



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CANADA EDUCATION

AND

HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

READ AT THE

GENERAL MEETING,

OCTOBER 23, 1833.

MONTREAL :—PRINTED BY J. & T. A. STARKE.

MDCCCXXXIII.



STANLEY BRADY

THE BRADY SOCIETY

NEW YORK

1880

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CANADA EDUCATION
AND
HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

READ AT THE
GENERAL MEETING,

OCTOBER 23, 1833.

MONTREAL:—PRINTED BY J. & T. A. STARKE.

MDCCCXXXIII.

BR(S)
266.009714
C12

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CANADA EDUCATION AND HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY, was held on the 23rd October, 1833, in the American Presbyterian Church.

REV. MR. MILES, IN THE CHAIR.

The following Resolutions were passed :—

- 1st. That the Report, read by the Secretary, be adopted and printed and circulated under the direction of the Committee.
- 2nd. That the thanks of the Society be given to those friends in England and the United States who have aided us by their generous donations.
- 3rd. That the Society, in view of the alarming destitution of Evangelical Ministers, among the increasing population of this Province, invite applications from all destitute Settlements, and pledge themselves to supply this destitution, to the extent of their pecuniary means, as fast as suitable Missionaries can be found.
- 4th. That the Committee, for the ensuing year, are earnestly requested to make the most vigorous efforts to increase the number of Missionaries employed, and to educate, or provide with opportunities of education for the Ministry, every pious indigent young man, of the Congregational, or Presbyterian denominations, applying for aid, who shall give satisfactory evidence of proper qualifications.
- 5th. That the following gentlemen be requested to conduct the affairs of the Institution, for the ensuing year :—

REV. R. MILES.
W. TAYLOR,
MR. J. DE WITT,
WM. BUDDEN,
L. B. WARD,
G. SAVAGE,

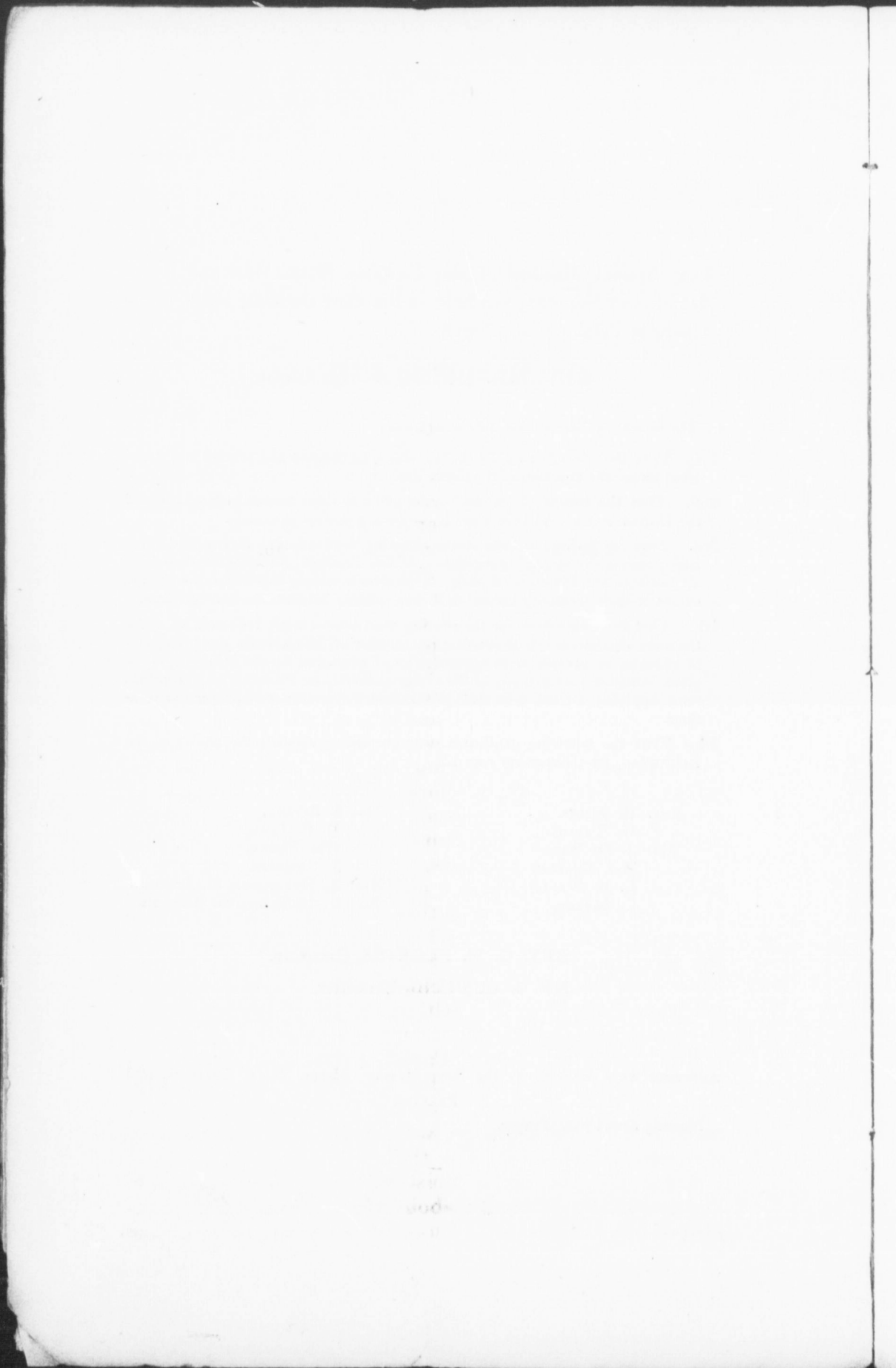
MR. J. SAVAGE,
D. P. JAMES,
WM. MOORE,
J. CHRISTIE,
REV. A. HENDERSON, St. Andrews
MR. G. RICHARDS, St. Andrews.

