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No. 1.

HISTORICAL REMINISCENCES OF THE U. C. BIBLE SOCIETY.

Paper No. II.—Period from 1828 to 1840.—Formation and Proceedings of the "York, U. C., Auxiliary Bible Society."

It will be remembered, as mentioned in our Paper No. 1 of this series, that in 1817, a Bible Society was formed at York, Upper Canada, chiefly through the exertions of the late Bishop Strachan, having a two-fold object in view, viz., the circulation of the Bible, and of the Prayer Book. Some objection having been expressed to this two-fold character of the Society, two separate Societies were formed in 1820—one designated "The Bible Society of Upper Canada." This separation seems, however, at the time to have had a discouraging effect upon the active promoters of the Bible cause, for the Society then formed does not appear to have ever gone into operation, but to have gradually died out.

On Monday, the 3rd day of November, 1828, however, a successor to the original Society was organized at a meeting held in the Masonic Hall, under the Presidency of the Hon. John Henry Dunn, Receiver-General of Upper Canada. At that meeting the following gentlemen took part, viz.:—Won. J. H. Dunn, Drs. Rolph, Baldwin, Morrison and Burnside; Revs. W. Ryerson, Jas. Harris and Alex. Stewart; and Messrs. Robt. Baldwin, Jesse Ketchum, James S. Howard, (afterwards so long a faithful Secretary of the Society), R. B. Sullivan (afterwards Judge), James E. Small, James R. Armstrong, Peter Paterson, James Mitchel, E. Henderson and James Cockshutt. The officers elected were—Hon. J. H. Dunn, President; Dr. Baldwin,

Dr. Morrison, James E. Small, Jesse Ketchum and Robert Baldwin. Vice-Presidents: Peter Paterson, Treasurer: Revs. James Harris and Alex. Stewart, Secretaries: Edward Henderson, Jr., Depositary. The members of Committee, or Board of Directors, were-Dr. Burnside, James R. Armstrong, James Armstrong, Thomas Armstrong, George Denison, John Gamble, Wm. P. Patrick, Joseph Wenham, James S. Howard, James Cockshutt, James Lesslie, James Mitchel, Abraham Wilcox, Peter Secord, John Ashbridge, Andrew Johnston, James Ross, John Ross, J. Van Allan, Thos. Carfrae, ir., Andrew McGlashen, Duncan Kennedy, Colin Drummond, Harvey Shephard, Henry Mosley, M. McLellan and John McFarlane.

As it is important to know what were the original regulations under which the Bible Society was organized forty-two years ago, we give them as adopted at the meeting as follows :--

Laws and Regulations of the York Auxiliary Bible Society, 1828.

"Rule 1st.—This Society shall be denominated the York. U. C., Auxiliary Bible Society, having the same object in view as the British and Foreign Bible Society, viz., the circulation of the Bible, without note or comment, to act in concert with the Parent Society or separately, as circumstances may require.

Rule 2nd.—The Society shall consist of all who are disposed to promote the object of the Institution, without regard to differences of religious senti-

Rule 3rd.—Every subscriber of five shillings annually, shall be considered

a member as long as he pays his subscription. Rule 4th.—A subscriber of five pounds shall be a member for life. Dona-

tions of any amount, small or great, will be thankfully received.

Rule 5th.—The business of the Society shall be conducted by a President, five Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, two Secretaries, a Committee of twenty-seven of its own members, and a Depositor of its Bibles. Nine of the Committee (the first on the list) shall go out annually, and five shall be a quorum. Ministers of all denominations who subscribe, shall be stated members of Committee.

Rule 6th.—The Committee shall meet on the first Mondays of November, February, May and August, or when called by the Chairman, or any three

of the Directors.

Rule 7th.—The Society shall meet annually on the second week in February in York. The day and hour to be fixed by the Committee and advertised, at which meeting the Committee shall give an account of their transactions and funds.

Rule 8th.—Every subscriber of one pound five shillings annually, shall be entitled to purchase Eibles and Testaments to the amount of five pounds, at

the reduced prices of the Society.

Rule 9th.—The Committee shall be empowered to sell the Scriptures, or to give them gratis when they find well authenticated claims. They are to purchase from the Parent Society to supply their wants, and if there are any overplus funds to spare, to remit the same to the Parent Society for the purpose of supplying other nations with the pure word of God.

Rule 10th. No alteration shall be made in these laws, but at a general meeting of the Society-and any proposed alteration must be published, in at least two of the York newspapers, one month previous to that meetingand approved of by two-thirds of the members present at such meeting."

As parts of the "Primary Address" adopted at the meeting, and afterwards published, are of some interest, we quote them as follows:-

Primary Address of the York Bible Society to their Christian Friends of all Denominations.

"DEAR FRIENDS,—It is with mingled feelings of regret and joy that we now address you. We regret that we have let so good a cause as the circulation of the Holy Scriptures lie so long dormant, but we rejoice that now a new stimulus is given to the work, and we hope the zeal and activity of the lovers of truth everywhere will increase, until every family and every individual of the human race shall be in possession of the word of God.

Brethren, our reason for addressing you is to inspire you, if possible, with such a zeal for the circulation of the Holy Scriptures, as nothing but death can extinguish. The cause is so good that no opprobrium can make us ashamed of it, and we hope that no difficulty or trial will ever divert us from supporting it. Its object is so extensive that we need to call on all the friends of truth to lend their helping nand. It has so many enemies that we need to arouse all the energies of the people of God to engage in the work, and to come 'to the help of the Lord against the mighty.'

