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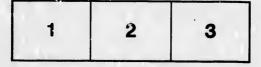
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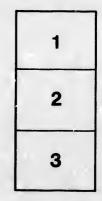
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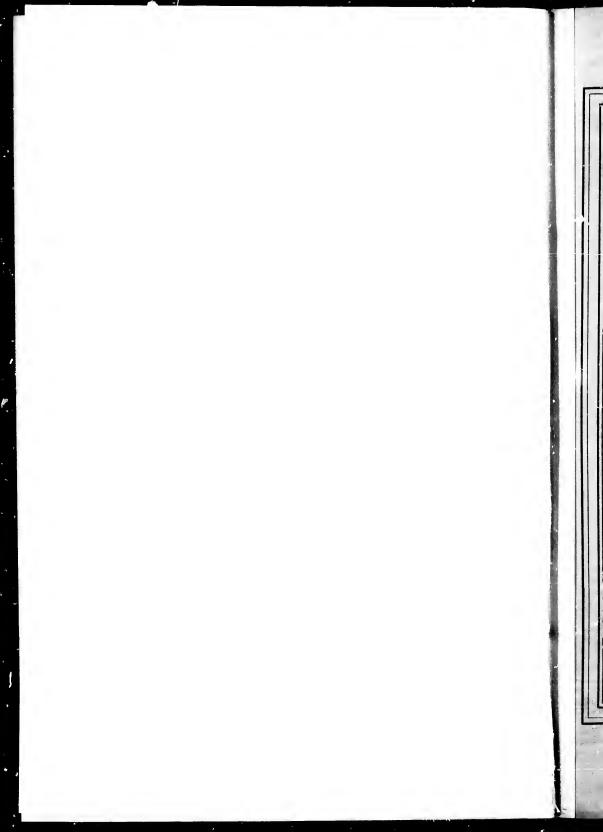


