

THE EIGHTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MONTREAL
RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY,
AUXILIARY TO THE
London Tract Society.

PRESENTED AT THEIR ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 16, 1844.

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"WHO HATH DESPISED THE DAY OF SMALL THINGS."  
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Montreal:
PRINTED BY ROLLO CAMPBELL.
AND TO BE HAD GRATIS AT THE DEPOSITORY, M'GILL STREET.

1844.

Montreal Religious Tract Society.

THE Eighth Annual Meeting of the Montreal Auxiliary Religious Tract Society, was held in the American Presbyterian Church, on Tuesday Evening, January 16, 1844. JOSEPH WENHAM, Esq., in the Chair. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. C. STRONG. The Report was read by the Rev. J. GIRDWOOD.

Moved by Rev. F. BOSWORTH, seconded by J. H. MAITLAND, Esq.

1. That the Report now read, be adopted and published under the direction of the Committee.

Moved by Rev. Dr. CARRUTHERS, seconded by H. VENNOR, Esq.

2. That, since the publications sold and circulated by this Society are eminently adapted to inform the mind and rectify the heart, we rejoice in the fact, that so many have been issued during the past year, and earnestly pray the Source of all grace to water the seed by the genial influence of his Holy Spirit.

Moved by Rev. R. COONEY, seconded by T. J. GREENE, Esq.

3. That while the magnificent efforts of the Parent Institution in general, afford us unmingled satisfaction, its noble determination respecting the vast Empire of China in particular, demands from the Christian public enlarged contributions, and powerfully induces us to prevent, as much as possible, this Auxiliary from taxing its funds.

Moved by Rev. H. WILKES, seconded by Rev. C. STRONG.

4. That as the distribution of this portion of the Province is great—as the contemplated removal of the Seat of Government will increase the necessity for Tract distribution—and as the benevolent labors of this Society are very much circumscribed by its small income, this meeting solemnly pledges itself to aid liberally its funds, and cheerfully authorises extra efforts during the ensuing year, to increase its resources and diminish its debt.

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Moved by J. DOUGALL, Esq., seconded by Mr. J. A. MATHEWSON,
and supported by Rev. T. OSGOODE:

5. That the following gentlemen be the Officers and Committee
for the next year, with power to add to their number.

HENRY VENNOR, Esq., *Treasurer.*

Rev. JOHN GIRDWOOD, *Corresponding Secretary.*

Mr. JAMES MILNE, *Recording Secretary and Treasurer.*

COMMITTEE.

MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL, resident in the City.

Messrs. William Lunn,
James Ferrier,
John Mathewson,
James R. Orr,
J. C. Becket,
James Court,
Henry Lyman,
John Bowles,
James Mills,
J. C. Beers,
J. Fraser,
C. A. Adams,
William Hutchison.

Messrs. Rollo Campbell,
Joseph Leeming,
A. Hamilton,
J. Morris,
W. C. Evans,
C. Brent,
D. P. Janes,
J. Dunnett,
R. Haddon,
J. R. Sponge,
R. Anderson,
Dr. Holmes,
Captain Maitland.

A Collection was taken up amounting to £13 Os. 4d.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

Montreal Religious Tract Society.

1. That this Society be denominated *The Montreal Religious Tract Society, Auxiliary to the Religious Tract Society* in London, and that the Tracts circulated by this Society be chiefly those published by the Parent Institution.

2. That a Subscriber of One Dollar per annum, or upwards, be a member of this Society, and be entitled to receive Tracts, upon application for them *within the year*, to the amount of one half of his annual subscription.

3. That one fourth of the funds of this Society, if practicable, be annually transmitted to the Parent Institution, in aid of its funds for circulating Religious Tracts throughout the world.

4. That the Tracts purchased by Subscribers, or others, of the Society, *be paid for on delivery*.

5. That the business of this Society shall be conducted by a Committee consisting of fifteen members, together with the Treasurer and Secretaries, who shall be chosen at an Annual General Meeting of this Society; and that three Members constitute a quorum.

6. That all resident Clergymen be members of the Committee, *ex-officio*.

7. That the Committee shall have power to add to their number; and shall appoint a Depositary, and a Collector or Collectors; and shall hold their meetings monthly, or oftener, as may be required.

