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Mr. E. C. Tupper

FIRST

Annual Report

OF THE

BRITISH AND CANADIAN

SCHOOL SOCIETY,

PRESENTED AND ADOPTED

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

ON

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1823.

WITH A

List of the Subscribers and Benefactors.



Montreal:

PRINTED BY BOWMAN AND SPARHAWK,

1823.

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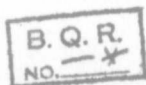
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BRITISH AND FOREIGN
School Society.

HIS MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY
KING GEORGE THE FOURTH,
An Annual Subscriber of £100.

VICE-PATRONS,
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF SUSSEX.
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF SAXE-COBOURG.

PRESIDENT,
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

VICE-PRESIDENTS,
The Most Noble the MARQUIS of LANSDOWN.
The Most Noble the MARQUIS of HASTINGS.
The Most Noble the MARQUIS of TAVISTOCK.
The Right Hon. the Earl of DARNLEY.
The Right Hon. the EARL of ROSSLYN.
The Right Hon. the EARL of FINGALL.
The Right Rev. the LORD BISHOP of NORWICH.
The Right Hon. LORD CARRINGTON.
The Right Hon. LORD CLIFFORD.
The Right Hon. LORD EARDEY.
The Right Hon. LORD SUFFIELD.
The Hon. Lord Chief Commissioner ADAM.
Sir JOHN SWINBURNE, Bart.
Sir JAMES MACINTOSH M. P.
Sir ALEXANDER JOHNSTON.
HENRY BROUGHAM, Esq. M. P.
CHARLES BARCLAY, Esq.
J. BUTTERWORTH, Esq. M. P.
THOMAS F. BUXTON, Esq. M. P.
J. H. HARRINGTON, Esq.
WILLIAM SMITH, Esq. M. P.
JOHN SMITH, Esq. M. P.
W. WILBERFORCE, Esq. M. P.
WILLIAM WILLIAMS, Esq. M. P.

TREASURER,
WILLIAM ALLEN, Esq.

SECRETARY

FOREIGN SEC'Y.
Rev. Dr. SCHWABE.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Mr. JAMES MILLAR, Museum-st. Bloomsbury.

COLLECTOR,
Mr. BENJAMIN LEPARD, Punderson-place, Bethnal-green

CONSTITUTION OF THE BRITISH AND CANADIAN SCHOOL SOCIETY.

AT a Meeting of Gentlemen in Montreal, held on the 21st September, 1822, for the purpose of taking into consideration the state of the Children of the Labouring Classes of Society, of the said Town and its vicinity :—

DANIEL FISHER, Esq. in the Chair.

It appearing to this Meeting, that the state of the Children of the Labouring Classes of the People, and the deficiency of their education, render it highly necessary, that some effectual mode be adopted for the improvement of their morals, and for affording them a proper education.

Resolved—That the plan of the British and Foreign School Society, on account of its liberal principle, and its great simplicity and economy, appears to be best adapted to this end.

That for the purpose of promoting the important objects of this meeting, a Society be formed; and denominated "The British and Canadian School Society," for the education of the children of the labouring class of the people, and the improvement of their morals.

That the children of all labouring people or mechanics, residing within the city of Montreal and its neighbourhood, are proper objects of this institution.

Government of the Society, and Privileges of Subscribers and Governors.

That all Subscribers of twenty shillings a year, or of five pounds in one donation, be entitled to have one child continually in the School, except as after mentioned, (and so in proportion for any larger sum;) and also be Governors of the Society, and as such, eligible to be Members of the Committee, and to vote and be present at the general Meetings.

That no children be admitted until they have completed their sixth year.

That whenever the number of children admitted into the school shall be within twenty of the number determined by the Committee to be received, no children under the age of eight years shall be admitted, and the eldest of the then applicants shall be preferred.

That all absent Subscribers may recommend children by proxy.

That all Subscriptions shall become due on the 1st October in each year, and no Governor shall be entitled to vote at general meetings, or recommend scholars, during such time as his subscription is in arrear.

General and Special Meetings,

That a general Meeting of the Governors be held every year, on the first Tuesday in September, at which meeting, the proceedings of the Committee (appointed as after mentioned) for the preceding year, shall be read, and if approved, confirmed, and the funds and the state of the School considered, and a report thereof for the information of the Subscribers, approved, and such additional regulations and resolutions adopted as may be deemed necessary, and a President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary and other Members of the Committee elected, or re-elected.

That Special Committee, or seven days proposed to be signed at the least ten gavelled to vote subsequent to such

That this Secretary and That Hor. L. J. Papineau, Treasurer, William

MESSRS. F. N. O. D. J. A.

the Committee

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That Special Meetings of the Governors be called at the request of the Committee, (seven or more of them being present) or by twelve Governors, seven days previous notice being given thereof, and of the business proposed to be transacted.

That no question be decided by ballot unless demanded in writing and signed at the general Meeting (wherein the question shall arise) by at least ten governors, and that all Female and absent Governors be entitled to vote by proxy, at such ballot which shall be taken seven days subsequent to such general Meeting.

Committee.

That this Society be under the direction of a Committee of sixteen Governors, consisting of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, a Secretary and eleven other Governors, with power to add to their number.

That Horatio Gates Esq. be President, the Honble. C. W. Grant, and L. J. Papineau, Esqrs. Vice Presidents, Kenneth Dowie, Esq. the Treasurer, William Lunn, Esq. the Secretary, and

MESSRS. F. A. LAROCQUE,
N. B. DOUCET,
O. BERTHELET,
DAVID HANDYSIDE,
JAMES CARSUELL,
A. FERGUSON,

MESSRS. M. SCOTT,
D. FISHER,
JNO. MACKENZIE,
JNO. TORRANCE,
J. FROTHINGHAM.

the Committee, with power to add to their number.

That the Committee meet on the first Monday in every calendar month, three members whereof shall constitute a meeting.

That the Committee may fill up any vacancy (not being that of a President or Vice Presidents) which may happen therein during the interval of the general yearly meeting; the governors being proposed at one, and elected at the ensuing monthly meeting.

That any three members of the Committee may call a special meeting thereof, specifying in writing the business to be submitted thereto, and which the Secretary shall insert in the summons.

That no member of the Committee be employed in any business respecting the Society, for which he is to receive a pecuniary compensation.

That the Committee publish yearly a report of the state of the Society, after the approbation thereof by the yearly meeting.

That the Committee shall appoint the School-Master, and all the inferior officers of the Society, and form temporary regulations, for the management of the School, which shall be in force until the next general meeting; but no longer unless then confirmed.

That no book, pamphlet or other paper, be introduced into the School without being first presented to, and approved of by the Committee, and that the general reading lessons be confined to the Holy Scriptures, or extracts therefrom, and lessons for spelling and Arithmetic.

That in case there shall be room for more Children than the subscribers shall be entitled to recommend, the Committee shall be at liberty to fill up the number, and also to appoint Children to any vacancies, occasioned by the omission of subscribers to recommend, but without prejudice to the privilege of subscribers, regulated as after mentioned.

Treasurer.

That the Treasurer shall receive all sums of money paid for the use of the Society, and give such security for the faithful discharge of his office, as the Committee shall deem sufficient, and that he make all payments sanctioned by the Committee, and lay before them, at each monthly meeting, a list, (to be prepared and delivered him by the collector) of all such Subscribers as shall be in arrears for three months and also, a statement of his accounts which shall be audited, balanced and delivered to the then next yearly meeting.

Scholars' Recommendations &c.

That every recommendation of a child to the School, shall be signed by a subscriber, and shall specify the parents names, places of abode, number in family, occupation, circumstances, (or average of weekly earnings,) and denomination of religion; also the name and age of the child recommended; which, recommendation shall be left with the Master, who shall enter the same in the register of candidates, and submit it to the then next monthly meeting of the Committee.

That if any Child so recommended shall be rejected by the Committee as ineligible, or in the event of a vacancy happening with respect to any of the said children, the Subscriber recommending such child, shall immediately be informed thereof by a written notice signed by the master. Whereupon such Subscriber shall be at liberty to recommend another child to supply the vacancy, but if such Subscriber shall neglect to do so for two weeks after notice shall be sent, the Committee shall fill up such vacancy and the Subscriber lose his recommendation for that time.

That no child shall be admitted with any infectious disorder, and that the Children come to School properly washed, and with their hair cut short and combed.

