

THE
THIRTEENTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

QUEBEC

DIOCESAN COMMITTEE

OF THE

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN
KNOWLEDGE.

MAY 1831.



THREE-RIVERS:
PRINTED BY GEORGE STOBBS,

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THE
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ANNUAL REPORT,

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THE operations of the *Quebec Diocesan Committee of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge*, during the last twelve months, have been as satisfactory as, under existing circumstances the friends of the Society could reasonably have expected. There is, indeed, still a want of sufficient support, to which circumstance, allusion was made at the last General Meeting of the members of the Institution, and which the Committee would feel themselves wanting in their duty, as charged more particularly with the interests of the Society, did they now withhold the knowledge of the fact, from those who may be called her friends: they therefore will not refrain from again stating it as their opinion, that the "means at their disposal in promoting the great objects of the Society, within this diocese, ought to be much larger than they actually are." They look particularly, as they have hitherto done, to the members of the Church with which the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge is intimately connected. From all, therefore, who wish well to the interests of that Church, the Committee humbly conceive that the Society may claim the exercise of their most zealous endeavours, in the promotion of those great objects which she has in view. Some few persons have associated themselves with us, since the last report, but some also, have either left the province, or have died within that period: and thus the list of Subscribers to the Committee, is nearly, as to numbers, what it was at the time of the last Annual Meeting. This fact is discouraging. The existence of the institution depends, with but a very few exceptions, upon the bounty of the professed members of the Church of England, and we cannot look for support to other sources than to the benevolence of the public at large. The Committee do not feel disposed to say more upon this subject, at present, but they feel themselves called upon most imperatively, to state these facts, and to solicit the liberal and

uninterrupted assistance of all who have at heart the interests of the Gospel, and the dissemination of that knowledge which can make "wise unto salvation, through faith in Christ Jesus."

The Committee have not yet received the Report of the Parent Society, for the last twelve months, but it is satisfactory to know that the most powerful exertions are making by them to stem that torrent of infidelity to which so much of the recent distress in England may be attributed. Infidelity in the mother country, within the last few months, has reared its head with unusual boldness and daring; poisoning the morality of the nation, and ministering ruin to the peace, the honesty, and happiness, of her inhabitants, and ruin to their souls. That publications which were capable of producing such unhappy results should have been ever produced, is an evidence of the blind inveteracy of human nature: that they should have found purchasers, is a stain upon the national reputation. There are, however, no fears for the result. The well-directed efforts of our venerable Society, in the cause of morals, wisdom, and Christianity, will be amply sufficient, with the blessing of Almighty God, to arrest the evil in its progress. She will triumph, as she has triumphed more than once, with her only legitimate weapons, Reason, and the word of God.

A new field for the operations of the Parent Society has been opened in Ireland, for the application of their resources.

In the Report of the Parent Society, published in 1829, the last which has been received here, it is stated that by the aid of £1000, granted by them to the Lord Primate of Ireland, added to funds raised in Ireland, an experiment had been made, of communicating scriptural information to the Roman Catholic population, through the instrumentality of agents under the controul of the Parochial Clergy, and the general superintendence of the ordinary. The experiment has been made on a moderate scale in four different Dioceses, and the Report states that the success of the undertaking has been quite as great as under the very peculiar circumstances of the times, it was reasonable to expect. Upon a review of what has a ready been effected by them, it is confidently stated, that, notwithstanding the obstacles opposed to them, by political excitement, they have been the instruments of great good. The agents, in many instances, have been found useful auxiliaries to the parish minister, and it seems highly probable that by steadiness and prudence they may gradually gain the confidence of the Roman Catholics, and induce them to study the Word of God. The number of agents then employed in the Diocese of Armagh, is stated to be twenty seven.

The Committee conceive that the plan might in these provinces be adopted with success. The Committee have the satisfaction of being able to state that the district Committee alluded to in the last report, as then about to be formed at Cornwall, has been instituted there, and is now in active operation. A lending Library in con-

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nection with the Institution is contemplated. The Parent Society has at the present time, eight Committees, within the Diocese, viz: at Quebec, Montreal, York, Kingston, Niagara, Newcastle, Cornwall, and Johnstown.