8. That an Annual Public Meeting of this Society shall be held, when a Report of its proceedings, and the general state of its affairs, shall be presented to the Subscribers, and Officers and Committee chosen for the ensuing year.

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ANNUAL REPORT.

THE revolution of another year calls on your Committee to record with gratitude the loving-kindness and unmerited grace of their God, and presents an opportunity of reporting the transactions of this Society during its progress. The operations are of a character so quiet as to produce little public excitement, and so unobtrusive as to conceal many of their delightful and hallowed effects, until that solemn day when the secrets of every heart shall be revealed, and every moral transformation traced to its real cause. Hence our Report pretends not to reveal stirring events; calculated to secure general attention. There is, however, something on which Christian faith and hope can rest with satisfaction and complacency,—something to urge all who love our exalted God and Saviour to renewed diligence in this holy enterprise.

The extent to which already the public have practically testified their approbation of the Parent Society's Books, is most encouraging. And, as these valuable publications become more widely known and generally appreciated, they will doubtless occupy a prominent place in the Libraries of those who value divine truth and general knowledge. The style in which the books are finished—the ability displayed in the illustration of their various subjects—and the exquisite taste apparent in adapting the engravings to the subjects, prove the exercise of much care and judgment in the management of its extensive business. The volumes intended

for the young are admirably suited to their years. They at once attract the eye, instruct the mind, and regulate the heart. How preferable in every respect to the poisonous trash which amused the youth of former days, and still amuses too many in the present day. From the Catalogue of this Society the friends, guardians, and parents of youth may make a selection with perfect confidence, as none of the publications contain any thing pernicious, while all exhibit something truly good and useful.

DEPOSITORY.

The business of this Auxiliary is still carried on, in connexion with the Montreal Auxiliary Bible Society and Canada Sunday School Union, in the same premises as last year.

IMPORTATIONS.

The amount of importations during the year have been comparatively small; the Committee being desirous of reducing the stock of Books and Tracts. They have been constrained to do this on account of the heavy debt due to the Parent Society. And, as the Society has but little *capital*, if a large stock is kept it must be at the expense of the Society in London, whose funds should be relieved from every unnecessary burden.

The number of Tracts received into the Depository since last Report, is 12,700; of bound Books and other Publications of the Tract Society, 1,111; Bibles and Testaments, with the Psalms and Paraphrases, 754; making a total of 14,565 Publications. The value of which amounts to £92 1s. 4d. sterling.

ISSUES.

For the year the issues from the Depository have been, of bound Books and other Publications, Tracts

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excepted, 5,888; Tracts, Handbills, and Sermons, 71,137. Total 77,025, for the particulars of which see Appendix.

The value of these issues amounts to £262 3s. 4½d. currency. Of this amount £68 8s. 2d. have been appropriated to the gratuitous distribution of Tracts and Children's Books. See Appendix.

PARENT SOCIETY.

From the Forty-fourth Report of this noble and extensively useful Institution, it appears to prosper in its benevolent career. Its issues were for last year 16,067,176; and the number of new Publications in the same period was 213.

The items of the Society's income for the year ending 31st March last are the following, viz: Donations, Collections, &c. £5160 15s. 10d.; Special Subscriptions for China, £1747 4s. 4d.; Legacies, £819 19s.; Sales of Publications, £43,064 14s. 9d.; and from other sources, with the previous year's balance, £1812 13s. 10d., making the total income for the year £52,605 7s. 9d. Its expenditure for the same period was £51,629 15s. 11d. Of this sum its free grants amounted to £6649 7s. 1d., being £1488 11s. 3d. beyond the benevolent contributions received from the public; besides paying its own expenses in every department.

The providential opening into the Chinese Empire, has not been overlooked by the Directors of the Tract Society. A special effort is made to provide for the spiritual destitution of this intelligent although yet idolatrous people. The success of this effort is increasing every month; and, it is hoped the amount will enable the Society to pour a flood of truth into "the land of Sinim, so that the ransomed of Jehovah may return."

