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FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

TEMPORAL-AND PASTORAL-AID SOCIETY

CHRIST CHURCH,

READ AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.

MONTREAL:

PRINTED BY JOHN LOVELL, AT THE LITERARY GARLAND OFFICE,

1839.

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At the conclusion of the first year of its existence.

As this Report is intended as much for the information of the Congregation at large, as of the Members of the Society, the Committee judge it proper to make a few preliminary observations, with the view of bringing the nature and objects of the Society more clearly under the notice of the Congregation. They, therefore, remark:

That the Parish of Christ Church, including the whole of the City and Suburbs of Montreal, and, according to the last census, comprising a population of upwards of five thousand souls, belonging to the Church of England, has never enjoyed a clerical strength commensurate with its wants. But one Church is found within its limits, and this, though capacious, is by no means able to centain all those who would desire to worship within its walls. The pewrents are very high, yet frequently seats are not to be obtained at any price, while free seats, similar in appearance to other pews, scarcely exist. It is true, benches in the aisles afford accommodation to a few, but it is found by experience that generally none but the very poor will condescend to accept of such accommodation, and consequently, the families of the poorer mechanics are either deprived of all church ordinances, or seek for them in other denom-

inations, where they may appear more on a level with their fellow worshippers. The largeness of the population, and the numerous official engagements of the Clergymen, likewise rendered difficult that supervision, by means of domiciliary visiting, which is found so effectual in enforcing the precepts of the pulpit, and consequently, a large portion of the poorer classes professing the doctrines of the Church of England, were living in a state of disregard to the means of grace, and the younger, either growing up in entire ignorance of their religious duties, or owing their instruction to those, in following whom they would naturally be drawn away from communion with their Church.

The state of the lower orders having been strongly forced upon the observation of the Rector and other Members of the Church, it was resolved, in the apparent impossibility of at present increasing the number of Clergy in the City, to attempt the formation of a Society in imitation of those so successfully carried on in the Mother Country, both by the Church and among dissenters-On the 1st of May, 1838, a Meeting took place, at which it was Resolved to form a Society, to be called the Temporal-and Pastoral-Aid Society of the Parish of Christ Church, of which the Rector should be President. Subsequently a Constitution and By-Laws were adopted, and officers and an Executive Committee appointed.

The objects of the Society, may be best learned from the fourth By-Law, which is as follows:

By-Law, No. 4. -It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to fulfil the objects of the Society's institution:

Firstly, By establishing a regular system of visits among the poor, dividing the City into Wards, and designating to each a certain number of those members that may be willing to act as Voluntary Visitors, and furnishing them with proper instructions for their direction.

Secondly,—By engaging one or more persons of suitable information, discretion, zeal, and piety, as paid Visitor or Visitors, to be principally engaged in attending to the spiritual improvement

Thirdly,-By providing Bibles, Prayer Books, and Tracts, for dissemination among the poor.

Fourthly,-By making provision, as far as the charitable funds

of the Church committed to their care may allow, for the temporal wants of the poor.

Fifthly,—By raising subscriptions, for the payment of salaries, rent and other expenses, incurred in carrying out the designs of

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1. Before proceeding to the details under each of those heads, it may be proper to state, that an unlooked for and very important means of improvement, was afforded by the offer of the Rector to undertake an additional Sunday Service in the evening, if a proper room could be obtained ;-this, therefore, formed one of the first objects to be attended to ;-a Room was soon procured in St. Henry Street, Recollet Suburbs, and service was first held on Whitsunday, the 3d of June, at seven o'clock, P. M. since which time, with only occasional unavoidable interruptions, it has been, and is still continued. The renting of a room for Divine Service led to the establishment of a Sunday School, which was much wanted in that part of the City, in consequence of the distance of the National School Room, where the Church Sunday. School is held; for though very efficient and well conducted Sunday Schools abound in that quarter, they belong to other denominations, who, however praiseworthy in their endeavours to inculcate Divine truth according to their own opinions, yet may be expected to loosen the attachment of children brought up in them, as well as of their parents, to the rites and services of their original Church. Success has in some measure attended this endeavour. The number of children present, (as in other Schools,) varies considerably, but has been gradually increasing, and has now reached the number of fifty-four, with a considerably larger number on the books. There are a Superintendant, and three male, and seven female Teachers-it is held in the morning before service, from nine to half-past ten. A Library for the use of the Scholars has been ordered from England, without expense to the Society, which will tend to render it still more beneficial.

