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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MONTREAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE

IN CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE

QUEBEC DIOCESAN

COMMITTEE

OF THE SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING

Christian Knowledge,

FOR THE YEARS, 1824,—25.

MONTREAL:

PRINTED AT THE HERALD OFFICE.

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SOCIETY
FOR PROMOTING
CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

REPORT.

THE Montreal District Committee of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, have great pleasure in communicating to the subscribers and to the public their sixth annual report. They feel happy in stating, that their *means* have increased, and they humbly hope it will appear that their *exertions* and *utility* have increased, in at least a corresponding proportion. Several new subscribers have contributed, and some of the old members have augmented their accustomed donations.

The Committee remind their supporters, that in this District they *unite* the *two* leading objects, which in the *parent* country are effected by *two* distinct, though sister societies, viz. "THE SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE," (whose exertions are principally directed to the distribution of bibles, prayer books, and other religious publications,) and THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR EDUCATING THE POOR." In this union they have been sanctioned by the example of the Quebec Diocesan Committee, who in 1818 were authorized by the Lord Bishop, then in England, to adopt such a measure;—a measure which considering the peculiar circumstances of this in-

fant country, was evidently politic, perhaps absolutely necessary. In repeating this communication they desire it may be distinctly understood by the subscribers, that it is at their discretion to declare to which purpose they wish their annual contributions to be applied; whether towards the exclusive support of the National School in this city, or towards the more general designs of the society.

The Committee have succeeded in effecting a most desirable object; the establishment of a central depôt whence a supply of bibles, prayer books; and a great variety of tracts and single sheets for the use of charity schools and protestant congregations may be circulated throughout the whole District, especially among the townships more recently settled. This depôt is under the charge of the Rev. B. B. Stevens, (Chaplain to H. M. Forces) the Librarian, and of Lieut. Phillpotts, R. E. assistant Librarian, to either of whom all applications and communications may be addressed. In pursuit of this important object they have issued during the last year either gratuitously or at the reduced prices of the society as under; viz:—

To the Rev. — Annesley, for the use of his congregation at Hull, one dozen of prayer books.

To the Rev. — Abbot, for the use of the congregation and school at St. Andrews, ten prayer books, six bibles, six Crossman's Introduction to the Christian Religion, six Bishop Wilson's Introduction to the Lord's Supper, and various other tracts.

To the Rev. — Wood, of Drummondville, for the same pious purposes, fourteen prayer books of various sizes, one small bible, one large bible with marginal references, 12 Crossman's Introduction, and upwards of 150 bound books and tracts on various important subjects of religion.

To the Rev. — Lefevre, of Sherbrooke, sixty prayer books and 40 testaments of various sizes and prices.

To the Rev. Edward Parkin, for the use of a Sunday school, which he has established at Charbly, a variety of books and single sheets, expressly adapted to the education of the poor.

To the military school in this garrison a few books have been sold at the reduced prices of the society, and a large number have been given, some gratuitously, and some at the society's prices, to the Royal Ordnance school at St. Helen's Island; a few small books have also been given to the goal in this city per the Rev. J. Bethune, and to the garrison hospital per the Rev. B. B. Stevens.

At the Isle-aux-Noix, a school has long been established; but, though conducted by an excellent master, it has, till very recently, been unavoidably limited in its operations; at present, measures are adopting, which it is humbly hoped, by God's help, will prove the means of extending the blessings of education and religious knowledge to nearly 100 poor children, of whom the greater part have hitherto been unable to enjoy these inestimable privileges. A considerable supply of books, tracts, and single sheets

have been transmitted for the use of this institution per
Lieut. Luxmore, R. E.

Whilst the Committee have thus extended their fostering care to corporate bodies, they have not neglected the spiritual welfare of straggling individuals. A large number of religious works of various kinds have been given gratuitously, or sold at reduced prices, according to the circumstances of the individual applicants; who have in many instances evinced an eagerness for procuring the bread of life, which the Committee conceive must be felt by the subscribers as the richest reward for past, and the most powerful stimulus to future exertions. One instance they select with feelings of more than ordinary interest. A poor woman, whose children during her residence in this city had attended the National School, had subsequently accompanied her husband and family to a remote settlement about 40 miles distant. So anxious was this exemplary mother to continue to her offspring the precious advantages of education and religious knowledge, that she walked to Montreal, for the express purpose of procuring from the Society's depôt the necessary means for accomplishing this pious object. It need scarcely be added, that the Committee gratuitously, readily, and joyfully gave her a complete set of cards of lessons, and a variety of religious tracts; which she accepted with an eagerness of gratitude that was truly affecting.