**MONTREAL ASSOCIATION
FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS TRACTS.**

It is the pleasing duty of your Committee again to bear testimony to the unwearied, yea growing zeal of these faithful, indefatigable, and efficient laborers in the work of distribution. Early in the year just closed, a new impulse was given to the Association, by a very considerable addition to the number of Distributors. The addition includes a goodly number of Ladies, who have proved themselves exceedingly valuable Agents in this "work of faith." As usual, there is appended to this Report a detail of its proceedings, to which reference may be made for particulars.

OTHER SOCIETIES.

AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY.—According to the statements contained in the Eighteenth Annual Report of this Society, its efforts have been crowned with unprecedented success. Its issues for the year are, 4,155,806 Publications; the free grants amount to \$12,454 97; and the receipts for the year exceed those of the previous year, amounting in all to \$96,240 53; of which \$49,904 13 are proceeds of sales, and \$42,433 98 donations and legacies.

The Reports of the Quebec and Kingston Societies have not reached us. It is hoped that their labors are abundant and their success increased.

UPPER CANADA TRACT AND BOOK SOCIETY.—This very active and useful Society continues to extend its operations. Placed in circumstances much more favorable for the prosecution of its objects; the surrounding population, nearly all speaking and reading the English language, the field allotted to it by the providence of God, is more extensive than that cultivated by your Society.

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It is pleasing to observe that the number of Publications issued, still increases. The number of Books issued during last year, was 12,620 ; Tracts and Sermons, 41 458 ; making a total of 54,078 Publications. Of this number 24,628 were for gratuitous distribution. Its income during the year, including a balance from the previous year of £166 19s. 1½d., was £597 13s., and its expenditure was £551 2s. 6d.

L'ORIGINAL BRANCH SOCIETY.—This Society has received Publications to the value of £8 5s. 10d. ; has remitted £7 13s. 9d. ; has sold £3 worth ; and has sent Subscriptions to the amount of £1 13s. 9d.

DEPOSITORIES IN THE COUNTRY.

Some of these were withdrawn during the year. The small amount sold, and the heavy debt due to the Parent Society, rendered it expedient to take this step, until the Society shall be in circumstances to resume and extend such operations.

USEFULNESS OF TRACTS.

Extract from a letter from a person to whom the last Report of this Society was sent :—

“ I am glad of an opportunity which offers to-day to thank you for two copies of the Seventh Report of that precious Society, the Religious Tract Society. The finger of God is in this blessed noiseless instrumentality, and eternity will tell of its success ! I sometimes think of the various persons, who have interested themselves, perhaps, in *one tract*, meeting in heaven, and comparing notes as it were :—the Author—the Subscriber—the Distributor—and the benefited readers. They find Christ in all of it—Christ in the heart of the Author—Christ in the heart of the Subscriber—Christ in the heart of the Distributor ; and through the combined

instrumentality of all, Christ brought before the reader in all his own preciousness—in all his endearing characters—in all his precious offices! Just such a Saviour as they felt they *must* be saved by, was found in the tract; and looking back upon that tract, their whole souls burn within them with love to the Lord Jesus Christ, and afresh they lift up their voices and sing aloud, —‘Worthy is the Lamb that was slain; thou art worthy, for thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood, out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation, and hast made us unto our God Kings and Priests, and we shall reign with thee.’”

ADVANTAGES OF TRACT CIRCULATION.—A Correspondent says:—“I find six advantages by giving tracts.

1. They get into places where prejudice shuts me out.
2. They introduce me into cottages, and enable me to converse with the people.
3. They preach to others who are employed all day, and have neither time nor will to come and hear the word.
4. Many of the poor have no clothes for the Lord’s day, and the poor cottagers read them at home.
5. They are read by the poor in lodging houses, whom I cannot reach.
6. They preach to travellers, to whom I have no time to speak, and they no time to hear.”

