

COMMITTEE

OF THE

Picton Auxiliary Bible Society.

(INSTITUTED IN 1813.)

and Park and the Land FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY, 1876.

CERTAIN MAINTER



NEW GLASGOW: PRINTED BY MCCONNELL & ALLEY.

# BRITISH & FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

## OFFICE-BEARERS,

Elected 3rd February, 1870.

REV. JAMES BAYNE, D. D., PRESIDENT

## VICE PRESIDENTS:

REV. LEONARD GAETZ, REV. HENRY GENEVER, JAMES PRIMROSE, Esq., DANIEL HOCKIN, Esq.,

WILLIAM GORDON, Esq., WILLIAM H. DAVIES, Esq., RODERICK McKENZIE, Esq., Mr. JAMES FRASER,

PARENA BELLIAND

Rev. A. W. HERDMAN, Secretary.

Mr. George Hattie, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer.

Mr. MURDOCH McPHERSON, Depositary.

## COMMITTEE:

JAMES IVES, Esq., W. N. RUDOLF, Esq., Mr. JOHN ROSS, Mr. JAMES MUNRO, Mr. JOHN YORSTON, GEO, A. CHRISTIE, M. D.

ROBERT DOULL, Esq., GEO. H. ELLIOTT, Esq., Mr. J. W. GORDON, Mr. HOWARD PRIMROSE, Mr. DANIEL McDONALD, B.S. Mr. JAS. RUTHERFORD. other man

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FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY, 1870,

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the Constitution of this Auxiliary, vis :or The Assural Meding of the Scotory shall be held at such citie as the all gardoner done in bus olderies toos seesbyen and at and original the To stone floures a boil bar dosen to a Accounte presented, and the proceedings of the torqueing year reported. Special Geograph Mersings way by collect berthe Committee when none

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### MINUTE OF PROCEEDINGS.

At the Annual Meeting of the Pictou Auxiliary B. & F. Bible Society held in Prince Street Hall, Pictou, on Thursday evening 3rd February, 1879. Rev. James Bayne, D. D., President, in the chair.

The chairman opened the meeting by reading Psalm 19, and Rev. A. W. Herdman offered prayer.

The Secretary, Rev. A. W. Herdman, then read the Committee's Annual Report.

On motion of Roderick McKenzie, Esq., seconded by Mr. Joseph McNaught it was

Resolved, That the Report be adopted, published and circulated under the superintendence of the Committee:

The Accounts of the Treasurer and Depositary were then presented and read, and on motion of Mr. Cornelius Dwyer, seconded by Mr. John D. McKenzie it was

Resolved, That the Accounts now read be received and published along with the Report.

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Sang 100th Psalm.

On motion of Rev. L. Gatez, seconded by David Marshall, Esq.,

Resolved, That this meeting once more acknowledge the goodness of Almighty God in the blessings which have rested upon the efforts of the B. & F. 1 ible Society.

Sang Heber's Missionary Hymn.

On motion of W. N. Rudolf, Esq., seconded by Mr. Herbert Bayne it was

Resolved, That this meeting recognize in the enlarged sphere of labor which God has opened to the B. & F. Bible Society, especially on the continent of Europe, a fresh call to perseverance and prayer.

On motion of Mr. James Hepburn, the Office Bearers for the ensuing year were unanimously chosen.

(See preceding Page.)

On motion of W. N. Rudolf, Esq., seconded by Roderick Mc-Kenzie, Esq., it was

Resolved, That the following article be substituted for Article Five in the Constitution of this Auxiliary, viz:—

"The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held at such time as the Executive Committee may deem most suitable, and at such meeting the Office-Bearers shall be chosen, the Accounts presented, and the proceedings of the foregoing year reported. Special General Meetings may be called by the Committee when necessary."

After einging Dismission Hymn the meeting was closed by

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distant of the human family 37,210,485 copies of the Songturia, a quantity base to restize and where woold take one many years to distribute were he as aged at no other work,

In proceeding to give, as south a brief abstract of the Parent Society's work through the past west, we would commission with meriding two interesting been made; the head of democrat news

Tue for a trait the new promises of the Society in Earl Street were consider with special religious services has May. A serminal was presented by his grace the Archelshop of Connectors in tenal of the Society on the SelT. ReQuire Post of the Society of the SelT. Require the May of the Mr. Binney, Dr. addresses delivered on the 4th may of the first Mr. Binney, Dr.