2. Providence seemed to smile on the Society even in its commencement, for one of its chief engines being proposed to be a paid Agent, who might devote his whole time to visiting, reading and explaining the Scriptures, and in other ways promoting the great object of religious instruction, it was thought it would be very dif-

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ficult to procure one suitably qualified. It pleased God, however, to open an unexpected way to the accomplishment of this object, as Mr. Michael Kerns, formerly employed as a Scripture Reader in Ireland, by the Scripture Readers' Society, was led to apply for employment, ignorant of the intended establishment of this Society; having been examined by the Rector, and given satisfaction, he was engaged, and has been since zealously, and we trust beneficially, engaged in his laborious duties. His reports, given in weekly, show the extreme necessity of the means employed, and while they demonstrate the low moral condition of the majority of the very peor, and even of those who might be able to support their families comfortably, but are too often sunk in intemperance and vice, yet do not fail frequently to exhibit marks of improvement, apparently resulting from his labors, which serve as encouragements to exertion in the arduous and painful task .- His visits are generally hailed with satisfaction, and requested to be repeated; and in many cases have resulted in bringing the careless and ignorant, and even profligate, to partake of the ordinances of religion, and to put on the habit of respect and attention to religious duties, and the scoffer even has been reclaimed and made to see his error. While chiefly employed in attending to the spiritual wants of the poor, Mr. Kerns has not been inattentive to observe their temporal distress, and has not failed to report to the Committee those cases where relief would be profitably applied. Mr. Kerns has been engaged for another year, and is still pursuing his duties, which consist in reading and explaining the Scriptures-Religious conversation, and praying in the houses where he visits-endeavouring to press upon them the duties of religion, and of shewing their love of it by attending Church, and sending their children to the Sunday Schools-visiting more especially the sick and praying with them-in distributing religious tracts, which when read, are returned and replaced by others-in distributing Bibles and Prayer Books, when required, either by payment or gratuitously. He commonly devotes ten hours each day, except Sunday, to the business of visiting, and the following summary may be given of his labours, since March 21st 1838:-Number of families visited, 375; humber of ordinary visits made, 1765; number of visits to the sick, 307; number of hours spent, 3324; Tracts distributed, 2699; Bibles, 14; Prayer

Books, 14. He has been kept from his duties by sickness but one day. Extracts from his Journal will be inserted in the Appendix.

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3. We now proceed to the next head, viz: that concerning Gratuitous Visitors; and here the Committee are constrained to use the language of St. Paul, and say: "Ye did run well, who did hin-At the opening of the Society, a considerable number of ladies offered themselves as visitors, but of male visitors unfortunately hone could be obtained. The city was divided into wards, and visitors appointed to each. Books, in which the reports were to be made, were distributed to each-appropriate instructions drawn up-forms of prayer for occasional use were composed and printed, and the work commenced with much apparent zeal-and the reports which the ladies gave in, shewed the great advantages likely to result from their visits. Gradually, however, this warmth abated, until only a very few continued to pursue these self-imposed but valuable duties, so truly according with the spirit of Christ's religion, which teaches us, in the words of St. James, that "pure religion and undefiled is to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." If the Visitors could have borne in mind that our Saviour has put the poor in his own place, and has declared that whosoever does good to them from proper motives, (viz: love to Him,) He will receive it as done unto Himself, they could not have slackened in their exertions. If the feeling of gratitude for the great love which He has shewn to us be insufficient to rouse us to exertion, vet even self-interest might, if the truth be properly realized which Christ himself has declared, "inasmuch as ye have done it to one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." While constrained to speak the language of reproof to the Visitors. the Committee are afraid they must partake the blame, by not attending to several obstacles which, in a new undertaking, lay in the way of the ladies, but having now proposed several modifications of the original rules, let us trust that another year may see us not lamenting over our short-comings, but rejoicing in the fruits of our endeavours.