Besides the 253 hopeful cases in death, there are eighty other instances of the power of religion in persons who were in affliction and have recovered, and are now living consistently with the gospel; and there are 215 instances of persons who have been met with in health during the past year, all of whom are giving evidence of the power of Divine truth upon their consciences and their hearts; and eighty-one of them have publicly given themselves up to God, by becoming members and communicants of the Church of Christ.—*Seventh Report London City Mission.*

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REMARKABLE HISTORY OF A BOOK.—*Four Conversions.*—An elder of a church in Kentucky, on being asked the reason of his deep interest in the volume circulation, replied, that he was presented with a copy of *Pike's Persuasives to Early Piety* eight years since, by the late Rev. Mr. Rice, the reading of which God blessed to his conversion. He then lent it to a young man, Mr. M——, who told him three months after, on his death-bed, that it had led him to the Saviour, who was now by grace supporting him in his dying moments. The book was again lent to another young man, who was persuaded by it to come to Christ, in the morning of life, and publicly profess him; giving so much promise, by his piety, of eminent usefulness, that an individual proposed giving him a liberal education. The same book was placed in the hands of a fourth individual, who was a school-teacher. After some weeks, the elder, as was his custom, made some inquiries respecting the contents of the book; when the teacher broke out with the exclamation, that he had been at war with the book, but that he had now submitted his heart to the Saviour, and desired to connect himself with the people of God.—*American Tract Society's Report.*

FINANCES.

The total value of the issues for the year is £262 3s. 4½d., being £13 16s. 11½d. less than last year, while the value of the gratuitous issues is greater this year by the sum of £10 4s. 11d. The chief cause of this is the increased exertions of the Montreal Association. The amount of Sales in the Depository, is £125 18s. 8d.; of remittances from Branches, Agents, Depositories, and individual purchases, £48 11s. 4d.; and of free contributions, including the collection at last Anni-

versary Meeting, £34 0s. 3d. Hence the gratuitous distribution amounts to rather more than double the free contributions to your funds, although no free grant has been received from the Parent Society.

During the year there have been remitted to the Religious Tract Society, London, £80 Sterling.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

Your Committee, deeply convinced of the paramount importance of diffusing the knowledge of the "glorious gospel" through the medium of Tracts, and other Religious Publications, desire exceedingly to behold the Christian Church fully alive to this effective instrumentality, brought within her grasp. Here armour of every description is prepared "for the defence of the gospel." No other means can supplant the use of the Tract. Often it is read when the Bible would remain neglected; and sometimes it leads the mind of its reader to the Oracles of God. It is allowed silently to address the conscience in private, when the living voice proclaiming "the unsearchable riches of Christ," would not be listened to in public. The gratuitous circulation of religious Tracts holds, therefore, a prominent place in the order of means, calculated to regenerate mankind.

In directing attention to this department of benevolent and Christian enterprise, it is not necessary to depreciate other Societies. All are important and necessary; they are co-workers in the cause of our common Lord. Let the Bible, Sunday School, and Missionary Societies be embalmed in your affections, and sustained by your liberal contributions and fervent prayers; but, at the same time, let this noble Institution, which is in part self-sustained, share in proportion to its just claims; and then, you will "multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness."

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The Committee in resigning their trust would remind you, that to you a great and responsible undertaking is assigned—that funds are inadequate—and that the season for labor is but short. Of the last circumstance your Committee are forcibly convinced, by the solemn fact that one of their number, Mr. W. M. OGDEN, has during the past year fallen in the field. He was at his post when summoned to render his account. His labors were abundant ; and they were vigorously pursued. It is almost certain that he, while indefatigably prosecuting his arduous work, was seized with his last sickness. He now rests from his labors : “blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.” His amiability endeared him to the Committee. May we all prove followers of those who through faith and patience now inherit the promises ; and become more instrumental in hastening on the happy time, when “songs of glory to the righteous one” will ascend from every nation and kindred, tongue and people.

MONTREAL AUXILIARY TRACT SOCIETY in Account with HENRY VENNOR, Treasurer.

