## THE

# FIRST REPORT <br> of the <br> TORONTO <br> <br> LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATION, 

 <br> <br> LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATION,}

To Marcit 31st, 1847.

TORONTO:
PRINTED FOR THE LADIES' BIBLE ASSOCIATION.
MDCCCXLVII.

## Toronto $\mathfrak{\text { Ladies' Bible Association. }}$

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For 1847.

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" R. BURNS,
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## REP0RT.

The Toronto Ladies' Bible Association was formed on the 26th August, 1846, in the Rev. Mr. Jennings' Church, with the view, chiefly, of increasing the circulation of the Word of God in Toronto and its vicinity.

The city has been divided into twenty districts, to each of which two ladies (members of Committee) have been appointed, with liberty to employ as many assistants in the work as they shall find necessary; but being themselves responsible for the way in which it is performed,

The duty of the Collectors is to call upon every family in their district, to ascertain from the humbler ranks (in such a way as not to give offence) whether they have Bibles; and to offer, in case they are not sufficiently supplied, to receive subscriptions to the amount, and at such stated seasons as shall be found most convenient.

Some collectors find it necessary to call weekly; thus, the poorest can generally spare a penny; while double this amount might not be obtained, did a fortnight intervene. In other districts, monthly or semi-monthly visits are found sufficient. There are but few who cannot supply themselves with Bibles in this way, in a country where the price of labour is so high, and especially when a copy of the Scriptures may be obtained at so moderate a rate.

It is well known that most persons will prize more highly what they have paid for, than what they have received gratuitously. Many of the subscribers, however, state, that they could not have paid for a Bible at once, and, indeed, that they would not have thought of buying one, had not the visitors for the Association suggested it to them.

The Bible has, in a good many cases, by our means, been put into the hands of those who never had it before. "W. B.," writes a lady, "said he had never possessed a copy of the Scriptures, but was anxious to procure one. He soon increased his subscription, that he might the earlier receive it." "I have not," said another person, on being applied to, "had a Bible since I was a little child; but I will gladly subscribe for one now."

But a small proportion of Protestant families, however, are found without at least one copy of the Word of God. A good many have been supplied by the various Sabbath Schools of the city. In many cases, however, the type is too small for aged persons to read. "We have a Bible," said an elderly woman to the collectors by whom she was visited, "but it is too small for my old eyes. My children read to me; but, oh !

I would like sometimes to read a chapter for myself." This woman has since been supplied.

A considerable number of subscribers for Family Bibles has been obtained. Many are prevented from purchasing them, from their comparatively high price, although they may desire to have them; and they gladly avail themselves of the opportunity given them, of supplying themselves through our Association. They can spare a small sum weekly towards this valuable addition to their family library, although they could not have paid the whole at once.
The Ladies' Association has adopted the system of a loan-stock, that is, keeping on hard a supply of Bibles and Testaments, to be lent when found necessary. Most of those who have applied, are persons subscribing for Bibles, who retain the loan till they receive their own; others are poor persons, unable to contribute.

It has been thought, that they would be less likely to sell or injure the books, when given as a loan; though they will never be recalled, if the receivers wish to retain them.

After supplying the poor of Toronto, the overplus of money arising from the free subscriptions is added to the funds of the Upper Canada Bible Society, whose claims being now before the public, do not here require our advocacy. It is not intended that the Ladies' Association should at all interfere with the regular subscriptions of the parent Society; our money being generally collected from females and children, to some extent from a class not likely to have been called upon otherwise, although able and willing to give a small sum.

The money is collected weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually, as best suits the subscriber. The payment of 2 s .6 d . a-year renders one a member of the Society; consequently, $7 \frac{1}{2} d$. quarterly is all that is wanted; and surely there are few who cannot give so trifling a sum. Two of the collectors met with a gentleman, during their visits, who, after subscribing himself, asked his children if they were willing to save, out of their own little fund, $7 \frac{1}{2} d$. every three months, to assist the Bible cause, Having answered in the affirmative, their names were at once entered in the subscription-book.

How easily might parents induce their children to make such an exertion! Every child has something at his disposal, and too often spends his money in such a way as to do harm instead of good.

We must bear testimony to the willingness with which the labouring classes have contributed their mite. The visitors have, in many cases, met with a kinder reception from them than from those who had more to give. "A poor widow," writes a lady, "gave me her name, as a free contributor, for a penny a-week, testifying that the Lord had fulfilled to her his blessed promise: 'I will be a father to the fatherless, and a husband to the widow ;' and what she could spare, she said, she would cheerfully give to the Lord, who had supplied all her wants for fourteen years."

The visitors for our Association have many ways of being useful, besides the distribution of the Sacred Scriptures.