REV. G. W. PERKINS, Secretary.

MR. J. CUSHING, Treasurer.

Addresses were delivered by the REV. MESSRS. MILES, NALL, GILMOUR, and PERKINS.

Meeting closed with Prayer.



REPORT.



As this Report may reach many who know little of the moral condition of Lower Canada, and of the operations of this Society, it may be proper to enter into some details on these points, before narrating our proceedings for the past year.

The first settlement was made in Lower Canada, in the year 1608, by a Colony under the direction of M. Champlain, at Quebec. These colonists came from France; and the country continued to be an appendage to the French empire, until the year 1763, when it was ceded by treaty to England. At the present time a large proportion of its population, are French, speak that language, and profess the Catholic religion. The French population, however, reside *principally*, on a narrow strip of territory, skirting the great rivers of the Province. Their location, therefore, will be easily ascertained by a simple inspection of the map. The Protestant population, consists principally of emigrants from England, Scotland, Ireland, and the United States. A large part of them have planted themselves in the *new* and uncleared parts of the Province, and like most new settlers, are thinly scattered over a large extent of country. While, therefore, Canada is one of the oldest of the European Settlements in North America, Missionary labor, is required chiefly in those parts, which have not been brought under cultivation, till within a comparatively late period.

The Province of Lower Canada contains at present over 500,000 inhabitants; more than 100,000 of these are Protestants. The number of Protestant Clergymen, of all denominations, in the Province, will appear from the following statement, which is very near the truth.

There are about thirty Episcopal Clergymen in the Province, about ten Methodist, about fifteen Presbyterian, Congregational, and Baptist. But that there may be no ground

for cavil, we will suppose the whole number of Protestant Clergymen, of every denomination to be sixty. A moment's reflection will show that this is a supply utterly inadequate to the wants of the country. In many cases a small Protestant population is scattered over two or three townships, each of them ten miles square; that is over a territory of 200 or 300 square miles. It must be recollected too, that in this new country the roads are at all seasons of the year bad; and for some months absolutely impracticable; and that the want of bridges frequently make even these bad roads extremely circuitous. It is also to be remembered that great multitudes are so poor as not to possess horse or carriage for transporting the family to church, even if there were roads and bridges. These considerations shew that a single Clergyman can give a proper pastoral oversight, to a very small number only. The pastoral charges of all the Ministers in the country parts of the Province, so far as we have been able to ascertain, are extremely small. The number probably varies from 100 to 500. If we suppose that each clergyman has on an average 500 individuals in his pastoral charge, it will unquestionably very far exceed the truth. But even on that supposition only 30,000 out of 100,000 Protestants in this Province are at all supplied with the Ministers and ordinances of Religion, while 70,000 are either wholly without the preaching of the Gospel, or hear it only occasionally, when delivered by some itinerant or passing stranger. There are whole townships in which for weeks and even months the voice of a Christian Minister is never heard.