Before entering upon a detail of their proceedings, the Committee have to state that His Excellency, the Rt. Hon. Lord AYLMER, desirous of advancing the interests of the Society, has intimated his willingness to become the Patron of the Institution.

The Committee proceed to the first branch of their operations—the distribution of Books and Tracts. The amount of sales at the Repository since May last, is to the public, £128 1s. 11½d. and to the Bishop of Quebec, £30 10s. 9d., making a total of £158 12s. 8½d. The whole amount of Books sold to his Lordship, on account of the Parent Society's grant is, up to this date, £271 17s. 5d.

The following Clergymen and Schoolmasters have been supplied with Books from the Repository, by order of the Lord Bishop.

CLERGYMEN.

The Rev. C. B. Fleming, of Shipton, Lower Canada,
The Rev. J. Braithwaite, of Chambly, Lower Canada.

SCHOOLMASTERS.

Mr. D. Eddleston, stationed at Drummondville,
Mr. John Eden, Gaspé Bay.

Orders for Books from the Rev. Micaiah Townsend, of Caldwell Manor, and the Rev. Christopher Jackson, of Hatley, have been attended to.

The New District Committee, at Cornwall, Upper Canada, applied in July, for Books from this Committee, to the amount of £50, but it being considered advisable for several reasons, not to part with Books to so large an amount, at the moment; the order was diminished one-half, and a box of Books, sent to the value of £25 12s. 1d.

The resident Clergy of Quebec have, as heretofore, supplied the poor and the sick in the different hospitals, at a cost to the Committee, of £9 14s. 4½d. A large quantity of the Society's Tract, entitled, "A Serious Address to God-Fathers and God-Mothers" is usually kept in the Cathedral, from which Sponsors at Baptism are supplied gratuitously. In the newly-formed Settlements around Quebec, wherever Protestants are resident, different Tracts have been dispersed, during the ministerial circuits, made throughout the year. A School formed, during the Winter, at Val Cartier, has received a small gratuitous supply.

The following statement of the issues from the Repository, for the last year, will, perhaps, more satisfactorily exhibit what has

been effected during the period which has elapsed since the last Report.

Bibles,	99
Testaments,	213
	— 312
Common Prayer Books,	250
Bound Books,	327
Tracts,	3287
	— 4186

The cost of Books obtained from the Repository, which have been required for the use of the National School, amounts to £6 5s. 10d. for the year.

The Sunday School at Munn's Cove, under the superintendance of Mr. Thompson, continues to be supplied from our Repository with such books as may be required for the use of the school. It is highly satisfactory to know that there is still every reason to hope, that this school will prove an effectual instrument of good. The seeds of religion and morality which are now sowing in the minds of the Children of parents who reside in that hitherto unprovided part of the population of this growing City, will hereafter, it is confidently hoped, bring forth fruit abundantly.

Another Sunday School has recently been organized in the Chapel of the Holy Trinity in this City in conformity with the rules and regulations of the Sunday School Society with which it is in connexion. This School was opened on the Sunday after Easter, and has at present upon the books in all 53 children. It is under the management of a Director, two Superintendants and fourteen voluntary Teachers. It is confined to children of parents in the higher and middling classes of Society, those of the labouring classes being with one or two exceptions excluded. The books of instruction used in this School have been obtained from the Repository to the amount of £6 19s. 1d.—This it is believed is the first School which has been formed on the plan laid down by that Society. It is also the first Sunday School belonging to our establishment to which the children of parents moving in the higher classes of Society have been invited to attend. That there are prejudices which operate upon the mind of some individuals against the introduction of such an extension of the System is highly probable; it is however, sincerely to be hoped that the time is not far distant when all prejudices of whatever kind will be removed, and the younger part of our Congregations will be brought without distinction in order that they may be benefited by the systematic religious education for which the Sunday School Society lately established in this Diocese so completely provides. The Committee may, they trust, be pardoned a digression from their subject if they

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take the present opportunity of laying before the meeting a brief analysis of the Constitution of the Society above alluded to.