The circulation of the Scriptures. by the Bible Society (to hear the annual report of whose auxiliary you year by year here assemble) may be compared to the rill descending from the Mountain top, at first it is but small, drop by drop falling, but by and by it gathers strength till it becomes a river on whose bosom is borne the richly freighted vessel; so with the sacred volume, at first, it was but partial in its distribution, only a few hundred copies during the first year of the Society, by and by many thousands, till now millions annually are circulated; or this circulation may be compared to the opening of a door, at first, that door was but a little ajar, then wider, till now affectually open so that into almost every nation under heaven, God's word may be intro auced, and this which calls for devout gratitude, at the same time imposes obligations to diffuse the scriptures more zealously and extensively than ever, till one grand object of the Parent Society shall have been attained—every one possessing in his own language the wonderful record of God. Spain, which was, till the late revolution, hermetically sealed, is now completely open to the introduction of the Scriptures, and both individuals and societies are labouring to leaven that land with the pure and elevating word of God. May this year witness still greater triumphs in the Bible cause than any previous, and may we soon have to record that the last barrier to Bible circulation has been removed, and that God's free word without note or comment may go into all lands and bless all

The circulation of the Scriptures by the B.&F B.S. throughout this past year—that is 1868-9 amounted to 2,140,620 copies. about one half of which was from foreign depote; and the amount realized by sales to £78,328 9. 9. from donations, legacies, free contributions, and other sources £98,160. 15. 4 to which should there be added the sums collected for the Society's new buildings, for Biblecirculation in Spain and China, the whole income will amount

to £187,952. 9. 9. being £1,354.16. 8. more than in the previous year and the largest sum the society ever received, the jubilee year alone excepted. The expenditure through the same period has amounted to £187,537. 2. 5. I may add that since this society began its operations in 1804, it has circulated in 185 dialects of the human family 57,210,485 copies of the Scriptures, a quantity hard to realize and which would take one many years to distribute were he engaged at no other work.

In proceeding to give, as usual, a brief abstract of the Parent Society's work through the past year, we would commence with noticing two interesting facts under the head of domestic news. The first is that the new premises of the Society in Earl street were opened with special religious services last May. A sermon was preached by his grace the Archbishop of Canterbury in behalf of the Society on the 3rd, and devotional services were held and short addresses delivered on the 4th May by the Rev. Mr. Binney, Dr. Cumming and other eminent Ministers. This was pronounced a great success.

The next fact is that the missing link, or, in other words, the Bible women's agency, still holds on its way. There are now 232 Bible women employed in this self-denying but useful work. and during the year 1868, they sold 8,567 copies of the sacred Scriptures among a neglected class. That the Divine blessing

may rest upon these labors of love is our earnest prayer.

Proceeding to France, we notice that the distribution of copies of the Scriptures through that empire last year amounted to 113,077 of which the greater part was effected by Colportage among a Roman Catholic population. Here it is to be observed that it is De Saci's version that is sold, a Protestant version would not be received, nay, the attempt to introduce it in many cases would lead to the non-authorization by the authorities of the Colporteur's sales and the charge of procelytism, but the reading of Do Saci prepares for Osterwald, and in 200 instances during the quarter. persons by reading De Saci's New Testament asked for Osterwald's Bible. Nay, the able agent who has had about half a century's experience, mentions that what led to the establishment of protestant Churches in France was the dissemination of copies of the New Testament by De Saci by which alone it was possible to do anything among a population that would at once have been hostile upon the appearance of Protestant Propagandism. Therefore we may well allow the wisdom of the Society's policy in foreign parts. And to exemplify this still further, the Scottish National Society, whose peculiar excellence was said to be circulating only the purest versions, has now authorized its Colporteurs to sell De Saci when the other one, Oste wald's, will not be taken. So there need he no opposition between the two Societies here, as there is none in their practice abroad. The Scottish purchase from the B. & F.S's foreign agents and circulates somewhere about 2000 copies in France.

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Before quitting this empire, it may be mentioned that an interesting feature of the work in France is the military patronizing the Society's publications. Not only by the officers but by the soldiers in the Camp are the Scriptures bought, and read to the latter by the Colperteurs. Above 7000 copies were thus disposed of, and these Bible meetings issued in the conversion of several privates. On the whole, the Bible cause, through various agencies, seems to hold on its way in France prospering and to prosper.