Dr.		Cr.
To paid expenses of last Annual Meeting ...	£3 11 4	By Balance from last year £15 7 7
To Remitted Tract Society, London, Bill of Exchange, for £30 sterling, @ 9 p cent.	36 6 8	By Collection at Annual Meeting 13 8 4
To Remitted do. do. for £50 sterling, @ 10½ p cent... ..	61 7 9	By Cash Sales at the Depository. 125 18 8
To paid for printing the Annual Report, &c.	7 16 9	By Collections in the West Ward, 1842 ... 15 2 3
To paid Bible Society, rent and management of the Depository	30 0 0	By Subscriptions and Donations received at the Depository... .. 5 9 8
To paid Duties on Publications imported ...	3 16 1	By Remittances from Branch Societies, Agents, and payments by Purchasers.. ... 48 11 4
To paid Rev. A. Mann, balance due him ...	0 8 6	
To paid Postages, Insurance, Fuel, Candles, Taxes, and other incidental expenses... ..	9 2 11	
To Balance in the hands of the Treasurer...	71 7 10	
	<u>£223 17 10</u>	<u>£223 17 10</u>

Montreal, January 12, 1844.

E. E. (Signed) HENRY VENNOR, Treasurer.

N. B. There has been also received since the accounts were made up, collections in the West Ward, by Mrs. James Connell and Miss Muir, £14 4s. 8d.

Dr. Cr.
Stock Account—Montreal Auxiliary Tract Society.

To Amount due Parent Society... .. £406 17 11 To Amount due Francis Orr & Sons 46 3 8 To Amount due James Gallie 0 9 4 To Balance in favor of the Society... .. 256 12 11 <hr style="width: 100%;"/> £712 3 10	By Books and Tracts, at cost prices, per Inventory £443 10 10 By Amount due by Branch Societies, Agents, &c. 197 5 2 By Cash in the hands of the Treasurer... .. 71 7 10 <hr style="width: 100%;"/> £712 3 10
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Montreal, December 31, 1843.

E. E. JAMES MILNE,
Depository.

N. B. There has been also received since the accounts were made up, collections in the West Ward, by Mrs. James Connell and Miss Muir, £14 4s. 8d.

E. E. (Signed) HENRY VENNOR, *Treasurer.*

Montreal, January 12, 1844.

£223 17 10

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Statement of Publications received and issued by the Montreal Religious Tract Society, from 20th January to 31st December, 1843.

	ENGLISH.										FRENCH.					TOTAL.				
	Tracts and Sermons.	Hand Bills.	Broad Sheets.	3mo. Gilt edge.	3mo. Child's Books.	Select Sermons.	18mo. Rewards.	Bound Volumes.	6mo. Series.	Periodicals	Children's Tracts.	Gaelic Tracts.	Tracts.	Hand Bills.	Round Books.		3mo. Child's Books.	Edinburgh Bibles.	Edinburgh Tests.	Tracts for the Blind.
On hand, 20th January, 1843.....	112502	1700	1008	156	18216	31	494	1597	491	181	1400	9865	5643	300	84	4732	92	18	15	158525
Received during the year.....	11900			187	42	204	71	568	59		800						204	550		14585
Issued during the year.....	124402	1700	1008	343	18958	235	565	2165	550	181	2200	9865	5643	300	84	4732	256	568	15	173110
On hand, 31st December, 1843. ...	64011	200	68	97	3868	6	229	579	237		2200			4583	76	162	203	501		77025
	63391	1500	940	246	14390	229	336	1586	313	181		9865	1060	225	78	4570	93	67	15	96065

JAMES MILNE, DEPOSITARY.

SUBSCRIBERS

- Collected in*
- Joseph We
 - Hon. Peter
 - J. H. Maitl
 - William Lu
 - Henry Ven
 - Mrs. D. To
 - J. C. Becke
 - G. T. & Co
 - A. S. Whit
 - E. C. Tuttl
 - John Leemi
 - Joseph Leer
 - William Mu
 - W. Lyman.
 - William Ro
 - James Whit
 - R. Yates...
 - John Hollar
 - Mr. Fergus
 - A. F. Holm
 - George W.
 - J. Mills...
 - Cash... ..
 - Small sums.
-
- J. Court... ..
 - Mrs. M'Diar
 - J. C. Beers.
 - J. T. Barnar
 - A. Thomson
 - Rev. T. Osg
 - J. Sinclair ..
 - J. R. Sponge
 - J. Gibling ..
 - W. C. Evans
 - By Box in D

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS FOR 1843.

Collected in the West Ward, by Mrs. James Connell and Miss Muir.