This Society is constituted of four central Committees, viz: at Quebec, Montreal, York and Kingston: the Lord Bishop being president of the whole, and the three Archdeacons of the Diocese and the Rector of Montreal being Vice Presidents of the Central Committees.—The additional officers of each Committee are a Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian, which offices may be held jointly or separately, as circumstances may dictate. The Meetings of each central Committee for the purpose of transacting the business of the Society are quarterly, on which occasions all clergymen of the Diocese who may be upon the spot at the time of the meeting, shall be invited to attend and assist at their deliberations. In all cases where it is found practicable, a lending library will be attached to the Sunday School, to consist of books furnished by the Central Committee, and such books only are used as are upon the Catalogue of the Central Committee to be made out under the direction of the President. This Catalogue however is open to the suggestion of alterations and additions from the central Committee and the Clergy at large. A report of the proceedings of each Central Committee will be printed and published annually at the expense of the general Society. The expenses common to the Society at large are defrayed from a general fund to be raised in each parish or mission by means of a Sermon preached in aid of the Society to be remitted through the Central Committees to that at Quebec.

The good which such a Society under proper management may effect in this Country, must be sufficiently apparent; for it is not to be supposed that the endeavours of separate bodies, however well directed, can be attended with the same beneficial influence as when the whole are united together in one bond of union, and the extensive experience and ample resources of each are drawn together to one central point to be employed for the benefit of the whole. It must be a circumstance tending greatly to give effect and encouragement to individual exertion to know that the plan pursued in the execution of the important duties connected with Sunday School instruction is sanctioned by high authority, and countenanced by the majority of those who are cherishing and inculcating the same saving truths. The advantages which will result therefore to the interests of Religion in this Diocese whenever the system shall be carried into full effect, will prove in the end to be such as its most sanguine friends could have anticipated.

No fresh supply of books has been required for the use of the Prisoners in the Jail of this City.

The Committee are not aware of any sum being now due by them to the Parent Society, no order having been sent home for books since the last General meeting. The deficiency which this

must have occasioned has however been partially supplied by the receipt of a box of books and tracts from the lord Bishop of Quebec to the value of £50. 7s. Sterling, which supply, together with the purchase from a private individual at a very reduced price of 250 copies of the New Testament, authorized by the Committee in July last, has enabled them to meet the demands upon them for books.—The Stock on hand at present is indeed very low, and there is more particularly a great want of books used in the Sunday Schools and recommended to the new Sunday School Society, so that it is with great difficulty that orders can be made up.—An order for books to the value of £100 currency will immediately be dispatched, so that it is hoped the inconvenience will not be of long continuance. The funds of the Committee will be amply sufficient to meet the expense, the balance in the Treasurers hands being at present £199 2s. 4d.

That portion of the National School lot, which from its triangular form could never have been made of any service in furthering the views of the Committee, has been sold for £200 currency, the sum at which it was valued by arbitrators appointed for that purpose. The amount has been paid into the hands of the Treasurer of the National School, in obedience to a resolution of the Committee passed in April 1830, by which the treasurer of that School in consideration of receiving the whole amount of the grant of the Legislature together with half of the Annual Collections made after that date in the Cathedral Church, is to relinquish all other claim upon any funds which may come into the hands of the Committee subsequent to that period.—The books furnished from the Repository for the use of the School and for prizes to the children are not now in consequence of the above arrangement gratuitously given, but are charged by the Committee, forming an item in the expenses of the School.

2. The Committee now proceed to detail what has been done in the other interesting branch of the Institution to which their labours are directed; viz. the education of the children of the poorer classes on the Madras system. The experience of another year fully authorizes the Committee to yield their impartial testimony in favour of the system. They have the highest satisfaction in stating that the two schools under their auspices are at present in a flourishing condition, and it is humbly hoped are producing important effects.—The boys school under the care of Mr. Thom, the new master, who has had the charge of the establishment since the first of July last, is at present realizing the most sanguine expectations of the Committee. Mr. Marsden, the former master of the Boys school, having previously signified his intention to resign, Mr. Thom offered his services.

