

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

QUEBEC DIOCESAN COMMITTEE

OF THE

# SOCIETY

*FOR PROMOTING*

# CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE,

FOR THE YEAR 1820.

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QUEBEC:

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## ANNUAL REPORT.



**T**HE QUEBEC DIOCESAN COMMITTEE, in communicating this their Third Annual Report to the public, beg leave to express a confident hope, that it will not be found deficient in interest.

Scarcely had the last year's Report been submitted to the General Meeting, when the arrival of the Books, as had been anticipated, to the amount of no less than £275 14 10½, and at a cost to the Parent Society of £365 18 7, afforded the Committee ample means of answering the various demands, which had been made upon them. Boxes of Books were accordingly dispatched to the District Committees at Montreal and Missisquoi Bay, both of which have since received a second supply; to the Missionaries recently established at Rivière du Loup, and in the District of Gaspé; to the Revd. J. Jackson, at William Henry, and to the Rev. B. B. Stevens, Chaplain to the Forces at Fort George, in the Upper Province, as well for the use of the Troops, as of a small, but zealous Congregation, to which he officiates at Queenston. The Townships of Ernest-Town and Matilda, and the new military Settlement at Perth, in the Upper Province, and the Township of Eaton and Settlement of Drummondville, in the Lower Pro-

vince, have likewise been partially supplied through their respective Missionaries.—Confirmation Tracts were also distributed to all the Clergy of the Diocese, by the Revd. the Official of Lower Canada, preparatory to the visitation of the Lord Bishop ; and every opportunity has been taken of circulating the Books and Tracts as widely, and making them as generally useful as possible.

It might have been supposed, that the Bibles, Testaments and Prayer-Books, procured by His Majesty's Government from the Parent Society, and sent out as a second supply to this country last summer, would have materially diminished the demand for Books upon the Diocesan Committee ; but this is so far from having been the case, that they have no small satisfaction in being able to state, that the sale of Books at the Depository, during the last year, has far exceeded that of the two former years together, amounting, in Quebec alone, to the sum of £124 : 9 : 7. This circumstance is a source of the sincerest gratification to the Committee, as it proves, beyond all question, an increasing regard for the knowledge of God and the interests of revealed truth.

This growing demand for Books and Tracts is duly appreciated by the Parent Society, and the Committee have infinite pleasure in recording another instance of that liberality, which characterizes all their proceedings. The Committee made an application for several copies of the Family Bible on *medium* paper, but this edition being out of print, the Booksellers were unable to answer the demand. In order, however, to prevent disappointment to the Members of our Committee, they were directed to send out the same number of copies on *royal* paper, leaving us at liberty, in case they should be thought too expensive, to make a deduction of twenty-five *per cent*, on the charge specified in the Bill of Parcels. "The Society," says the Assistant-Secretary, "are willing to make this allowance, entirely with a view to ac-

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commodate the Members of your Committee, and to prevent disappointment." The kind attention evinced in this arrangement deserves our warmest acknowledgments.

It appears, however, that arrangements have been made, by the University of Cambridge, for printing ten thousand copies of the Family Bible on *medium* paper; and it may also be satisfactory to the public to be informed, that a new edition of the Society's Books and Tracts, comprising several valuable additions, has been printed in an uniform size, and is now on sale at the Depository of the Diocesan Committee.

The Committee regret to state, that they have received no information of the proceedings of the District Committees at † York and Kingston, in the Upper Province, since their first establishment; but they have much satisfaction in noticing the valuable exertions of the District Committees at Montreal and Missisquoi Bay, and repeating their acknowledgments to the Revd. J. Jackson, of William Henry, for his unremitting endeavours in collecting contributions from his parishioners, for the purchase of Books and Tracts from the Society's Depôt at Quebec.

The Committee are also without information from the Parent Society, no reports having been transmitted to them last year, for the use of their Members; a circumstance for which they are at a loss to account, though it has, of course, originated in mistake. They have the satisfaction, however, of knowing that the exertions of the Society have kept pace with the extraordinary nature of the times; and whilst Infidelity in the mother country, has, with more than usual hardihood, been attempting to make in-

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† A most satisfactory report of the proceedings of the York District Committee, has since been received from the Honble. and Revd. Dr. Strachan, to whose zeal and assiduity the Diocesan Committee beg to express their obligation.

roads upon the Church of Christ, they have not suffered themselves to slumber at their post, but have been engaged in preparing fresh antidotes for the poison, which this worst foe of God and man was so assiduously labouring to diffuse. Thanks be to the Most High! their efforts have been crowned with success. The evil has been arrested in its progress; that holy word, which can alone teach patience to the poor, and clothe the cheek of misery with smiles, has triumphed over the delusive sophistries, by which it was assailed; and the Religion of our Fathers, Christianity in its purest form, stands unshaken and unhurt amidst the storms, which threatened its existence.

The Committee now proceed to notice the Central Schools at Quebec, and the system of education, which, by means of these Schools, it is their object to diffuse throughout the Province.

The public examination, alluded to in the last report, took place shortly after it had been laid before the General Meeting, in the presence of His Excellency Sir Peregrine and Lady Sarah Maitland, the Lord Bishop of Quebec, and the other officers of the Diocesan Committee, and several of the most respectable inhabitants of this city. The children were introduced in classes into a part of the School prepared for the purpose, and examined in Spelling, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, the rudiments of English Grammar, and the Church Catechism. Various questions were also put to them, with a view to ascertain their knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, and the result of the examination, was, on the whole, highly satisfactory, the Institution being, at that time, quite in its infancy, and having had to contend with many and great disadvantages. The female part of the School exhibited a variety of samples of needle-work, which were much approved of by the ladies present. At the close of the examination, Sir Peregrine and Lady Sarah Maitland were kind enough to un-

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dertake the task of distributing the prizes, consisting of appropriate Books, selected from those circulated by the Diocesan Committee, to the boys and girls, who had most distinguished themselves by general good conduct, regularity of attendance at Church and School, and proficiency in learning.