The Society is not disposed to cast the least reflection upon others. They know that all are accountable to God, and leave all in his hands. But, knowing in part their own responsibility, they wish to be no longer inactive in the good work, and they hereby call upon all who value the Bible to join them in promoting its circulation. They suppose that others, like themselves, have been inactive, either from want of knowing the need that exists for circulating the Scriptures, or from want of opportunity of contributing their mite in a way congenial to their feelings. The forming of the present Society removes every obstacle. Those who wish to circulate the Scriptures alone have n. the opportunity, and those who wish also to circulate tracts and other good books, can do so by means of the valuable Societies that circulate such.

While this Society thinks the circulation of the Word of God, the first and great work of the peo'rle of God, they by no means despise the laudable, though inferior, exertions in which many of themselves and others are engaged. Neither do they think any apology necessary for thus addressing their Christian friends, as they think the importance of the subject far over-

balances every objection that can be made.

This Society would recommend the formation of Bible 'Associations and Societies in town and country. Their Committee will be ready to give every information and assistance in their power for forming such, and request such as wish any advice to correspond with their Secretaries. In all such cases they recommend large Committees, every member of which should be a collector. The cause is of God, and the widow's mite may be as acceptable as the princely donation. If all heartily engage in this good work, it will soon be accomplished."

This Address (the report says) was moved by Dr. John Rolph, "who, with his usual eloquence, made a most appropriate and pathetic speech, which gratified and animated the meeting."

The Board met without delay, and a week afterwards (on the 10th Nov.) divided the town and neighbourhood into nine wards, and appointed two of its members "to call at every house in each ward, to request subscriptions, and to inquire into the wants of every person as to Bibles. They are to ascertain how much (and at what season) each can give for a Bible or Testament, the highest only cont price. They are to recommend necessitous cases to the Secretaries," etc.

On the 9th February, 1830—nearly forty-one years ago—the first Anniversary meeting of the Society was held at the Steambout Hotel. At it the

following gentlemen took part:—Hon. J. H. Dunn, President; Revs. F. Metcalf, W. Boulton, G. Barclay, E. Ryerson, J. Harris and A. Stewart; Dr. Baldwin, Lr. Rolph, Robt. Baldwin, M. S. Bidwell, Jesse Ketchum, Peter Perry, James E. Small, Jas. Wilson, Jos. Wenham, P. Paterson, Jas. Mitchel and R. B. Sullivan. Among the new members of the Committee or Board were the names of James Hogg, John Cumer, E. Henderson, senr., Peter Lawrence, James Miles, D. Cameron, (Vaughan), John McIntosh, B. Brennan, John Bishop, jr., and Alex. Armstrong.

The principal matter which engaged the attention of the Society at this time was the translation of the New Testament into the Chippewa or Mississauga language. This subject had been pressed upon the attention of the original Society by the late Bishop Strachan in 1820, but remained in abeyance for nine years. In 1829, however, this important work was undertaken, at the request of the Society, by the late Rev. Peter Jones, and his brother, John Jones, of the River Credit. At the date of the report in 1830, "the first seven chapters of St. Matthew" had been translated. Having been submitted to Capt. Anderson, of Rice Lake, "a gentleman of talent, extensive information, and well acquainted with the dialect," he returned the seven chapters, "with the testimony that he thinks the translation as good as the Chippe wa language will admit of."

In 1829, a Sub-Committee was appointed to take steps to form Branch Societies. They appointed an agent for this purpose, and with the aid of Revs. G. Barclay and Jac. Harris, Branches were formed in the Townships of Pickering, Markham, Scarboro', Toronto, Caledon, (and Albion), Esquesing, Chinguscousy, Darlington, (and Clarke), Whitby, and in the Villages of Newmarket, Port Hope, Cobourg and Colborne. In forming these Branches, the report gratefully acknowledges the local service rendered by the Revs. Alex. Bethune, Richard Scott, Gordon and R. Thompson. During the year (1829) the subscriptions to the Society in York amounted to \$529.30. This amount, together with other subscriptions and the proceeds of sales, enabled the Society to send £100 sterling to the Parent Society. 152 Bibles and 390 Testaments were issued. A free grant of both to the value of £91 16s. was received from the Parent Society for gratuitous distribution.

The next report of the "York Auxiliary" which we have is the fourth, and is for the year 1832. At the anniversary meeting held in St. Andrew's Church, 11th February, 1833, the following gentlemen took part:—Hon. J. H. Dunn, Revs. C. Mathews, Wm. Rintoul, Jas. Richardson, A. Stewart, Dr. Harris, Jas. Harris, A. Bell, Peter Jones, W. Boulton, Geo. Barclay, Summersides, Alex. Irvine, and John Barry; and Messrs. Jas. Hervey Price, Jas. E. Small, C. C. Small, P. Paterson, W. Lawson, Dr. Baldwin and Captain Philpotts.

The new Vice-Presidents were-Judge Sherwood, Revs. Dr. Harris, C. Mathews, W. Rintoul; and Messrs. C. C. Small, G. Munro and Capt. Phil-

potts. Among the new Directors we find the names of the Rev. T. F. (afterwards Dr.) Caldicott, King Barton, B. Turquand and J. Tolfree. The Depositary (Mr. Henderson, jr.,) was replaced by Mr. Robt. Cathcart. The receipts of the Society in 1832, from all sources, were \$805.70. The issues were—580 Bibles and 947 Testaments, total 1,527.