That the School hours be from nine to twelve in the morning, and from two to five in the afternoon from the first of April to the first of November, and from two to four in the other months.

That the Children shall attend every Sunday at those places for worship to which by their recommendation they appear to belong; for which purpose they shall assemble at the School room on that day sufficiently early to go from thence to their respective places for worship.

Inspectors.

That the Committee shall at each of their monthly meetings appoint two Inspectors for the ensuing month, who shall attend at least, twice in each week, at the School room, for the purpose of ascertaining the progress of the Children in their learning.—They shall minute in a book the time of their attendance; and after having inspected the master's reports, &c. they shall enter any remarks thereon, and on any other matter respecting the School which they deem proper in the said book, and sign the same; which shall be laid before the then next monthly meeting of the Committee.

That the two Inspectors for the preceding month be requested to attend every Sunday at the School room, early enough to see the Scholars proceed from thence to their respective places for worship, headed by their Master, and also such of the Committee and Subscribers or other persons, as may with the approbation of the Committee consent to attend for that

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purpose, who are to report to the Master in writing on the ensuing Monday, the conduct of the Scholars during their attendance at their several places for worship, and also the names of the absentees.

Schoolmaster.

That the Schoolmaster shall attend every Sunday at the School room, for the purpose of properly arranging the Scholars previous to their setting out for their respective places for worship, and of taking an account of the absentees.—He shall also accompany, and take the oversight of such boys as go to the place for worship he attends.

That the Schoolmaster shall enter or cause to be entered, daily in a book, an account of the absentees from School, and from their respective places for worship on Sundays, and shall keep a weekly account of the cause of such absence. He shall produce such accounts to the Inspectors and also make a monthly report of the same to the Committee, adding an account of the Children who have passed from class to class, in consequence of proficiency in learning during the preceding month—and of the rewards distributed.

That the Committee endeavour speedily to procure an account of the number of Children, and their ages, who are now in Montreal, and its vicinity having no prospect of education.

That a subscription for promoting the object of this meeting be immediately opened, and that K. Dowie, Esqr. the Treasurer, and Messrs. O. Berthelet, Jno. Mackenzie, Scott and Lunn, be appointed to receive the same.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting.

DANIEL FISHER,
Chairman.

FORMATION OF THE LADIES COMMITTEE.

AT a Meeting convened in the School-House on the 17th December 1822 for the purpose of establishing a Ladies Committee to assist in the management of the British and Canadian School for girls :

HORATIO GATES, Esq.—IN THE CHAIR,

It was proposed, and

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY :

1st. That a committee be now formed to assist in conducting the British and Canadian School for girls, consisting of a President, Secretary, and thirteen other members.

2nd. That Mrs. LUNN, be the President, Miss DAY the Secretary, and

Mrs. Bancroft,	Miss Adams,
Mrs. Ferguson,	Mrs. D. Fisher,
Mrs. Gates,	Mrs. Jno. Mackenzie,
Mrs. N. Jones,	Miss Bancroft,
Mrs. Frothingham,	Mrs. Day,
Mrs. Jno. Torrance,	Mrs. J. Hall,
Miss Ermatinger,	

The Committee,

With power to add to their number, and to obtain such further patronage as they may deem suitable.

3d. That the Regulations of the British and Canadian School Society, be adopted in conducting the school for girls.

4th. That a subscription for promoting the object of this meeting be immediately opened.

H. GATES, CHAIRMAN.

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MITTEE.

PATRON,

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE EARL OF DALHOUSIE,

GOVERNOR IN CHIEF.

CHAIR,

PRESIDENT,

HORATIO GATES, ESQ.

VICE-PRESIDENTS,

Hon. L. J. PAPINEAU, Esq. M. P.

PETER M'GILL, Esq.

F. A. LAROCQUE, Esq.

A. FERGUSON, Esq.—TREASURER.

WM. LUNN, Esq.—SECRETARY.

COMMITTEE.

MESSRS. O. BERTHELET,

D. HANDYSIDE,

J. CARSUILL,

D. FISHER,

JNO. TORRANCE,

MICHAEL SCOTT,

AND DR. KIMBER.

MESSRS. JNO. FROTHINGHAM.

JNO. MACKENZIE,

THOMAS GUGY,

JOSEPH MASSON,

ANDREW SHAW,

GEORGE DAVIES.

The Committee meet on the first Monday in every month.

CHAIRMAN.

FEMALE DEPARTMENT.



PATRONESS,

RIGHT HON. THE COUNTESS OF DALHOUSIE.



PRESIDENT.

MRS. LUNN.

SECRETARY.

MISS DAY.

COMMITTEE.

MRS. BANCROFT,	MRS. D. FISHER,
MRS. FROTHINGHAM,	MISS ADAMS,
MRS. N. JONES,	MISS HOLMES,
MRS. JNO. TORRANCE,	MISS BANCROFT,
MRS. FERGUSON,	MISS BUCHANAN,
MRS. J. HALL,	MISS ARNOLDI,
MRS. JNO. MACKENZIE,	MRS. MONK.
MISS ERMATINGER,	MRS. ORKNEY.

☞ The Committee meet on the first Tuesday in every month.

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At the First Anniversary of the *British and Canadian School Society*, held in the School House, on Thursday the 25th, Sept. 1823,—

HORATIO GATES, Esq, in the chair.

Mr. Gates introduced the business of the meeting, and called on the Secretary to read the Report.

On a motion of Daniel Fisher, Esq. seconded by A. Ferguson, Esq. it was

Resolved unanimously,

1. That the Report which has now been read, be received, and adopted, and that it be printed under the direction of the Committee.

On a motion of John Boston, Esq. seconded by D. Fisher, Esq. it was

Resolved unanimously,

2. That this Institution shall maintain a School on an extensive scale to educate Children, and that it shall train up and qualify young persons of both sexes to supply well instructed teachers to the inhabitants of Canada, as shall be desirous of establishing Schools on the British system.

On a motion of B. Holmes, Esq. seconded by John Frothingham, Esq. it was

Resolved unanimously,

3. That this Meeting sincerely congratulates the British and Foreign School Society on the rapid progress of education throughout the world.

On a motion of M. Scott, Esq. seconded by Wm. Lunn, Esq. it was

Resolved unanimously,

4. That this Meeting entertains the most grateful sense of the patronage and support afforded to this Institution by His Excellency the Earl of Dalhousie, thereby evincing his paternal regard to the best interests of the community.

On a motion of John Jameison, Esq. seconded by C. Bancroft, Esq. it was

Resolved unanimously,

5. That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary and Committee, for their services during the past year, and that the following Gentlemen be the Officers and Committee for the year ensuing. See page 9.

On a motion of D. Handyside, Esq. seconded by George Davies, Esq. it was

Resolved unanimously,

That the thanks of this Meeting be presented to the Ladies' Committee, and to the Ladies composing the Dorcas Society respectively, for the important services they have rendered to this Institution: and that the following Ladies be the Committee for the year ensuing. See page 10.

On a motion of D. Fisher, Esq. seconded by Wm. Lunn, Esq. it was

Resolved unanimously,

7. That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Chairman, for his able conduct in the Chair.

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FIRST REPORT

OF THE

BRITISH AND CANADIAN

School Society.

The subjugation of mind to "principalities and powers, to the rulers of the darkness of this world, and to spiritual wickedness in high places" (to adopt the phraseology of Holy writ) has been the order of things prevailing among the great majority of mankind for nearly six thousand years; and notwithstanding a remedy has been possessed by a portion of the human race, they have been too destitute of the moral principle of love to their neighbour, to be induced to impart to others, a share of that blessing, which God in his providence had so liberally bestowed upon them. The few have revelled in intellectual luxury, while the despised *multitude* have perished for lack of knowledge.

Truly darkness has covered the earth, and gross darkness the people, but we are privileged to hail the dawn of the morning, on which the day spring from on high is visiting us, when concern for the honour of God, and affection for our brethren of mankind, triumph over the selfish monopoly of knowledge, and hold forth to others the word of Life.

To christianity is the honour due, of pointing out the way in which the thick mists of ignorance may be rolled away from the intellectual horizon; and the delightful assurance that the light which shineth, shall increase to the perfect day, is founded on the word of Him, at whose fiat, existence started out of nothing, confusion became order, and whose efficacious mandate said, "Let there be light and there was light."