Joseph Wenham.	£1	5	0
Hon. Peter M'Gill.	0	10	0
J. H. Maitland.	0	10	0
William Lunn... ..	0	10	0
Henry Vennor... ..	0	10	0
Mrs. D. Torrance... ..	0	10	0
J. C. Becket	0	5	0
G. T. & Co.	0	5	0
A. S. Whitney... ..	0	5	0
E. C. Tuttle.	0	5	6
John Leeming... ..	0	7	6
Joseph Leeming	0	7	6
William Muir	0	5	0
W. Lyman... ..	0	5	0
William Rodden	0	5	0
James White	0	5	0
R. Yates... ..	0	5	0
John Holland	0	5	0
Mr. Ferguson	0	5	0
A. F. Holmes	0	5	0
George W. Campbell... ..	0	5	0
J. Mills... ..	0	5	0
Cash... ..	2	10	0
Small sums... ..	3	13	10½

Received at the Depository.

J. Court... ..	1	0	0
Mrs. M'Diarmid	0	10	0
J. C. Beers... ..	0	10	0
J. T. Barnard... ..	0	10	0
A. Thomson.	0	10	0
Rev. T. Osgood.	0	5	0
J. Sinclair	0	5	0
J. R. Sponge.	0	5	0
J. Gibling	0	5	0
W. C. Evans.	0	5	0
By Box in Depository.	1	4	8

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MONTREAL ASSOCIATION

FOR THE
DISTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS TRACTS.

As there may be some to whom a slight sketch of the origin and design of this Association may not be uninteresting, we now subjoin as brief an outline as possible. Its formation was first proposed at a Ministerial Association meeting held in the beginning of the year 1839, and recommended "as an excellent plan for increasing the number of hearers at the different places of worship, promoting true religion in the churches, and arousing the inhabitants generally to the consideration of their eternal interests." With such a design this Association was shortly afterwards formed, but how far it has succeeded cannot be fully known until that day when the hidden things will be fully revealed, and when, we doubt not, it will be seen that the comparatively humble and unobtrusive labours of this and similar Societies have not been in vain.

The past year of its operations has been one of greatly extended effort. At its commencement, as a means for procuring additional assistants, an appeal was prepared, especially addressed to Christian ladies, and a copy sent to those ministers who have hitherto co-operated with us, with a request to read it to their respective congregations, and exert their influence in our behalf. Several of them promptly acceded to our wishes, and so ably seconded the appeal, that upwards of thirty members were added to the Association; the majority of whom were ladies, and who have since proved to be our most useful auxiliaries.

A considerable change was at the same time made in the plan of distribution. The City and Suburbs were divided into twenty-seven districts, of which the emigrants, seamen, and military each formed one; as many distributors as possible were appointed to each district, and every member expected to give a report monthly of his proceedings at the business meetings of the Association. This plan was adopted

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in consequence of the former one having been found faulty in many respects. By that arrangement there were in all but seven large districts, each with a superintendant and several assistants; the superintendant *only* reporting. It was found that the assistant distributors did not take the interest in the proceedings and object of the Association that was desirable, and the work in consequence proceeded but languidly; since, however, the alteration was effected,—a decided improvement has been the result. Our meetings are now well attended, and the distribution has proceeded with greatly increased zeal and vigour.

The Association is under a deep debt of gratitude to the Religious Tract Society, for a continued gratuitous supply of nearly all the Tracts required for distribution. This Society has very strong claims on public support, because the cost of Tracts, and other excellent publications issued gratuitously from its Depository in this City, is more than the sums received by way of contributions.

Number of Tracts distributed during the year, is, English, 35,214; French, 3421: Total, 38,365.

Throughout the City and Suburbs, the Tracts have generally been thankfully received, and read attentively.

The labour of the distributor does not, as may be supposed, conclude with the delivery of the Tract. It is expected that he will embrace every opportunity to draw attention to the momentous subjects contained in these "messages of mercy," and advance, to the extent of his abilities, the interests of religion and morality.

This most important part of the distributor's duty has not, we are happy to state, been entirely neglected; still, owing to the small number of distributors, and the extensive sphere of our operations, but little time can be employed otherwise than in distribution; and, consequently, only a very scanty amount of information can be procured respecting any good the Tracts, with the Divine blessing, may have been the means of accomplishing.