The chief matters which engaged the attention of the Society were the printing (at an expense of \$74, and binding by T. F. Caldicott, \$70), and partial circulation of St. Mathew's gospel in Chippewa, and the formation of a "Ladies' Bible Association in York." Drs. Baldwin and Harris, of the Indian Committee, were appointed to correspond with Dr. James, of the United States army, who had translated the Old and New Testaments into Chippewa. St. John's gospel in Chippewa was also printed by the Parent Society in London, at the expense of \$640. The book of Genesis was also being translated. Bishop Strachan, who had suggested to the Upper Canada Society the translation of the New Testament into Chippewa, (though not a member of the U. C. Society), contributed \$10 towards this object; Chief Justice Robinson, \$5; Col. Wells, \$5; Dr. Baldwin, \$4; and six other persons, \$8.

The fifth report issued by the "City of Toronto Auxiliary Bible Society" was for the year 1833. The annual meeting was held in St. Andrew's Church, 10th February, 1834. (The Town of York was incorporated in the year 1834, and the name changed to the "City of Toronto.") The speakers were Hon. J. H. Dunn, President; P. Paterson, Treasurer; and Rev. Messrs. Jas. Harris and A. Stewart, Secretaries; also Revs. W. Rintoul, E. Ryerson, Dr. Harris, Jas. Richardson, T. F. Caldicott, Sutcliff and Partington; and Messrs. Jas. H. Price, T. Parsons, J. Fenton and Capt. Philpotts. The new members of Committee were Messrs. John Tyner, (now a Vice-President), Jas. H. Price, Jas. Beaty, etc. The report states that the total receipts for the year were—for sales, \$680.35; donations and subscriptions, \$677.98; total, \$1,358.33; issues, 413 Bibles, 893 Testaments; total, 1,306; grand total issues of Bibles and Testaments during the five years of the existence of the Society, 6,265. The number of Branches reported was 30. The report further states that Rev. Peter Jones had completed the translation of the Book of Genesis into Chippewa, and that the Society had during the previous year circulated the Gospels by St. Matthew and St. John among the Indians at the different Mission Stations in the Province, "as an earnest of increasing exertions for the evangelizing of those children of the soil." The report also mentions the active exertions of the Ladies' Bible Association of the City of Toronto. Its collections amounted to \$165.36—of which it gave \$100 as a free gift to the Society. For the expenses of the Indian translations, the Hon. Wm. Allan, Chief Justice Robinson, Hon. Peter Robinson, Vice-Chancellor Jameson, Hon. G. H. Markland, and others, contributed.

The sixth report is for the year 1834. At the annual meeting held in St.

Andrew's Church, 9th Eebruary, 1835, the speakers were—Dr. Baldwin, V.P., in the Chair; Revs. Dr. Harris, J. Harris, J. Richardson, E. Ryerson, T. F. Caldicott, A. Stewart, Thos. Turner, W. Merrifield, and Capt. Philpotts and M. T. Parsons. The new members of Committee were—A. Hamilton, J. Ewart, P. Freeland, etc. The receipts were—from sales, \$442; donations and subscriptions, \$600; total, \$1,042. Issues—Bibles, and Testaments, 1,625. The existence of the cholera appears to have had a depressing effect upca the Society. Its receipts were \$316 less than the preceding year, and nothing of special interest is referred to in the report. The subscribers for the Indian translations were Bishop Stuart, of Quebec, Hon. W. Allan, Chief Justice Robinson, Peter Robinson, etc.

The seventh report is for the year 1835. At the meeting in St. Andrew's Church, 10th February, 1836, the speakers were-Rev. Dr. Harris, V.P., in the Chair; Revs. W. Merrifield, A. Stewart, W. T. Leach (now Archdeacon, of Montreal), T. Osgoode, Jas. Harris, W. Rintoul, D. Macauley, C. Nicol, G. Barclay and E. Evans; and Messrs. J. H. Price, P. Paterson, W. Parsons, B. Turquand and E. W. Thompson. The new Secretaries this year were Rev. W. T. Leach, M.A., and Rev. W. Merrifield, in place of Rev. Messrs. J. Harris and A. Stewart. The new members of Committee were-C. Daly, J. Rogers, H. Carfrae, etc. The receipts were-from sales, \$515; donations and subscriptions, \$1,272; total, \$1,787; which was a large increase (\$700) over the previous year. The total issues were 1,423. points of interest noticed in the report are the employment of Agents to visit Branches and form new enes, which was found to be "absolutely necessary." They report Societies formed at Hamilton, Brantford, St. Catharines, etc., and state that "the general opinion in the country is, that if you send Agents once a year and stir up the people for a few years, you will soon be able to furnish all Upper Canada-Indians and all-with the word of God." The Ladies Association, which in 1834 only collected \$78, this year collected \$229.50, and gave \$224 to the Society as a donation. The completion of the translation into Chippewa of the Book of Genesis is announced, which the report states will enable "the poor natives of the forest;) read in their own tongue, the description of Moses respecting the creation, the fall of man," etc.

The eighth report is for the year 1836. At the annual meeting held in St. Andrew's Church, 15th February, 1837, Dr. Baldwin, V.P., in the Chair, the speakers were—Revs. E. Evans, Dr. Harris, J. Harris, W. T. Leach, G. Barclay, J. E. Maxwell, A. Stewart, D. Macauley, and Messrs. Jesse Ketchum and P. Paterson. This year the old Sccretaries were re-appointed, with the addition of Mr. (now Hon.) Wm. McMaster, as Minute Sccretary. The new members of the Committee or Board of Directors were—Messrs. T. Champion, A. T. McCord, (now V.P.), Thos. Rigney, etc. The travelling Agents were Messrs. J. Black and G. Barclay. The receipts were—sales, \$534; donations and subscriptions, \$575; total, \$1,109, or more than \$600

less than the preceding year. The issues were 2,397 Bibles and Testaments, or 974 more than the preceding year.

