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KINGSTON, ONTARIO

REPORT

OF THE

PROTESTANT

POOR RELIEF COMMITTEE,

FOR THE

WINTER OF 1855-56.

MONTREAL:

PRINTED BY JOHN LOVELL, AT HIS STEAM-PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT,
ST. NICHOLAS STREET.

1856.

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GENERAL COMMITTEE.

The Mayor,	J. C. Becket,	J. McDougall,
H. H. Whitney,	A. N. Rennie,	T. S. Brown,
James Court,	W. Lunn,	E. T. Taylor,
T. M. Taylor,	E. Muir,	G. Childs,
A. Ferguson.	J. Greenshields,	N. S. Whitney,

LADIES' COMMITTEE.

Mrs.	Crawford (Doctor,)	Mrs.	Phillips,
"	Evans, (General)	"	McNaughton,
"	Perkins,	"	Woodbury,
"	S. Ogden,	"	F. E. Grafton,
"	H. Vennor,	"	J. C. Becket,
"	S. Forster,	"	J. Burns,
"	J. Johnstone,	"	Dakers,
"	Durnford,	"	D. McDouald,
"	P. Redpath,	"	E. Muir,
"	James Torrance,	"	J. Keishaw,
"	John Lewis,	"	Hyatt,
"	Lovell,	"	Lapelletrie,
"	A. D. Parker,	"	Lillie,
"	E. Lane,	"	W. Muir,
"	Leeming,	"	Venneck,
"	J. Popham,	"	Seebold,
"	A. Walker,	Miss	Harvey,
"	N. S. Froste,	"	Barrett,
"	Childs,	"	Birss,
"	B. Hutchins,	"	Bellhouse,
"	J. W. Howes,	"	E. Bellhouse,
"	Sander son,	"	Fleming,
"	Venneck,	"	C. Ready,
"	Fraser, (Reverend D.)	"	Redpath,
"	McGill, (Doctor,)	"	Rae,
"	T. M. Thompson,	"	Rintoul,
"	Brown,	"	McCulloch,
"	Rintoul,	"	McAlister,
"	A. Moir,	"	McIntosh,
"	W. Galt,	"	Oldham,
"	T. Paton,	"	McGill,
"	D. Fisher,	"	Preddy.
"	Watkins,	"	Gardiner,
"	Ferrier,	"	Evans,
"	Spiers,	"	Lightfoot,
"	J. E. Mills,	"	Fisher,
"	Court,	"	Watkins,
"	H. H. Whitney,	"	Idler,
"	Reddy,	"	Lillie,
"	Gaffer,	"	McCulloch.

Dr. *The Protestant Poor Relief Committee, in Account with the Treasurer.* Cr.

To Cash paid for Books, Paper and Printing.....£	8	0	2	By amount of Subscriptions as per list,	£177	17	3
“ “ Fire Wood,.....	26	15	4	“ “ Received from Governors of High School			
“ “ Groceries, &c.....	31	4	3	“ “ to defray expense of removal ...	30	0	0
“ “ Bread,.....	29	14	9	“ “ Received from Sale of Tickets,.....	3	8	9
“ “ Beef.....	10	18	5	“ “ “ Articles of Clothing, 10 16 3			
“ “ Articles for Clothing,.....	47	4	6	“ “ “ For work done by parties relieved, 2 3 0			
“ “ Expended by the Ladies' Committee at the				“ “ “ Board “ “ 4 15 0			
Rooms for Provisions, &c	76	8	2	“ “ “ Provisions “ “ 6 8 0			
Balance on hand,.....	5	2	8				
	£235	8	3		£235	8	3

T. & O. E.

JOHN GREENSHIELDS,
Treasurer.

REPORT.

The Committee appointed at a Public Meeting held in October last, to devise and carry through means for the temporary relief during the then approaching winter of the destitute Protestant Poor of this city, have now to Report.

