord Bishop of Quebec, The Hon. Thos. Clark, Niag. Falls			5	0
The Rev. R. Addison,	Niagara	ls 1	5	0
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James Crysler,	do.	0	12	6
James Lockhart,	do.	0	12	6
Adam Crysler,	do.	0	12	6
John Secord,	do.	0	12	6
John Ross, Dundas,		0	12	6
John Brant, Wellings	ton Square.	0	15	0
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John Decoe, Thorol	ld.	0	12	6
Alexander Hamilton	Queenston.	0	12	6
James Wilson, Niag	ara.	0	12	6
C. H. Leonard, Lun	du's Lane.	0	12	6
John Y. Crooks, Ni	agara		12	6
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The Rev. George Archbold,