The Sun of revelation is now rising in majestic splendour, its ascent is gradual but certain. Nothing can impede its progress; already it illumines many of the highest mountains, which reflect its lustre on the surrounding hills and vallies.—

The Gentiles are coming to its light, and Kings to the brightness of its rising.

Many of the friends of humanity, religion, and morals, had long felt deeply concerned for the welfare of the society of these Provinces, and more especially of the children of their neighbours and fellow citizens, in the place, in which Providence had cast their lot.

They had observed the progress of education in different parts of the world, by means of the system adopted by the British and Foreign School Society, and which originated with that friend of youth, Mr. Joseph Lancaster. Being convinced of its superiority, on account of the christian simplicity, liberality and charity of its principles, and its admirable adaptation to a community composed of persons of so many different religious denominations, as well as its economy, and the facility of its support, for the benefit of the children of the poor, and labouring classes of society, measures were taken in September of last year to organize a School, and to form a Society for its support; of those measures an account was subsequently published, which contained a specification of the object and constitution of the Society.

Your Committee deemed it their duty on their appointment to manage the affairs of the Institution, to fulfil the important trust with which you had been pleased to honour them, and they immediately resolved to appoint as the Master of the School, Mr. Thomas Hutchins, who had been sent out highly recommended by the Committee of the British and Foreign School Society, with a salary of £100 Cy. per annum, commencing on the 27th July preceding, which was the period of Mr. Hutchins's arrival. In procuring a suitable place, in which to commence the operations of the School, it appeared to them eligible to hire a House belonging to Mr. Berthelet, which was lately occupied by the Montreal General Hospital, at a rent not exceeding £40 per annum. The house was accordingly taken for two years and seven months, from the 1st of the ensuing month, October; and the necessary preparations of desks, forms and platform, with other requisites for the actual commencement was made.

Three months had not elapsed from the time of opening the School, when it was found, that in consequence of the increasing number of the children who attended, it would be requisite to provide additional room.

Your Committee therefore thought it desirable, and accordingly determined to separate the girls from the boys, and to fit up the lower part of the house for their accommodation.

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Your Committee also perceived, that it was highly desirable to procure the services of some benevolent ladies, to inspect the female School, to select a suitable person for a Mistress and to assist in the superintendence.

They accordingly solicited the aid, and succeeded in forming a Committee of Ladies, whose assiduous attention to the interest and prosperity of the Institution merits the highest commendation of the Society. The Ladies' Committee have found it necessary to endeavour to procure a Mistress regularly trained to superintend the girls' school; application has therefore been made for that purpose to the Committee in London, and a suitable person is engaged, and expected in the ensuing Spring.

The number of children who have been admitted into the Schools since October last is 499; of which a great many have left to accompany their parents into the Upper Province to take land, and others are gone to service. The children in general are very attentive and have made great improvement in learning, the Ladies who have visited the Schools have expressed themselves highly pleased with the needle work performed by the girls.

The Master conducts the boys' school to the entire satisfaction of the Committee. It is a very pleasing sight to behold children of all denominations assembled together, and instructed in the principles of the Holy Scriptures, which will tend, we trust, to unite all parties. There are at present in the Schools a total of 246 children, viz. 160 boys and 86 girls. 84 of whom are Catholics.

Several Canadian children who were admitted into the School in November and December of last year, ignorant of the Alphabet, are now able to read and write words of two and three syllables, and understand perfectly the first two rules of Arithmetic. Other children who had made some proficiency in reading, but knew nothing of Arithmetic, have in eight months acquired a competent knowledge of the simple and compound Rules, Reduction and the Rule of Three; considerable progress in learning has also been made by a number of boys who have (*unhappily for themselves*) been obliged to accompany their parents into the country to take land; the Public are earnestly invited to visit the Schools, which speak for themselves.

Considering the influence of females in society, and especially in the early education of the rising generation, the Committee congratulate their constituents on the great success which has attended the girls' School; and they fervently hope,

for the same reasons, that the best exertions of the friends of education, and the well wishers of posterity will be made, in order to improve the efficiency of this School, by increasing its numbers, as it is sufficiently known, that on the education and deportment of an individual female, frequently depends the happiness of whole families.

Your Committee would indulge the hope, that as they proceed, they will be enabled to imitate the female department of the Parent Society, by affording to the girls, an opportunity of making themselves acquainted with domestic duties and household work, so exceedingly desirable, either in a female servant, or the head of a family, and so especially necessary in this country, where so few servants can be found, who are, in any tolerable degree, qualified for the duties of their respective stations.

Your Committee feel it to be their duty to commend to your approbation and grateful notice, the kindness of that valuable association of Ladies "the Dorcas Society;" by whose kind exertions about 40 of the children have been clothed, and have been thereby enabled to avail themselves of the benefit of the Schools, of which they must otherwise have been deprived.

In answer to a letter containing an account of the state and progress of the Schools—your Committee have been honored with a communication from His Excellency the Earl of Dalhousie, which contains sentiments as honorable to the humane and generous heart of the noble writer, as they are flattering and encouraging to the Society.

Your Committee cannot persuade themselves to withhold from the Society, the pleasure which they are fully aware that you will experience, in hearing this proof, additional to the many, with which you are already acquainted, of the liberality and magnanimity of the exalted individual in whom it is our happiness to recognize the representative of our beloved Sovereign, whose annual support of the British system, best evinces his ardent desire to promote universal education, and to follow the beneficent example of his illustrious Father, whose earnest wish in behalf of the children of his people, is thus gradually accomplishing.

The letter of the Earl of Dalhousie is as follows :

Quebec, 17th June, 1823.

SIR,—I have the pleasure to acknowledge your letter and parcel from the British and Foreign School Society. The report which your letter contains affords a most gratifying evidence of the success which has attended your first labours

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for this Institution, and must prove the best incitement to all its well wishers to continue their aid and support in their stations. Be assured I shall not be backward in mine. I consider it an honour to be named the Patron of such works, and can only renew my request that I may be informed when and in what manner I can be useful to this Institution.

I am Sir,

Your most obedient

Humble Servant

DALHOUSIE.

MR. WM. LUNN,

Your Committee are persuaded that there will be but one feeling in the society, and that an intense feeling of satisfaction and gratitude for His Excellency's great kindness in thus condescending to become the Patron of this Institution.

Your Committee flatter themselves that their constituents will participate in the pleasure which they cannot but indulge, while they contemplate the success, with which the institution has been favoured by an allwise and beneficent Providence, thus far. But they would by no means cherish that species of complacency, in that which has already been achieved, which would induce either them or you to rest satisfied without renewed and persevering exertion. We have only to look around, to be convinced of the vastness of the field which yet remains to be occupied—with the herculean labour, yet to be performed, in order to furnish the human mind with even a moderate degree of cultivation in useful knowledge and the principles of virtue. Our past success must only be allowed to delight us by the reflection, that the end which we propose, is proved to be attainable, and that its accomplishment may be confidently anticipated.—Our gratification must arise, not from the hope of ceasing to labour, but from the certain prospect of labouring with success: that moral darkness and its consequent irregularities, rudeness and destitution of comfort, shall be removed, and, that, in the use of proper means, that faithful Providence on whom we ought to rely for success, will fulfil his promise and "make darkness light before us, and crooked things straight."

Your committee feel persuaded that that principle of benevolence which has animated you in pursuing this important object in your own city, and which has rendered you susceptible of being attracted this evening to one common centre, must make it proportionally interesting to you, to hear that the cause of education, which is indeed the cause of truth, is making rapid progress among your brethren of mankind of

almost all other nations.—But to give only a glance at the great work which is in operation, we must ascend in imagination, and take up an aerial position at some convenient distance from the earth, and mark the progress of the nations spread over the face of the globe as it rolls beneath us.

"In Ireland the system has been widely and very favourably received; and from the liberality of its principle, it has been declared by the Commission appointed by Parliament, (consisting of the Lord Primate, several Bishops and other distinguished characters,) to be peculiarly adapted for that country as "keeping clear of all interference with the particular religious tenets of any, inducing the whole population to receive its benefits as one undivided body, under one and the same system, and in the same establishment." By the last report 356 schoolmasters had been trained, of whom 144 were Roman Catholics, and 212 Protestants, and the number in the Schools connected with the Society, 36,657."