The ninch report is for the year 1837. The meeting was held in St. Andrew's Church on the 8th May, with Dr. Baldwin, V.P., in the Chair. Those who took part in it were the Revs. R. J. Grasett (now Dean of St. James' Cathedral, Toronto), Wm. Ryerson, J. Roaf, J. Richardson, G. Barclay, A. Stewart, J. Harris, W. Christian, and Messrs. T. Champion, P. Paterson, --- Templeton and Capt. Young. The Secretaries this year were Rev. J. Harris and Thos. Champion, Esq., with W. McMaster as Minute Secre-Travelling Agent, J. Black. The Vice-Presidents added this year were Revs. H. J. Grasett, Wm. R. rson, J. Roaf, W. T. Leach and A. The new members of the Board were Mr. (now Hon.) J. Stewart. McMurrich, J. Wickson, S. E. Taylor and W. Osborne (now V. P.) The receipts this year were—sales, etc., \$1,025; subscriptions, etc., \$292; total. \$1,317. Issaes, 1,748 copies. "In consequence (the report states) of the unsettled state of affairs," ("rebellion," etc.), the time of the annual meeting was this year changed from February to May, during which latter month it has ever since been held. 'The Ladies' Bible Association having ceased to exist, the Directors hope for its revival, and "warmly recommend the employment of an Agent to visit and distribute the Bible among the destitute throughout the city and liberties." The Directors notice with regret the removal from the Province of Rev. Dr. Harris, V.P., who for a number of years was a zealous, consistent friend of the Society.

The tenth report is for the years 1838-9. The annual meeting was held in the Newgate (afterwards Adelaide) Street Wesleyan Methodist Church, Dr. Baldwin, V.P., in the Chair. The speakers were the Revs. Henry Scadding, Joseph Stinson, W. T. Leach, J. Richerdson, B. Slight, John Sunday, G. Barclay, J. Harris, W. Ryerson, W. Christian, and the Rev. James Thomson, (Agent of the Parent Society), and Messrs. T. Champion, J. Ketchum, W. Stephen, besides Dr. O'Brien. The Vice-Presidents added this year were Rev. J. (now Bishop) Richardson, Rev. Dr. McCaul, and John Ewart, Esq. The new members of the Board were Dr. Beatty, S. George, &c. During this year also, (1838) the late venerable James Carless became Depositary in place of Mr. R. Cathcart.

Numerous applications for grants having been this year received from Sunday Schools, the Board passed the following regulation on the subject:—
"That in all applications for grants of Bibles to Sunday Schools, the applicants be requested to furnish the Secretaries with an account of the state of the school, the number of scholars and teachers, the amount of funds at the disposal of the managers, and who are its officers, and why it is necessary to make such application. All which sho ld, in all cases, be certified by a minister of the Gospel, or some person of known respectability. That before the Committee make any grants, they should be satisfied—First, that there is good reason to believe the school is likely to be permanent. Secondly, that the applicants have no other resources from which they can supply themselves; and that in making the grants they do not give more than to the

value of two Testaments and one Bible to every twenty scholars. And that they impress upon the receivers the necessity and duty of using the grants only in the Sunday School, and that the books so granted be neither given away, lent or sold. And further, this Committee recommend that the Secretary be empowered to make grants, reporting the same to the next general meeting of the Committee."

In regard to the Psalms and Paraphrase question, we take the following extract from the Society's report:—"Finding that many of the Branch Societies required Bibles with the metrical version of the Psalms as used in the Church of Scotland, your Committee took it into their consideration whether they should keep a supply of such Bibles; but fearing to depart from the strict letter of the Constitution of the Parent Society, they adopted a resolution recommending and requesting the Tract Society to supply themselves with such Bibles, that those persons requiring them might be supplied from their Depository."

The receipts of the Society for the "sixteen months" were—sales, \$1,289; subscriptions and donations, (including one for Indian translation of \$50), \$508; total, \$1,797. Issues—871 Bibles, 1,200 Testaments; total, 2,071.

The most noticeable event of the year as recorded in the report, was the visit, on behalf of the Parent Society, of the indefatigable Rev. James Thomson, D.D., so noted for his Bible Society labours in South America and elsewhere. Dr. Thomson had already visited the Provinces in 1830. From his letters to the Society we quote the following extracts:—"Agreeable to arrangements made that I should visit some parts of the country.

I went first to the Chippewa mission on the River Credit.

I addressed the assembly.

Stating several circumstances and occurrences respecting the peculiar people in the West Indies, among whom I had recently been labouring.

And exhorted them to follow the example of the negroes.

Rev. Peter Jones addressed the Chippewas.

Rendering the substance of what I had said into the Chippewa tongue.

A Society was formed. Rev. Benj. Slight, President; Chief John Jones, Secretary; J. Howell, Treasurer.

Thus was formed the first Bible Society among the red men of the country." After summing up his labours, Dr. Thompson says:—"I found a very friendly disposition manifested respecting the Bible Society, and a great readiness to co-operate with it."

The eleventh report was for the year 1839-40. The public meeting was held in Newgate (Adelaide) Street Wesleyan Church, 6th May, 1840, Rev. Dr. McCaul, V.P.. in the chair. The speaker were Revs. James George, W. P. Westall, W. Christian, J. Richardson, J. Harris, W. Rintoul, J. Roaf, Messrs. J. Ketchum, P. Freeland, T. Champion, J. Wickson, and Dr. O'Brien. The new Vice-Presidents were Rev. James Harris and Peter Paterson, Esq. Peter Freeland, Esq., succeeded Mr. Paterson as Treasurer, and Joseph Wenham took the place of Rev. Jas. Harris, as one of the Secretaries. The new members of the Board were Dr. O'Brien, R. Cathcart, J. Cameron, and J. Ross.