The first act of the Committee was by their Chairman, to follow out the express instruction of the Public Meeting, and to invite the co-operation of existing Institutions which had to some extent been giving out relief to the destitute poor, but without receiving them as inmates. These were the Protestant Industrial House of Refuge and the Home of Industry. It was felt desirable that these Institutions should cease to give out door relief and confine themselves to their primary object as Institutions of Refuge and Industry—as gathered from their published papers,—of giving work and refuge to the poor, and would cooperate towards one central place, where street and door beggars, and all Protestant poor, supposed to need help, should be sent for temporary relief, in the way of food, fuel and clothing, and where it would be given to such persons only as, after due inquiry and investigation at their abodes, should be found deserving. They were not asked as Institutions to contribute funds, nor to assume any responsibility, nor any further than has just been stated to change their way of working, but to name some of their number who would be willing to act on this Committee organized only for the winter emergency.

The Ladies of the Executive of the Industrial House of Refuge did not favorably entertain the proposal, saying, "We think it best to work on as we did last year until the first of May; unless the Committee (taking up this poor relief effort,) are willing to take the whole management and responsibility of this House upon them, to which we would gladly accede." And after reference to their general Committee, we were informed "that they unanimously deemed it

not expedient to make any change at present in the management of the House, nor (as a Committee) to engage in any other public effort for the relief of the poor."

But the Ladies of the House of Industry, up to a large majority of them, coincided in our proposed plan—which had indeed in part originated with themselves,—and gave it throughout their earnest support, confining at the same time the benefits of their own Institution, as was suggested to them, to such persons as became inmates of their House.

—In then submitting their object and plan to the Protestant public and asking its co-operation the Committee observed :

On our streets and at our doors, these two classes of poor—the improvident and vicious, and the truly necessitous and deserving—promiscuously appear, and if they are alike aided the evils of indiscriminate alms-giving result. Hence the need of discrimination ; and the separation of these two classes. This is a first duty. To give aid in the one case is often to confirm habits of pauperism and vice ; to give it wisely in the other case is often to rescue from present extreme want and suffering, to stimulate to exertion, and to place upon the path of industry and future independence.

The improvident and vicious need discipline and reformation, the institutions and appliances for which it would seem to us the city government should provide. But the giving of city funds to aid the promiscuous poor, we reprobate as an evil and an injustice, and as tending in many cases to encourage idleness and vice, and to pauperize its objects. On the contrary the few really deserving poor, though fit subjects of help, should be left to the help of private or organized benevolent effort. And, as respects the Protestant poor of this class, while disclaiming all city aid in their behalf, we avow our conviction that their Protestant fellow citizens will care for them. Yet of such necessitous poor there are still two classes : those in communion with Churches, and who are cared for by their Churches, and who rarely appear as askers of public charity ; and those who are not in particular connection with any one of the Protestant communions. It is with this latter class we have to do. On behalf of such, chiefly, do this Committee seek to organize the means of aid.

If then refusal to all street and door beggars be urged—and it is urged as needful to check the growing evil of beggary,—and if city funds for the purpose of relief be disclaimed, it comes to be all the more necessary that there should be systematic and careful inquiry into all cases of professed poverty, and means provided adequate to the relief of the deserving. To this end rooms will be opened in the old High School, where it is requested Protestant Poor may be sent for temporary relief, and where the Ladies of the Committee undertake to have their cases inquired into, and to see that aid is given only to the deserving.

These Ladies will be assisted by a Committee of Gentlemen, one of whom in turn, will give an hour's attendance daily at the Rooms.

Money will in no case be given; and it will be the anxious endeavor while relieving present necessity, so to foster habits of industry and providence, as to prevent the recurrence of the claim for aid. Men, applicants for relief, able to work, will be sent where work is likely to be obtained, a register being kept of the names of persons having it to give. A register will also be kept of the names of all persons either relieved or employed. Women and children able to work will be directed to individuals, or to those institutions of industry whose primary object is the giving of work to those able and willing to perform it, and refuge to those who are its fitting subjects.

It is thus not proposed to create a new Institution, but to unite and direct Protestant benevolence to carry out, during the exigencies of the winter season, in a convenient and central place, and one of common resort, a system of temporary relief, in the way of food, fuel, clothing, and employment to the needy, but virtuous and honest poor.

These statements of their object as at the outset set forth by the Committee, are repeated here because of some misapprehension of it which in some quarters existed, and in the hope that if that yet exists they will be sufficient to correct it; and as serving also to show the plan adhered to, and so far as they can judge found adequate and successful throughout the whole period of their effort. They may also indicate for future use a plan already found to work well.

