

THE
NINETEENTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
HALIFAX METHODIST
FEMALE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

If thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in security, and thy darkness be as the noon day."—
Isaiah, 56. 10.

HALIFAX, N. S.
PRINTED BY EDMUND WARD.

1835.

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REPORT, &c.

THE COMMITTEE of the Halifax Methodist Female Benevolent Society beg leave again to present their friends their Annual Report, and again to offer themselves as the medium for the conveyance of the further benevolence, which they hope will be continued to the Institution. The manner in which the funds entrusted to the disposal of your Committee have been appropriated in the year past is exhibited in the account current annexed; by which it will appear that £47 7 10 has been dispensed to the relief of sundry poor persons, and that 4 garments of various kinds have been made and distributed. A number of poor children, nearly naked and almost wholly uninstructed, whom the Superintendant and Teachers of the Sunday school rescued from the wretched habitations they visited, have received a part of this clothing, and thereby been enabled and induced to attend school on the sabbath; several of whom give pleasing proofs that the instruction there received, will have a beneficial influence on their future lives, useful to themselves and others. The Committee hope that when the sum expended is compared with the relief granted

ted, their friends will be "satisfied, that the funds committed to their trust have been distributed with prudence and economy. The object of the Committee has been to do as much good as their means would admit; keeping especially in view, the decent, modest unobtrusive poor—the infirm and aged widows—and the suffering families who, by death, or some sudden calamity require occasional and prompt relief. Many cases of the latter description occurred in the past year, during the awful visitation which overspread and enveloped our Town in thick gloom and sorrow: and caused mourning, lamentation, and woe "to echo from street to street, and from house to house.

Contrasting our present circumstances with those so recently past, is not our first duty an offering of praise and gratitude to the great Governor of the world, and the God of all our mercies. Should the walls of our sanctuaries resound, and above the sanctuaries of our hearts, with the devout joyous anthem "Let us enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise. Let us be thankful unto him, and speak good of his name." But the mere expression of gratitude we are aware will not be acceptable to him. Under the Jewish dispensation whatsoever was offered the Lord, either as an expression of penitence or of thanksgiving was to be of value—nay, even the best they possessed, the refuse would not be accepted. Thus David after a heavy calamity inflicted on his kingdom, refused to offer that which he had him nothing. And although by the grace of

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we are delivered from those burthensome ceremonies, yet the spirit in which they were to be offered and of which the outward rite was but the expression, is still obligatory; and the author and founder, and moderator of the new dispensation under which we have the happiness to live, seems to have substituted, if we may so express it, the poor in the place of the ceremonial altar and sacrifice. Hence he reminds us "The poor ye have always with you." And through the vista of futurity exhibiting to our view the solemn decisions of that grand and final tribunal, when he as judge will fix our characters and our destiny for eternity, he identifies himself with the poor, and as the recipients of whatsoever is given to them—"I was hungered and ye fed me, I was thirsty and ye gave me drink, naked and ye clothed me.

But the time in which we shall be honoured and privileged with being the stewards and almoners of God's bounty—how short—how uncertain! Other stewards will presently have the disposal of what we call our own—other dispensers of the goods of the great proprietor of all will soon be appointed. And if we are unfaithful stewards, perhaps so much the sooner will it be said to us "Give an account of thy stewardship for thou mayest be no longer steward." Our motto should therefore be "What thou doest do quickly." Let us participate while we can in the pleasure of this godlike employment—the distribution of good. And that there is a pleasure in this, the feeling sympathetic heart that can "weep with those that weep, and rejoice

with them that rejoice" need not be told. The pearls that drop from the eye of sympathy on the one side, and of gratitude on the other, are of more value in the purchase of happiness and in the good produced, than those that glitter in a monarch's crown: like the pearly dew which besprinkle our earth and by their fertilizing virtues produce fragrance, beauty and nourishment, such as the united value of all the pearls that land and sea has ever furnished could not procure.

Some valuable coadjutors in this good work have been removed in the course of the year past. Their names and their place are blank, and remind the survivors in their associations, of the loss they have sustained. But they are encouraged by the consideration that "they are not dead but sleep," that "they rest from their labours and their works do follow them," and that "those who sleep in Jesus will God bring with him," to be for ever with the Lord. They therefore say to themselves and to their friends and benefactors, "Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."

At the nineteenth annual meeting of the Halifax Methodist Female Benevolent Society, held in the Wesleyan School Room on the _____ day of October 1835, the Rev. Mr. Knight in the Chair,—Resolved,

1st. That the Report now read be received and printed under the direction of the Committee,
That this Society thankfully acknowledges the

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kindness of their benefactors, and respectfully solicits a continuance of their support.

That the gratitude of this society is due to those Ladies of the Committee who undertook and performed the most labourious and unpleasant part of the duty of this society—that of soliciting subscriptions, and collecting donations of clothing &c. and that it is hoped others will generously undertake the same service.

That the kindness of Mr. Edmund Ward in gratuitously printing the Report of this society for the past and several preceding years, claims their gratitude, and that he be respectfully requested still to extend towards them his liberality.

That this Society deeply regrets the loss of some highly valued friends, zealous and useful members of their committee from the commencement of the Institution, who have been removed by death since our last anniversary, and hope from a recollection of their worth to be stimulated to an emulation of their usefulness.

That the Committee for the present year be as follow—

Mrs. Desiah Starr

- ... Maria Morris,
- ... Mary Livingston,
- ... Rebecca Taylor,
- ... Esther Grant,
- ... Celia Hamilton,
- ... Lavinia Starr,
- ... Frances Black,

Mrs. Sarah A. Valentine

- ... Mary Knight,
- ... Grace Norbeck,
- ... Sarah Starr,
- ... Margaret Anderson
- ... Elizabeth Troop,
- ... Louana Lydiard

M^{rs}. Ann Bell, Treasurer
Mary Ireland, Secretary

Ann Bell, Treasurer, in Acct. Cur. with the Halifax Methodist Female Benevolent Society.

Dr.

Cr.

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| 1835 Oct. 7. | | | | |
| To sundry subscrip- tions and donations from Oct 1, 1834 to this date, including balance of £5 15 in hand last year. | 54 | 15 | 0 | |
| | £54 | 15 | 0 | |
| To Bal in hand | 7 | 7 | 2 | |
| | £54 | 15 | 0 | |
| | | | | By distributions to poor, from Oct. 1, 1834 to this date. 87 7 10 |
| | | | | Purchase of materi- als to make cloth- ing for the poor. 10 0 0 |
| | | | | Balance 7 7 2 |
| | £54 | 15 | 0 | |

To sundry poor persons there have been distributed 244 Garments of different kinds made gratuitously by the ladies of the Association, chiefly from materials solicited by them from the Merchants of Halifax,