As a brief summary of their labours in this branch of their system, the Committee state, that during the last year they have distributed

Bibles of various sizes, - - - - -	22
Testaments of ditto, - - - - -	42
Prayer Books of ditto, - - - - -	159
Various religious books, bound, half bound, and stitched, - - - - -	254
Small tracts sewed, and single sheets, - -	258

The Committee now proceed to report the result of their labours in the second branch of their system, viz. the conducting the National School in this city.

It was stated in the last report, that, by the liberal assistance of five gentlemen who advanced the sum of £150 by way of Loan without interest, a school house had been completed capable of conveniently accommodating about four hundred children—It is hoped that the funds in the hands of the treasurer will enable them to repay the Loan at an early period : but the Montreal Committee are moreover indebted to the parent society upwards of £200, for books and other claims, and they lament to add, that they possess not in the present state of their funds the slightest means for payment of this immense debt—They however confidently look to the well known liberality of that society for every reasonable accommodation and indulgence.

The Committee feel peculiar pleasure in adverting to the praiseworthy conduct of the ladies and gentlemen who have so willingly and punctually undertaken the superintendence of the Sunday School.

On Saturday the 9th, at the half yearly examination of the National School, the following was the statement of the numerical strength of that institution during the last year :

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Attending the school on the 7th April, 1824,.....	199	97	296
— Admitted since,.....	101	46	147
— Total number who have received education during the last year	300	143	443
— Withdrawn during that period,	98	47	145
— Remaining at school at the examination, April 9th, 1825.	202	96	298

Of these 298 scholars at present receiving instruction in this school, 74 only (i. e. not quite one quarter) are members of the Church of England—72 are members of the Church of Scotland, 46 are Methodists—and no less than 106 are members of the Church of Rome; of which 106 be it especially remarked that 97 are *French Canadians*.

The Committee dwell with especial satisfaction on this part of their report; because whilst it cannot fail of gratifying the feelings of their steady supporters at the same time it furnishes a most triumphant reply to the *mis-representation* of those who publicly and privately represent the measures of this society as “party measures,” the system as confined *exclusively* to the church of England, and contrast it with, what they term the “conciliatory principles adopted by the British and Foreign School Society,” declaring that “no other plan” but their own “can embrace the Roman Catholics”—In one sense indeed, and in one only the system of this Committee may be said to be *exclusive*; namely that the institution

was originally established and the school-house (with the exception of about £20) erected *exclusively* by the *exertions* and at the *expense* of members of the Church of England.

The Committee feel no disposition to attack the principles or conduct of those who conscientiously differ from them; but they claim for themselves the just right of defending *their own* against continual misrepresentations. They would not even call such misrepresentations *wilful*, but they would presume to suggest, that, altho' *not wilful*, the parties who make them, are nevertheless by no means free from blame in publishing statements, which, the slight exertion of a little previous inquiry, would have informed them, were incorrect.

The Committee would exhort all their friends to "*endeavour to keep the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace,*" and, if "*some preach Christ even of strife, and envy,*" still to "*rejoice, that Christ is preached, knowing that this shall turn to their salvation thro' prayer and the supply of the spirit of Jesus Christ.*" They would offer their fervent prayers, in the truly catholic language of the church, to the most merciful God, "who hath made all men, and hateth nothing that he hath made, nor willet the death of a sinner, but rather that he may be converted and live;" imploring him "to have mercy on all Jews, Turks, Infidels, and Heretics; to take from them all ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt of his word; and so to fetch them home to his flock, that they may be saved"

“among the remnant of the true Israelites, and be one fold
“under one Shepherd, Jesus Christ, our Lord.”

By order of the Committee,

B. B. STEVENS,

Librarian and Secretary

to the Committee of Management.

DR.—THE MONTREAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY
FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE

IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TREASURER.