The Committee were careful to publish monthly reports of their work, shewing the number of persons who had applied for aid and the number aided, acknowledging contributions received and stating expenditure. They now give the aggregate Report for December, January, February and March, the months during which the Rooms were open.

Number of applicants entered upon Register, most of them representing families,.....	289
Visited and found not deserving,.....	26
do do not suitable cases,.....	14
do do not needing aid,.....	2
Not found by visitors, and not having returned, entered as unworthy,.....	52
Relieved at their homes, and in some cases, work supplied,.....	91
Referred to Churches,.....	13
Found work for.....	7
Found situations for.....	37
Provided lodging and fuel for..... (and their families,)	17
Employed at sewing and knitting; and in the school	30— 289

During December, January and February, a meal was prepared daily in one of the rooms, and given to those needing it, when dinners, equal to one for 1897 persons, were supplied at a cost of about 3½d. per head; and 37 persons not otherwise aided were supplied with clothing.

The receipts of money are acknowledged under the head of subscriptions, and in this connection reference is requested to the Treasurer's account, showing the total income and outgo of funds.

Many bundles of clothing, old and newly made up, a piece of Tweed cloth, a clock, a lot of bonnets, several lots of meal, fish and flour, a box soap, several parcels shoes and rubbers, several bags and barrels vegetables, a number of books, and a few other articles were received; but in so many instances without the name of the giver that it is thought best to acknowledge them all in this general way.

It is believed that the most was made of all contributions, and that those who gave, will be satisfied with the results here reported. It should be scarcely necessary to add that the utmost catholicity was observed: all Protestants found needing aid, got it in proportion to the claims of each case, without regard to denomination, although it appears that the majority aided were or called themselves of the Church of England.

The efficiency of the effort was kept up by a meeting every Monday of the Ladies, who then appointed their Executive and the Visitors for the week, and so faithfully were their duties fulfilled that it appeared that as many as twenty-five of their number gave prolonged attendance at the Rooms, or visited the homes of the poor within one month, reporting in the latter case very fully as to the condition and the claims of those whom they had seen. Miss Harvey especially devoted herself very fully to the work.

There was also a monthly meeting always well attended, presided over, the first of them by the late Reverend Dr. McGill, who had attended the public meeting, and manifested a warm interest in the effort, giving it more of his countenance and co-operation than perhaps it received from any other, and one of whose last public appearances was at its Rooms; and the subsequent ones by Rev. Dr. Taylor, Dr. Wilkes and Mr. Fraser respectively, all of whom gave the effort, both as to its design and its carrying out,

their approval. One of the gentlemen's Committee gave an hour's attendance almost daily, during the whole period.

The three city missionaries, Messrs. Massey, Merrick and Mitchell, rendered important service, both at the Rooms and in visiting the dwellings of the poor.

Mary Sym, who had charge of the Rooms, did the duties, trying and difficult sometimes, of her post with a devotion and faithfulness which the Committee gratefully acknowledge.

We have to express our obligations to Mr. Holton, M. P. P. for the city, for his intervention to obtain from the Government, the use, for the purposes of this Committee, of a part of the old High School; and also the generous consideration of the Government in making its subsequent grant of the building to the governors of McGill College, for the use of their High School department on the unfortunate destruction by fire of Burnside Hall; subject to the continued use of it by this Committee or their providing elsewhere Rooms for the carrying on of its work.

An arrangement was accordingly made with those gentlemen, which may perhaps be sufficiently stated by the following letter from one of our number to one of the governors:

"The Poor Relief Committee propose to remove at once the dwellers in the Rooms at the old High School, that is, the attendants and their children, who alone have had residence there, accepting from the governors thirty pounds, as offered, in consideration of the expense and trouble of such removal.

"They propose further to give up all cooking and the supplying of dinners at the Rooms, and to close the girls' school and working room. But, they will retain the apartment now used as their Committee room, where the Ladies will continue their meetings, and where applicants for relief will still come, which in short will continue to be the seat of the Committee's operations until April, when the time for which they undertook the work they have in hand shall have expired.

"February 19th, 1856."