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From Belgium a similar report comes. As in France, not only the avowed abettors of infidelity oppose the work, but the priests are among the most bitter opponents dogging the steps of the Colporteurs maligning their character, and misrepresenting the object of their labours; notwithstanding, this sometimes acts as the best recommendation, and above 12,000 copies were sold in this small kingdom. In Holland, about double that number were disposed of. Here latitudinarianism and indifference prevailed, but steady perseverance in the Society's work overcame these svile and the Committee record that the light of the Bible is now more familiar to the people, and the Colporteur can prosecute his labours without the noisy and savage demonstrations once so common, and best of all there is every reason to believe Roman Catholics themselves have been led by the light of divine truth out of the errors and corruptions of their own church.

In Germany, considerably more than 300,000 copies have been sold and in six different languages have the scriptures been distributed in that country alone, Here we may observe that during the past Summer (i. c. 1868) a monument was erected to the great reformer Martin Luther at Worms, the scene of his preaching on his way to appear before Charles the 5th. On the present occasion, when crowned heads from every part of the Fatherland of the Reformation appeared, the Bible agent Mr. Davis chose the opportunity of opening a stall for Bible sales under the shadow of the Monument. The scheme succeeded admirably and during the three days that the celebration lasted 859 copies of Luther's version were sold. "After all, this" said a peasant, "is the genuine Monument of Martin Luther." Two women, Catholics, approached the stall and thus addressed the agent, "We are Catholics but we think it a shame not to read Luther's Bible, for, after all, it is the Book of God and it was Martin Luther who again gave it to the people." On being encouraged, they at once advanced to the table and paid for the Book. An interesting feature of this exhibition was a large folio Bible of the year 1541, printed in Wittenberg and carried through the press by Luther himself. This with the peasantry bad almost a religious significance. One woman asked leave to put her hand on the venerable Book. She stretched it out and reverently put it on the Bible and burst into tears. In like manner, her daughters imitated her and all left, weeping from excitement. A more telling illustration of the fact of Luther's great popularity to the present day could not other 2 lide being provided by the American Ellife Society and

Poters quitting this empire, it uses be mentioned that an inbe imagined than the tears of these three German women on see-

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ing and touching this old folio Bible.

Passing on to Austria, Bible circulation continues, 128,000 copies have been sold throughout that Empire, and the' this number be smaller than that of the previous year, the decrease is to be attributed to the poverty of the country and the want of qualified Colporteurs more than from any increase of distrust or aversion in regard to the work itself, and it is added that if the Protestant Pastors generally would prove as conspicuous in advocating the dissemination of the Scriptures as Romish priests are in denounc-

ing it, things might soon wear a brighter aspect.

Passing to Russia, we find over 5000 copies circulated in this country this year more than last and in thirteen different languages. In Modern Russ, the Bible is now printed and allowed to be circulated. As the Clergy here are not inimical to the work, it may be expected that year by year there will be increased demands for the Scriptures. But the country, to which with anusual interest Christian attention is now being directed, is Spain, a fortress which for many a year, successfully resisted the sappers and the miners who endeavoured to make a breach for the Word of God and which for centuries has borne the Papal banner floating on its lofty summit; that fortress too is gore and as a first result, thousands of eager hands are outstretched to grasp the Bible; and Spain is getting the Bible. No lewer than eighty depositories in different towns are opened for the distribution of the Scriptures, and at the suggestion of some friends, a million copies of the Bible are being repared for circulation. Is not this worth all the revolution, and is there not some good in score for Catholic oppressed Spain? Yes, and the preacting of the Gospel goes on in the cities there and training for future pastors, so that by and by we will have to record "what great things God has wrought." In fine, only one more fortress holds out in Europe, and that is Rome. Over the States of the Church yet floats the opposition banner, still does the Pope interdict the introduction of God's word, but were only the Head of that Church unsustained by foreign bayonets, no long time would elapse when that fortress too would be forced and an entrance effected for the free Bible to teach and bless the Romans with liberty and salvation May God in His Providence effect this in his own time!

Crossing over to Africa, we find the Society labouring hopefully in Egypt, a country now coming into repute and of whose future. the prophet has thus spoken, "Blessed be Egypt my people." In this land once the scene of darkness and superstition, there has been for some years past a depot of Bibles entrusted to the care of the American Presbyterian Mission at Cairo which employs as Colporteurs converts from the corrupt Coptic Church and keeps two vessels plying on the Nile employed in its work. The committee propose to set apart one of the missions to the special charge of the Book Depot at Cairo, and to pay 1-3d of his salary, the other 2.3ds being provided by the American Bible Society and