"FRANCE.—Among the nations of the Continent of Europe, who have been zealous in the introduction of the system, France occupies the first and most prominent station. The attention of that nation was first drawn towards that system in 1815, when a Society was formed under the title of "The Society for Elementary Instruction;" and by the assistance of M. M. Martin and Froissard, who had been trained at the Borough Road, the plan was first established in the Rue St. Jean de Beauvois at Paris. In the following year the King, by his royal ordinance, dated the 25th February 1816, authorized the establishment of schools on the improved system, both for Catholics and Protestants, and directed schools to be erected in every canton throughout the Kingdom. Since that period, the operations of the Committee at Paris have been conducted with much energy and zeal. The number of schools on the new system, in the year 1822, amounted to 1500, affording education to 1,070,500 scholars. The system has been introduced into the island of Corsica. Measures are also taken by the Minister of War for organizing Schools on the system in every regiment in the French service."

"SPAIN.—The first school in this system was opened at Madrid, on the 9th January 1818, under the management of Colonel Kearney, who learned the system at the Central School. The school at Madrid has been enlarged, for the purpose of training Masters, and the King has issued a decree for extending the plan to every principal town in the kingdom. Some Ladies of rank have likewise obtained the royal sanction to open a central School for 300 girls at Madrid. Schools on the

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system have also been formed at Cadiz, Saragossa, Alcala, (in Andalusia) Seville, Granada, Zamora, Burgos, Valencia, Tortola, Alcazar and Mexico."

"A grand central Military School for the whole Spanish Army, is on the point of being organized by Colonel Kearney."

"The system has also been introduced, by order of their respective governments, in Italy, and Russia, where schools for the children of the soldiers have been established from Siberia to Odessa, in Poland, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, and the Netherlands; likewise in India, where one of the greatest obstacles in the way of moral improvement—the absolute prohibition of female education among the natives is now giving way. Miss Cooke, a lady from England, having devoted herself to the work, has within eleven months obtained children to require fifteen schools for from 40 to 50 girls in each. In South America, Mr. Thompson has obtained decrees from the authorities in Buenos Ayres—in Chili—and in Peru, for the establishment of a Model School for training Masters in all the principal cities and towns. He has also got free permission to print the Scripture Lessons. Thus having obtained independence, they are making the best use of their privileges."

In various other nations of the earth the system has been received, and education is spreading with accelerated rapidity.

The merchandize of knowledge is better than the merchandize of silver, and the gain thereof than of fine gold. Of whatever else we impart to the needy, we dispossess ourselves; but in imparting knowledge, we enrich others, but cannot impoverish ourselves. On the contrary, we cannot but increase our talent in its use. Your Committee have felt it to be their duty, thus very briefly, to hint at that which cannot but afford the highest gratification to benevolent minds, but they are unwilling longer to detain you from the intellectual repast, which you will no doubt enjoy from the eloquence of those Gentlemen—friends of humanity—who have kindly engaged to aid in the business of the present meeting.

Finally: your Committee beg leave to tender to your acceptance, the report now read and to retire from their places with fervent gratitude to God for the measure of success which he has afforded to their humble efforts; and with the most earnest desires, that you may be directed to the choice of a Committee, whose exertions shall be tenfold more efficient, and whose labours, under the divine blessing, shall be crowned with the most abundant success.

REPORT

OF THE

LADIES' COMMITTEE.

*For the management of the British and Canadian School for
Girls.*

Your Committee feel no ordinary degree of interest in presenting to you the first Report of the infant Institution which owes its existence to your liberality and exertions, and while they regret that its progress has not been commensurate with their wishes, they would not withhold the tribute of gratitude to that Being who rules over every event, that thus much has been accomplished.

Commenced on the 6th January last, not under the most favourable auspices, the improvement of this Institution has been accelerated with each revolving month, until it has gradually acquired strength and firmness. The grand obstacle to the execution of the design was overthrown by the first steps taken by your Committee who appointed two of their number to solicit the aid of the Public. In this errand of Charity they realized their most sanguine expectations, and it has enabled the Committee to act with a freedom which has imparted a thrill of vigour and decision to every effort. Subsequently many articles, the offerings of mercantile generosity have been received, which have been highly serviceable. During the eight months that the Girls School has been in operation, 183 girls have been admitted—of these, some have been removed in consequence of non-compliance with the Rules, which your Committee have considered as inviolable, others have been put out to service, and many from the families of Scotch and Irish Settlers, who have made this but a resting place, have left the City.

The constant influx of Emigrants, though it yields a temporary increase to the Schools, keeps it in that fluctuating state which has a paralyzing influence on its general progress, while its actual usefulness is not perhaps diminished; and we may at some future day from distant parts of our Country, witness the fruits of that instruction which we feel to be at present detrimental to the Institution. The average number

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of Scholars has been about 68, of whom 30 are Catholics ; many of these children have emerged from the very hiding places of ignorance, vice and wretchedness, where every moral virtue and every intellectual faculty had alike slumbered in darkness—their proficiency in order, industry, and moral conduct, has not been less conspicuous than in those branches which are more expressly the object of their attainment. While your Committee have rejoiced in being able to render those destitute little beings so rich a boon, and have observed with increasing pleasure their improvement, they have looked too with much anxiety on their filthy, tattered garments, as the state of the funds did not authorise the appropriation of any part of them to the relief of corporeal wants. In this respect however, they have not been left wholly destitute, and would gratefully acknowledge the assistance received from the Dorcas Society, who with the impulse of benevolence have wrought and thrown over these children, the garments of cleanliness and comfort.

120 prizes have been distributed, consisting of Combs, Handkerchiefs, Caps &c. which have had the intended effect of inspiring a deeper spirit of emulation, and provoking the mind of the indolent to exertion. From what has already been done, your Committee feel that there is strong ground for encouragement in that department of the Institution, which has been committed to their management. The superior utility of this system has been acknowledged wherever it has been adopted ; and it certainly holds no insignificant rank in the scale of modern improvements ; while it freely and almost gratuitously extends its benefits, it imparts instruction, with a rapidity and simplicity, which has hitherto been unequalled by any other method. Who, that can look back a few years to the period when learning was to the lower class of our race, like a locked granary in the land of famine, will not rejoice in the invention of a Lancaster—a name which deserves to be lisped by every child of ignorance and poverty—and next to that of the founder of Sunday Schools to claim his gratitude and veneration—the latter more particularly opened the stores of moral knowledge—the former placed the key of mental culture in the hands of the simple, degraded and unlettered of our species. When we reflect how large a proportion of the inhabitants of our globe is composed of this class, and the colouring which, from their numbers, they give to the morals of a country. When we dwell for a moment on the benign or noxious influence which females are allowed to exert in every civilized society, their education assumes an import-

ance equal to that of those who are destined to act a more conspicuous part in this world's theatre. When too we take into view the fund of resources which it costs, those who are surrounded with opulence and luxury, so little exertion to procure them, surely no heart can refuse to share with its less favoured fellow being the gift which Providence has bestowed; not merely for the gratification of selfishness, but for the exercise of that diffusive charity, which liberally imparts to others. The little face besmeared with dirt, and whose bold expression indicates perfect insensibility to shame, may hide a gem, obscured by the rubbish of ignorance and vice, which is capable of receiving as bright a polish as ever adorned the human character. And is it not of some consequence to rescue such from the intellectual and moral torpor which the want of education generally interposes, to enable them to read that volume whose precepts alone could save them from error, and make them virtuous and useful members of society, by directing their thoughts to the high destiny of an immortal being.

Incited by such powerful motives, even the dormant hand of sloth would raise itself, and make one energetic effort; the most churlish and miserly would relax the grasp which so firmly presses the glittering gold; while the heart of sensibility and benevolence would exclaim in the words of its own favourite maxim. "To do good and to communicate, forget not."

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To do. Sundry petty expences and disbursements for Rewards &c.	20 9 10	By ditto subscriptions and donations collected in Town,	24 13 1
To paid rent for School House from 10th October 1822, to 1st August 1823,	£ 32 4 6	By ditto weekly payments from the children in the Schools,	20 6 4
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To paid Mr. Hutchins, Schoolmaster, Salary from 27th July, 1822, to 1st September 1823,	109 3 1		
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Montreal, September 25, 1823.

F. DOWIE, TREASURER.

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Mr. E. C. Tuttle

FIRST

Annual Report

OF THE

BRITISH AND CANADIAN

SCHOOL SOCIETY,

PRESENTED AND ADOPTED

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

ON

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1823.