Many have Bibles, who made little use of them ; there is an excellent opportunity of calling their attention to the sin they are thus committing, and to the fact that they are shutting themselves out from the Fountain of all Truth, the richest source of comfort.
"One woman," says a visitor, " showed us her Bible, which she had received from her minister, on leaving Ireland last year; it seemed scarcely to have been opened, but she promised to begin to read it." "Another woman, in the same house, said she had a Testament; she produced it, covered with dust, evidently little used." "L. S.," writes another lady, "has been anxious to subscribe from the first, but was prevented by her husband, an infidel. Left him a tract, ' On the Advantages of Distributing the Scriptures,' which he read with care. His wife is now at liberty to aid the good cause."
"One woman," say the collectors for another district, "has interested us very much. She has not attended any place of worship regularly. When we first visited her, she was residing with a family, who did not care about our calling. She removed, however, to another part of the house, and left word that she wished to see us. Her mind was much distressed, on account of her sins. She spoke freely of her past misconduct, and subscribed for a Bible, saying it would be a great comfort to her."
" We have great cause for encouragement," states the report from the same district; "the subscribers who have received their Bibles, seem to value them much, and promise to make them their daily study."

## Much ignorance has been met with.

"One woman," says a visitor, "shewed us a string of beads, saying, ' that is all the Bible I require to take me to Heaven.' Another, a mother of a family, on being asked if she had a Bible, said 'What is that ?' 'Did you never hear of the Word of God?' 'No, I never heard of it!'" But even amongst those who are in a great measure shut out from the use of this Holy Book, some good has been done. "M. C., a Roman Catholic girl, in a Protestant family, very willingly agreed to subscribe for a Bible, contributed $4 d$. our first visit, and next time we called, said she wished to pay for it at once."
"The Roman Catholic girl to whom a Bible was lent last month, stated to us, at our last visit, that she read it at all her spare moments, and frequently to her sick mother, also a Roman Catholic."

An opportunity is given for relieving the temporal wants of the poor persons visited.
"We have found our visits," write two of our collectors, "to the houses of the poor very useful, during the past month (December). They stand much in need of assistance at this season of the year. Our frequent visits give us an excellent opportunity of judging who are objects really worthy of relief, and of interesting others in their behalf. We have in this way been able to assist a number of poor persons, in our district, who might never otherwise have been found out. Above all, we have opportunities afforded us of conversing with them on those sub-
jects which belong to their everlasting peace. Though the work is arduous, it is very pleasing. The poor always receive our visits gratefully."

The following statement shows what has been done by the Association, during the past seven months :

Number of subscribers for Bibles, 167.
Number of copies received, 73 Bibles, 17 Testaments.
Number of Copies distributed, 55 Bibles, 11 Testaments.
Number of subscribers yet to be supplied, 101,
The loan-stock consists of 18 Bibles and 6 Testaments.
ANNUAL SUMMARY.

| Months. |  |  | Total. |  | ¿. <br>  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1846. September.......... .. | $\begin{array}{rcc}5 & s & \\ 5 & 15 \\ 5 & 15 & 5\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{rrrr}\text { \& } & \text { s. } & d . \\ 0 & 11 & 11\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{lll}6 & s . & d \\ 6 & 7 & 4\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{rrr}8 & s . & d . \\ 0 & 0 & 0\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{ccc} \pm & 8 . & d . \\ 0 & 0 & 0\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{lll}8 & 8, & d . \\ 0 & 0 & 0\end{array}$ |
| September . . . . . . . . . . . . | $\begin{array}{rrrr}5 & 15 & 5 \\ 3 & 13 & 11\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{llll}0 & 11 & 11 \\ 3 & 13 & 1\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{lll}6 & 7 & 4 \\ 7 & 7 & 0\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{lll}0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{ll}0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{ll}0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0\end{array}$ |
| November .. . . . . . . . . . | 8180 | 280 ¢ | $11.60 \frac{1}{2}$ | 000 | 0000 | $\begin{array}{lll}0 & 0 & 0\end{array}$ |
| December $1847 .$ | 4361 | 5 2 61 | $\begin{array}{llll}9 & 6 & 1 \\ \end{array}$ | 000 | 000 | 000 |
| January .. . . . . . . . . . . | 1119 | 728 | 814 | $0 \quad 0 \quad 0$ | 818 31 | 0000 |
| February ....... ..... | 218101 | $\begin{array}{lll}3 & 1 & 1\end{array}$ | $51911 \frac{1}{2}$ | $\begin{array}{llll}0 & 0 & 0\end{array}$ | 000 | 0 0 0 |
| March .. .. ........... | $22^{2}$ | 46001 | 6811 | 3000 | 8141 | 4126 |
|  | $\begin{array}{lll}29 & 3 & 7\end{array}$ | 26 5 $4 \frac{1}{3}$ | $55 \quad 8 \quad 11 \frac{1}{8}$ | 3000 | 1712 4if | 4126 |

Total amount received this year, as above, .$£ 55 \quad 311 \frac{1}{2}$
Total amount paid out this year, as above. $52410 \frac{1}{2}$

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\end{array}
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The Report has been made up to this date, that, in future, the year may end at the same time as that of the Upper Canada Bible Society.