The committee conceiving that from that Gentleman's well known qualifications as a Teacher, they could not do better than

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accept him, immediately closed with his proposal. The regular attendance of the Boys, and the improved state of the school in general since he entered upon the discharge of the arduous duties connected with that part of the Institution, has been such as to demand the constant and merited encomiums of the visitors of the schools. It may particularly be noticed that a marked change for the better is visible in the Cyphering department: the Children being now taught that important branch of education on a more extensive and better digested plan, and such as cannot fail of perfecting them in the science, and if time is permitted, of qualifying them for the discharge of the higher duties required in commercial transactions. Good effects also appear to have attended the method adopted by the present master in teaching the alphabet in the School. Mr Thom has also introduced the teaching of the rudiments of the English language; in which, previous to his assuming the charge of the School, the Children were not instructed. The attendance of the children is remarkably good, particularly in the boys school, and the moral conduct of the the Scholars at large is such as to reflect much credit upon themselves as well as upon those who are concerned in their education. The whole number upon the books at present is, Boys, 131 : Girls 100 ;—the average number in daily attendance in the boys school is 88, in the girls school 56. Four thousand one hundred and seven children have now received instruction in these Schools since the commencement of the Institution in November 1819.—The actual number admitted since the last report is 190—There is no doubt that the numbers in the boys school might be augmented to a very considerable degree, were it in the power of the managing Committee to supply the children of the destitute poor with clothing to protect them from the severity of the winter. It is distressing to the Committee to know that for the want of a few pounds the facilities afforded in this Institution for imparting instruction on the most tried and excellent system should be lost to so many. Various schools are now springing up in different parts of this City; some more commodiously situated than those under the care of the Committee for a great majority of the labouring classes; and it will not be at all surprising if the parents rather than not obtain the benefits of education for their children should choose a nearer school, even though their Protestant principles may run the risk of being tampered with. It is highly desirable on many accounts that every needful article of dress should be given to the children to enable them to appear at the school without injury to their health: and therefore the Committee trust, that in the event of a subscription being renewed (as was formerly the case) in the autumn of the year to compass this important object, the statement now made will have its due effect. The sum required is not great, being not more than £25. The

amount of expenditure for the above purpose in the girls school for the last year is £23 14 8.

No application was made during the last Session of the Provincial Parliament in aid of the funds of the School. The Sunday Schools annexed to these establishments are in a flourishing condition.—It is intended that those schools shall as soon as possible, be placed in connection with the Sunday School Society; but the course of instruction does not at present materially vary from the course recommended by the General Society.—The number of children in attendance at present is in all 259—160 Boys & 99 Girls. It appears from the report of the visitors book, that the children are obedient and attentive to the admonitions of their superiors.—The hour during which they attend the School in the morning is occupied in exercising them in the Psalms of the day, and in instructions in such parts of the Liturgy and offices of the Church as the service of the day may indicate. The strictest attention is paid by the Committee which meets at the School every week, when the reasons alledged by absentees for non-attendance are carefully canvassed; and to this watchful superintendence the regular attendance of the Scholars is mainly to be attributed.

A lending library, which for some little time previous had been in train, was opened for the delivery of books on the second Sunday in May. It is hoped that much benefit will accrue from the formation of the library, and the greatest care will be taken to exclude all works which are of a character so light or undeterminate as to be productive of little religious advantage. It is hoped that it will tend not only to encrease a taste for serious reading, but will occupy many a leisure hour upon the Lord's day which might otherwise be suffered to remain unimproved.—The library at present contains 78 Volumes.