The receipts this year were, sales, &c., \$1,478; subscriptions and free contributions \$577; total \$2,055. Issues.—Bibles 1,162, testaments 1,609,

Indian translations 148, total 2,919; or, a gross total, from 1828 to 1839-40, of 15,332 copies.

The most noticeable facts this year were the appointment of the Rev. James (now Bishop) Richardson as Travelling Agent of the Society, and the labours of the Rev. Dr. Thomson, which are thus referred to in the Report. "Your Committee would here express their great obligation to the Parent Society for the benefits conferred by the visit of their Agent, the Rev. James Thomson. He travelled through the whole length of the Province, establishing new societies, and awakening old ones; and it is particularly through the representations that Mr. Thomson has made to the Parent Society, relative to the necessity that there exists in this Province, for a constantly employed itinerant agent, that they have made the very munificent grant of £100 sterling, towards enabling your Society to employ such an officer. This liberality, on the part of the Parent Society, removes one of the great difficulties that has existed to prevent the appointment of such an agent. The other, and, perhaps the greatest difficulty, the finding a proper person to fill the office, will rest with your new Committee. May the God of the spirits of all flesh so direct and guide them, that they may be led to appoint a man to the work who will be 'a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.'"

Almough agents had in previous years been temporarily employed, the Society felt that the time had now come when the continuous labours of an able, indefatigable Agent (such, as they were assured, Mr. Richardsen would prove himself to be,) were indispensably necessary to the growth and permanency of its operations, they therefore, with judicious foresight, selected this gentleman, whose services were afterwards so important and valuable to the Society.

The Report refers, with satisfaction, to the establishment of a Bible Society among the Indians at the River Credit, and at Sarnia, from both of whom they had received upwards of \$50.

The internal changes in the depository, &c., were the amalgamation of the Bible and Tract Societies, in the joint use and occupation of a building suitable for carrying on their operations, and in the payment of salary of Depositary and expenses. Two important officers of the Society resigned this year, P. Paterson, Esq. (Treasurer), and Rev. J. Harris (one of the Secretaries), on his removal from the city.

Encouraged by the growth and prosperity of the Society, the following Resolution was passed at the Annual Meeting:—"That the laws and regulations of the City of Toronto Auxiliary Bible Society be repealed, and that the same Society be continued under the name of the UPPER CANADA BIBLE Society, and that the laws and regulations for the same shall be as follows (i.e. substantially the same as the present):—

In announcing this change in the name, &c., of the Society, and the appointment of Mr. Richardson, the Secretaries issued a circular on the 1st June, 1840, from which we make the following extracts:—

DEAR FRIENDS,—We have the pleasure to inform you that at the last Anniversary of "The City of Toronto Auxiliary Bible Society," an important

With a view to unite into one body all the different change was made. Bible Societies in the Province, and to concentrate all the Bible operations in the same, in order to give more efficiency to the whole, the Society has assumed a Provincial character under the name of the "Upper Canada BIBLE SOCIETY," embracing the design of maintaining in this city a general depot of Bibles and Testaments; from which all the Bible Societies in connection with it may be supplied with the Scriptures at the lowest price at which they can be afforded; providing for the incorporation, with its general Committee, of the various officers of all Bible Societies in connection with it; and for distinctly mentioning in its Annual Reports everything interesting relative to the proceedings of its several branches, with a particular account of the contribution to its funds, and the circulation of the Scriv-The whole of the funds available, after defraying the expenses of the Institution and its operations, will be remitted to the British and Foreign Bible Society, for the purpose of being applied to the general objects of that Institution. Provision was also made for having an active travelling agent constantly employed in visiting the various societies connected with it, forming new societies when they may be required, and in otherwise attending to the concerns of the Society. It is, therefore, with much satisfaction that we are now enabled to inform you that such an agent is actually engaged by the Committee, who is about to commence his first tour through the Province without delay.

We are very sanguine in our expectations of the good that will arise from this appointment. The Rev. James Richardson is the gentleman who has been appointed to this important office, towards whom we affectionately entreat your kind attention, and trust you will afford him every facility in

your power for prosecuting his agency with efficiency and success.

It is with no ordinary degree of pleasure that we have to inform you of the important decision to which our Committee has come in the following Resolution, and we feel assured that the sentiment which dictated it will meet in you a cordial response, and that you will not be wanting in corre-

sponding action to effect the object intended.

"That in view of the solemn responsibility resting upon us as a Society, to accomplish the most extensive circulation of the sacred Scriptures, it is resolved, in humble dependence upon the blessing of God upon our exertions, we will endeavour to place His Word in the possession of every family in this Province, in which there is an individual capable of reading, upon a plan similar to that so successfully pursued by the Montreal Society."

plan similar to that so successfully pursued by the Montreal Society."

And the Committee confidently "appeal to Ministers of the Gospel and all other friends of Bible distribution, to aid in the accomplishment of their views, by procuring subscriptions, co-operating with their agent, and sug-

gesting methods of proceeding."

(To be continued.)

British and Foreign.

SELECTIONS FROM PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

BIBLE DEFOR IN ROME.—A Bible depot has been taken for the Society's work in Rome. The Society's Italian Agent has been authorized to sell Portions among the soldiers at half the usual price.