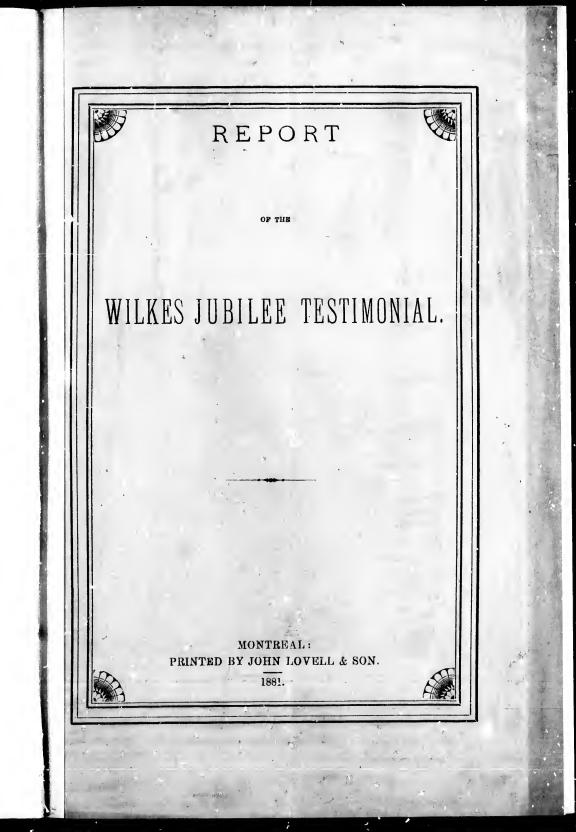
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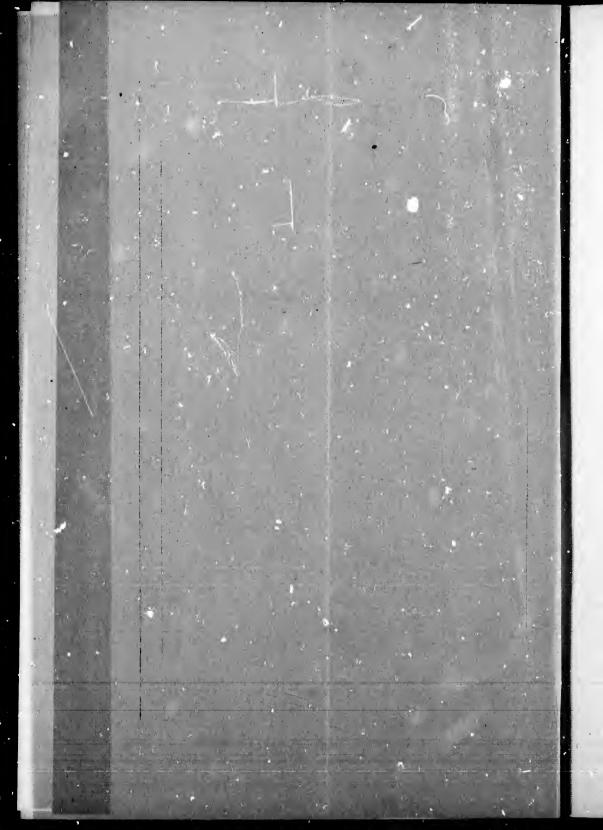
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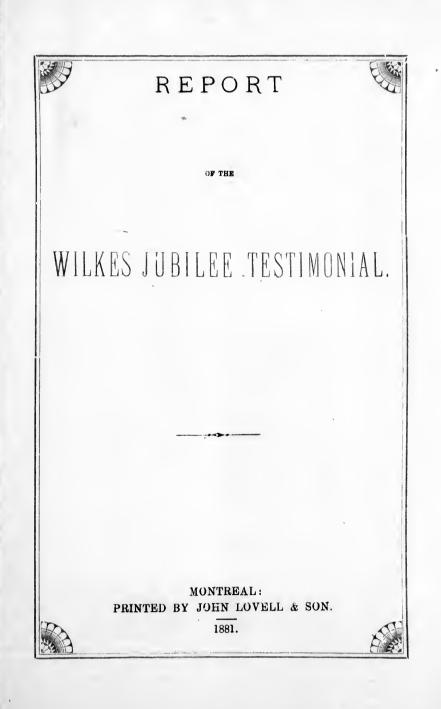
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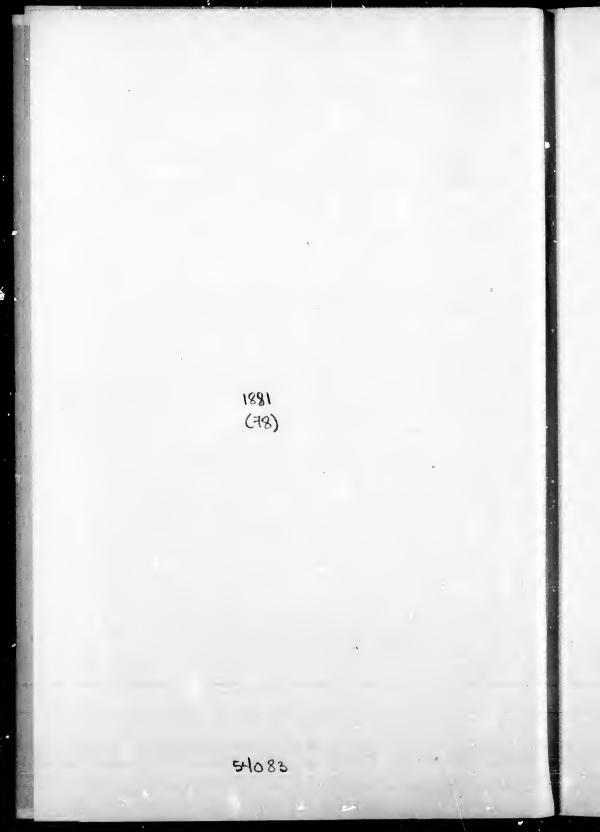
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I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT.