The Committee at once followed out this arrangement; by the kindness of Dr. Davies, a vacant dwelling was placed at their disposal in which that part of their effort given up at the High School was for a time carried on. Till the first of May dwelling and maintenance continued to be given to several aged persons

and destitute but deserving families, when the work of the Committee was finally closed.

Private benevolence, it should be added, has since maintained several families whose circumstances were such that it would have been inhuman to have entirely cast them off.

It now remains to point out some further results of this effort. From the statement already made it appears that of 289 persons who sought aid, 94 were found not deserving it; 42 of them so found by being visited at their homes, and their circumstances fully inquired into, and 52 by misleading the visitors and not returning to the rooms, so showing their unwillingness to afford reasonable evidence of good character and worthiness of aid. Thus was found the value of the rule, not to give aid in any case until its claims had been investigated; and thus was deception often exposed. Most of these 94 probably continued to beg; while most, probably, of the remaining 195 were saved from that resort. Hence perhaps the abatement of street-begging observed. If so, were this effort continued, and our fellow citizens would refuse aid to street-beggars, but would, instead, sustain this effort, there might in this be found an effectual remedy for the evil of street-begging. The deserving poor would be helped, while the improvident and vicious would be stopped in their heretofore successful attempt to live upon the unmerited and misused charity of the public; the one class judiciously aided, the other driven to exertion to secure their own maintenance, both would be saved from the degradation of beggary, and both be bettered.

There has been evidence of the good effect of the visits of the Ladies to the homes of the poor, whose inmates have been cheered and revived by the kindness, and relieved by the charity of their visitors, while proper independence of feeling has been so cherished and exertion so prompted that there were many instances of those who had been found almost sinking under their difficulties, being soon set out cheerfully in the way of doing for themselves.

In short, in the exposing of imposture,—in the finding of employment for so many,—in the inculcation of habits of cleanliness in the dwellings of the poor,—in the affording maintenance to several very aged persons,—in the reformation of several heads of families, who had become the victims of intemperance,—

in promoting industry,—in giving schooling to so many, and with that it is hoped reforming some,—an amount of good it is believed has been done by this effort, which is full of reward and encouragement—of the only kind they desire—for the expenditure of money, time and labor, though neither of these inconsiderable, on the part of those engaged in it.

It has been made plain, we think, that the benevolence of the Protestants of this city is sufficient for the care of the Protestant poor. They need no city funds to help them. Let such an effort as the one now reported be continued, and not one Protestant need beg upon the streets. And if our Roman Catholic fellow-citizens would take the same course, and provide themselves for their own poor, and all alike refuse aid to street beggars, that hitherto great and growing evil in our midst would be soon done away with.

It is proper to explain in conclusion, that this Report should have been made early last May, but being for some time kept back by other engagements of its writer, it was then decided to postpone it till near the beginning of another winter: and now we respectfully submit the whole.