The annual public examination of these schools took place on Friday the 24th December before a number of respectable persons of this City, and was honored by the presence of His Excellency Lord Aylmer and Lady Aylmer, who condescendingly distributed prizes with their own hands, and addressed them in words of encouragement and exhortation. The noble visitors expressed themselves highly satisfied with the appearances and the performances of the children, as well as with the whole character of the Institution. The annual course of examination was gone through in spelling, reading, writing on slates, repetition of tables, and other school tasks, recitations, the exhibition of copy and cyphering books and of specimens of writing prepared for the occasion, with the addition among the Girls of samples of needle work, knitting, and the beginning just made in the School of the manufacture of straw bonnets. The children acquitted themselves upon the whole in a highly creditable manner; and their various evolutions were performed with quickness and precision. Some inventions of the present master for giving facility in certain points of elementary

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instruction, met with general commendation. The number of boys present was 107, and of girls 94.

On the 29th December a different scene, but one affording also much interest in another way, was exhibited in the same building, that day having been fixed for the Annual Christmas Dinner, given to the children of the Schools by contributions of beef and plumb-pudding, sent by families of the place. Every thing was prepared with perfect order for the occasion, chiefly by the exertions of a member of the Committee of the Boy's School: the room was decorated as usual with evergreens &c. and 287 happy little beings, including children from the Sunday Schools at Munn's Cove, sat down to a plentiful repast, the voluntary teachers of the Sunday Schools officiating as carvers. Before partaking of the feast, the blessing was pronounced by one of the children in each School, and they all sung a hymn together previous to their dismissal. The animated spectacle drew many visitors to the spot, and among them Lady Aylmer, who had also been pleased to become one of the contributors to the feast.

The relics of the feast were distributed by some of the Ladies of the Committee to the poor, and 127 individuals received relief in this way.

From the statements now made, the Committee trust that the friends of the Society will see cause to believe that much good has been effected within the last year. They have reason to hope that if no very surprising or splendid results have marked their progress during the last twelve months, that at least their labors will not have been expended in vain, and that if the return made is not yet apparent, still that the harvest is not less to be expected.

The March of the great Society of which we form a part has always indeed been silent and slow; but its progress has been sure and attended with incalculable benefits wherever its gigantic resources and exertions have been expended.

If other mighty engines for the improvement of the moral faculties, and for the advancement of the the spiritual interests of men, are at work, in the community in which we live, let there be no desire to regard them with a jealous eye; but rather, if the plans pursued be in accordance with Gospel principles, bid them go on and prosper. But, at the same time, let not the splendour of later and more extensive charities so dazzle our eyes, as to make us blind to the early and effectual labours of that Venerable Society, with which we are connected: a Society which, amidst the most violent attacks that have been made upon the Altar and the Crown, has always come forward with a helping and a saving hand.

By order of the Committee.

16th May, 1831.

S. W. SEWELL,

SECRETARY.

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S. W. SEWELL
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QUEBEC

His Excellency

The Honourable

The Vice

TREASURER

MEMORANDUM

QUEBEC DIOCESAN COMMITTEE.



PATRON.

His Excellency the Rt. Hon. LORD AYLMER, G. C. B.
Governor in Chief, &c. &c. &c.



OFFICERS.

PRESIDENT,

The Honorable and Right Reverend CHARLES JAMES,
Lord Bishop of Quebec.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

The Honorable the CHIEF JUSTICE.
The Venerable the ARCHDEACON of QUEBEC.

SECRETARY.

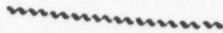
The Reverend E. W. SEWELL.

TREASURER and Member of the Select Committee,
NOAH FREER, Esq.

MEMBERS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

The Honorable H. W. RYLAND,
The Honorable Mr. JUSTICE KERR,
The Honorable Mr. JUSTICE BOWEN,
The Honorable J. STEWART,
The Honorable A. COCHRANE.
Rev. J. L. MILLS, D. D.
Mr. Sheriff SEWELL,
J. DAVIDSON, Esq.
S. J. BURTON, Esq.
J. G. IRVINE, Esq.
T. Trigge, Esq.

BOYS' SCHOOL.



Committee of Management, who act as Visitors.

Burton, J. Esq.
Durnford, Colonel (R. E.)
Grassett, H. J.
Mills, Rev. Dr.