One hundred and forty Missionaries then, on the above estimate, are needed to give the Protestant population of this province even a tolerable supply of religious instructors.

But it is exceedingly difficult to find men who are willing to be Missionaries in this country. The Committee of this Society have made repeated and diligent efforts to procure Missionaries from both sides of the water, but for the most part entirely in vain. Very few men indeed are willing to leave home, and friends, and comforts, to labor in the new Settlements of Canada.

Another formidable difficulty is the impossibility of procuring support for ministers in the places in which they labor.— It is a fact not generally known, that not one in ten of the clergymen of the province, except in the cities of Quebec and Montreal, are supported by the people among whom they labor.

All the clergymen of the Church of England in the British North American Colonies, are maintained by the Society for propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, a large portion of whose funds has hitherto been contributed by Government. The Methodist ministers draw a chief part of their support from a Missionary Society in England, while several of other denominations are partly supported by the Canada Education and Home Missionary Society—so that of the sixty Protestant ministers in the province, but a mere fraction are wholly supported by the people with whom they labor. A short explanation will shew why this is so. It does not arise from the fact that in any given Township there is not sufficient property to support a clergyman, but from the peculiar circumstances of the case. There is not, probably, a Township in Lower Canada, which is not abundantly able to furnish support for a minister of the Gospel, if there were union of feeling, of religious sentiments, and strength of moral principle. But there is no such union. One very large portion of the population care little or nothing for religion of any kind. Of course *their property* is withdrawn from the support of religious institutions. Of those who do care for religion and are anxious to have ministers among them, there is a wide diversity of religious sentiments. They are divided into many sects, whose separate prejudices will not allow them to unite for the support of a minister of any persuasion. For these reasons the number of individuals in any given Township, who care for the institutions of religion, and can unite for their support, is extremely small.

Such then is a brief sketch of the moral condition of this province. Not more than one third of its Protestant population supplied with preachers of the Gospel: whole townships growing up, without any of the institutions of religion; and peculiar circumstances rendering it impossible for them, by their own unaided efforts, to procure for themselves those blessings.

This state of things is becoming worse and worse. Each returning year finds a destitute people, more and more indifferent whether they ever enjoy the means of grace. If they are unable or unwilling this year to support religion among them, they will have less ability the next. That *indifference* will become *dislike*, till at length that people, who would even have welcomed an evangelical minister among them, will be absolutely opposed to religion, and be ready to bid Christ and his Gospel to depart out of their coasts. Every year there-

fore, renders the work of planting the Gospel in the new settlements more difficult and expensive ; and hence the necessity of immediate, persevering and energetic effort.

HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY.

To meet this alarming and increasing destitution, the Canada Education and Home Missionary Society was formed in December, 1827. Up to that time, it is believed, that no association existed, in any place, whose *special* object it was to send Evangelical Missionaries into Lower Canada.

On both sides of the Atlantic, there had existed for years, Societies for sending Missionaries to the Heathen, and those Societies actually had sought out and visited the remotest corners of the earth, and the obscurest recesses of Paganism. In England and the United States, too, there existed *Home* Missionary Societies for Christianizing their *own* destitute population. But amid all this expansive benevolence, the Province of Lower Canada was almost entirely overlooked. A very small number of Methodist Missionaries had been sent here by the Conference at home. The Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign parts, aided by an annual grant from Parliament, had planted here a few Clergymen of the Established Church of England. But allowing all due praise to these efforts, the destitution was still great and increasing. There was a large class of Protestants, conscientiously differing from both these denominations, and conscientiously dissenting from an *established* church, who were lamentably destitute of the means of grace.

To supply that want was the object of this Society, not in opposition to other Societies, but to co-operate with them in evangelizing the country.

The Committee endeavoured immediately to procure faithful Ministers as Missionaries. In these efforts they met with the most disheartening obstacles. There were no theological seminaries in this country, from which they might procure young men trained up for the ministry, and of course they were compelled to send to other countries. But although urgent letters were written to various influential individuals in England and Scotland, more than a year elapsed before even a single Missionary could be procured.

The field was new:—the attention and interest of the religious public had never been directed to this country, and all the men who had a missionary spirit, were looking to other

fields of labor. This obstacle has never been entirely overcome. For although the Society has procured a few most faithful and devoted laborers, it has been constantly cramped and limited by the impossibility of procuring *as many* as the exigencies of the case required.