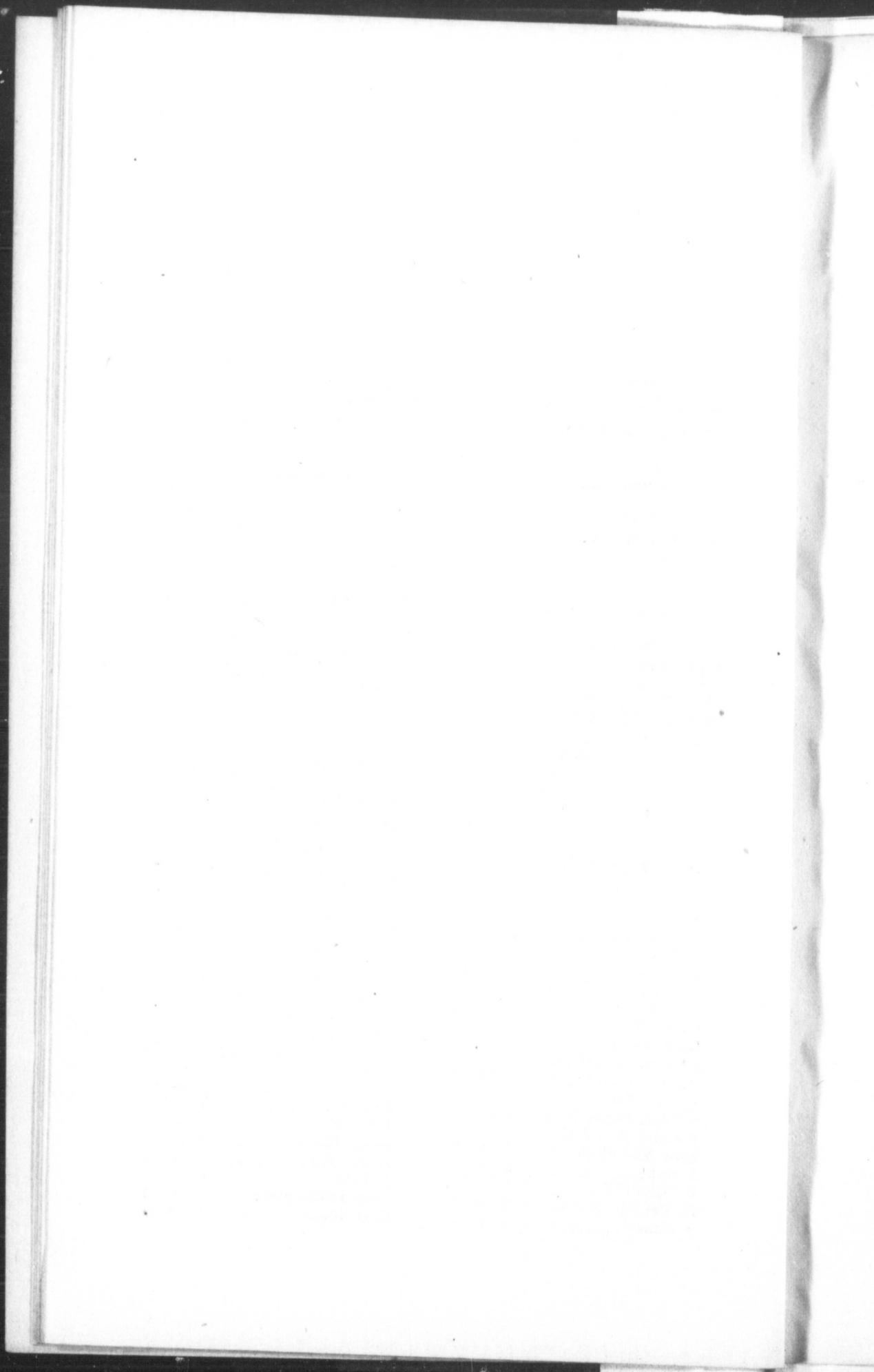
For the Committee,

THOS. M. TAYLOR, *Chairman.*

JOHN GREENSHIELDS, *Treasurer.*

A. N. RENNIE, *Secretary.*

Montreal, October, 1856.



LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE FUND.