Obina is a consiry from which we should like to have heard some good news. There the agent, Mr. Wylia has travelled for

the mission itself. This is a proof emong many that there is nothing selfish or unfriendly in the operations of our Parent Society; on the contrary, she takes hold of whatever agency is in the field and supplements whatever labour is likely to promote the circulation of the Scriptures. The Scottish National and American Bible Societies and Protestant Missionary Societies are heiped by her whenever they make application. Abyssinia has not then forgotten. From Tasmania came a contribution of £160 to be specially appropriated to the dissemination of God's word in that country, and two of the Captives that were so long imprisoned by the late King at Magdala have been accepted as Colporteurs. A son of the late Theodore has had a copy of the Scriptures presented to him, and the Abyssinians svince a great liking for the Bible and an earnest desire to possess it. There is need of diligence, for already Roman Catholic missionaries have entered the field and it is a fact that they perambulate a country far more extensively and industriously generally speaking, than our protestants do. Let us learn zeal from our opponents.

Passing on to Turkey in Asia, it is deeply interesting to hear that in Smyrna and other towns where the Apostles laboured there the Scriptures are being sold, nay, in Nazareth and by the shores of the Lake of Galilee, are the word's of life again heard. Thus does Christian England hand back to Bible lands the light

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she once borrowed from themorroty somes range hald mor and India is an immense field for the Society's operations, and here she is Lowing good seed. It is believed that the Native Systems are gradually giving way before the light of truth. The committee set agoing a scheme for placing some portion of the Scriptures in every village of the Bengal Presidency. To the Schoolmaster was presented the New Testament and a single gospel to each pupil. Where no school existed or when the gift was refused, there the scriptures were left in charge of the principal persons in the village. What but the best results may be expected from thus making the Bible a familiar Book and thus preparing for the subsequent abours of the Missionary. To cite one instance of the good effects arising from the perusal of the Scriptures alone, a clergyman of Benares writes, "In the course of the year a young Brahmin came to me asking for baptism; on speaking to him I found him well acquainted with the New Testament; on asking him where he had obtained his Scripture knowledge, he replied, I have been at no Mission Station but met a Colporteur who sold New Testaments cheap. I bought one and read it carefully and the conviction laid hold on me that this is the Word of God. Mahomet was no prophet but Jesus is the Saviour of the World and my S. our." After a few man the, he was received by baptism. He is a trophy of the Word of God through Colporteurs. But the Colporteur also sows his seed broad cast and eternity alone will reveal the result of his labours. Enquirers for baptism are found with the Scriptures in their possession.

China is a country from which we should like to have heard some good news. There the agent, Mr. Wylie has travelled for 2000 miles through parts of the Empire where no Protestant Missionary ever trod, and given away many copies of the Scriptures. He also reveals the fact that our Protestant Missionaries have not yet extended far beyond the treaty ports while a vast field is left entirely to the efforts of the Church of Rome. How long shall it remain so? From Pekin have been issued 15,000 copies.

In the large and important colonies of Australia and New Zealand the work flourishes. In the latter country, the printing of the Maori Bible was advancing towards completion. May this when given to the natives teach them to renounce their savage and idolatrous state for the liberty and purity of the Gospel of

From the South Sea Islands come interesting notices of good done by the Missionaries in translating the Scriptures into the language of the natives, and the fruits borne in the shape of free contributions of Native products from these Islands. In the New Hebrides, e.g., it is mentioned that the Word of God is being given in the language of the natives to six Islands and the Parent Society cheerfully bears the expense of the new translations.—
How crippled would our Missionaries feel without the aid of this generous Society, while it again rejoices that through their instrumentality, it is enabled to fulfil its great design of giving every

From Madagascar comes glorious news—at the Queen's Coronation, no idolatrous ceremonies were permitted while the Bible had a prominent place assigned it and the Missionaries a post of honour near the Queen. Liberty of worship has been proclaimed throughout the land and the royal idol has been banished from the Capitol. What is this but the inauguration of a better rule and thus taking possession in the name of Jesus! May this Isle, long the scene of persecution and martyrdom bow to Him, and its inhabitants from the Queen on the Throne to the meanest subject do

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We now come to this Continent and must confine our remarks to our own Province. From the estate of the late James Crerar, of a legacy of £1,772.2.6, and infers from this and other expressions of liberality, that our auxiliary must possess an earnest and intelligent appreciation of the great objects to be accomplished through the agency of the Society, and then they acknowledge the contributions too late for insertion in their report.