In laying before you the amount of work done during the above-mentioned time, we would state that we have had much difficulty in procuring a sufficient number of active visitors; and that, in consequence, five of the districts have never been taken up. Indeed, but a small proportion of them have been visited from the commencement of the Association.

We would also take this opportunity of appealing to the ladies of Toronto, to come forward and help us. The work is laborious, and can only be fully accomplished by sub-division. Those who cannot take a whole district, may take a part.

We feel that great advantages are likely to arise from this Association. It is common ground, on which Christians of all denominations may meet; and we trust that it will go far to break down that sectarian spirit there has been so much cause to deplore.

Good has resulted from it already. We have found it pleasant to work together $\cdot d$ hope that soon a union may be effected, for carrying out other schemes of benevolence.
If we are the servants of the same Master, why should we not unite in carrying on the common work? There is no better ground, on which all may meet, than the spreading of the pure Word of God. Surcly no one who has felt how refreshing to her own soul have been the words drawn from that Sacred Fountain-who has felt that for every sorrow, every discouragement, every doubt, every fear, there is some sweet promise there,-will hold back, if she have the time at her disposal. "My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness."

# SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS 

FOR THE
Toronto $\mathbf{A}$ adics' Bible $\mathfrak{A s s o c i a t i o n . ~}$
[Note.-A. means Annual-Q.Q. Quarterly-M. Monthly-W. Weekly, and D. Donation].




## Collectors on the several Districts.

$1 \& 2$. Including the entire space east of Parliament-strect-No. 2 to be taken by Mrs. Farr and Mrs. Beekman.
3. From Parliament-street west to Market-street; south by the Bay, and north by King-street-Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Kneeshaw and Miss Gale.
4. Bounded: east by Yonge-street; west, Bay-street, north, King-street, and south, Market-street-Mrs. Brett, Mrs. J. Lesslie, Miss Crofts and Miss A. Christie.
5. Bounded: east by Yonge-street; west, York-street; soutn by the Bay, and north by King-street-Mrs. Wm. A. Baldwin and Mrs. Doctor Burns.
6. Bounded: east by Y.grk-street; west, Peter-street; south by the Bay, and north by King-stre:t-Mrs. Esson, Miss Wilson, Miss Gale and Miss Shaw.
7. Bounded: east by Peter-street; west, Bathurst-street; south by the Bay, and north by King-street-Not yet supplied.
8. Bounded: west by Bathurst-street; east, Peter-street; south, King-street, and north by Queen-street-Mrs. T. Ewart, Mrs. Mather and Miss Battersbie.
9. Bounded: west by Peter-street; east, York-street; south, King-street, and north by Queen-street-Mrs. Cooney and Mrs. E. Bell.
10. Bounded: west by York-street; east, Yonge-street; south, King-street, and north by Queen-street-Miss Van Der Smissen, Mrs. Van Der Smissen, Mrs. Drummond, Mrs. Carrol and Mrs. Harper.
11. Bounded: west by Yonge-street; east, Nelson-street; south, King-street, and north by Queen-street-Miss Brown, Misses Isabella and M. Brown.
12. Bounded: west by Nelson-street; east, Parliament-street; south, Kingstreet, and north by Queen-street-Miss Carbert and Miss Langley.
13. Bounded: east by Church-street; west, James-street; south, Queen-street, and north by Crookshank's-lane-Mrs. Roaf, Mrs. Rahn and Miss Thomas.
14. Bounded: east by James-street; west, College Avenue; south by Queenstreet, and north, line of Crookshank's-lane-Miss Urquhart.
15. Bounded: east by College Avenue; west, Peter-street; south, Queen-street, and north, line of Crookshank's-lane-Mrs. Towler and Mrs. Thompson.
16. Bounded: east by Peter-street; west, Crookshank's-lane; south, Queenstreet, and north, north line of Crookshank's-lane-Not supplied.
17. South side Agnes-street, and Alice-street, from Yonge-street to College Avenue-Mrs. Salt, Mrs. Wm. Lesslie and Miss Wickson.
18. Mrs. Harvard and Mrs. Wilson
19. Including the south side of Edward-street, north side of Agnes-street, Yonge-street and College Avenue-Mrs. Stitt.
20. Bounded: east by Church-street; west, Yonge-street; south, Crookshank'sstreet, and north by Carlton-street-Mrs. Rose and Miss Simpson.
21. A new District-Mrs. Fairbanks and Miss Telfer.

2 to be taken $y$, and north $g$-street, and and Miss A.
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(Ty The Public are respectfully informed, that Bibles and Testaments, with the Scotch Metrical Versions of Psalms and Paraphrases, are on sale by the "Upper Canada Religious Tract and Book Society,"

\author{
A. T. McCORD, <br> R. A. FYFE,,$~\}$ Secretaries.

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