4. In the distribution of Bibles, Testaments, Prayer Books and Tracts, the Society have not done much. The exertions of the

Auxiliary Bible Society in this City, which employed an Agent expressly to supply every destitute family with a copy of the Scriptures, did away with the necessity of a great outlay in regard to them. The Committee, however, bought from the Bible Society, Bibles and Testaments, in the intention of retailing them to those who were in want, at reduced rates, viz: 2s. for Bibles, and 10d. for Testaments, and of these, fourteen have been given away or sold. Of Prayer Books, obtained from the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and whose price was fixed at 1s. fourteen have been distributed.* In regard to Tracts, the Committee, believing they would have a large demand for them, not only made successful application to the Religious Tract Society in this place, but imported a large number from the New York Episcopal Tract Society, and wrote to four of the large English Societies, to request a grant for distribution." Of these applications, only one has been successful, viz: that made to that very liberal institution, the London Religious Tract Society, which promptly responded to the call, by a donation of Five Pounds worth of Tracts. The number of Tracts distributed cannot be known, as each lady was furnished with a number, which were from time to time renewed without any account being kept. The Paid Visitor has given away 2699 Tracts, besides those which were loaned and called for from time to time.

A liberal offer having been made by the Religious Tract Society of furnishing Sunday School Libraries at half their cost prices, provided satisfactory reasons were given, the Executive Committee were induced to order one for the use of the Sunday School kept at the National School House. They thought that they could not more beneficially employ a portion of their funds than in this way, and conceived it to be in accordance with their other endeavours to promote religious knowledge. The Library is daily expected to arrive.

5. The 5th head comprises what relates to the relief afforded to the temporal wants of the poor. At the commencement of its labours, it was judged expedient to request the Churchwardens to

^{*} By the paid Visitor. N. B. Bibles, Testaments and Prayer Books were occasionally given by the Gratuitous Visitors, but the number has not been recorded.

delegate their power of administering relief from the Charitable Fund of the Church to the Executive Committee. This was immediately complied with, and the Committee have ever since attended one day in each week, to receive applications and to administer relief. The Committee cannot hesitate to acknowledge with pleasure the liberality manifested by the Congregation, especially on Sacramental occasions. No less a sum than £256 17 1 has been received from Easter, 1838, to Easter, 1839. On Christmas Day, the collections amounted to £20 11 41, and on last Easter, the still larger amount of £27-4 8 was obtained. These very liberal donations have furnished the Committee with ample means to afford relief where it was necessary, but much difficulty has been occasionally experienced in determining the cases where relief should be granted, and where it should be withheld; and among the multitude of those applying, it cannot be wondered at if the Committee, with all their caution, were occasionally imposed upon by the tales of some who were afterwards found unworthy of being assisted. Such occurrences must be looked for, and are daily met with by all those who are in any degree conversant with the lower classes of society. With a view to render the relief in some measure a means of fulfilling the Society's chief object, (viz: the spiritual good of the poor,) printed tickets were for some time distributed to those applying for relief, which they were instructed to leave with the Beadle after Church Service, as a proof of their having attended Church, without which they would not receive relief-but this method was afterwards abandoned. The Committee have generally refused to give relief in money: though occasionally it has been given-especially to those who have for the time been regular pensioners on the funds of the Church; of which there has been a considerable number receiving sums, varying from half a dollar to five dollars a month. The Committee have seen proper to discontinue the arrangement commonly known as the Poor-house, and in its stead adopted the plan of allowing the pensioners, who had been inmates of that establishment, to board and lodge themselves wherever they could obtain comfortable provision, taking care, as far as possible, to oversee that they were placed in situations where their morals would not be corrupted. By this means, a considerable saving was made, while

the objects of charity were equally, if not much more comfortable than in the Poor-house. Within a short time they have had the satisfaction of procuring board for some of their infirm pensioners with a pious family, where not only are they comfortably lodged, but their spiritual interests are also attended to. The Committee have willingly, in this case, allowed a larger monthly sum for board than they had previously done, considering the spiritual safety of their poor of at least equal importance with their bodily wants. The relief afforded may be classed chiefly under the heads of Rent and Board, Wood, Clothing, Bread, Oatmeal, Expense of Forwarding and Funeral expenses. Thus:

Money expended for Rents paid, and for Board and Lodging,	£103	9	11
301 Cords of good Beech Wood, at 16s. 6d	. 24	19	11
Clothing, Blankets, &c	42	1	74
22 pairs of Shoes, for men, women and children, by contract,	5	12	9
7871 loaves of Bread, at 1d. under market price,	38	12	1
14 cwt. 1 quarter and 7 lbs. of Oatmeal,	3	0	9
Sundries, including assistance in forwarding ten poor persons			•
or families, ,	3	15	8
Providing Coffins, Graves, &c. for Paupers,	24	17	3