The petty persecutions and strong opposition manifested by some individuals, in various parts of the Suburbs, are no slight source of disquiet to the distributor. Some will take Tracts with much apparent thankfulness, and—as it has afterwards appeared—destroy them; others—more openly depraved—will, immediatiely on receiving the Tract, tear it in pieces, and throw it in the distributor's face with some bitter expression of malice and indignation. Still, even amongst the class referred to, there are those who read the Tracts with attention; and the probability that good may eventually be the result, should encourage us to persevere,

and, guided by the precepts of our holy religion, to endure patiently all opposition while in the performance of our duty.

A distributor amongst the military—himself a military man—reports as follows :—

“ I bless God, there appears to be a much greater desire for Tracts by my companions in arms, than I have experienced since first engaging in the work ; and I hope that my humble labors have not been ‘ as water spilled on the ground,’ but that good has, by the Divine blessing, already been the result. Often has the Tract been the means of preventing the profanation of the Sabbath, and its attendant sins. Soldiers, having much time at command, are peculiarly liable to desecrate the Lord’s day ; but the Tract, as a word in season, being given before the intended schemes can be put into execution, and operating on the conscience, has undoubtedly been productive of happy effects. I am pleased to have it in my power to state, that while engaged in distribution during the month, I have procured seven names to the Temperance Society ; and believing ‘ that no drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of heaven,’ I feel much encouraged with the result of my labors in this cause. It is much to be lamented, that military men in general pay so little attention to their religious interests ; and I am firmly of opinion, that one of the very best means that can be adopted for their awakening and conversion, is the distribution of Religious Tracts.”

Sailors and emigrants have been abundantly supplied throughout the season by one of our most efficient distributors. The remarks in the foregoing extracts, regarding the usefulness of Tracts in restraining soldiers from profaning the Sabbath, are equally applicable with respect to seamen. The distribution is made early in the morning, before any of the men have gone ashore : the distributor has often the pleasure of seeing many of them busily occupied with the perusal of the Tracts before he leaves the vessel ; and on the Sabbath before each vessel sails, a number is given to the captain, with a request that he will distribute them amongst the sailors during the homeward voyage.

The following extract from the report of the distributors in the prison, is full of interest ; and we would prayerfully entreat the attention of the Christian public to the closing remarks :—

“ The distributors in this apparently uninviting field, have lately observed a decided improvement in the conduct of several of the most unruly inmates. That there is, to some extent, a moral influence at present existing in the jail, is manifest ; whether resulting from present management, or from the influence of a constant supply of Tracts, or from a combination of both, is known only to God. They find that the Tracts are more readily taken, and they believe, more generally read than formerly ; the latter they can

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observe from the answers to questions occasionally put when the Tracts are being returned. Two instances have recently occurred of persons, who for some time sullenly refused to take the Tracts, alleging 'they did not want such stuff,' but who have since voluntarily asked for them.

"While engaged in distributing, they have of late been frequently spoken to by some of the wretched inmates, who, in an evil hour, became victims to the artifices of the fiendish seducer, and, consequent on their fall, are now the pests and outcasts of the community. Many of them express the strongest desire to change their evil course, should any mode of their procuring subsistence be attainable. As yet there is no place of refuge they may fly to on leaving the prison, and, lamentable to state, they are again forced from necessity to their former paths of iniquity. The distributors would observe, that the experience of three years visiting the jail, warrants them to believe, were there a House of Refuge provided for these wretched but repentant sinners, many of them through grace might be reclaimed, and become useful members of society."

Tract distribution is on the whole a pleasing duty; it has its sweet and bitter, but the former greatly exceeds the latter. It is an excellent method for privately preaching the gospel, and, we doubt not, it is in many instances very efficacious in awakening the careless and impenitent. How often has an expression, nay, a single word contained in these little epitomes of the plan of salvation, been the means, under God, of turning sinners from the error of their ways, and saving immortal souls from eternal misery. And if no other good had been effected by their instrumentality, it would be abundant recompense for all the labour and trouble expended in the work to know, that very many of those who in the Tract taste of the *stream*, are led to drink deeply of the *fountain—the Bible*.