The following is a concise notice of the places which have received aid from this Society, since its formation :

SHIPTON.—This place is situated on the River St. Francis, on the Mail route from Stanstead to Quebec. It contains 1300 inhabitants. The Rev. A. J. Parker was stationed here in 1829, and has continued his labours in this place ever since. A church has been organized, a revival of religion enjoyed, and the permanent foundations laid, we trust, for lasting religious institutions.

GRANBY.—This place is situated on the Mail road from Stanstead to Montreal, and contains 800 inhabitants. Our Missionary, the Rev. Mr. Rockwell, went there in 1830. Both he, and the gentlemen who have succeeded him in that station have, preached in *Shefford* and at *Yamaska Mountain*. In this place also, a church has been organised ; Temperance Societies, too, formed here through the instrumentality of our Missionary, have exerted a powerful and happy influence.

HULL.—This Township is situated on the Ottawa River, opposite Bytown, and contains a population of 2000 inhabitants. A church had been organised and a house of Worship built before our Missionary went there. For three years, the Rev. J. C. Nichols labored here with the greatest self denial and piety, till compelled by ill health to retire from the field of labor.

LOCHIEL.—This Township lies in the Upper Province, very near the borders of Lower Canada. The Rev. Mr. Fraser was aided for one year in this place.

HAWKESBURY AND ITS VICINITY.—The Rev. Mr. M'Killican, who has no stated pastoral charge, has itinerated, at some seasons of the year, in the parts lying adjacent to Lochiel, and has been aided by this Society.

HUNTINGDON AND ITS VICINITY, *in the County of Beauharnois*.—For a few months, a Missionary was aided in this part of the county, but from certain circumstances, not within the control of the Society, it was thought best to withdraw any further aid to him.

In pursuance of the original plan of the Society, efforts were early made to provide means in this country for educating young men for the gospel ministry. After considerable

correspondence in the fall of 1831, the Rev. J. Smith arrived in this country, from Scotland, for the purpose of affording, under the auspices of this Society, assistance to pious young men in pursuing the requisite theological studies.

He brought out with him, a small but valuable Library, and several hundred pounds, contributed by the friends of the cause in England and Scotland and elsewhere. After a short residence in Montreal, he was invited to take the care of a Church in Kingston, U. C. In that place he has resided from that time, and there are at present, two young men of promising talents and piety, pursuing with him, under the patronage of the Society, the studies preparatory to the Ministry. This part of the Society's operations have been exceedingly limited owing to the want of funds, and of suitable young men to be brought forward into the Ministry.

OPERATIONS OF THE PAST YEAR.

With this brief sketch of the Society's history and places, it remains to give an account of the proceedings of the past year.

REV. A. J. PARKER.—This gentleman has laboured in Sipton and has occasionally extended his visits to other towns in the vicinity.

The following is an extract from his Report :

"I have laboured statedly in this place as usual, according to my ability, with the exception of labours abroad and sickness hereafter to be mentioned.

"On the Sabbath I have preached twice, and more commonly attended a third service, and sometimes our Sabbath School at the intermission. During the week I have preached once, sometimes twice or more, conducted one or two social prayer meetings, and attended funerals whenever desired. My lectures have been given in different districts from two to eight miles distant, and I have been sent for, the distance of twenty-five miles to attend funerals. During the year I have been absent from the people quite a number of weeks, but can state with pleasure that the congregation have not forsaken the assembling of themselves together to hear and read sermons and offer their prayers during my absence. I have been, Sir, for about four years under the direction of this Society, and the first Missionary they ever employed. During three years and a half of this time I have been in this very spot, and to this day, Sir, I can look to the east and west, and

north and south, and not find a Congregational, a Presbyterian or a Baptist, (save one Free-will Baptist) nor a Methodist Minister so near as fifty miles. Not one Congregational Church or Minister so near as 65 miles, (except one at Shefford, and a Forest separates us, so that we have to travel 90 miles to reach it.) An Episcopalian clergyman preaches half the time ten miles from me, and there is but one more so near as fifty miles.

“Now, is the gospel needed here? O sir, I dare not begin to answer. But is it wanted? Why sir, within a few weeks one man has come twice to me from 20 miles north-west, and plead and begged to have me go to his town and preach, and while I was there was informed by the inhabitants, that 300 persons lived in that town, who were educated under the Congregational and Presbyterian forms of religion, and that till I was there they had never heard in that town but two Sabbaths’ preaching from ministers of either of these denominations; and since that time two men have come from 50 miles south, and most earnestly solicited me to “go and help them;” and from other places the calls are not less imperious. But a few Sabbaths since, a father and mother who, lived more than 45 miles distant, came to spend the Sabbath and to improve the privilege of consecrating their infant child to God.