Soon after this examination, a series of regulations for the government of the Schools, which had been drawn up with much pains and attention by a Committee appointed for that purpose, was presented to the public ; and it is hoped that these regulations have not been without their effect, in the suppression of irregularities, and the encouragement of orderly conduct. To these valuable ends the indefatigable attention of the Ladies, who have been kind enough to act as Visitors, has also essentially contributed ; and the Committee beg publicly to express their grateful sense of the benefits derived by the Institution from their vigilant superintendance.

On the continuance of this watchful attention, on the part of its patrons, the extension of the advantages of the New System, must, in a great measure, depend ; for experience has shown, that, without this, is is but too probable, that the Master and Mistress will not do full and complete justice to the merits of the system. Circumstances, indeed, have already occurred, which have operated to the prejudice of the Institution ; but, though the Committee feel it due to the public not to pass these over altogether in silence, it is merely necessary to touch upon them, and to state that they have taken measures, by which they confidently hope, that every obstacle to the future progress of the children and the advancement of the System will be effectually and speedily removed.

The number of children of both sexes at present attending the Central Schools is—boys, 168—girls, 100—Total, 268. The greatest number, who have attended at one time, since the last report, was on

the day of the public examination, when there were present—boys, 129—girls, 59—Total, 188; and the greatest number, who have attended divine service on a Sunday is—boys, 80—girls, 40—Total, 120.

The Committee take this opportunity of making their grateful acknowledgments to the Countess of Dalhousie, for a donation of £10, for the purchase of clothing for the poorer children of the Female School, which her Ladyship has been pleased to take under her patronage; in addition to which, the sum of £31 : 16 : 1, has been laid out, from other channels, since the month of November last, in clothing for the more destitute boys and girls, chiefly children of settlers, to enable them to attend Church and School.

It may not be improper here to mention, that a School was opened, during the winter months, in a Barrack-room on the Cape, for the reception of such children of the Emigrants, by whom the Barracks are occupied, as were unable, from various circumstances, to attend at the Central Schools. The number of these children, at one time, amounted to about 50, and they were supplied with Books gratuitously from the Society's Depository.

The Committee, in the mean time, have not been inattentive, as far as their means would allow, to the dissemination of the National System throughout the Diocese. Several Masters have been partially instructed, and others perfected in the System, by attendance at the boys' School at Quebec. Of these last, one has been appointed School-master at the new military Settlement of Richmond, in the Upper Province, and the other placed in charge of a School of Royal Foundation at Philipsburgh, in the Seignior of St. Armand; and a supply of the Books necessary to the introduction of the System, was, in both instances, gratuitously provided by the Diocesan Committee.

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But the Committee have reserved the most important information, which they have to communicate to the public, to the close of their report. The venerable Society for the propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts, with their usual munificent liberality, have enabled the Lord Bishop of the Diocese to appropriate, for a limited time, £100 sterling *per annum*, to a fund for the erection of a School House; and His Excellency the Governor in Chief, from whose valuable patronage in his late Government, the Halifax Diocesan Committee derived such incalculable benefits, has been pleased to promise the Committee, not only a grant of a lot of ground as a site for the proposed edifice, but also a donation of £200 from funds at His Excellency's disposal. The Committee, therefore, confidently hope, that they may be enabled to give permanence and respectability to the Institution, by the erection of a suitable School-House, in the course of the ensuing summer.

The Committee have to notice, in conclusion, the accession of several new Members since the last report; and they would fain invite all, who have any regard for the faith they profess, to co-operate with them, not coldly and carelessly, but with all their heart, and soul, and strength, in the great—the important objects for which they are associated. These objects are to promote the knowledge, and to increase the love of the Saviour Christ, by training up the young in the “path of life,” in the hope that they will continue in it when they grow old, and by circulating amongst the poor of maturer years—amongst those, who would otherwise perhaps “sit in darkness and in the shadow of death”—the Bible—the Book of God; that best summary of the Protestant faith, and best manual of evangelical truth—the Book of Common Prayer;—and those various devotional tracts, which, whether they contain expositions of doctrine, or exhortations to practice, are alike excellent and unrivalled, alike tend so to impress the truth upon

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the heart, that its influence can scarcely fail to be exhibited in the conduct.

Such are the objects of the Diocesan Committee, and if, in older and more civilized communities, these objects be considered of paramount importance, in a country situated like this, they become duties of indispensable obligation. The great influx of Emigrants is every year adding thousands to the population of these Provinces; thousands of our brethren are every year forming themselves into new Settlements in the more uncultivated parts of the country, where, without Church or Minister, they are not only deprived of the blessing of public social worship; but are, in many instances, it is to be feared, without the means of improving themselves and instructing their families in the principles of moral and religious duty. To assist them in providing these means, as far as Books can supply them, on a much larger scale than has hitherto been in their power—to co-operate with them in the great work of causing truth, and peace, and love to flourish; where, otherwise, every hateful and corrupt passion would extend its desolating influence, the Diocesan Committee, in humble reliance upon the divine blessing, invoke the benevolence, the prayers, and the support, not only of all the Members of the Established Church, but of the good and the pious of every denomination of Christians.

- J. QUEBEC, President,
  - J. SEWELL, Vice Presdt.
  - G. MOUNTAIN, Vice Presdt.
  - J. L. MILLS, Secretary,
  - W. RYLAND, Asst. Secretary,
  - J. DAVIDSON, Treasurer.
- } Committee of  
Management  
and Report.
- QUEBEC, May 1st, 1821.