Mountain, Ven. Archdeacon
Sewell, Rev. E. W.
Symes, R.

Voluntary Teachers in the Sunday School.

Mr. R. SYMES, Superintendent.
Mr. J. JONES, Ass. Superintendent.
J. BURTON, Esq. Examiner of Absentees.

Mr, W. Anderson,
F. Austin,
H. Austin,
R. R. Burrage,
A. Dewson,
A. Fenwick,
G. R. Grassett.
Wm. Grassett,

G. Hall,
G. Hawkins,
A. Hoffman,
F. Mincee,
J. Poole,
G. W. Thomas,
J. Wheatley,
A. Wick.

WILLIAM PARKINS, Librarian.

Comm

Mrs. Davidson,
Davis,
Dunn,
Freer,
Grassett,
Montizan

Mrs. Bowen,
Clapham,
Miss Coffin,
Durnford,
Gore,
Graddon,
Hale,
Mrs Hallowe

Miss Blake,
Davidson,
Fenwick,
E. Fenwick,
George,
Grassett,
F. Grassett,
M. Hall,
H. Hall,
Hallowe

GIRLS' SCHOOL.

Committee of Management, who also act as Visitors.

Mrs. Davidson,
Davis,
Dunn,
Freer,
Grassett,
Montizambert.

Mrs. Mountain.
E. Sewell,
J. Sewell,
R. Sewell,
Miss Stewart.
Mis. Trigge,

VISITORS.

Mrs. Bowen,
Clapham,
Miss Coffin,
Durnford,
Gore,
Graddon,
Hale,
Mrs. Hallowell,

Miss Kerr,
Mrs. Lemesurier,
Miss Osborne,
Scott,
Mrs. Smith,
Stacey,
Symes.

Voluntary Teachers in the Sunday School.

Miss Blake,
Davidson,
Fenwick,
E. Fenwick,
George,
Grassett,
F. Grassett,
M. Hale,
H. Hale,
Hallowell,

Miss Hanna,
Margaret Hanna,
Mountain,
H. Mountain,
Shaw,
Stewart.
Todd,
Trigge,
Todd,
Weatherstone,

Treasurers for the School Clothing Fund.

Boys' School.—Mr. R. SYMES, Palace Street.
Girls' School.—Miss TAYLOR, Esplanade.

LIST OF
ANNUAL SUBSCRIBERS

TO THE
QUEBEC COMMITTEE

OF THE

Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

(Due on the 3d March in each year.)

N. B.—The persons whose names are marked with an asterisk are absent from the Province and are now in England or elsewhere.

At £1 5s. each.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
His Excell. Ld. Aylmer .	1	5	0	Cartwright, Rev. R. D.			
*The Rt. Hon. the Earl				(Donation)	2	10	0
of Dalhousie, G. C. B.	1	5	0	Cary, Mr. T.....	1	5	0
*Sir James Kempt, G. C. B.	1	5	0	Chandler, Capt. (Nicolet)	1	5	0
*His Excel. the Hon. Sir				Chapman, H. S.	1	5	0
F. N. Burton.....	1	5	0	Cochran, Hon. A. W. ...	1	5	0
The Hon. Chief Justice				Cockburn, Lt. Col. R. A.	1	5	0
Sewell	1	5	0	Codman, Mr.	1	5	0
The Ld. Bishop of Quebec	1	5	0	Cowan, Mr. H.	1	5	0
Abbott, Rev. Wm.	1	5	0	Cunningham, Mr. J.	1	5	0
*Adams, D. A. C. G. ...	1	5	0	Dalkin, Mr.	1	5	0
Anderson, Mr. A.....	1	5	0	*Darling, Major-Gen. ...	1	5	0
Anderson, Rev. J.	1	5	0	Davidson, J. Esq.	1	5	0
Ansley, Rev. A.	1	5	0	Doolittle, Rev. Mr.	1	5	0
*Arabin, Capt. R. A.	1	5	0	*Douglas, Col. (79th Rgt.)	1	5	0
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