WITH A

List of the Subscribers and Benefactors.

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Annual Report

OF THE

BRITISH AND CANADIAN

SCHOOL SOCIETY,

PRESENTED AND ADOPTED

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

ON

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1823.

WITH A

List of the Subscribers and Benefactors.

BALLOUTBORE
SAINT-SULPICE

Montreal :

PRINTED BY BOWMAN AND SPARHAWK.

1823.



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BRITISH AND FOREIGN
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KING GEORGE THE FOURTH,
An Annual Subscriber of £100.

VICE-PATRONS,
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF SUSSEX.
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF SAXE-COBOURG.

PRESIDENT,
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

VICE-PRESIDENTS,
The Most Noble the MARQUIS of LANSDOWN.
The Most Noble the MARQUIS of HASTINGS.
The Most Noble the MARQUIS of TAVISTOCK.
The Right Hon. the Earl of DARNLEY.
The Right Hon. the EARL of ROSSLYN,
The Right Hon. the EARL of FINGALL.
The Right Rev. the LORD BISHOP of NORWICH.
The Right Hon. LORD CARRINGTON.
The Right Hon. LORD CLIFFORD.
The Right Hon. LORD EARL EY.
The Right Hon. LORD SUFIJELD.
The Hon. Lord Chief Commissioner ADAM.
Sir JOHN SWINBURNE, Bart.
Sir JAMES MACINTOSH M. P.
Sir ALEXANDER JOHNSTON.
HENRY BROUGHAM, Esq. M. P.
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J. BUTTERWORTH, Esq. M. P.
THOMAS F. BUXTON, Esq. M. P.
J. H. HARRINGTON, Esq.
WILLIAM SMITH, Esq. M. P.
JOHN SMITH, Esq. M. P.
W. WILBERFORCE, Esq. M. P.
WILLIAM WILLIAMS, Esq. M. P.

TREASURER,
WILLIAM ALLEN, Esq.

SECRETARY

FOREIGN SEC'Y.
Rev. Dr. SCHWABE.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
Mr. JAMES MILLAR, Museum-st. Bloomsbury.

COLLECTOR,
Mr. BENJAMIN LEPARD, Punderson-place, Bethnal-green

CONSTITUTION OF THE
BRITISH AND CANADIAN SCHOOL
SOCIETY.

AT a Meeting of Gentlemen in Montreal, held on the 21st September, 1822, for the purpose of taking into consideration the state of the Children of the Labouring Classes of Society, of the said Town and its vicinity :—

DANIEL FISHER, Esq. in the Chair.

It appearing to this Meeting, that the state of the Children of the Labouring Classes of the People, and the deficiency of their education, render it highly necessary, that some effectual mode be adopted for the improvement of their morals, and for affording them a proper education.

Resolved—That the plan of the British and Foreign School Society, on account of its liberal principle, and its great simplicity and economy, appears to be best adapted to this end.

That for the purpose of promoting the important objects of this meeting, a Society be formed; and denominated "The British and Canadian School Society," for the education of the children of the labouring class of the people, and the improvement of their morals.

That the children of all labouring people or mechanics, residing within the city of Montreal and its neighbourhood, are proper objects of this institution.

Government of the Society, and Privileges of Subscribers and Governors.

That all Subscribers of twenty shillings a year, or of five pounds in one donation, be entitled to have one child continually in the School, except as after mentioned, (and so in proportion for any larger sum;) and also be Governors of the Society, and as such, eligible to be Members of the Committee, and to vote and be present at the general Meetings.

That no children be admitted until they have completed their sixth year.

That whenever the number of children admitted into the school shall be within twenty of the number determined by the Committee to be received, no children under the age of eight years shall be admitted, and the eldest of the then applicants shall be preferred.

That all absent Subscribers may recommend children by proxy.

That all Subscriptions shall become due on the 1st October in each year, and no Governor shall be entitled to vote at general meetings, or recommend scholars, during such time as his subscription is in arrear.

General and Special Meetings,

That a general Meeting of the Governors be held every year, on the first Tuesday in September, at which meeting, the proceedings of the Committee (appointed as after mentioned) for the preceding year, shall be read, and if approved, confirmed, and the funds and the state of the School considered, and a report thereof for the information of the Subscribers, approved, and such additional regulations and resolutions adopted as may be deemed necessary, and a President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary and other Members of the Committee elected, or re-elected.

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That Special Meetings of the Governors be called at the request of the Committee, (seven or more of them being present) or by twelve Governors, seven days previous notice being given thereof, and of the business proposed to be transacted.

That no question be decided by ballot unless demanded in writing and signed at the general Meeting (wherein the question shall arise) by at least ten governors, and that all Female and absent Governors be entitled to vote by proxy, at such ballot which shall be taken seven days subsequent to such general Meeting.

Committee.

That this Society be under the direction of a Committee of sixteen Governors, consisting of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, a Secretary and eleven other Governors, with power to add to their number.

That Horatio Gates Esq. be President, the Honble. C. W. Grant, and L. J. Papineau, Esqrs. Vice Presidents, Kenneth Dowie, Esq. the Treasurer, William Lunn, Esq. the Secretary, and

MESSRS. F. A. LAROCQUE,
 N. B. DOUCET,
 O. BERTHELET,
 DAVID HANDYSIDE,
 JAMES CARSUELL,
 A. FERGUSON,

MESSRS. M. SCOTT,
 D. FISHER,
 JNO. MACKENZIE,
 JNO. TORRANCE,
 J. FROTHINGHAM,

the Committee, with power to add to their number.

That the Committee meet on the first Monday in every calendar month, three members whereof shall constitute a meeting.

That the Committee may fill up any vacancy (not being that of a President or Vice Presidents) which may happen therein during the interval of the general yearly meeting; the governors being proposed at one, and elected at the ensuing monthly meeting.

That any three members of the Committee may call a special meeting thereof, specifying in writing the business to be submitted thereto, and which the Secretary shall insert in the summons.

That no member of the Committee be employed in any business respecting the Society, for which he is to receive a pecuniary compensation.

That the Committee publish yearly a report of the state of the Society, after the approbation thereof by the yearly meeting.

That the Committee shall appoint the School-Master, and all the inferior officers of the Society, and form temporary regulations, for the management of the School, which shall be in force until the next general meeting; but no longer unless then confirmed.

That no book, pamphlet or other paper, be introduced into the School without being first presented to, and approved of by the Committee, and that the general reading lessons be confined to the Holy Scriptures, or extracts therefrom, and lessons for spelling and Arithmetic.

That in case there shall be room for more Children than the subscribers shall be entitled to recommend, the Committee shall be at liberty to fill up the number, and also to appoint Children to any vacancies, occasioned by the omission of subscribers to recommend, but without prejudice to the privilege of subscribers, regulated as after mentioned.

Treasurer.

That the Treasurer shall receive all sums of money paid for the use of the Society, and give such security for the faithful discharge of his office, as the Committee shall deem sufficient, and that he make all payments sanctioned by the Committee, and lay before them, at each monthly meeting, a list, (to be prepared and delivered him by the collector) of all such Subscribers as shall be in arrears for three months and also, a statement of his accounts which shall be audited, balanced and delivered to the general yearly meeting.

Scholars' Recommendations &c.

That every recommendation of a child to the School, shall be signed by a subscriber, and shall specify the parents names, places of abode, number in family, occupation, circumstances, (or average of weekly earnings,) and denomination of religion; also the name and age of the child recommended; which, recommendation shall be left with the Master, who shall enter the same in the register of candidates, and submit it to the then next monthly meeting of the Committee.

That if any Child so recommended shall be rejected by the Committee as ineligible, or in the event of a vacancy happening with respect to any of the said children, the Subscriber recommending such child, shall immediately be informed thereof by a written notice signed by the master. Whereupon such Subscriber shall be at liberty to recommend another child to supply the vacancy, but if such Subscriber shall neglect to do so for two weeks after notice shall be sent, the Committee shall fill up such vacancy and the Subscriber lose his recommendation for that time.

That no child shall be admitted with any infectious disorder, and that the Children come to School properly washed, and with their hair cut short and combed.

That the School hours be from nine to twelve in the morning, and from two to five in the afternoon from the first of April to the first of November, and from two to four in the other months.

That the Children shall attend every Sunday at those places for worship to which by their recommendation they appear to belong; for which purpose they shall assemble at the School room on that day sufficiently early to go from thence to their respective places for worship.