The Committee made an appeal to the Congregation last fall for east-off Clothing, and, in consequence, a considerable number of articles was received. A large number also of blankets, rugs, great coats, &c. was received as a donation from the Committee of the House of Industry, being the share allotted to the English Church, out of the materials remaining on hand belonging to that Institution. An occasion offering at a Government sale, the Committee, knowing that considerable distress is annually experienced from the want of bed clothes, laid out £10 17 2 in the purchase of blankets and rugs at a low rate, which having been freely distributed during the winter, must have rendered many comfortable, who otherwise would have suffered from the cold. A contract likewise was entered into with a shoemaker, to furnish what shoes should be required, at a reduced rate, and this branch of their charity they believe to have been of essential benefit. The Executive Committee authorized the purchase, to a considerable amount, of clothing for the children attending the Sunday and National Schools, selecting those who, by their good behaviour and

regular attendance, seemed most deserving. This mode of assisting the poor they consider as one of the least exceptionable, when prudently effected; since it not only ministers to the immediate bodily comfort of the poor children, (who otherwise from the pressing calls of the severe winter for fuel and other necessaries, might be left nearly uncovered,) but furnishes them with power to continue their attendance upon School and Church—both of which the Committee find are chiefly neglected from deficiencies of covering to enable them to bear the inclemencies of the weather.

6. The next head to be noticed is the Dorcas Society. Immediately after the formation of the general Society, the ladies were requested to establish a Sewing Meeting, which should assemble once a week, and should during the summer, provide clothing for the wants of the winter, the necessary means being advanced by the Executive Committee. The Society was accordingly formed and has with little interruption though (the Committee is sorry to say) with by no means a numerous attendance, been continued to the present time-To these ladies was intrusted the distribution of the clothing, either according to their own discretion upon reports from the Visitors, or upon orders from the Executive Committee, and the clothing distributed was procured partly by donations from the Congregation, but chiefly by purchase. The articles to be given away were occasionally committed to be made up to those persons for whom they were intended, that they might pay by their own labour for the donation made them. This plan, though occasionally useful, yet on the whole was found not to work well from the habits of carelessness and improvidence, and sometimes worse, which are so prevalent among the poor.-The Committee have to lament the meagre attendance upon the Sewing Society, as it is one of the best and most efficient modes of doing good. It has been tried successfully in all parts of the United Kingdom and the United States, and in this City there are several similar Societies in other congregations, whose labours are productive of great good. One reason why it has not succeeded so well through the past year as could have been wished, is probably the want of proper organization; no head having been appointed and therefore a want of method characterized its proceedings.-Now, however, that this want has been sup-

blied, it is hoped that new vigour will pervade the Members and that we may be able to say of them as of the pious woman from whom the name of such Societies is taken, "they were full of good works and alms-deeds which they did."-Some ladies may feel unwilling or unable to undertake what to them may appear the more responsible duties of a Visitor, yet surely no lady can plead the arduousness of the business as an excuse for taking no part in the Dorcas Society. Both are wanted, and good can be done in both ways, and the Committee would respectfully press upon the ladies of the Congregation, if they cannot afford aid in the way of Visitors, at least to assist in the particular object of providing clothing during the summer that may be ready for distribution when the winter sets in. It is too late to begin to prepare when the necessity becomes pressing. The Committee especially desire to impress the ladies with the advantages likely to result from provision being made for clothing the poor children of the Sunday and National Schools, which will not only become an inducement to more regular attendance, but serve as a reward for good conduct and punctuality which may operate not only on the children but on their parents; while, in many cases it is to be feared, if left at home they become but the witnesses of immoral conduct in their parents, which example being not counteracted by the good instructions of the School will be likely to produce baneful effects on the minds of the children.

The Committee will close their Report by a financial exposition. The funds controlled by the Executive Committee are of two kinds; one, raised by subscription, is confined to defraying the expenses of the Society such as Salary of Paid Visitor, rent and expenses of Chapel, purchase of books, stationary, &c: the other, the proceeds of the collections in the Church, and solely applicable to the relief of the distresses of the poor belonging to the Congregation. The former fund was obtained by the exertions of collectors appointed last summer along with some more recent donations. It amounted to £153 13 2½, of which £122 1 1 have been expended, leaving a balance of £31 12 1½. To defray the expenses of the present year, application will require again to be made to the liberality of the Congregation, besides which dependence may be placed upon the Annual Sermon soon to be preached by the

