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THE

FIRST REPORT

OF THE

RICHMOND HILL

(YONGE STREET,)

BRANCH BIBLE SOCIETY.

1832.

M. Teffy
York: 1865

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY, AT THE GUARDIAN OFFICE,

W. J. Coates, Printers.

1832.

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OFFICER'S NAMES.

PRESIDENT,

JAMES MILES, Esq.

VICE-PRESIDENTS,

REV. Wm. JENKINS,
REV. JAMES HARRIS,
Mr. ROBERT MARSH,

Mr. R. BURR,
" C. GRANT.

TREASURER,

MR. ROBERT CAMPBELL.

SECRETARIES,

MR. ALEX. McKECHANIE, | MR. JOHN CARRUTHERS.

DEPOSITARY,

MR. ALEX. McKECHANIE.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Mr. PETER FRANK,
" DAVID BRIDGEFORD,
" THOMAS BAYNON,
" JOHN ENDICOTT,
" JOHN SMITH,

Mr. JAMES GILMORE,
" PETER DOBSON,
" JOHN LANGSTAFF,
" JAMES GRANT.

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THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF RICHMOND HILL BRANCH
BIBLE SOCIETY, was held at the FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
Vaughan, February 6th, 1832.

JAMES MILES, Esq. President in the Chair.

The first Annual Report of the Committee having been read by
one of the Secretaries, the following Resolutions were unanimously
adopted:—

1st.—*Moved by the Rev. James Harris, and seconded by the Rev.
W. Jenkins—*

That the Report now read be approved of, and printed under the
direction of the Committee.

2nd.—*Moved by Mr. Charles Grant, and seconded by Mr. David
Bridgeford—*

That the Secretaries of this Society, present the York Auxiliary
Bible Society, with a copy of its Report, together with the proceed-
ings of the Meeting.

3rd.—*Moved by Mr. Row'd. Burr, and seconded by Mr. Robert
Campbell—*

That the treasurer of this Society transmit to the York Aux-
iliary Bible Society, the amount of the monies arisen from the sale
of the Scriptures during the past year, to be applied in translating
the Scriptures into the Indian languages, and supplying the destitute
through the Parent Institution with the pure word of God.

4.—That, this Society gratefully acknowledge the love of our
Heavenly Father in blessing a lost world with the Scriptures of truth,
and rejoice, that he hath put it into the hearts of his people to unite
their exertions for the more extended circulation of his word, which
“shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations,
before the end come.”

LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF RICHMOND HILL BRANCH BIBLE SOCIETY, as unanimously agreed upon at its first Anniversary Meeting, at the 1st PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Vaughan, February 6th, 1832.

Rule 1.—That this Society be denominated the **RICHMOND HILL, Yonge Street, BRANCH BIBLE SOCIETY**, in connection with the British and Foreign Bible Society, through the medium of the York Auxiliary Bible Society, for the purpose of contributing towards the circulation of the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment.

2.—That all persons subscribing five shillings or upwards Annually shall be members of this Society, so long as the subscription is paid; or on paying ten dollars at one time shall be members for life. Donations of any amount will be thankfully received.

3.—That the whole of the Subscriptions and Donations received by this Society, shall be applied, after deducting the incidental expenses, to the purchase of Bibles and Testaments, which copies of the Scriptures the committee are to sell at cost price, except to members who are to have them at one fourth less—and to give gratis, or to sell at a reduced price, to well authenticated claims, and to pay over to the York Society annually, the monies arising from the sale of the Scriptures, (or so much as shall be agreed upon at a general or Annual meeting of the Society) for the purpose of translating the Scriptures into the Indian language, and supplying the destitute through the Parent Society, with the pure word of God.

4.—That the business of this society be conducted by a President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretaries, and a committee consisting of not less than seven other members, five to constitute a quorum, and a Depository for its Bibles.

5.—That all ministers of the Gospel, who join this Society shall be acknowledged members of the committee.

6.—That the Committee divide their sphere of operation into districts and appoint two of their own members for each district, to solicit subscriptions, and donations from the Inhabitants as also for ascertaining the wants of the people, regarding the word of God.

7.—The Committee shall meet quarterly; viz. on the second Monday of April, July, October and January; or when called by the Chairman, or by any three of the committee.

8.—That a general meeting of the subscribers be held on the 2nd Monday of January in each, and every year, at the usual place, where the accounts shall be presented, the proceeding of the past year stated, and a report agreed upon and published under the direction of the committee.

9.—That a new committee be chosen for the ensuing year; that the President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer and Secretaries, and such three-fourths of the other members of the committee, as have most frequently attended, shall be eligible for re-election.

10.—That no alteration, be made in these rules but at a general meeting of the Society, and by the consent of two thirds of the members present.

REPORT.

It was the saying of one who was an able advocate for the truth of the Holy Scriptures, that a proper education is the parent of piety and of good morals; this saying referred not to general learning, or polite literature, but had its immediate bearing upon the morals of the Bible. Observation teaches us, that in every land, and in every clime, where the word of God has been known and received in its spirituality and simplicity, it has in a high degree ameliorated the condition of mankind,—and it may justly be said, that in an exact proportion as this Divine light has been received, or rejected that that nation has been, and is, happy or miserable. In looking back to the age of the great lawgiver, how melancholy was the condition of all nations, ingulfed in the grossest idolatry and paganism. Jehovah himself declared, that of all the nations of the earth, the tribes of Israel were the only people that he knew. The wisdom of the Egyptians, Babylonians and Persians; and all the learning of Greece and Rome, respecting the Divine Being, was foolishness—"the world by wisdom knew not God." Such was the state of moral darkness which enveloped the world, that the most enlightened Heathen Philosophers, who ever adorned the history of man added not one ray of Gospel light to dispel the gloom, and prove to the world the immortality of the soul, and a future state of rewards and punishments. The advent of the Messiah showed the vast importance of the Oracles of the living God given to the Jews. His sermons and miracles, His death and resurrection, His commission to the Apostles, (declaring to them that all power was given to them in Heaven and in earth,) was, to go forth and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. The gifts of the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost, and the astonishing Miracles wrought by the Apostles, were undeniable proofs that the religion of Jesus was from Heaven, and that he, by his mission to this earth, brought life and immortality to light, by the preaching of the Gospel.

