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THE
ELEVENTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
QUEBEC DIOCESAN COMMITTEE

OF THE
SOCIETY

Promoting Christian Knowledge.

MONTREAL:
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REPORT.

THE Quebec Diocesan Committee of the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, in laying before the public the Eleventh Annual Report of their proceedings, beg to express their gratitude to the Giver of all good, for the blessing which has attended their labours. The success of their labours has been manifested, not in any ambitious and overstrained excitement of zeal, which is "not according to knowledge," but in that increasing love of scriptural truth, and desire for religious information, which the Christian, while he happily recognizes, can have no difficulty in attributing to the influence of this and similar Institutions, in connection with the other means of divine grace.

Before entering upon the field of their own labors, the Committee wish to say a few words respecting the Parent Society, and the District Committees in the Diocese.

With regard to the former, they rejoice to say, that its operations, both at home and abroad, have been conducted, during the past year, on the same extensive scale as heretofore, and with the same momentous results. Its circulation of Books and Tracts indeed has exceeded that of any preceding year, amounting to no less than 1,656,066.

Of the District Committees they are also happy in being enabled to speak in favorable terms. The Montreal Committee will shortly give to the public the Tenth Annual Report of their proceedings. Their National Schools con-

time to flourish, notwithstanding the severe loss which the Girls' School sustained last summer, in the death of the Mistress, who had been sent out by the National Society the year before. The Niagara District Committee have published a second Report, which is in all respects highly satisfactory; and the Second Report of the Midland District Committee has likewise been laid before the public. A detailed account of the operations of the District Committee at York, has also recently appeared in the public prints.

The Committee have the further satisfaction of noticing the establishment of a new Committee at Coburgh in the Upper Province, under the denomination of the "Newcastle District Committee." The Bishop of Quebec presided at its formation, and His Lordship speaks favorably of the zeal of its supporters and its prospects of future success.

1. The Committee proceed now to the *first* branch of their operations—the distribution of Books and Tracts.—The sale of these at the Repository, during the past year, amount to £76 1 6, to the public generally, and £63 4 11, to the Bishop of Quebec; making a total of £139 6 5.—The whole amount of sales to His Lordship to this date, on account of the Parent Society's grant, is £204 17 8. Books have been supplied by the Bishop, since the last Report, to the undermentioned Clergymen and School Masters:—

CLERGYMEN.

To the Revd. ——— Fleming,	Hallowell, in the Upper Province.
“ ——— Hart,	Beckwith, do.
“ A. H. Burwell,	Lennoxville and Ascot, in Lower Canada.
“ L. Doolittle,	Bay of Chaleurs, District of Gaspé.

SCHOOLMASTERS UNDER THE ROYAL INSTITUTION.

To Mr. R. Swanson,	Frampton.
“ J. O'Neill,	St. Charles La Belle Alliance.
“ J. Harrison,	St. John.
“ J. S. Tuzo,	L'Ance au Beaufils, (Gaspé).

Books have also been supplied for the use of Sunday Schools, and for other objects, in the Township of Stoneham, Broughton, Brampton, Melbourne, Durham and Clarendon on the river Ottawa. They have been furnished to the Revd. G. Archbold, the Revd. R. R. Burrage, and the Revd. A. Norman, for gratuitous distribution on their ministerial circuits, in the adjacent Townships and elsewhere; and they have been circulated in the same way by the Clergy, in this city and neighbourhood, to the amount of £12 13 1. The cost of those supplied during the past year, to the National School, is £14 15; and a debt of long standing to the District Committee at Kingston, has been liquidated, by the transmission of Books and Tracts to the value of £25 3 10.

A Lending Library in the Gaol, established last year by the Archdeacon of Quebec, has also been furnished with books from the Repository, to the amount of £12 7 3; and the Committee have the satisfaction of stating, that they are eagerly sought after by the prisoners, in whose habits and conduct there is an improvement, which, if not *marked*, is at least *certain*, and may be expected to be progressive.—To this desirable end the Schools which have been opened in the Prison, under the auspices of a Society recently formed in this city, with a view to ameliorate their morals and condition, will no doubt mainly contribute.

It may be proper to remark, that some alterations have lately been made in the price of the books, both to members and the public, in consequence of the new terms, on which Foreign Committees are now supplied by the Parent Society; and it is also in contemplation to print a fresh Catalogue, which is much required on many accounts, but particularly by reason of the change of prices.