L. H. Holton, M.P.P.	£5	0	0	Wm. Lunn	1	0	0
Hon. John Young, M.P.P.	5	0	0	Wm. Murray	1	5	0
Frothingham & Workman	5	0	0	Wm. Cassells	1	5	0
Clarke, Thompson & Co.,	2	10	0	Lawford, Hopkins & Nel-			
James McDougall,	2	10	0	son	1	3	0
Henry Lyman	1	5	0	J. H. Maitland	1	5	0
Ben. Lyman	1	5	0	C. Alexander	0	10	0
John Sterling,	1	0	0	Cash	0	5	0
A. N. Rennie, from a sub-				Cash	0	5	0
scriber to the Trans-				Gibb & Co.	1	5	0
cript	1	5	0	A. Campbell	1	5	0
D. Kinnear & Co.,	1	5	0	O. S. Wood	2	10	0
Anonymous, per Trans-				James Dakers	1	5	0
cript	1	0	0	A. D. Parker	1	5	0
Mrs. A. N. Rennie,	0	10	0	Wm. Budden	0	10	0
James Court,	1	5	0	Englishman, per T. S.			
A Friend,	1	0	0	Brown	1	5	0
Mrs. Wood,	0	10	0	A. Gilmour	1	5	0
Rev. Dr. Wilkes	0	10	0	A. Savage	1	5	0
Lady in Zion Church	2	10	0	J. & W. Hilton	1	0	0
T. M. Bryson, (an arbi-				D. Brown	0	10	0
Gilbert Scott,) tration	2	10	0	Gillispie, Moffat & Co.	5	0	0
				Seymour, Whitney & Co	2	10	0
				F. E Holmes	1	5	0
				Fee.			
A Few friends	1	5	0	James Benning	1	5	0
A Friend	2	10	0	James Gilmour	1	0	0
R. Marshall,	1	0	0	William Molson	1	5	0
Lady of Christievill,	1	0	0	Honble. John Molson	0	10	0
John Smith, Alexander				Hugh Allan	1	5	0
Street,	2	10	0	G. Matthews	1	0	0
D. Davidson,	2	10	0	G. W. Warner	1	0	0
D. L. McDougall,	2	10	0	Jos. Knapp	1	5	0
T. M. Taylor,	2	10	0	Ferrier & Co.	2	10	0
J. J. Day,	1	5	0	Wm. Harrington	0	10	0
John Lovell,	1	0	0	H. Seymour	0	10	0
J. H. Evans,	1	5	0	Brewster, Mullholland &			
Ed. MacKay,	1	5	0	Co.	1	5	0
John Turner,	0	5	0	H. W. Clare	0	10	0
John Smith, Alexander				Cash	0	10	0
Street, 2nd subscription,	2	10	0	J. C.	0	10	0
Thomas Paton,	2	10	0	Mrs. Wm. Gault	2	0	0
S. Greenshields Son & Co	2	10	0	James Scott	1	5	0
Forester Moir & Co.	1	5	0	James Baylis	0	12	6
Ferd. McCulloch	1	5	0	Henry Baylis	0	7	6
J. Birks,	2	10	0	J. Turner	0	5	0
R. Campbell	1	5	0	John Frothingham	5	0	0
H. Vennor	1	0	0	C. Geddes	1	0	0
A. Shaw	1	5	0				

Wm. Abbott & Co.....	1	5	0	Miss Barrett.....	0	5	0
Friends	0	12	6	Mrs. Henry Stuart.....	1	0	0
J. Fairbairn	0	10	0	“ Evans.....	1	0	0
J. B. Smith & Co.....	2	10	0	Genl. Evans	1	10	0
F. Noad.....	2	10	0	Mr. Harvey, Peterboro .	1	5	0
J. J. Mitchell	2	10	0	Mrs. Reid.....	1	0	0
H. Joseph & Co.....	1	5	0	“ Knapp	0	10	0
T. C. Panton.....	0	10	0	“ McNaughton	0	10	0
H. Elwell.....	1	5	0	“ Turner	0	10	0
G. D. Watson.....	0	10	0	Miss Armour	0	5	0
Jos. Tiffin	1	5	0	Mrs. Fraser.....	0	10	0
Thomas Evans	0	10	0	Mrs. McCudden.....	0	13	0
J. Crathern.....	0	10	0	A friend.....	0	10	0
James Burns.....	1	5	0	Mrs. Hyatt	0	5	0
H. L. Routh	1	5	0	Some Friends.....	1	5	0
James Johnston	1	0	0	Mrs. Crawford	1	0	0
Peter Redpath.....	1	5	0	Mrs. J. B. Lewis	1	0	0
Henry Starnes.....	5	0	0	Mrs. Dr. Reddy	0	5	0
A. Walker	1	5	0	“ Watkins	0	5	0
W. & J. Muir	1	0	0	“ Caldwell	0	5	0
Mrs. Johnston.....	0	10	0	“ Lane.....	1	0	0
“ Durnford	0	15	0	Collected by Miss Rae .	1	0	0
“ Lovell.....	1	0	0	A friend, by Mrs. John-			
“ Burns	0	10	0	ston	0	2	6
“ Thomson	1	0	0	Mrs. Caldwell	0	6	8
“ Phillips	0	10	0	A friend, by Mrs. John-			
“ Leeming.....	0	5	0	ston	0	5	0
Miss Kate Ready.....	0	10	0	Mr. G. Hagar, by Mrs.			
Mrs. S. Foster.....	0	5	0	Frost	1	5	0
“ Sanderson	0	5	0	A friend, by Miss Barret	0	5	0
“ Speirs.....	0	5	0				

JAN. 28/31

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MAN. 23/31