Since then the Holy Scriptures have been making their way over the whole earth, and extending their hallowed leaves for the healing of the nations. In our day, we see the accomplishment of many of the Prophecies of the Old Testament, and of that very particular one (in the 72d psalm,) of the extent of the Redeemer's Kingdom. He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth. His name shall endure forever, his name shall be continued as long as the sun, and men shall be blessed in him, all nations shall call him blessed.

We are assembled this day for the purpose of assisting in the circulation of the Scriptures. Your committee in giving the first report of the proceedings of the Richmond Hill Branch Bible Society, are fully aware of their want of experience, and materials—but let us not be discouraged, let us consider that a small beginning is often a good beginning—let us remember the servant, to whom one pound was de-

Vered, who by trading made ten pounds. The amount received by your Committee for subscriptions and donations, since the formation of the society in May last, is £16 1s. 11d., a sum which is less than we anticipated; but from the goodness of the cause, we expect that there will be this year, a considerable increase of members and we would now mention that any donations received from friends of the society, will be faithfully applied—your committee would especially notice the subscriptions of females, and Sabbath School Scholars, and we hope this good example will be followed by many more.—Your committee have laid out of the above sum, in the purchase of Bibles from the York Auxiliary Bible Society, £8 4s. 4d.—and have sold of these, five Bibles amounting to £2 11s 7d., and one Bible given in donation—there now remains in the Depository for sale, 16 Bibles.

Regarding extending the society in other quarters, where there are no branches, your committee, by some of their members, have visited King and the 3, 4, and 5th Concessions of Vaughan, and have a good hope that there will be an addition of subscribers from these quarters.

We recommend to all the members, to enquire into the state of families who have not, and are desirous of having the scriptures, and to report the same to one, or more of the Committee.

We have the happiness of acquainting you that the York Auxiliary Bible Society is doing well in itself, and in many of its branches—the beneficial influence of this Society is already felt in many of the Townships, and even Districts, of the Province of Upper Canada.—The Society has translated the Gospels of St. Matthew, and St. John, into the Chippewa language; and we entertain a hope that in the course of a few years, by the blessing of God, they will be enabled to translate the Scriptures into several of the languages, of the various tribes of Indians, even to the Red River; and to the inhabitants of the Rocks, of the Western shores, of North America.

It is for us to aid in this great work.

The proceedings, and exertions of the Parent Society are unabating, and in the highest degree honorable to the land of our Fathers. The British and Foreign Bible Society (its centre in London) is perhaps the noblest and most benevolent society that ever was in the world, it has translated the Scriptures, or portions of them, into one hundred and forty seven languages, and dialects—it has issued more than six millions of copies of the Scriptures, and expended one million eight hundred thousand pounds sterling. This is the doing of the Lord, and it is wondrous in our eyes. Your committee would conclude with the earnest prayer, that God by his word and spirit, would imprint upon our minds, and consciences, such impressions of his being, his goodness, and glory, as that all the powers of darkness, and of earth, shall not be able to eradicate, and that what our hands find to do we may do it with all our might,

James M
Robert M
Charles G
Robert C
Alexande
John Car
John En
Peter Dol
James Gi
William
John Atk
Nicholas
Rowland
Ester Bu
Sarah A
Harriet I
Rev. Wil
Thomas
James G
Elizabeth
James W
Henry M
John Lar
James C
Mrs. Dal
Peter Fr
Thomas
William
William
Amos W
James H
Isaac D
David B
David S
Ann Ra
Dudly V
David M
Isaac G
Samuel
Margare
George
William

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SUBSCRIBERS' NAMES.	Donations.			Yearly Subscriptions.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
James Miles, Esq.				10	0	
Robert Marsh, Esq.				10	0	
Charles Grant,				5	0	
Robert Campbell,				5	0	
Alexander M'Kechanic,				5	0	
John Carruthers,				5	0	
John Eadicott,				5	0	
Peter Dobson,				5	0	
James Gilmore,				5	0	
William Gartley,				5	0	
John Atkinson,				5	0	
Nicholas Johnson,				5	0	
Rowland Burr, <i>(died 6 Octo 1865)</i>				1	0	0
Ester Burr,				5	0	
Sarah Ann Burr, S. S. S.*				5	0	
Harriet Burr, S. S. S.				5	0	
Rev. William Jenkins,				5	0	
Thomas Morgan,				5	0	
James Gettis,				5	0	
Elizabeth Arnold,				5	0	
James Wilkins,				5	0	
Henry Miller,				5	0	
John Langstaff,				5	0	
James Corbett,				5	0	
Mrs. Dalziel,				5	0	
Peter Frank,				10	0	
Thomas Baynon,				5	0	
William Warren,				5	0	
William Pollock,				5	0	
Amos Wright,				5	0	
James Hyslop,				5	0	
Isaac Dobson,				5	0	
David Bridgford,				5	0	
David Smilie,				5	0	
Ann Raymond,				5	0	
Dudly Wilcox,				5	0	
David Munro,				5	0	
Isaac Groff,				5	0	
Samuel Patterson,		5		0	0	
Margaret M'Quarrie,				5	0	
George Barnard, S. S. S.				5	0	
William Ambler, S. S. S.				5	0	

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*Sabbath School Scholars.