The books alluded to in the last Report, as having been ordered by the Lord Bishop, arrived in due course, to the amount of £193 11 4 sterling. There is now a tolerable stock on hand at the Repository, which it is proposed, however, still further to increase by books to the value of about £75, an order for which is prepared, and will be immediately remitted. This will be accompanied by a Bill of Exchange for £100, which will reduce the debt to the Parent Society, exclusive of the new order, to £91 19 7 sterling. The debt to Messrs. Rivingtons, will also be reduced at the same time to £16 16 6 sterling, by an order upon the Society for Propagating the Gospel, to the amount of £10 sterling, for books furnished to the Revd. J. Grier, Missionary at the Carrying-Place, Township of Murray, in the Upper Province. The balance remaining in the Treasurer's hands is £61 11 3.

2. The Committee now turn to their labours in the department of Education, and particularly to the National School. The whole number of children, who have been received into this School, since its first foundation in November 1819, is, Boys, 2554—Girls, 1145—in all 3699; a fact which sufficiently proves the urgent necessity which existed for its establishment, as well as the success which has attended its operations. The number now on the list is much the same as at the period of the last Report.

The annual public examination of the children took place at the National School-house on the 19th of January last. The total number present were—Boys, 115—Girls, 85—203.

The examination commenced, as usual, with prayer, and the routine was observed, as in former years. The children in general read and spelt with distinctness and accuracy, and in their writing and arithmetic, there was a very marked

improvement; but the value of the system is best seen in their advancement in RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE, which forms a most important feature in the character of this and similar Institutions. In their answers to the questions from "Fisher's Spelling-Book," "The Church Catechism," and "Crossman's Introduction," the several classes acquitted themselves to the entire satisfaction of all present, and evinced a promptitude and intelligence, which would have done credit to persons of maturer years. In the Girls' School, samples of needlework were exhibited, as usual, and the performance of a poor dumb girl attracted particular notice. The recitations at the close of the examination were given with much spirit, particularly a dialogue between two boys, from the National School Magazine, [vol. 1. p. 17,] on the merits of those Institutions. The whole was concluded by an appropriate Hymn sung by the children of both Schools, who were assembled in the Boys' School-room for the purpose. The prizes in the Girls' School were distributed by the Ladies' Committee, and in the Boys' by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese. His Excellency Sir James Kempt honored the examination with his presence. It is but justice to the conductors of the School to state, that, being strictly a charitable Institution, it is of course particularly affected by the transient and fluctuating nature of the poor population of this city. Few of the children comparatively—very little more than a *third* of the whole number—were present at the last examination, and of these not more than one *half* have been at all regular in their attendance since that period.

Deeply impressed with the importance of a constant and vigilant superintendence to the welfare of these Institutions, the Committee of Management of the Boys' School have

provided for a *daily* inspection by the visitors. The good effects of this arrangement have been manifested in the increased attendance and improved behaviour of the children, as well as in additional attention to cleanliness and good order.

The efficiency of the Sunday School is such, as to leave but little room for improvement; and it is to this branch of their labors that the Committee look with peculiar satisfaction. The zeal of the voluntary Teachers—both male and female, is unremitting, and demands the warmest acknowledgments of the Committee. The attendance of the children also, whose numbers have not materially varied since the last Report, is as regular and punctual as can be expected; and the influence of the religious instruction they receive, upon their moral habits and conduct, is such as to promise by the divine blessing, when they go out into the world, a rich and plentiful harvest of fruit unto life everlasting.

An equally satisfactory account may be given of the Sunday Schools in different parts of the Province, from which communications have been received since the last Report. They are all without exception doing well; all productive of benefits to an extent, which will never be fully ascertained in this world; and this is particularly the case in the remoter Districts, where their natural tendency is to obviate those evils, which must otherwise result, amidst the engrossing occupations of a Settler's life, from the disuse of divine ordinances, and the want of regular public instruction on the Sabbath.

The sums expended since the last Report, in clothing poor children belonging to the National Schools, amount to £17 3 9, for the Boys, and to £18 9 2, for the Girls. It

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seems desirable that the Boys' fund should not in future depend upon contingencies, but should be supported, like the Girls', by a regular annual contribution. This the Committee conceive there would be no difficulty in effecting.

The Committee must not omit their grateful acknowledgments for a grant of £100 from the Legislature, towards the support of the National School for the current year.