Inspectors.

That the Committee shall at each of their monthly meetings appoint two Inspectors for the ensuing month, who shall attend at least, twice in each week, at the School room, for the purpose of ascertaining the progress of the Children in their learning.—They shall minute in a book the time of their attendance; and after having inspected the master's reports, &c. they shall enter any remarks thereon, and on any other matter respecting the School which they deem proper in the said book, and sign the same; which shall be laid before the then next monthly meeting of the Committee.

That the two Inspectors for the preceding month be requested to attend every Sunday at the School room, early enough to see the Scholars proceed from thence to their respective places for worship, headed by their Master, and also such of the Committee and Subscribers or other persons, as may with the approbation of the Committee consent to attend for that

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purpose, who are to report to the Master in writing on the ensuing Monday, the conduct of the Scholars during their attendance at their several places for worship, and also the names of the absentees.

Schoolmaster.

That the Schoolmaster shall attend every Sunday at the School room, for the purpose of properly arranging the Scholars previous to their setting out for their respective places for worship, and of taking an account of the absentees.—He shall also accompany, and take the oversight of such boys as go to the place for worship he attends.

That the Schoolmaster shall enter or cause to be entered, daily in a book, an account of the absentees from School, and from their respective places for worship on Sundays, and shall keep a weekly account of the cause of such absence. He shall produce such accounts to the Inspectors and also make a monthly report of the same to the Committee, adding an account of the Children who have passed from class to class, in consequence of proficiency in learning during the preceding month—and of the rewards distributed.

That the Committee endeavour speedily to procure an account of the number of Children, and their ages, who are now in Montreal, and its vicinity having no prospect of education.

That a subscription for promoting the object of this meeting be immediately opened, and that K. Dowie, Esqr. the Treasurer, and Messrs. O. Berthelet, Jno. Mackenzie, Scott and Lunn, be appointed to receive the same.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting.

DANIEL FISHER,
Chairman.

FORMATION OF THE LADIES COMMITTEE.

AT a Meeting convened in the School-House on the 17th December 1822 for the purpose of establishing a Ladies Committee to assist in the management of the British and Canadian School for girls :

HORATIO GATES, Esq.—IN THE CHAIR,

It was proposed, and

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY :

1st. That a committee be now formed to assist in conducting the British and Canadian School for girls, consisting of a President, Secretary, and thirteen other members.

2nd. That MRS. LUNN, be the President, MISS DAY the Secretary, and

Mrs. Bancroft,	Miss Adams,
Mrs. Ferguson,	Mrs. D. Fisher,
Mrs. Gates,	Mrs. Jno. Mackenzie,
Mrs. N. Jones,	Miss Bancroft,
Mrs. Frothingham,	Mrs. Day,
Mrs. Jno. Torrance,	Mrs. J. Hall,
Miss Ermatinger,	

The Committee,

With power to add to their number, and to obtain such further patronage as they may deem suitable.

3d. That the Regulations of the British and Canadian School Society, be adopted in conducting the school for girls.

4th. That a subscription for promoting the object of this meeting be immediately opened.

H. GATES, CHAIRMAN.

OMMITTEE.

PATRON,

HIS EXCELLENCY

THE EARL OF DALHOUSIE,

GOVERNOR IN CHIEF.

PRESIDENT,

HORATIO GATES, ESQ.

VICE-PRESIDENTS,

Hon. L. J. PAPINEAU, Esq. M. P.

PETER M'GILL, Esq.

J. A. LAROCQUE, Esq.

A. FERGUSON, Esq.—TREASURER.

WM. LUNN, Esq.—SECRETARY.

COMMITTEE.

MESSRS. O. BERTHELET,

D. HANDYSIDE,

J. CARSUILL,

D. FISHER,

JNO. TORRANCE,

MICHAEL SCOTT,

AND DR. KIMBER.

MESSRS. JNO. FROTHINGHAM,

JNO. MACKENZIE,

THOMAS GUGY,

JOSEPH MASSON,

ANDREW SHAW,

GEORGE DAVIES.

The Committee meet on the first Monday in every month.

S, CHAIRMAN.

FEMALE DEPARTMENT.



PATRONESS,

RIGHT HON. THE COUNTESS OF DALHOUSIE.



PRESIDENT.

MRS. LUNN.

SECRETARY.

MISS DAY.

COMMITTEE.

MRS. BANCROFT,	MRS. D. FISHER,
MRS. FROTHINGHAM,	MISS ADAMS,
MRS. N. JONES,	MISS HOLMES,
MRS. JNO. TORRANCE,	MISS BANCROFT,
MRS. FERGUSON,	MISS BUCHANAN,
MRS. J. HALL,	MISS ARNOLDI,
MRS. JNO. MACKENZIE,	MRS. MONK.
MISS ERMATINGER,	MRS. ORKNEY.

☞ The Committee meet on the first Tuesday in every month.

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Tuesday in every

At the First Anniversary of the *British and Canadian School Society*, held in the School House, on Thursday the 25th, Sept. 1823,—

HORATIO GATES, Esq, in the chair.

Mr. Gates introduced the business of the meeting, and called on the Secretary to read the Report.

On a motion of Daniel Fisher, Esq. seconded by A. Ferguson, Esq. it was

Resolved unanimously,

1. That the Report which has now been read, be received, and adopted, and that it be printed under the direction of the Committee.

On a motion of John Boston, Esq. seconded by D. Fisher, Esq. it was

Resolved unanimously,

2. That this Institution shall maintain a School on an extensive scale to educate Children, and that it shall train up and qualify young persons of both sexes to supply well instructed teachers to the inhabitants of Canada, as shall be desirous of establishing Schools on the British system.

On a motion of B. Holmes, Esq. seconded by John Frothingham, Esq. it was

Resolved unanimously,

3. That this Meeting sincerely congratulates the British and Foreign School Society on the rapid progress of education throughout the world.

On a motion of M. Scott, Esq. seconded by Wm. Lunn, Esq. it was

Resolved unanimously,

4. That this Meeting entertains the most grateful sense of the patronage and support afforded to this Institution by His Excellency the Earl of Dalhousie, thereby evincing his paternal regard to the best interests of the community.

On a motion of John Jameison, Esq. seconded by C. Bancroft, Esq. it was

Resolved unanimously,

5. That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the President, Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary and Committee, for their services during the past year, and that the following Gentlemen be the Officers and Committee for the year ensuing. See page 9.

On a motion of D. Handyside, Esq. seconded by George Davies, Esq. it was

Resolved unanimously,

That the thanks of this Meeting be presented to the Ladies' Committee, and to the Ladies composing the Dorcas Society respectively, for the important services they have rendered to this Institution: and that the following Ladies be the Committee for the year ensuing. See page 10.

On a motion of D. Fisher, Esq. seconded by Wm. Lunn, Esq. it was

Resolved unanimously,

7. That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Chairman, for his able conduct in the Chair.

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FIRST REPORT

OF THE

BRITISH AND CANADIAN

School Society.

The subjugation of mind to "principalities and powers, to the rulers of the darkness of this world, and to spiritual wickedness in high places" (to adopt the phraseology of Holy writ) has been the order of things prevailing among the great majority of mankind for nearly six thousand years; and notwithstanding a remedy has been possessed by a portion of the human race, they have been too destitute of the moral principle of love to their neighbour, to be induced to impart to others, a share of that blessing, which God in his providence had so liberally bestowed upon them. The few have revelled in intellectual luxury, while the despised *multitude* have perished for lack of knowledge.

Truly darkness has covered the earth, and gross darkness the people, but we are privileged to hail the dawn of the morning, on which the day spring from on high is visiting us, when concern for the honour of God, and affection for our brethren of mankind, triumph over the selfish monopoly of knowledge, and hold forth to others the word of Life.

To christianity is the honour due, of pointing out the way in which the thick mists of ignorance may be rolled away from the intellectual horizon; and the delightful assurance that the light which shineth, shall increase to the perfect day, is founded on the word of Him, at whose fiat, existence started out of nothing, confusion became order, and whose efficacious mandate said, "Let there be light and there was light."

The Sun of revelation is now rising in majestic splendour, its ascent is gradual but certain. Nothing can impede its progress; already it illumines many of the highest mountains, which reflect its lustre on the surrounding hills and vallies.—

The Gentiles are coming to its light, and Kings to the brightness of its rising.