IN the autumn of 1878, the Rev. Dr. WILKES completed the 50th year of his public ministry, and commemorated that event by preaching a sermon special to the occasion, which, with a biographic sketch, was published. At that time it was the opinion of many of his friends that this was a fitting opportunity for inaugurating a movement to present him with a testimonial expressive of the esteem and respect with which he had always been regarded; but, owing to a variety of causes, among which the general commercial depression then prevalent was not the least, the movement was not organized. Two years later, however, steps were taken to begin the matter in a definite manner, for the purpose of carrying into effect the contemplated object. This was to make an appeal to all who might be disposed to render assistance for contributions in money, to be set apart to form a Fund, designated " The Wilkes Jubilee Testimonial," and to be presented to Dr. Wilkes, for the sole use and benefit of himself and family, as an expression of grateful respect and appreciation for his long and unwearied services as a Minister of the Gospel and a loyal citizen.

For nearly sixty years has Dr. Wilkes been intimately connected with the city of Montreal. His character and career as

the Minister of one of our prominent city churches has been marked by the strictest rectitude and consistency; whilst he has been conspicuous in the service of the general community, ever taking an active part in promoting works of benevolence and education, maintaining a manly stand in defence of our civil and religious rights, and proclaiming with no uncertain sound the great truths of Christianity, yet with a broad charity that has been free from all taint of bigotry and sectarianism. Such a career has been potent in its influences for good, and it has deservedly won the esteem of all classes of the community.

A General Committee was formed, with Mr. Henry Lyman as Chairman, Mr. George Hague, Hon. Treasurer, and Rev. Dr. Cornish and Dr. W. G. Beers, Hon. Secretaries, charged with the conduct of the undertaking, the Report of whose proceedings is herewith published.

II. MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF THE SUBSCRIBERS TO THE FUND.

The Subscribers were invited by special circular to meet in the Lecture-room of Emmanuel Church, on Tuesday, February 15th, to receive the Report of the Committee, and to decide on the form in which the Testimonial should be presented to Dr. Wilkes.

The meeting was duly held at the time and place appointed, with Mr. HENRY LYMAN in the Chair.

1. The Report of the General Committee was read by Rev. Dr. CORNISH, Hon. Secretary, and the audited statement of the Treasurer was presented by Mr. GEORGE HAGUE, Hon. Treasurer, whereupon it was :—

2. Moved by Rev. JAMES ROY, M.A.; seconded by Mr. N. B. CORSE ; and *Resolved* :---

That the Report, which has now been read, be received and adopted; and that, together with the Treasurer's Statement and Subscription-lists, it be printed for the information of Subscribers to the Fund.

3. It was moved by Mr. JAMES BAYLIS; seconded by Mr. GEORGE HAGUE; and *Resolved* :--

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That this Meeting, whilst expressing its gratification at so successful a termination of this undertaking, desires to tender its cordial thanks to those friends in the mother-country who have by their liberal gifts contributed so largely to this success; and at the same time to record its grateful appreciation of the essential services rendered to the Fund by James Spicer, Esq., and the Rev. W. S. H. Fielder, the Treasurer and Secretary of the Colonial Missionary Society, London.

4. It was moved by Mr. C. R. BLACK; seconded by Rev. Dr. STEVENSON; and *Resolved* :---

That the best thanks of the subscribers are due and are hereby tendered to the Rev. Dr. Cornish for his laborious services in connection with the Testimonial Fund, and through which, to a large extent, its success has been assured.

5. The Committee further reported that arrangements had been made for holding a public meeting of the subscribers, and all others interested in the matter, in Emmanuel Church, on the evening of Thursday, February 24th, for the presentation of the Testimonial to Dr. Wilkes, and that they had requested Dr. Cornish to make the presentation, which action was sustained; whereupon the meeting adjourned.

III. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

In the circular of the Committee, published on April 23rd, 1880, the object of the movement then taken in hand was stated to be :---

"To make an appeal to all the members of the Congregational Body in Canada, and to others who may be disposed to render assistance, for contributions in money, which shall be set apart to form a Fund, designated "*The Wilkes Jubilee Testimonial*," to be presented to Dr. WILKES, for the sole use and benefit of himself and family, as an expression of grateful respect and appreciation for his long and unwearied services as a Minister of the Gospel and a loyal citizen."