April 17th 1824, to April 15th 1825.	To paid R. Drummond's Account, for fitting up of the National School and erecting offices forsame, - - }	85			
	To do. W. G. Holmes, Teacher of the National School, a year's salary to 1st May next, - - - - - £100 Less charged in last year's Account, - - - - - £ 30 }	70			
	To do. Mrs. Holmes, Teacher of the Girl's School, a year's Salary to 1st May next, - - - - - }	25			
			95		
	To do. the British & Canadian School Society, for Sundry Articles for the National School & Vouchers, }	11	19	8	
	To do. Joseph Nickless, for Statio- nary, for ditto, - - - - - }	5	2	9	
	To do. Freight of Stationary from Quebec, - - - - - }		3	9	
	To do. Order to Mrs. Monk, to pur- chase prizes for the Girls' School, }	2			
	To do. for Wood and other petty dis- bursements for the School during the year, - - - - - }	21	6	10½	
	To balance carried down, - - - - - }	191		9	
	Currency, - -	£411	13	9½	
	<i>CR.</i>				
April 19th 1824. to April 17th 1825.	By balance of Account rendered 19th April 1824, - - - - - }		1	0	11½
	By a year's Salary to 1st Nov. 1824, allowed by Government to the Teacher of the National School, at £50 sterling, less fee, - - - - - }	55	6	0	
	By half a year's Salary to 1st May next, at £100 sterling & annum, less fee, - - - - - }	55	8	7	
			110	14	7
	By a Collection made in the Parish Church 10th October last, in aid of the funds of this Branch of the Society, - - - - - }		54	0	0
	<i>CARRIED OVER.....</i>		165	14	18½

BROUGHT OVER.165.....14.....18½

By a Donation from David Handy- side, Esquire, - - - - -	20	0	0
By a Donation from John Molson, Jr. Esquire, - - - - -	10	0	0
By a Donation from Mrs. Elizabeth Platt, - - - - -	5	0	0
By Subscriptions collected during the year, - - - - -	125	17	9
Received from the following Sub- scribers to constitute them members of the Parent Society, viz; - - - -			
Captain Romilly, Royal Engineers, } Lieutenant Pooley, do. Lieutenant } Marlow, do. £1 3 4 each, - - - - }	3	10	0
By Received from Revd. B. B. Stevens, for Books sold during the year, - - - - -	49	16	0
By ditto, from W. G. Holmes, for fees collected in the Na- tional School during the year, - }	31	14	6
Currency, - - - - -	£411	13	9½
By balance in my hands this day, - -	£191	0	9

E. E.

G. MOFFATT, Treasurer.

MONTREAL, 13th April, 1825.

NAMES
OF
CONTRIBUTORS.

<p>Mrs. Elizabeth Platt's Do- nation. £5 0 0</p> <p>Mrs. Ann Platt Do. 1 10 0</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">AT 25 SHILLINGS EACH.</p> <p>Samuel Gerrard, Benaiah Gibb, John Molson, Hon. C. W. Grant, Mrs. Grant, Robt. Froste, David Ross, Ben. Clamp, Peter M'Gill, John Molson, Junr. Hon. W. M'Gillivray, Hon. Chief Justice Reid, Francis Sisson, Thomas Thain, Samuel Gale, Rev. B. B. Stevens, Mrs. Bowes, Henry M'Kenzie, J. C. Grant, Frederick Griffin, Mrs. Clarke,</p>	<p>Moses Hayes, Joseph S. Kollmyer, John Spragg, Daniel Arnoldi, William Caldwell, George Gregory, Charles Brook, Miss Taylor, Major Loring, D. C. G. Edwards, Col. Hill, Asst. Com. Genl. Charles M'Donald.</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 10px auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">AT 23s. 4d. EACH.</p> <p>Rev. John Bethune, Hon. John Richardson, John Forsyth, Stephen Sewell, Lieut. Col. M'Kay, Capt. Romilly, Lieut. Phillpotts, Lieut. Marlow, Lieut. Luxmore, Lieut. Pooley, Abner Bagg, Joseph Beckett,</p>
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James Williams,
 George Auldjo,
 William Stephens,
 Mrs. Babuty,
 P. M. Kurckzyn,
 Thomas Gibb,
 George Moffatt,
 Alexr. Skakel,
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 Moses Knapp,
 Mrs. Jacob Hall,
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AT 15s EACH.

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 Andrew Allan,
 A. Borrie,
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 John Ray,
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AT 7s 6d EACH.

———— Chamberlain,
 ——— Oaks,

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 AT 5s. 6d. EACH.

William Pell,
 James Ferrier,
 ——— Heildeman,
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 Blyth & Glass,
 J. Warwick.

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 AT 5s EACH.

John Pickle,
 ——— Ritman,
 John Halstead,
 Henry Tiffin,
 John White,
 Robert M'Ginnis,
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 Mrs. Smith,
 Andrew Cowan,
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