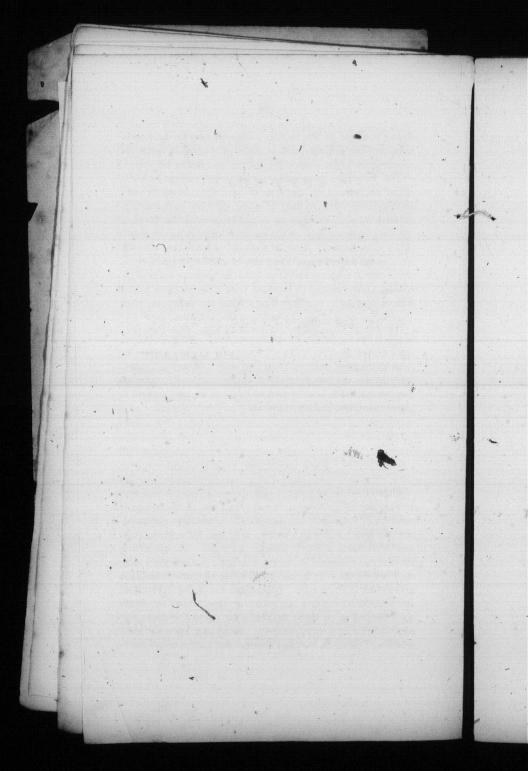
Rector in behalf of this Society. The other fund the Committee think they can safely estimate at £250, which will be applicable to relieve the bodily wants of the indigent poor during the year.

The Committee have thus, at greater length perhaps than was called for, detailed the operations of the Society during the year. In this survey there are many things for which we have reason to be thankful, while in others we cannot but perceive that we have not come up to our duty. While we bless God for being the instruments in his hands of doing his work, let us rather keep our eyes fixed on the imperfections of our best efforts than be puffed up on the review of what we have done. Let us adopt the words of the blessed Apostle and say: "forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before, we press towards the mark of our high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

All which is respectfully submitted by order of the Executive Committee.

J. H. MAITLAND,

Secretary.



APPENDIX.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS OF PAID VISITOR.

CASE OF F-

July 25, 1838.—When I first called upon the family, Mrs. F——informed me that F——was an awful drunkard, but to-day I learned from her, that he is become a changed man—has given up drinking, reads his Bible, and attends Church. I asked her what was the cause of the great change; she said it was what I said to him while sick, for then he promised to have done with ardent spirits, and has kept his word.

CASE OF RICHARD DUFF.

August 6.—At the request of Mr. O—, I went in quest of a young man of the name of Richard Duff, who is afflicted with epilepsy. I found him, and learned that he had been a Protestant, but is now a Roman Catholic, owing to a Priest telling him, that if he became a Roman Catholic he would cure him of the fits, and that he should be restored to health. I asked him what the Priest did for him; he said he read over him, and warned him not to speak to Protestants. I also asked him if the Priest gave any medicine to him? he said none. It appears that the Priest is a Physician of no value, for Duff's fits returned at the usual time, and that with redoubled force. Some time after this conversation, I called on Duff, and told him that man could do very

little for him, and that he would have to look to Christ to be healed—he did so, and to the Redeemer be all the glory.

This man is a very pleasing instance of the good effected by this Society. When first noticed by a member of the Committee, he was a pitiable object, a nearly naked beggar, subject to frequent epileptic fits, slightly paralytic on one side, emaciated, feeble, and lame, and with an idiotic appearance. He was, (without application, but in compassion to his forlorn and miserable condition,) put upon the list of pensioners, and at first board and lodging were procured for him, but afterwards, when his strength and intellect improved, a certain allowance was made him per month. His improvement was remarkable-he gained flesh and strength, lost his fatuous look, and became intelligent, ceased to have fits, and took up the trade of match-selling, the mode of making which he soon learned, and was enabled to earn a small sum daily. The Committee have every reason to believe in a work of grace in his heart, both from the Reports of the Visitor and their personal conversation with him. At the beginning of last month, they had the satisfaction of assisting him to proceed to Kingston, near which they found he had left a wife and other relations.

The following extracts regarding Duff, appear to the Committee to be interesting, viz:

1st Extract.

Dust told me that the first time he went to Church, after having given up the idea of receiving any benefit from the Priest, he stood for some time outside the door, and dared not go in, for the Priest had told him if he did he would get sick that instant; but the Lord put it into his mind to say: "The great God, who is able to keep me from sickness outside the Church, is able to keep me from it inside the Church;" so he went in, trusting in Christ—since which time he has had no more fits.