This duty is peculiarly the province of the Christian female: in most cases, when the distributor calls, there are none but women at home; and it is at once obvious, that enquiries cannot be prosecuted by male distributors with sufficient freedom. An extract from one of the monthly reports will shew what can be done by female distributors; it requires no comment, and is as follows:—

"While engaged in this delightful work, we found that the children of a number of families, residing in _____ Street, were, owing to the distance, unable to attend a Sabbath school; and a convenient room having been offered for the purpose, a school was at once commenced with eight children, and the promise of a much larger number in future. We would humbly hope, that by the Divine blessing, this may be the means of doing some good."

Under all the various distresses constantly presented to the eye of the distributor, whether poverty, sickness, bereavement, or any of the other "ills that flesh is heir to," who can, like a pious and benevolent female, administer comfort and consolation, and point the afflicted to "the present help in time of trouble, the refuge of the destitute, the husband of the widow, and the father of the fatherless?"

In conclusion, we would earnestly call on all who feel an interest in the work, to lend a helping hand. These are not the times to indulge in ease and supineness. While we are idle, the enemies of true religion find full employment. Infidels, Universalists, Unitarians, and the lately acquired ally of Romanism, are scattering their pernicious and baneful publications throughout the length and breadth of the land; the great adversary of souls is not idle; and Death, too, king of terrors! is busily engaged, hurrying our fellow-sinners to eternity. The present is our only moment for action; and if, at the Judgment Seat of Christ, we desire to render an acceptable account of the manner we have employed the time and talents entrusted to us, we shall at once be "up and doing;" for whether our duty be performed or not, Death will soon overtake us; the shadows of the grave quickly encompass us; and the "night come, when no man can work."

JO

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Misses S

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LIST OF MEMBERS.

JOHN DOUGALL, Esq., *Chairman.*

J. ADAMS MATHEWSON, *Secretary & Treasurer.*

DISTRIBUTORS.

Messrs. A. Adams, sen.
D. Savage,
R. Morton,
William Norton,
William Gunn,
J. Barr,
James Wilson,
John Keller,
F. F. Blackader,
J. Burt,
— Kirkpatrick,
William M'Bride,
C. Alexander,
Charles Davis,
R. Havens,
J. M'Watters.

Messrs. T. M'Watters,
J. M'Callum,
A. Hamilton,
J. Gibson,
J. Birks,
James Muir,
J. Jackson,
Thomas Eager,
J. Daly,
J. Telfer,
N. Adams,
R. Nicholson,
Thomas Lyman,
William Peacock,
James Lewis,
William Gibling.

Mrs. Ward,
Rispiu,
M'Indoe,
Cameron,
J. A. Wilkes,
H. Lyman,
Milne,
Woodbury,
Misses Sawtell,
Halliday,
R. Fraser,
Clark,
M'Indoe,

Misses Morris,
Barnard,
Fletcher,
Ratray,
Muir,
J. Muir,
Milne,
Hagar,
Anderson,
Cox,
Cochran,
Drennan,
Smith.

CONSTITUTION.

1. That this Institution be called *The Montreal Association for the Distribution of Religious Tracts.*
2. That this Association shall consist of all such pious persons, who may be disposed to unite their operations in carrying out the object of a general Tract distribution, according to the plan now proposed.
3. That all persons desirous of becoming Members of this Association in future, shall be received by a vote of the Society at any General or Monthly Meeting.
4. That it shall be the duty of the Members of this Association to distribute Tracts, to converse with those they visit on the important subject of personal religion, and to urge an attendance on public worship, as well as a regard to the other means of grace.
5. That the Members shall meet statedly once a month for prayer in connexion with the object in view, when each Member shall present a written report, and give a statement of such facts as may have occurred in the course of distribution.
6. That all monies contributed shall be received in aid of the funds of the Montreal Religious Tract Society.
7. That the Officers shall consist of a Chairman and Secretary, to be chosen annually by the members.
8. That it shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a record of the proceedings of each meeting, and also the reports of the Distributors. He shall also take charge of all monies received by the Association, and account for the same to the Treasurer of the Religious Tract Society.