SCRIPTURES IN ARABIC. &c.—An edition of the Acts of the Apostles in Arabic, vowelled, has been ordered; also editions of 15,000 Polish New Testaments, 10,500 French New Testaments (Martin's version), 10,000 French

Bibles (Ostervald), together with editions of various Portions specially needed during the present war. The printing of various editions of the Scriptures in Albanian, Greek, Rouman, and Swedish, has been sanctioned.

PSALMS IN MALAGASY.—An edition of 40,000 Psalms in the Malagasy language has been carried through the press by the Rev. W. Ellis, and a grant of 20,000 copies has been made to the London Missionary Society. An edition of a portable Bible, and also of a New Testament (50,000 copies) have been ordered to be printed.

Accea New Testament.—The manuscript of the revised Accea New Testament, just completed by the Rev. J. Zimmermann, has arrived from the Gold Coast, Africa; and an edition of 2,000 or 2,500 has been ordered to be printed for the use of the Evangelical Missionary Society in Basle.

Danish New Testament.—A grant of 2,000 large type Danish New Testaments has been made, through the Rev. J. Plenge, for the supply of various prisons and hospitals in Denmark. The grant has called forth expressions of hearty gratitude from the chaplains of these establishments.

BIBLES, &c., FOR HOSPITALS.—Large supplies of Bibles, Testaments and Portions, making a total of 6,358 copies, have been granted to twenty-two hospitals in London, partly for use in the wards, and partly for presentation to patients on leaving.

American.

GENERAL WILLIAM WILLIAMS.

The American Bible Society has been called to mourn the ioss of one of its valued and distinguished supporters, General William Williams, an "estimable and lamented Vice-President." Of the great loss sustained, the Board of Managers give expression to their "deep grief" in the following language:—

"That in the death of General Williams we mourn the loss of a dignified and courteous Christian gentleman, whose presence at our anniversaries assured us of his sympathy and friendship; whose regular contributions to the Society were evidence of his love for God's word, and of his desire for its circulation, and whose benevolence and charity commend him as an example to us and to the Christian Church."

A COLPORTEUR'S EXPERIENCE IN SOUTH AMERICA.

With characteristic enterprise and liberality, the A. B. Society has, for some time past, extended its labours to the distant and destitute fields of South America. No country in the world is in greater want of the Bible. We hail with pleasure the laudable exertions of this great institution, and will look with hopeful interest for reports of continued successes.

The work in Valparaiso shows a far better success in sales of the Scripture than that which we record about Santiago. Here the peop! have more information, their prejudices are not so strong, and generally the field is less refractory.

Very considerable distribution is effected also among the crews of the ships in the harbour; there are captains who favor the efforts of the colpor-

teur, and materially contribute to his success. Some captains there are who volunteer to advance all the money their seamen wish to expend in the purchase of our volumes; the number of such captains seems to be on the increase.

The colporteur has not a little to encourage him in visiting seamen in the hospitals; not only has he opportunities to converse and pray with them singly, but also for gathering them sometimes to the number of ten or twelve in one of the wards for reading, exhortation and prayer. In the English, American, and French hospitals, he is allowed the freest access, and

every facility is afforded for his intercourse with the patients.

This is in strong contrast with the state of things once prevailing, when sectarian feeling strove, only too successfully, to lay its shibboleths on the threshold, and bar out our messenger. But all that is at an end, and a welcome awaits him as often as he is able to come. In the French hospital three French seamen have been brought, by reading our publications and the New Testament, to accept the knowledge of Christ. A welcome has followed the effort to offer religious reading to the foreigners in the city prison. Some priestly interference has sought to hinder the offer being made to the native prisoners: "Ye enter not in yourselves, and them that are entering ye hinder," said our Lord to such persons when He was on earth.

On board of the Magnolia, four Bibles and eight other volumes were

purchased by some young men.

On board of the ---, the captain is desirous that every man should

have his Bible; the crew almost always purchase something.

A native had ordered a Bible; it was taken to his house, but he had

been dissuaded, and would only buy one with notes.

A man who; bought a Spanish Bible five months ago, was anxious to sell it back again at half the price it cost him.

A respectable Chilian said that his eldest daughter sits up after the rest

of the family have retired, till midnight, reading our books.

A shoemaker who bought a Spanish Testament a fortnight ago, would like to sell it back for less than it cost him. These are the cases that dishearten; he said the priests are right, because they are appointed by God. This official religion is that which misleads so many, not agitating the question: What is truth? but, where are the men authorized to declare it officially, and save the toil of investigating for one's self?

A native who recently purchased a Bible, says he is reading it in course; has just finished the books of Moses, and does not care meanwhile to read

any other volume.

On board the steamer — nearly all the men were Scotch, and received

the colporteur with a welcome.

An Irishman, a Catholic, in one of the hospitals, has read the Testament

which was given him, with attention; he asked for a prayer-book.

A carpenter, hitherto a resolute opponent of Protestantism, has become anxious now to read the Bible, and purchased a copy."—Valparaiso Record.

Miscellancous.

AN ARGUMENT AND A REGRET.

The beauty and cogency with which the accomplished Newman exhibits, in the following sentences, the unparalleled excellence and national influence of the English Bible, must elicit the admiration of all who read them. profound is our regret that such a mind could become so blinded as to regard the "Marvellous English" Protestant Bible, as one of the strongholds of any heresy.