2d Extract-April 15.

Called to see Richard Duff, and found a vast improvement in his mind; the Lord has been very gracious to him. He has left the place he lived in, because they sold grog; for, said he, persons cannot live in such houses without committing sin, and that I will not do, for God has been so good to me, that I will serve him and give my whole heart to him.

3d Extract-April 29.

This morning I gave Richard a Bible, at the request of the Committee. He received it very joyfully, and said he blessed God that ever I was sent to look for him. He said he felt thankful for what was done for him—for that when he came to this country he lost all religion, but that now he is going away a better Protestant, and enjoying the love of God in his soul. He promised to write to me, that I may let the Committee know how he is doing. Surely this young man is a brand plucked out of the burning; a sinner saved by grace.

CASE OF WILLIAM D---.

November 3.—Called on William D—, in order to see what progress he is making in the reading of the word of life. He said he felt happy since he began to read the Bible; that before he did so, he was always unhappy; and that before he had the pleasure of my visits, he did not believe one word in the Scriptures, but that from the Tracts I left him, and the arguments I made use of, he is now quite convinced the Bible is the word of God.

March 29.—Called on Wm. D——today; he told me in the presence of sundry persons, that he has reason to be thankful that ever he became acquainted with me, for that Paine's writings were near ruining him. When I first became acquainted with this young man, he was one of the strongest Infidels I ever met, having a strong retentive memory, and up to all the Infidel arguments; but the Lord has blessed the word of his grace to his soul, and he now believes the Bible to be sent from God, to show men the way of salvation.

CASE OF RICHARD E-

November 13.—Called at the house of Richard E—, and found him within; I was somewhat pleased with him today. He gave me to understand that he had been to Church, and that

he felt happy in doing so. This is more than I expected, for some time ago he told me that he never would go, and that he did not credit one word in the Bible. I asked him what produced this revolution in his mind. He said some tracts that I left him, together with the arguments I used the last day he was speaking to me. In fact, there is a great change in the whole family.

CASE OF JAMES D-

January 26.—Visited the house of James D——; I learned to-day that four out of five have begun to attend Church; there is some improvement as regards spiritual-mindedness; the old woman is much stirred up to a sense of her duty and danger, and from all I saw today, there appears to be good doing in the family. The old woman requested that I would come often and read for her. This is more than I expected, for at the first visit I paid to them, the old woman went into a room, and said she would hot listen.

CASE OF JAMES B-

April 19.—Called at the house of James B——; from what I can see, there is much good doing in this family; the Lord has blessed the word of his grace to the souls of the parents, they are growing in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord. God has done much for them, for they were ungodly and had little of the fear of God before their eyes. They are about to leave town; I trust the Master will go with them and keep them in all their way.

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The Temporal-and Pastoral-Aid Society, in	2 1001 E	~ ~ ·	ary for National six, for Visitors, &c.	To one year's Salary of Paid Visitor, (paid by) To Donation to Paid Visitor, (paid by) To Bonation to Paid Visitor, To Rent of Chapel till 1st May instant, To Expenses during the year at St. Henry Street!	t of Salary to Paid Visitor,

TRUBER O A LEGOTAR TO SAROTHET The second secon

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS

TO THE

TEMPORAL-AND PASTORAL-AID SOCIETY,

IN 1838-9.

		£ s. d	<i>f</i> .
His Excellency Sir John Colborne,		6 0 (0
Rev. Dr. Bethune,		5 0 0	0
Hon. Chief Justice Reid,		5 0 0	0
Hon. Judge Pyke,		5 0 0	0
Hon. Judge Gale,			0
Mrs. Richardson,		5 0 ()
Samuel Gerrard,		5- 0- 0	0.
John Jamieson,		5 0 ()
Mrs. D. Ross,		2 10 (0
A. F. Holmes,		2 10	0
Miss Ermatinger,		2 10 ()
W. P. Christie,		2 10 ()
John Molson,		2 10 (0
Hon. George Moffatt,		2 10 ()
Mrs. Perry,		2 10	0
Mrs. P. M'Gill,	. 199	2 10 (0.
John S. M'Cord		2 10 ()
George Platt,		2 10 ()
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William Molson,		1 5 ()
William Bleakley,	•	1 5 ()
John Carter,	•	1 5 (L

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N. B.—In consequence of the loss of one of the Subscription Lists, a number of names is unavoidably emitted in the above list.