Many of the friends of humanity, religion, and morals, had long felt deeply concerned for the welfare of the society of these Provinces, and more especially of the children of their neighbours and fellow citizens, in the place, in which Providence had cast their lot.

They had observed the progress of education in different parts of the world, by means of the system adopted by the British and Foreign School Society, and which originated with that friend of youth, Mr. Joseph Lancaster. Being convinced of its superiority, on account of the christian simplicity, liberality and charity of its principles, and its admirable adaptation to a community composed of persons of so many different religious denominations, as well as its economy, and the facility of its support, for the benefit of the children of the poor, and labouring classes of society, measures were taken in September of last year to organize a School, and to form a Society for its support; of those measures an account was subsequently published, which contained a specification of the object and constitution of the Society.

Your Committee deemed it their duty on their appointment to manage the affairs of the Institution, to fulfil the important trust with which you had been pleased to honour them, and they immediately resolved to appoint as the Master of the School, Mr. Thomas Hutchins, who had been sent out highly recommended by the Committee of the British and Foreign School Society, with a salary of £100 Cy. per annum, commencing on the 27th July preceding, which was the period of Mr. Hutchins's arrival. In procuring a suitable place, in which to commence the operations of the School, it appeared to them eligible to hire a House belonging to Mr. Berthelet, which was lately occupied by the Montreal General Hospital, at a rent not exceeding £40 per annum. The house was accordingly taken for two years and seven months, from the 1st of the ensuing month, October; and the necessary preparations of desks, forms and platform, with other requisites for the actual commencement was made.

Three months had not elapsed from the time of opening the School, when it was found, that in consequence of the increasing number of the children who attended, it would be requisite to provide additional room.

Your Committee therefore thought it desirable, and accordingly determined to separate the girls from the boys, and to fit up the lower part of the house for their accommodation.

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Your Committee also perceived, that it was highly desirable to procure the services of some benevolent ladies, to inspect the female School, to select a suitable person for a Mistress and to assist in the superintendence.

They accordingly solicited the aid, and succeeded in forming a Committee of Ladies, whose assiduous attention to the interest and prosperity of the Institution merits the highest commendation of the Society. The Ladies' Committee have found it necessary to endeavour to procure a Mistress regularly trained to superintend the girls' school; application has therefore been made for that purpose to the Committee in London, and a suitable person is engaged, and expected in the ensuing Spring.

The number of children who have been admitted into the Schools since October last is 499; of which a great many have left to accompany their parents into the Upper Province to take land, and others are gone to service. The children in general are very attentive and have made great improvement in learning, the Ladies who have visited the Schools have expressed themselves highly pleased with the needle work performed by the girls.

The Master conducts the boys' school to the entire satisfaction of the Committee. It is a very pleasing sight to behold children of all denominations assembled together, and instructed in the principles of the Holy Scriptures, which will tend, we trust, to unite all parties. There are at present in the Schools a total of 246 children, viz. 160 boys and 86 girls. 84 of whom are Catholics.

Several Canadian children who were admitted into the School in November and December of last year, ignorant of the Alphabet, are now able to read and write words of two and three syllables, and understand perfectly the first two rules of Arithmetic. Other children who had made some proficiency in reading, but knew nothing of Arithmetic, have in eight months acquired a competent knowledge of the simple and compound Rules, Reduction and the Rule of Three; considerable progress in learning has also been made by a number of boys who have (*unhappily for themselves*) been obliged to accompany their parents into the country to take land; the Public are earnestly invited to visit the Schools, which speak for themselves.

Considering the influence of females in society, and especially in the early education of the rising generation, the Committee congratulate their constituents on the great success which has attended the girls' School; and they fervently hope,

for the same reasons, that the best exertions of the friends of education, and the well wishers of posterity will be made, in order to improve the efficiency of this School, by increasing its numbers, as it is sufficiently known, that on the education and deportment of an individual female, frequently depends the happiness of whole families.

Your Committee would indulge the hope, that as they proceed, they will be enabled to imitate the female department of the Parent Society, by affording to the girls, an opportunity of making themselves acquainted with domestic duties and household work, so exceedingly desirable, either in a female servant, or the head of a family, and so especially necessary in this country, where so few servants can be found, who are, in any tolerable degree, qualified for the duties of their respective stations.

Your Committee feel it to be their duty to commend to your approbation and grateful notice, the kindness of that valuable association of Ladies "the Dorcas Society;" by whose kind exertions about 40 of the children have been clothed, and have been thereby enabled to avail themselves of the benefit of the Schools, of which they must otherwise have been deprived.

In answer to a letter containing an account of the state and progress of the Schools—your Committee have been honored with a communication from His Excellency the Earl of Dalhousie, which contains sentiments as honorable to the humane and generous heart of the noble writer, as they are flattering and encouraging to the Society.

Your Committee cannot persuade themselves to withhold from the Society, the pleasure which they are fully aware that you will experience, in hearing this proof, additional to the many, with which you are already acquainted, of the liberality and magnanimity of the exalted individual in whom it is our happiness to recognize the representative of our beloved Sovereign, whose annual support of the British system, best evinces his ardent desire to promote universal education, and to follow the beneficent example of his illustrious Father, whose earnest wish in behalf of the children of his people, is thus gradually accomplishing.

The letter of the Earl of Dalhousie is as follows :

Quebec, 17th June, 1823.

SIR,—I have the pleasure to acknowledge your letter and parcel from the British and Foreign School Society. The report which your letter contains affords a most gratifying evidence of the success which has attended your first labours

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for this Institution, and must prove the best incitement to all its well wishers to continue their aid and support in their stations. Be assured I shall not be backward in mine. I consider it an honour to be named the Patron of such works, and can only renew my request that I may be informed when and in what manner I can be useful to this Institution.

I am Sir,

Your most obedient

Humble Servant

DALHOUSIE.

MR. WM. LUNN,

Your Committee are persuaded that there will be but one feeling in the society, and that an intense feeling of satisfaction and gratitude for His Excellency's great kindness in thus condescending to become the Patron of this Institution.

Your Committee flatter themselves that their constituents will participate in the pleasure which they cannot but indulge, while they contemplate the success, with which the institution has been favoured by an allwise and beneficent Providence, thus far. But they would by no means cherish that species of complacency, in that which has already been achieved, which would induce either them or you to rest satisfied without renewed and persevering exertion. We have only to look around, to be convinced of the vastness of the field which yet remains to be occupied—with the herculean labour, yet to be performed, in order to furnish the human mind with even a moderate degree of cultivation in useful knowledge and the principles of virtue. Our past success must only be allowed to delight us by the reflection, that the end which we propose, is proved to be attainable, and that its accomplishment may be confidently anticipated.—Our gratification must arise, not from the hope of ceasing to labour, but from the certain prospect of labouring with *success*: that moral darkness and its consequent irregularities, rudeness and destitution of comfort, shall be removed, and, that, in the use of proper means, that faithful Providence on whom we ought to rely for success, will fulfil his promise and “make darkness light before us, and crooked things straight.”

Your committee feel persuaded that that principle of benevolence which has animated you in pursuing this important object in your own city, and which has rendered you susceptible of being attracted this evening to one common centre, must make it proportionally interesting to you, to hear that the cause of education, which is indeed the cause of truth, is making rapid progress among your brethren of mankind of

almost all other nations.—But to give only a glance at the great work which is in operation, we must ascend in imagination, and take up an aerial position at some convenient distance from the earth, and mark the progress of the nations spread over the face of the globe as it rolls beneath us.

"In Ireland the system has been widely and very favourably received; and from the liberality of its principle, it has been declared by the Commission appointed by Parliament, (consisting of the Lord Primate, several Bishops and other distinguished characters,) to be peculiarly adapted for that country as "keeping clear of all interference with the particular religious tenets of any, inducing the whole population to receive its benefits as one undivided body, under one and the same system, and in the same establishment." By the last report 356 schoolmasters had been trained, of whom 144 were Roman Catholics, and 212 Protestants, and the number in the Schools connected with the Society, 36,657."