A sub-committee was appointed, with full powers to carry into effect the above plan, and the work was begun without unnecessary delay. An appeal was sent to the pastors and office-bearers of all the Congregational Churches in Canada,

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and measures were at the same time taken for obtaining contributions in this city, by personal application. At a later date, circulars were sent to a large number of gentlemen and ladies in Britain, who were thought likely, from their knowledge of the public career of Dr. Wilkes, to respond to the appeal.

Previous to this, communication had been had with the Treasurer and Secretary of the COLONIAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY, London, who manifested the warmest interest in the undertaking, and promised to give it their best assistance. This was accordingly most cheerfully done by them, and with a result that has largely surpassed the most sanguine anticipations of the Committee, and for which the best thanks of the promoters of the movement here are especially due, for his unwearied efforts on behalt of the Fund, to James Spicer, Esq., Treasurer of the COLONIAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY, and to the Rev. W. H. S. Fielden, Secretary of the said Society, by v hom M1. Spicer's efforts were ably seconded.

The Committee have much pleasure in reporting that the result of the appeal made to Britain is the handsome sum of $\pounds 509.16$ sterling, or \$2,452.70. In a letter bearing date January 28th, 1881, Mr. Fielden says that this sum "is freely and gladly offered as our quota towards this most fitting and pleasant expression of affection and gratitude to our mutual friend and Father in Christ. Having already put on permanent record and sent to Dr. Wilkes an expression of the confidence and appreciation which our Committee ever cherishes as to his character and life-work, it has been to Mr. Spicer and myself a labour of love to gather up this further evidence of the high regard of the constituency of our COLONIAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY."

The sum received from churches and individuals in divers parts of Ontario, is \$449.50, less \$62.98, expenses.

The thanks of the subscribers are due to Rev. John Wood, of Ottawa, and Rev. J. L. Forster, of Calvary Church, Montreal, for their services in raising between them the abovenamed sum. In the city of Montreal the sum of \$4,874.50 has been collected; and \$429.55 have been received from all other sources.

Thus, to recapitulate, there have been received :---

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From Great Pritain			
" The City of Montreal		50	
" Ontario	449	50	
Miscellaneous	429	55	
Grand Total of receipts	\$8,206	25	

The Committee have made it their constant aim to practise the greatest economy in the matter of expenses, and none but the most necessary have been incurred. The disbursements, on account of travelling expenses of deputations, printing, postage, &c., have amounted to \$111.53; thus leaving a balance to the credit of the Fund of \$8,094.72.

The thanks of the subscribers are due to Dr. Beers for the care and trouble he has taken in attending to the depositing in the Bank moneys received from time to time on account of the Fund.

All interested in this movement are to be congratulated that it has been brought to so successful a termination. Of course, this has involved the expenditure of much tin . and thought and labour on the part of those who have had it in hand; but these have all been more than compensated for by the success so gained, which it is hoped will do something to cheer and comfort the declining years of one who has deserved well of his generation, for his unselfish and unremitting efforts to promote its best interests.

It affords those who have been engaged in soliciting contributions to the Fund in this city, great pleasure to have to testify to the cheerful and liberal response which has been made by their fellow-citizens, connected with well-nigh every section of the Church, to the appeal made to them. The number of those who could not respond to the appeal was very few; whilst, in many instances, contributions were without solicitation received from persons who, judging from their circumstances, might have been the least expected to give. These facts justify the faith and courage which originated the movement, and are to the credit of those who have thus so cheerfully recognized the high moral worth of the character and services of him in whose behalf it has been made.

It remains for the subscribers to the Fund to decide what steps shall be taken in regard to the form in which the Testimonial shall be presented to DR. WILKES. On this point, the opinion of the subscribers in England was sought, and Mr. FIELDEN thus replies :—"Feeling confident that the friends who have charge of the movement in Canada are wise men, and will do what is best, I shall not suggest anything as to the form of the presentation." In view of the importance of this matter, your Committee appointed a Sub-committee of the subscribers to take the same into their careful consideration and to report thereupon. The Sub-committee consisted of Messrs. Henry Lyman, C. F. Smithers, Geo. Hague, and Robt. Anderson ; who unanimously reported as follows :—

"In considering the matter of the investment of the Testimonial Fund, the Committee had in view two essential objects, viz :---

1st. The saf of the principal;

and. The largest revenue compatible with safety. A security was proposed, which p. on set a generous revenue upon the investment, and which was believed by those acquainted with it to be quite safe; but in view of the gravity of the case, and after careful and patient consideration, it was deemed prudent that at least one half of the amount of the Fund should be placed in Bonds bearing 6 per ce.... interest, which can be purchased at or under par; leaving the recipient to deal with the remainder as he may see fit, and interposing no obstacle to his purchase of the particular stock above adverted to.