“A few months since, I rode 25 miles, to visit a few families who had been seven years in the townships, and never seen but one minister, or heard more than one sermon during that time. It was dark when I arrived at the place, and too late to collect the people and preach that evening, and I said to them that I had appointments for the next day, so far distant, that I must leave in the morning, and should therefore be unable to preach there. But said my host, you *must* preach, if it is at *midnight*—our people will meet at any hour of day or night to hear a *Sermon*. Finally, eight o’clock next morning was fixed upon, as the hour, and at ten minutes past eight every person in the town, (consisting of seven families) save a sick woman and a little boy, were together to hear words whereby they might be saved. Immediately I returned nine miles and found a school house there filled with those who waited for the word of the Lord.”

REV. MR. GLEED.—The year of his service expired during the last summer. His labors have been employed principally at Shefford, Granby, and Yamaska Mountain, with occasional visits to other towns.

REV. J. C. NICHOLS.—He has labored in ^{S.} Under

his ministrations the Congregation and Sabbath School have increased and flourished. His health has obliged him to leave this place, much to the regret of his people and the loss of the Society.

REV. Mr. M'KILLICAN.—During the last winter this gentleman itinerated in several of the towns adjoining Lochiel, Upper Canada.

REV. J. SMITH.—This gentleman has had the pastoral care of a church in Kingston, entirely independant of this Society. He is connected with us in the education department, in superintending the studies of two young men, of whose progress he gives the most encouraging account.

AGENCIES.

The Society, for the purpose of gaining funds, and making known our objects to the friends of religion in the United States, has employed several individuals in short agencies to New England and New York.

During the last winter the Rev. Mr. PARKER visited a number of towns in Vermont, and laid before the churches the plans and wants of our Society. He was received with the greatest kindness, and many contributions were given him in the places which he visited. He collected £32 11 6.

In the spring Mr. S. S. NORRIS, of Compton, L. C. performed an agency of three months, in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusettes. His object was received with much favor and interest, and very generous donations were made both by individuals and churches. The sum received by him was £120 6 0.

Mr. NORRIS writes:—"My visit to this city (Boston) will be attended with a blessing to our country. I have called on individual gentlemen and clergymen and find them almost universally interested for Canada. One gentleman gave Forty Dollars, and thinks he shall be able to support one Missionary in the Townships. Agents for other Societies are in almost every place to which I go, yet the people feel that they ought to do something for Canada, and even feel grateful that I have been sent to them."

The REV. MR. NALL, of Russeltown, took a short Agency to New York and succeeded in interesting the minds of various benevolent individuals in that city, in our cause.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHER SOCIETIES.

The Committee have thought it very important to enlarge the operations and bring a great amount of moral influence to bear upon the destitute portions of this country. For this purpose they have been glad to enter upon a friendly correspondence with kindred Societies on both sides of the Atlantic.

In the Spring, the Committee heard of the formation of a Committee in London, for the express purpose of sending Missionaries to Lower Canada. The Secretary was directed to write immediately, for the purpose of offering any aid or co-operation, which was in our power. But we have not since heard of their present condition and plans.

The Secretary of this Society was in New York during the last summer, and while there, had several interviews with the Secretaries of the Presbyterian Education Society, and of the American Home Missionary Society. These gentlemen expressed the most cordial interest in the objects of our Society, and the undoubted willingness of their Committee to afford us their hearty co-operation. Their rules will not allow them to pay money into our treasury to be used by us. But such arrangements are made, and such an understanding exists, that very important aid will be afforded by them.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

It is the wish of the Committee greatly to enlarge the operations of the Society, the coming year, the cause of Christ imperiously requires it, the destitutions of this Province demand it, and the cordiality with which our cause has been received in other countries, encourages us to attempt it.

Trusting to the promises of God, the Committee for the coming year, ought to do more than has ever been done for the cause of religion in Canada. Such are the signs of the times, and such the encouragements given to us in the providence of God, that the Committee may, unquestionably, make and redeem the following pledges :

Aid to all *faithful, devoted, Evangelical, Presbyterian and Congregational Ministers*, who are willing to come into the destitute parts of this country, and labor faithfully.