The Military Schools in the Garrison (Royal Artillery, 15th and 66th Regiments) continue to be taught, according to the Madras System, by highly competent Masters: and the proficiency of the Protestant children in religious knowledge is in *many* instances remarkable, and in *all* satisfactory. They attend, as heretofore, at the National School on Sundays, and set an example of regularity and good order, which is highly praiseworthy and deserving of imitation.

To the Christmas Dinner it is no longer necessary to advert; but the exertions of the Ladies, who superintend the Female School, in the new task which they have undertaken, are beyond all praise, and demand more ample notice. The appropriation of £220 to the establishment of an ASYLUM FOR FEMALE ORPHANS was mentioned in the last Report. Of this amount, the sum of £110 has been expended in fitting up rooms, admirably adapted for the purpose, in the upper part of the National School House, and £50 in providing the establishment with beds, bedding, kitchen utensils and other necessary articles of furniture.— Due preparation having been made for the event, the Asylum was opened on the 5th of March last, in the presence of the Lord Bishop, the Archdeacon, and several of the Clergy, the Ladies' Committee of the National School, under whose direction, as has been already stated, the Institution was established, and one or two other persons, (the confined

nature of the accommodation precluding the admission of a larger number,) who are particularly interested in the undertaking. Several portions of Holy writ, from the Books of Deuteronomy, Job, the Psalms of David, St. Matthew's Gospel, the Acts of the Apostles, and the general Epistle of St. James, were read by the Archdeacon, with some brief application to the interesting occasion. After this, appropriate prayers were offered up, consisting of Collects from the Liturgy; and the ceremony was concluded, with the exception of a short Collect and the Blessing, with a beautiful and affecting Prayer, prepared for the occasion by the Archdeacon. The Asylum at present contains eight children, including the poor dumb girl, of whom mention has been already made. The attention of the public is earnestly invited to the establishment, which, it is to be hoped, will be found in all respects, worthy of their notice.

The proceeds of the BAZAAR the week after Easter exceeded every expectation, which the most sanguine could possibly have entertained, and were such as to enable the Ladies, after giving £200 to other charities, to appropriate the large sum of £360 11 11½ to the support of the Asylum. May they proceed with unabated ardour in their benevolent undertaking, and do thou, O Lord, "prosper the work of their hands upon them! O prosper thou their handy-work."

The Committee have now but a few words to offer, before they conclude. We live in times, when a spurious liberality has usurped the place of religion, and the advocate of a spiritual worship, and of distinctions in formularies of faith, is sure to subject himself to the charge of *narrow mindedness*, if he escape the graver imputation of *hypocrisy*. The Committee presume not to call in question either the integrity of motive or correctness of policy of those distinguished

characters, who have thought fit to throw down those bulwarks which the wisdom of our ancestors had erected as the safeguard of our reformed religion. But no reasonable man can deny that the best substitute for such a safeguard must be found in an increase of associations for "promoting Christian knowledge," on the pure and enlightened principles of Protestantism, and in increasing zeal and diligence on the part of those which already exist. Against the Church of Christ, based on the everlasting rock of truth, we are assured, and we confidently rely upon the assurance—that the powers of darkness, however successful they may seem for a season—the gates of Hell itself shall not ultimately prevail. The arm of the flesh is but a feeble safeguard, compared with those weapons of heavenly temper which are drawn from the armoury of God. These, "quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword," shall pierce "even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow; mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds," and "casting down imaginations and every high thought that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God" and of his Christ.—Armed with this celestial panoply, with "the breast-plate of righteousness, the shield of faith, and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God,—having his loins girt about with truth, and his feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace,"—the Christian shall go forth to the spiritual conflict, in humble and distant imitation of "the great Captain of his salvation, conquering and to conquer," till every barrier surmounted and every foe overcome, he win his triumphant way into that "City of the living God, whose walls are SALVATION, and whose gates PRAISE."

It is with these feelings and convictions, that the Committee offer up their earnest prayers to the Almighty, that he will so abundantly pour down "the dew of his blessing" upon *their* labours, and the labour of those who are associated in the same great and glorious cause, that the happy time may soon arrive, when "the kingdom of Heaven shall come;" when "the Gospel of the blessed God shall be preached to every creature;" when "all men shall come into the knowledge of the truth," and all nations, having an interest in "the Lord our righteousness," shall "see the salvation of God."

By desire of the Committee,

J. L. MILLS, D. D.

Secretary.

Quebec, May 28, 1829.