"Who will not say the uncommon beauty and marvellous English of the Protestant Bible is not one of the great strongholds of heresy in this country? It lives on the ear like a music that can never be forgotten,—like the sound of Church Bells which the convert knows not how he can forego. Its felicities often seem to be almost things, rather than mere words. It is part of the national mind, and the anchor of national seriousness. The memory of the dead passes into it. The potent traditions of childhood are stereotyped in its verses. The power of the griefs, and trials of man is hidden in its words. It is the representative of his best moments, and all that has been about him, of soft, and gentle, and pure, and penitent, and good, speaks to him for ever out of his English Bible. It is his sacred thing which doubt has never dimmed and controversy never soiled. In the length and breadth of the land, there is not a Protestant with one spark of religiousness about him, whose spiritual biography is not in his Saxon Bible."

BIBLES WANTED IN PORTO RICO.

A new field for Protestant mission work has been opened—the island of Porto Rico. Some time ago, on the occasion of its promulgation, we noticed the decree granting freedom of worship. It now appears that measures were at once taken by the Protestant residents to avail themselves of the new privilege. Subscription-lists were circulated, which soon made it manifest that there would be no pecuniary difficulties to encounter, and, late in November, the newly-formed congregation listened to the first Protestant service ever heard in the island. A clergyman-an Episcopalian-has been called for six months, and steps will immediately be taken toward the erection of a church. Among the Romanists, this check of their hitherto unquestioned sway awakens intense opposition. The writer of the account in the Times, of St. Thomas, which we have followed, says: "Sermons are being preached, in their church, of a most violent character, condemning Protestantism in all its details—clergy, Bibles, etc.; the effects of which sermons are, however, doing us a great deal of good, instead of the injury intended; and it is to be regretted that we as yet have no supply of translated Prayer-books and Bibles, as inquiries for them are frequent, all being anxious to read these so condemned works."

THE ABIDING WORD.

On the door of the old Mosque in Damascus, which was once a Christian church, but for twelve centuries has ranked among the holiest of the Mohammedan sanctuaries, are inscribed these remarkable words: "Thy kingdom, O Christ, is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations." Though the name of Christ has been regularly blasphemed, and the disciples of Christ regularly cursed for twelve hundred years within it, the inscription has nevertheless remained unimpaired by time. It was unknown during the long reign of Mohammedan intolerance; but when religious liberty was partially restored, and the missionaries were enabled to establish a Christian church in that city, it was again brought to light, encouraging them in their work of faith and labour of love.—

The services of the London Missionary Society in Madagascar, are now attended by about 30,000 natives in 148 different congregations. One hundred and twenty chapels are now in process either of building or enlargement. In Antananarivo, the city where the Queen resides, there are ninc large churches.

Bible Society Recorder.

TORONTO, 15TH JANUARY, 1871.

THE BIBLE SOCIETY RECORDER AND THE ANNUAL REPORT.

As some misapprehension exists in reference to the Annual Report of our Society, we hereby re-insert the information on the subject which was published in the first number of the Recorder. In this you read: "The Annual Report of the Board shall be inserted in a double number of the journal, and its publication in its present form discontinued." Our aim has been to combine, as far as practicable, the fullest intelligence required in a report, with such periodical items as a Bi-monthly could furnish, and as were in harmony with the grand aims of a Bible Society. When we become, under the Divine blessing, stronger in position, and richer in resources we may more closely imitate the Parent Society in publishing not only an Annual Report in a separate form, but also a Monthly instead of a Bi-monthly Recorder. The Board are assured, from the reception which the first volume has received, that they have acted judiciously in its publication.

The prospect for the present year is still more hopeful. Several branches have ordered additional numbers for the year commencing January, 1871. Terms for additional numbers will be found on the last page.

The accompanying Draft of Report adopted by the Committee appointed to consider the question of the publication of a Bible Society Recorder, was submitted to the Board of Directors at its Quarterly Meeting, October 12th, 1869, and unanimously approved. It fully and distinctly presents the objects contemplated in its dissemination:—

Draft Report of the Sub-Committee appointed to consider the subject of the publication of a Bible Society Recorder.

- 1. That a Bible Society Recorder for Upper Canada shall be issued every second month, under the authority of the Board of Directors, and that the Secretary, the Rev. John Gemley, be editor of the Recorder.
- 2. That this journal shall contain a summary of intelligence relating to the operations of the Bible Society in this Province, as well as in other parts of British America, the Mother Country and elsewhere; extracts from the reports of auxiliaries, branches, agents and colporteurs; notices and circulars issued by the Board, the Secretaries or the Agents; acknowledgments of remittances from branches, &c., and such items of general information, in regard to the promotion of Bible work throughout the world, as may be of interest to the subscribers to the society. The Annual Report of the Board shall be inserted in a double number of the journal, and its publication in its present form discontinued.
- 3. That the tender of Messrs. Hunter, Rose & Co. for printing 5,000 copies of the Bible Society Recorder be accepted, and that the Secretaries take the necessary steps to have the journal issued as soon as possible, under the following regulations, viz:

- (1) A copy shall be sent, gratuitously, to every officer and member of the Board of Directors, and of the London and Kingston auxiliaries.
- (2) That three copies shall be sent to the parent and kindred societies in England, the United States and Canada, and copies to each of the branches—the proportion to be determined by the total amount of the subscription to the Society by each of the branches.

Monthly Meeting of the Board.—The Monthly Meeting was held in the Board Room, on Thesday, December 13th, 1870, commencing at half-pastseven, P.M., the Hon. G. W. Allan, President, in the Chair. It was intimated that the Rev. R. B. Montgomery, Baptist Minister, of Beamsville, had accepted a provisional agency, and would soon enter upon its duties. The field assigned him is the Counties of Wentworth and Norfolk. On motion, the Secretaries were empowered to make arrangements for the visitation of those Branches to which no agent had yet been appointed. Meeting opened and closed with prayer by the Secretary.