Aid to all destitute Congregations and Townships, as fast as we can procure devoted Missionaries.

Aid to all pious and indigent young men, of those denominations, who wish to study for the Ministry.

Not that our funds or resources, *alone*, are at all adequate to redeem these pledges, but we confidently believe, that if your Committee will aim higher, and attempt more, God will raise up friends and pour the silver and the gold into the treasury.

It certainly is time that the friends of Evangelical religion, in this province, did arise to greater activity. While the population is growing by emigration and by natural increase, and the need of religious effort is constantly becoming greater, the friends of religion have been almost idle.

For all good men, in every church, whether connected with government or not, we cherish the most cordial affection and respect, and wish success to their labors. But we conscientiously believe that any farther connexion between the Church and the State, than that which consists in giving equal protection to the rights and liberties of all denominations, is directly injurious to the cause of Evangelical religion.

We wish to see a Ministry resting for support solely upon the affections of the people, and winning that support by the most laborious and faithful attention to their pastoral duties.

To all to whom this Report may come, we appeal for aid. Struggling, as many of the churches and people of this country are, with all the difficulties necessarily incident to new settlements, it is impossible, in many places at least, that Protestant religious institutions should be commenced, without the friendly aid of Christians in more favored circumstances. Some of them have left the hallowed scenes of English and Scottish piety, others worshipped the God of their fathers, in the churches of New England, and they now ask, will you not aid us in building up here, the same sacred institutions? To those who have aided us in times past, we render our cordial thanks, and hope that they will not be weary in helping us, till this, and every land shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the seas.

Here is the germ of a great empire. This country, with its mighty rivers, and fertile soil, and commercial capabilities, is able to sustain, and must ultimately sustain, an immense population. A rapidly increasing population will spread over the boundless plains and forests, and up the numerous rivers and lakes, which intersect its territory. How important then that religious institutions should be planted now, and grow up
 population, entwining themselves around the affec-

tions of the people, and throwing their own sacred and happy influence around all their families, and into all their other rising institutions. The destinies of unborn millions may be influenced by what this generation shall do.

NOTE.—It did not properly fall within the rules of a Report, to mention the labors of any Missionary, except those immediately under the direction of this Society. But in the Appendix we feel desirous of recording the labors of the REV. J. NALL.

This gentleman arrived from ENGLAND, in the summer of 1831, proceeded to Russeltown, in the County of Beaubarnois, and has labored in that vicinity with untiring diligence. As a consequence of his efforts, and two protracted meetings, the Spirit of God has been poured out, in two successive revivals of religion. A church has been organised, which, with late additions, contains, it is believed, about 80 members.

The people applied for aid, to the American Home Missionary Society, at New York. That Society generously granted the requisite assistance, without which Mr. Nall would have been unable to remain among them.

CANADA EDUCATION
AND HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY,
IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TREASURER.

	L.	s.	d.
<i>Dr.</i>			
1833. To Cash paid Five Missionaries in the employ of this Society during the past year, - - - - -	125	0	0
To Cash paid Four Agents of this Society, including Travelling Expenses, - - - - -	75	4	3
To Cash paid Three Students, - - - - -	81	8	4
To Cash paid the Rev. Mr. John Smith, - - - - -	25	0	0
To Cash paid Sundry Postages, - - - - -	2	11	8½
	211	11	8½
<i>Cr.</i>			
1833. By Balance last Year's Acct., including Balance of Interest - - - - -	107	19	1
By Cash Collected at Annual Meeting, - - - - -	5	12	1½
By Cash Collected in the American Presbyterian Society, - - - - -	54	0	1½
By Cash from Unknown Friends, - - - - -	23	10	0
By Cash from Ladies' Auxiliary Society, - - - - -	13	8	4
By Donation from Ladies' Sewing Society, - - - - -	50	11	0
By Cash received from Rev. A. J. Parker, being Amount of his Collections in Vermont - - - - -	32	11	6
By Cash from Mr. S. S. Norris, being Amount of his Collections in New England, - - - - -	120	14	7
By Cash from Rev. J. Nall, being Amount of his Collections in the United States, - - - - -	14	0	0
By Cash Collected at an Evening Lecture in Burlington, Vermont, - - - - -	3	5	0
	425	11	9
By Balance remaining in the Treasury, - - - - -	309	4	3½
	116	7	5½
	425	11	9

J. CUSHING, TREASURER