Should the investment prove successful, as may be anticipated it will, a revenue of at least 8 per cent, per annum will be obtained upon the whole amount of the Fund."

Your Committee unanimously recommend the adoption of this as the form in which the Testimonial shall be presented to Dr. Wilkes.

All which is respectfully submitted.

GEORGE CORNISH, LL.D., Hon. Secretary.

IV. PROCEEDINGS OF THE PUBLIC MEETING.

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The public meeting for the presentation of the Testimonial to Dr. Wilkes was held in Emmanuel Church, on the evening of February 24th. Mr. Henry Lyman in the chair. There were present on the platform: the Revs. Dr. Wilkes, Dr. Stevenson, Dr. Cornish, J. S. Black, G. H. Wells, Theo. Lafleur, Robert Wilson, James Roy, Prof. Shaw and J. L. Forster.

The Rev. Dr. Stevenson opened the meeting with prayer, after which the Rev. Dr. Cornish said he had received letters, tendering their congratulations, and expressing their regret for inability to attend, from the Lord Bishop of Montreal, Revs. Principal MacVicar, Dr. De Sola, A. B. Mackay and Dr. Ussher, for being unavoidably absent on special duty elsewhere; and from Revs. Dr. Jenkins, Principal Douglas and Prof. Fenwick, and Mr. James Court, for being absent through illness.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. George Hague, reported that the amount received on account of the Testimonial Fund had been $$8,206.2_{5}$; of which \$2,452.70 had been received from Great Britain, and \$4,884.57 from Montreal. The expenses of collecting, etc., had been \$1 1.53, leaving a balance of \$8,094.72 to constitute the Testimonial to the Rev. Dr. Wilker.

The presentation was made by the Rev. Dr. Cornish, who spoke as follows :---

MY DEAR DR. WILKES,-It affords me sincere satisfaction to be the medium, on so notable an occasion as this, of tendering to you, on behalf of your friends and fellow-citizens, their congratulations and tokens of respect and esteem. On many grounds is the occasion notable; but chiefly because it is the lot of but few public men, especially in a new country where chance and change are so frequent, to pursue their career for wellnigh half-a-century in the same place, and ministering to the same people. To still fewer is the happiness granted of doing this with growing success and approbation, as the years roll on. Such, however, has been your happy lot, as z public man and a Minister of the Gospel in this community; a fact which the proceedings of this evening testify more clearly than any words of mine could do. To the loyal Minister of the Gospel of Christ the approval of the Master whom he serves is the highest meed of honour and reward that he looks forward to. Next to that, comes the approbation of his own conscience, springing from a well-assured conviction that, however poor and imperfect may have been his service, his dominant motive

has been to do it faithfully, and "by manifestation of the truth commending himself to every man's conscience in the sight of God." Yet, in ministers even there is much of human nature ; and it is, therefore, no matter for wonder that they should, like other men, be sensitive to the opinions which others may form of their character and of their work. There is, moreover, in society a keen discernment of moral worth and of unselfish service, and oft-times a readiness to appreciate and recognise these good qualities in a public man ; and in your case, I am happy to think, has this found an exemplification. For nearly fifty years, your face has been among the most familiar and best-known in this community, and you have been willing during all that time to give your ready service to your fellow-citizens, not in the pulpit only, but in all other public ways in which a Minister of the Gospel can, compatibly with his high calling, promote the best interests of his country. Nor has this service, so cheerfully rendered on your part, been overlooked or unappreciated by those on whose behalf it has been done. And now in your declining years, and when your work is near its close, those who have long known your character and the value of that work have felt it to be their duty, as well as their privilege, to give public expression to the regard they have for you, and that, too, in a way which, they trust, will do something to add to the brightness and comfort of your remaining days. It is, I am sure, the sincere desire of each and all that these days may yet be many, and that, as the shadows of life's even-tide gather around you, they may be made bright by the felt presence of Him whom you have loved and served so long, and cheered by the growing respect and esteem of all among whom you live. As a token of the strength of this respect for you, in the past and to-day, I have the honour to request you to accept this Testimonial, which has been freely given by your numerous friends in the Mother-country and in this city, and in divers parts of this Dominion and the United States ;- given, too, with oft-expressed wishes that all that is good and blessed may ever surround your path.