THE QUARTERLY MEETING-The Hon. G. W. Allan, presiding, was held on Tuesday, the 10th inst., commencing at half-past seven, p.m. The Secretary re. the 19th Psalm, and offered prayer. Former minutes read and approved. Very interesting reports were received from Revs. Mr. Manly, Dr. Caulfield, and Mr. Warden; also a letter from Rev. Mr. Ball, and a verbal statement by the Secretary of his visits to Branches. The information furnished by these gentlemen was most encouraging. Schedule of Reports of Colporteurs was read. In many cases they detail toilsome journeyings. The Rev. Dr. Taylor was appointed a deputation to attend the Annual Meeting of the Montreal Bible Society, on the 25th inst.; and the Rev. Alexander Sutherland, that ci the Kingston Auxiliary, on the 17th inst. The Secretaries reported that the Rev. Mr. Manly would visit the Counties cast of Toronto, with the exception of those embraced in the Kingston Auxiliary, due arrangement for visiting which would be made during the current Bible year of that Auxiliary. The addition of the County of Bruce was made to the field under the care of Dr. Caulfield. Meeting closed with prayer, by the Rev. Dr. Taylor.

"Paper No. II."—On the "Historical Reminiscences of the U. C. B. Society," on first page, will be read with pleasure by all; but it must afford special interest to a large class of our community to whom the history and character of many there mentioned are most familiar. Among them we find the names of the honored dead—only a few of those mentioned yet dwell among us. It is most gratifying to learn from the record now furnished, that many of those most distinguished in the past political history of our country, were intimately identified with her most important religious institutions. We feel under a deep debt of obligation to Dr. Hodgins, for the eminent service he has again rendered by the preparation of this valuable article.

BIBLES AND TESTAMENTS ON SALE

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Upper Canada Bible Society.

AT THE DEPOSITORY, 102 YONGE STREET, TORONTO.

** All the prices in this list are net cost to the Society, and consequently no abatement can be made either to individuals or to Branches. Branch Depositaries should also be governed by the prices quoted.

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roan, gilt edges, with rims and clasp	0	52
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Remittances.

RECEIPTS AT THE BIBLE HOUSE, TORONTO, FROM AUXILIARY AND BRANCH SOCIETIES, FROM 1st NOV. TO 31st DEC., 1870.

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* To Montreal Auxiliary. † To Quebec Auxiliary. ‡ For Spain. § For the Blind. || For the Army. ¶ To Ottawa Auxiliary. ** For Rome.

FREE DONATIONS TO THE LONDON AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY, RECEIVED AT LONDON, 1870.

		S cts.
Lambeth Branch		6 68
Adelaide "		10 00
Nissouri West "		13 37
Port Burwell "		8 00
Southwold "	***************************************	12 00

A SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS FROM BRANCHES AND AUXILIARIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1870.

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N.B.—Details of the various objects of the Free Contributions have been given in previous numbers of the Recorder.

Apper Canada Bible Society Communications.

- 1. All Communications relating to the Bible Recorder to be addressed to "The Rev. John Gemley, Bible House, Toronto."
- 2. All Reports, Letters and other communications, from Branches, Agents, Colportaurs, and other parties, relating to the Bible Society work, and designed for the Board of Directors or for the Secretaries, to be addressed to "The Secretaries of the Upper Canada Bible Society, Toronto."
- 3. All orders for Bibles and Testaments, from Branches, etc., and all remittances on Depository Purchase Account, to be sent to "Mr. John Young, Bible Society Depositary, Toronto." Money letters should be registered.
- ** Partie desirous of communicating with the Bible Society, Toronto, on any of the matters indicated above, will greatly oblige the Secretaries by adhering to the foregoing regulations. Separate communications relating to any of the three subjects named, can, when necessary, be enclosed in one envelope, as it will be a great convenience to the Secretaries not to have the matters classified above, mixed together in one communication. They should be kept quite separate.

Stated Meetings of the Board of Directors.—Representation of Auxiliaries and Branches.

Quarterly and other Meetings of the Board.—The Board of Directors shall meet for the transaction of business once in each quarter, and at any other time when called together by the Secretaries, or by any three of the Directors.

Quarterly Meetings of the Roard shall be held on the second Tuesday of January, April, July, and October, of each year, at 7.30 o'clock P.M. Monthly Meetings are held on the second Tuesday in each month, at the same hour.

Appointment of Agents.—No Travelling Agent of the Society, shall be appointed by the Board, except at one of these Quarterly Meetings.

Representation of Local Branches at the Board.—The President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Agents of each Auxiliary and Branch in connection with the Upper Canada Bible Society shall be ex-officio Members of the Board of Directors, at Toronto; and as such, shall have the right to attend all the Meetings of the Board.

GRANTS TO SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

That in all applications for grants of Bibles to Sunday Schools, the applicant be requested to furnish the Secretaries with an account of the state of the School; the number of Scholars and Teachers; the amount of Funds at the disposal of the Managers; who are its officers; and why it is necessary to make such application; all which should in every case be certified by a Minister of the Gospel, or some other person of known respectability. And further, this Board recommends that the Secretaries make grants in future only to destitute settlements; reporting the same to the next Meeting of the Board of Directors.

PRICE OF THE "RECORDER."

Some of the Branches having expressed a desire to obtain a larger number of Recorders than those already forwarded to them, the Board recommend that a small price be paid by each Branch for any additional supply they may be pleased to order, viz: Single copies, 20 cts.; ten copies, to one address, \$1.50; over ten and under fifty copies, \$13.00 per 100; any quantity over 50 copies, \$12 per 100; in each case including postage.

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