Onr Auxiliary holds its own among its members, as may be seen by the subscriptions from Town and Country. This year we have not engaged the services of an agent but the claims of the Society have been advocated before certain Branches, and we believe with happy results. Members are convinced of the integrity of the Society and resolve to continue in her connexion. Since last

annual meeting Mr. Russell's pamphlet in vindication of the Society against certain charges preferred in this country has been published, and a large number of copies have been distributed under directions of your committee, the funds for payment of which were contributed by friends of the Society in Pictou independent of their contributions to the ordinary funds of the Auxiliary.

In conclusion, let us thank God and take courage, resolved, it our lives be spared, to labour more abundantly in the cause of Bible circulation, "Forasmuch as we know our labour shall

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Waft, waft, ye winds his story, And you ye waters roll, 'Till like a sea of glory It spreads from pole to pole, 'Till o'er our ransomed nature, The Lamb for sinners slain, Redeemer, King, Creator, In bliss returns to reign.

A. W. H.

West River-Branch Society. Amount Collected \$42.50. Names of Contributors not given. West River-Branch Society, (Central Congregation.)

Amount Collected \$34.65. Names of Contributors net given. amonT Green Hill-Branch Society.

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William McLaren Esq.	50		
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Thomas Glover	30		on.]
Malcolm Campbell	25	Kenneth McKenzie	25
James Stalker	1.00	John D McFarlane	121
John Stalker	50	Mrs John Munro	25
Alexander Stalker	50	Miss Jessie Graham	25
J P McDonald	25	Peter McKay	25
Capt Jas Fraser	3.00	Mrs William McKay	26
George McLeod Mrs Rood	25	Mrs John McLeod	25
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	50	Miss Mary J Murdoch	121
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James Harris	25	George Grant	55
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Mrs D McKenzie	25	William Grant	50
Miss Mary McKenzie	25	Peter Grant	25
Edward McKenzie	25	John Grant	
Mrs Wm McKenzie	25	[Collected by Miss Mary	C. Grant.]
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Mrs George Morrison	25	SCOTCE HILL AND LYON'S	BROOK
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Mrs James Clark	25	Land 2 Country	40
Kenneth McKenzie	15	Miss E C Stiles	20
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Miss Margaret Morrison	25	John Murray	50
Mrs Kenneth McKenzic	25	William Harris	13
Mrs Wm Urquhart	25	Alice Harris	25
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Miss Mary J McDonald	25	Mrs W Davis	25
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Mrs Harris	25	Mrs McKenzie	10
John McKenzie	50	Charles McDonald	25
Mrs Wm Sutherland	25	Mrs Young	50
John Sutherland	25	Miss A Young	25
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The Pictou Auxiliary British and Foreign Bible Society in account with George Hattie, Treasurer.

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Pictou Auxiliary British and Foreign Bible Society in Account with Depositary for the year ending Feb. 1st., 1870.

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Distribu	ted Gratuitously	7	16	38	36
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VII. At Committee, President fi absence of a in his absence purpose, sha

VIII. The Thursday of October; spe called by th member of Co

IX. The wi be signed by ohairman.

# CONSTITUTION.

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M7.

I. The designation of this Society shall be, The Picton Auxiliaryof the British and Foreign Bible Society; of which the sole object small be, to encourage a wider circulation of the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment; the only copies in the languages of the United Kingdom to be circulated by the Society shall be the authorized version, excluding the circulation of the apocrypha.

II. The Society shall add its endeavours to those employed by other Societies, for circulating the Scriptures through the whole world, among Christians, Moham-

III. Each Subscriber of One Dollar annually shall be a member, and any subscriber of Ten Pounds at one

IV. The business of the Society shall be conducted by a President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, and Committee of any number the Society may determine,

V. The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be held at such time as the Executive Comittee may deem most suitable, and at such meeting the office-bearers shall be chosen, the accounts presented, and the proceedings of the foregoing year reported. Special General Meetings may be called by the Committee when necessary.

VI. The Presidents, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary, and every clergyman who is a member of the Society, shall be ex officio members of Committee.

VII. At the General Meetings, and meetings of the Committee, the President, or in his absence the Vice President first upon the list, then present, and in the absence of all the Vice Presidents the Treasurer, and in his absence such member as shall be voted for that purpose, shall preside at the meeting.

VIII. The Committee shall meet quarterly on the first Thursday of the months of January, April, July and October; special meetings of the Committee may be called by the Secretary when necessary, but every

member of Committee must be duly notified.

IX. The whole of the minutes of every meeting shall be signed by the secretary and countersigned by the ohairman.