In reply the Rev. DR. WILKES spoke as follows :---

DR. CORNISH, I thank you, the Committee, and the many friends you represent for this munificent Testimonial. Before adverting to the matter generally, let me offer to you individually, to the Acting Treasurer, and to some others, all of whom have expended an immense amount of labour in getting this Testimonial, the expression of my heartfelt gratitude for such generous service.

My first impression is the faithfulness and loving-kindness of God. No one need be afraid of laying hirself out in service rendered in his name, on behalf of fellow-men, without any reference to pecuniary reward. "Let him trust in the Lord and do good, and verily he shall be fed." The money v.lue of this gift is large, and by no means unacceptable to myself and

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e d family, especially at a time when circumstances, over which we have had no control, have caused considerable diminution of a moderate income, and when also the bread-winner has passed beyond the three-score years and ten; and, yet, let me say that the reports which have reached me of the readiness, the cheerfulness and the liberality of the response made to the application of the Committee and its officers, raise this gift far above any money value, and exhibit it as such a testimony of regard as constitutes it a precious reward for such services as I have been enabled to render in the cause of truth and righteousness during 55 years.

This is a "Jubilee Testimonial." At the jubilee service in Zion Church in October, 1878, there were present a considerable number of old friends of various churches, who had been the companions in former days in such work as we were called to do together. I have not a list of the subscribers in my possession, and do not yet know most of the names that are on the list, but I happen to know that there are some among them who were boys in my Sunday-school class in Montreal 55 years ago. At that early period of my manhood we had a Missionary Society, of which I was Secretary, composed of Presbyterian, Baptist and Congregational dwellers in the city, the design of which was to procure and then to aid in the support of well qualified ministers of Christ in the destitute parts of Upper and Lower Canada. In the sermon delivered on the occasion of the jubilee service just alluded to, mention is made of my reasons for relinquishing commercial engagements here and proceeding to Glasgow, Scotland, for the purpose of being prepared in the University and Theological school there for the work of the Christian Ministry. While thus engaged the interests of Canada were not forgotten; and ministers were sent out to labour here for their Master. The summer of 1832 was spent in Canada; the voyage out being on board the brig "Favorite," Captain James Allen; the work of the summer had reference to educational and missionary plans and movements. Nor were the interests of Canada lost sight of during the three following years of my ministry in Edinburgh, Scotland. But in the year 1836 I became one of the regular ministers of the city, having a small yet intelligent congregation in St. Maurice street. Without at this time alluding to the various forms of denominational action and work which fell into my hands, it is but natural and proper that I should speak of more general work done by my fellows and myself in the interests of the community. We were a small but united hand of ministerial brethren, and of fellow-Christians, who worked for Christ in the Bible, Tract and Sunday-School Societies; also Temperance Association and the French Canadian Missionary Society. We sought to promote, in a broad and Catholic spirit, the higher, yea, the highest, interest; of the general community of which we formed a part. As at present, and for several years now, the father, as to date of commencing my ministry, of the Protestant ministers in this city,