"FRANCE.—Among the nations of the Continent of Europe, who have been zealous in the introduction of the system, France occupies the first and most prominent station. The attention of that nation was first drawn towards that system in 1815, when a Society was formed under the title of "The Society for Elementary Instruction;" and by the assistance of M. M. Martin and Froissard, who had been trained at the Borough Road, the plan was first established in the Rue St. Jean de Beauvois at Paris. In the following year the King, by his royal ordinance, dated the 25th February 1816, authorized the establishment of schools on the improved system, both for Catholics and Protestants, and directed schools to be erected in every canton throughout the Kingdom. Since that period, the operations of the Committee at Paris have been conducted with much energy and zeal. The number of schools on the new system, in the year 1822, amounted to 1500, affording education to 1,070,500 scholars. The system has been introduced into the island of Corsica. Measures are also taken by the Minister of War for organizing Schools on the system in every regiment in the French service."

"SPAIN.—The first school in this system was opened at Madrid, on the 9th January 1818, under the management of Colonel Kearney, who learned the system at the Central School. The school at Madrid has been enlarged, for the purpose of training Masters, and the King has issued a decree for extending the plan to every principal town in the kingdom. Some Ladies of rank have likewise obtained the royal sanction to open a central School for 300 girls at Madrid. Schools on the

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system have also been formed at Cadiz, Saragossa, Alcala, (in Andalusia) Seville, Granada, Zamora, Burgos, Valencia, Tortola, Alcazar and Mexico."

"A grand central Military School for the whole Spanish Army, is on the point of being organized by Colonel Kearney."

"The system has also been introduced, by order of their respective governments, in Italy, and Russia, where schools for the children of the soldiers have been established from Siberia to Odessa, in Poland, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, and the Netherlands; likewise in India, where one of the greatest obstacles in the way of moral improvement—the absolute prohibition of female education among the natives is now giving way. Miss Cooke, a lady from England, having devoted herself to the work, has within eleven months obtained children to require fifteen schools for from 40 to 50 girls in each. In South America, Mr. Thompson has obtained decrees from the authorities in Buenos Ayres—in Chili—and in Peru, for the establishment of a Model School for training Masters in all the principal cities and towns. He has also got free permission to print the Scripture Lessons. Thus having obtained independence, they are making the best use of their privileges."

In various other nations of the earth the system has been received, and education is spreading with accelerated rapidity.

The merchandize of knowledge is better than the merchandize of silver, and the gain thereof than of fine gold. Of whatever else we impart to the needy, we dispossess ourselves; but in imparting knowledge, we enrich others, but cannot impoverish ourselves. On the contrary, we cannot but increase our talent in its use. Your Committee have felt it to be their duty, thus very briefly, to hint at that which cannot but afford the highest gratification to benevolent minds, but they are unwilling longer to detain you from the intellectual repast, which you will no doubt enjoy from the eloquence of those Gentlemen—friends of humanity—who have kindly engaged to aid in the business of the present meeting.

Finally: your Committee beg leave to tender to your acceptance, the report now read and to retire from their places with fervent gratitude to God for the measure of success which he has afforded to their humble efforts; and with the most earnest desires, that you may be directed to the choice of a Committee, whose exertions shall be tenfold more efficient, and whose labours, under the divine blessing, shall be crowned with the most abundant success.

REPORT

OF THE

LADIES' COMMITTEE.

For the management of the British and Canadian School for Girls.

Your Committee feel no ordinary degree of interest in presenting to you the first Report of the infant Institution which owes its existence to your liberality and exertions, and while they regret that its progress has not been commensurate with their wishes, they would not withhold the tribute of gratitude to that Being who rules over every event, that thus much has been accomplished.

Commenced on the 6th January last, not under the most favourable auspices, the improvement of this Institution has been accelerated with each revolving month, until it has gradually acquired strength and firmness. The grand obstacle to the execution of the design was overthrown by the first steps taken by your Committee who appointed two of their number to solicit the aid of the Public. In this errand of Charity they realized their most sanguine expectations, and it has enabled the Committee to act with a freedom which has imparted a thrill of vigour and decision to every effort. Subsequently many articles, the offerings of mercantile generosity have been received, which have been highly serviceable. During the eight months that the Girls School has been in operation, 183 girls have been admitted—of these, some have been removed in consequence of non-compliance with the Rules, which your Committee have considered as inviolable, others have been put out to service, and many from the families of Scotch and Irish Settlers, who have made this but a resting place, have left the City.

The constant influx of Emigrants, though it yields a temporary increase to the Schools, keeps it in that fluctuating state which has a paralysing influence on its general progress, while its actual usefulness is not perhaps diminished; and we may at some future day from distant parts of our Country, witness the fruits of that instruction which we feel to be at present detrimental to the Institution. The average number

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of Scholars has been about 68, of whom 30 are Catholics; many of these children have emerged from the very hiding places of ignorance, vice and wretchedness, where every moral virtue and every intellectual faculty had alike slumbered in darkness—their proficiency in order, industry, and moral conduct, has not been less conspicuous than in those branches which are more expressly the object of their attainment. While your Committee have rejoiced in being able to render those destitute little beings so rich a boon, and have observed with increasing pleasure their improvement, they have looked too with much anxiety on their filthy, tattered garments, as the state of the funds did not authorise the appropriation of any part of them to the relief of corporeal wants. In this respect however, they have not been left wholly destitute, and would gratefully acknowledge the assistance received from the Dorcas Society, who with the impulse of benevolence have wrought and thrown over these children, the garments of cleanliness and comfort.

120 prizes have been distributed, consisting of Combs, Handkerchiefs, Caps &c. which have had the intended effect of inspiring a deeper spirit of emulation, and provoking the mind of the indolent to exertion. From what has already been done, your Committee feel that there is strong ground for encouragement in that department of the Institution, which has been committed to their management. The superior utility of this system has been acknowledged wherever it has been adopted; and it certainly holds no insignificant rank in the scale of modern improvements; while it freely and almost gratuitously extends its benefits, it imparts instruction, with a rapidity and simplicity, which has hitherto been unequalled by any other method. Who, that can look back a few years to the period when learning was to the lower class of our race, like a locked granary in the land of famine, will not rejoice in the invention of a Lancaster—a name which deserves to be lisped by every child of ignorance and poverty—and next to that of the founder of Sunday Schools to claim his gratitude and veneration—the latter more particularly opened the stores of moral knowledge—the former placed the key of mental culture in the hands of the simple, degraded and unlettered of our species. When we reflect how large a proportion of the inhabitants of our globe is composed of this class, and the colouring which, from their numbers, they give to the morals of a country. When we dwell for a moment on the benign or noxious influence which females are allowed to exert in every civilized society, their education assumes an import-

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ance equal to that of those who are destined to act a more conspicuous part in this world's theatre. When too we take into view the fund of resources which it costs, those who are surrounded with opulence and luxury, so little exertion to procure them, surely no heart can refuse to share with its less favoured fellow being the gift which Providence has bestowed; not merely for the gratification of selfishness, but for the exercise of that diffusive charity, which liberally imparts to others. The little face besmeared with dirt, and whose bold expression indicates perfect insensibility to shame, may hide a gem, obscured by the rubbish of ignorance and vice, which is capable of receiving as bright a polish as ever adorned the human character. And is it not of some consequence to rescue such from the intellectual and moral torpor which the want of education generally interposes, to enable them to read that volume whose precepts alone could save them from error, and make them virtuous and useful members of society, by directing their thoughts to the high destiny of an immortal being.

Incited by such powerful motives, even the dormant hand of sloth would raise itself, and make one energetic effort; the most churlish and miserly would relax the grasp which so firmly presses the glittering gold; while the heart of sensibility and benevolence would exclaim in the words of its own favourite maxim. "To do good and to communicate, forget not."

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To paid for Stoves, Stove pipes &c.	- 17 16 8	By do. donation from P. Skene, Esq. Quebec,	5 0 0
To do. Sundry petty expences and disbursements for Rewards &c.	- 20 9 10	By ditto subscriptions and donations collected in Town,	24 18 1
To paid rent for School House from 10th October 1822, to 1st August 1823,	£ 32 4 6	By ditto weekly payments from the children in the Schools,	20 6 4
Less allowed for Windows repaired,	0 10 4		
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To paid A. Gray for Printing &c.	- 14 19 6	By Balance due to the Treasurer,	4 7 11
To paid Mr. Hutchins, Schoolmaster, Salary from 27th July, 1822, to 1st September 1823,	- 109 3 1		
at £100 Currency per annum,	- 18 0 0		
To paid Miss Webster, Schoolmistress, on account of Salary,	- 18 0 0		
	£ 296 13 4		

F. DOWIE, TREASURER.

Montreal, September 25, 1823.

DEBTOR.

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