you will perhaps not consider it out of place if I allude to my connection with some of our admirable institutions in their inception or in their early history. The High School for boys is one of them. The late Dean of Montreal and rector of Christ Church, Dr. Bethune, the late Rev. Henry Esson, and some others, among whom I was one, met several times and agreed to its establishment, but deemed it well that the names of clergymen should not appear on the programme, in order that there might be no mistake as to its non-denominational character. For several years the interests of the newly-formed Mercantile Library Association and Mechanics' Institute were promoted by a series of lectures on appropriate subjects principally addressed to the young men connected with them. They could not at the time spend money on lectures-they rather required it to purchase books-our lectures cost them only the attention required in listening to them. When our system of public school education was adopted I occupied the position of Chairman of the Board of Examiners-that is of teachersfor 12 years. I had the happiness of taking part in the efforts to place our noble University on a broader and better foundation. One can look back to the past when there was comparatively little literary taste among the majority of the class in our city which is now eminently intelligent, and can trace somewhat the influence of all these agencies in gradually bringing about the improved condition of things. The actual results of such efforts take time to develop themselves, but they contribute not only a reward for what has been done, but also furnish a stimulus to others to work on in this behalf, that good seed sown shall not be lost. I must not fail to mention the pleasant memories that crowd upon me now of occasional services rendered to my Brethren of the Presbyterian Church-then of four typesalso the Methodist and Baptist Churches. I have had opportunity, in some cases frequently of occupying their pulpits, occasionally as an exchange of services, and at other times to fill up a gap at a time when we had no Theological Colleges with their professors in our city. It is very pleasant to think of such fellowship with these congregations of fellow-Christians; and I thank God for the opportunities then afforded. I have not called your attention to an active ministry in the pulpit as the sole pastor of a church which became very large and influential. Yet, apart from the nearer, more tender and sacred relations to the membership of that church, during more than a generation, I have had abundant evidence of usefulness outside that membership. The Evangelical pulpit is a power in the community, and a power for good. Many, in successive years, who are here temporarily in our Colleges and Medical Schools, carry with them to their homes elevating and holy influences from these services. The strangers passing through our city, and the many who reside here for a short period or more permanently, and who are accustomed to occasionally visit other than their own congregations, come under the influence of such services. Having held tenaciously

to the grand old truths of the Evangelical faith, I believe their enlightening and saving power have been felt by many in successive years.

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ely Differing in these matters from my respected Roman Catholic fellowcitizens, yet I have ever treated them with courtesý, and have, in days that are past, in association with my fellow-Protestants, worked heartily with them in times of conflagration, pestilence and other forms of affliction, and also when we could be helpful to each other apart from seasons of disaster. I take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to several of our French journals for the kind allusions to my work in Montreal at time of the Jubilee Service.

As I do not wish to detain you, let me make only one other allusion. Rather more than one-fourth of the amount of this Testimonial has been contributed by friends in England. The Secretary and the Treasurer of the Colonial Missionary Society and my former associate, Rev. Professor Chapman, have taken great pains in this matter. I thank them and the contributors most heartily. For a period of forty-five years have I had the confidence and regard of that Society while acting for them here. Two years ago the Committee sent me a beautifully illuminated address on the 50th anniversary of my ministry. What a pleasure it is to serve the Master in association with such a Christian brotherhood !

A word in conclusion. Let it not be deemed egotism-I do not mean it as such, but rather as a testimony to an important practical principlewhen, in my old age, I say that I have never, since my entrance into the Christian ministry, toiled for money, or for position, or for fame, but simply have sought to lay myself out for usefulness. One has one's reward in the consciousness of doing good to one's fellow-man, and thus pleasing the Lord. Through His great mercy and by His blessing I have not lacked anything, and then He has prolor.ged my life and has permitted me to reap ! The knowledge of no little good done has been afforded me; and He has given to me what I have already assured you I value very highly indeed,the confidence, the regard and, in many instances, the warm affection of my fellow-citizens, and of my fellow-Christians here and elsewhere, of which this Testimonial is the graceful and generous evidence. Again I thank every subscriber, and pray that all our people and our churches may rise in mental and spiritual stature and efficiency, and that the Good Lord will sena them prosperity.

Addresses were delivered by Rev. G. H. Wells, pastor of the American Presbyterian Church; Rev. J. S. Black, pastor of the Erskine Presbyterian Church; and by Rev. Prof. Shaw, of the Westerne Theological College.

After the Doxology and Benediction by Dr. Stevenson, the meeting closed.

V. TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

GEORGE HAGUE, Honorary Treasurer,

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G. CHENEY, H. W. WALKER.

Montreal, February 24, 1881.

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