TWENTIETH REPORT

OF THE

UPPER CANADA RELIGIOUS

TRACT AND BOOK SOCIETY,

RESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING,

Held on 1st June, 1853.

TORONTO:

PRINTED FOR

THE UPPER CANADA RELIGIOUS TRACT AND BOOK SOCIETY, BY GEO. E. THOMAS & CO., KING STREET EAST.

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1853.

OFFICE-BEARERS.

PATRON:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF ELGIN AND-KINCARDINE, K. T., GOVERNOR GENERAL, &c., &c.

PRESIDENT:

REV. JAMES RICHARDSON.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

REV. H. J. GRASETT, A. M. JESSE KETCHUM, Esq. REV. JOHN ROAF. REV. JAMES HARRIS. REV. ADAM LILLIE. JAMES HAMILTON, Esq.

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J. C. W. DALY, Esq.
PETER FREELAND, Esq.
REV. JOHN JENNINGS.
JOHN McMURRICH, Esq.
WM. McMASTER, Esq.

TREASURER:

JAMES S. HOWARD, Esq.

SECRETARIES:

A. T. McCORD, Esq.

DR. JAMES H. RICHARDSON.

COMMITTEE:

ALL MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

Messes.	THOMAS HUTCHINSON.
	WM. OSBORNE.
46	JOHN LAIDLAW.
	CHARLES WALKER.
	D. BUCHAN.
	JOHN RAINS.

MESSRS. GEO. BROWN, M.P.P.

"RICHARD YATES.
"THOMAS CLARKSON.
"PETER FREELAND.
"O. MOWAT.
"R. H. BRETT.

REGULATIONS.

- 1. That this Society shall be denominated "The Upper Canada Religious Tract and Book Society.
- II. That this Society approves of the principles on which the London Religious Tract Society is founded, as set forth in the official statement and declaration of that Society; and that it shall circulate only the publications of that Society, or other publications of a similar character.
- III. That Annual Subscribers, paying Five Shillings currency, or more, shall be Members of the Society.
- IV. That Subscribers of Five Pounds, and Ministers remitting Congregational collections to the extent of Five Pounds currency, shall be Members for life.
- V. That a Committee of Twelve Members, exclusive of the Officers of the Society, shall be annually chosen, to conduct the business of the Society; that eight who have most constantly attended the meetings of the Committee throughout the year, may be re-elected for the ensuing year; and that the Committee for the time being, shall be empowered to fill up any vacancies that may occur.
- VI. That the Officers of the Society shall be a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretaries, and Depositary.
- VII. That Ministers of the Gospel being Members of the Society, shall be entitled to attend and vote at all meetings of the Committee.
- VIII. That all Subscribers shall be entitled to have Tracts to the value of half their subscriptions; and that Ministers, or others, remitting a collection, shall be entitled to Tracts to the value of half the collection, on behalf of the Congregation that may have made the collection, the same being called for any time within three months of payment of subscription.
 - IX. That the Committee shall meet for business at least once a quarter.
- X. That this Society shall, to the utmost extent of its resources, encourage the formation of Auxiliary Societies throughout the Province.
- XI. That the Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held at such time and place as the Committee shall see fit.
- XII. That all Meetings of the Society, and of the Committee, shall be opened and closed with prayer.

RESOLUTIONS

PASSED AT THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE UPPER CANADA RELIGIOUS TRACT AND BOOK SOCIETY, HELD IN ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH ON TUESDAY EVENING, THE SEVENTH OF JUNE, 1853.

THE REV. JAMES RICHARDSON, PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

The Meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. Adam Lillie, and the Report read by the Rev. A. Geikie, when the following Resolutions were adopted:—

Moved by the Rev. A. Geikie, seconded by the Rev. Mr. Shirrald,

1. That the Report now read be adopted, and circulated as the twenty-first Annual Report of the Upper Canada Religious Tract Society.

Moved by the Rev. Dr. Wilkes, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Pyper,

2. That the times in which we live, characterised as they are by an extraordinary spirit of activity, enterprise, and free enquiry, require increased efforts on the part of Christians to diffuse those principles of their faith which will tend to a right direction of the public mind, and produce the most beneficial results; and past experience proves that the agency of the press is all important, and therefore to be made available to the utmost extent possible in the prosecution of such a work.

Moved by the Rev. Mr. Clarke, seconded by —— Scobel, Esq.,

3. That this Meeting, in humbly and gratefully acknowledging the favour with which the operations of this and other kindred Societies have been owned by the great Head of the Church during the past year, feel encouraged to press onward in the good work to which they have been privileged to put their hands—the dissemination of religious instruction by means of Books and Tracts throughout the Province.

Moved by the Rev. F. Marling, seconded by the Rev. L. Taylor,

4. That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the acting Secretary of this Society, Andrew T. McCord, Esq., for his long and unremitting attention to the duties of his office and all the interests of the Society, and that the undermentioned persons compose the Board of Management for the ensuing year, viz., President—Rev. James Richardson. Vier-Presidents—Rev. H. J. Grasett. A.M.; Jesse Ketchum, Esq.; Rev. John Roaf; Rev. James Harris; Rev, Adam Lillie; James Hamilton, Esq.; Rev. Dr. Burns; J. C. W. Daly, Esq.; Peter Freeland, Esq.; Rev. John Jennings; John McMurrich, Esq.; Wm. McMaster, Esq. Treasurer—James S. Howard, Esq. Secretaries—A. T. McCord, Esq.; Dr. James H. Richardson. Committee—All Ministers of the Gospel who are Members of the Society; Messrs. Thomas Hutchinson, Wm. Osborn, John Laidlaw, Charles Walker, D. Buchan. John Rains, Geo. Brown, M.P.P., Richard Yates, Thomas Clarkson, Peter Freeland, O. Mowat, R. H. Brett.

That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the President, for his services in the chair.

The Meeting concluded with prayer by the Rev. J. Roaf.

RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY,

TWENTY-FIRST REPORT.

JUNE 7, 1853.

The experience of the last fifty years has shown the vast importance and great advantage of united efforts in the cause of God.

It would be no difficult thing to prove that it is the duty of every Christian and of every Christian Church to disseminate "The glorious gospel of the blessed God," by such means as are most practicable and likely to be most efficient in the existing state of society.

But experience has taught us that it is not wise to leave this great work entirely to individual zeal and effort; moreover, the majority of Christians are so circumstanced, that all they can do is to assist others to perform the work which they are unable personally to undertake.

Hence originated our Bible, Missionary, Education, Tract, and other Societies, each of which has entered on its peculiar sphere of labour with concentrated power; and thus by the united contributions of the many, extensive operations are conducted, and multitudes of suitable labourers are employed, and much more good is accomplished, than could reasonably be expected from isolated efforts, however anxiously put forth.

By this means also, Christian zeal is stimulated and can be brought to bear upon any given object with peculiar force; while the pleasures of fellowship in the best of causes is promoted, brotherly love is fostered and cemented, and the people of God, though differing in opinion and modes of worship, yet find, that they can unite in the great contest with abounding iniquity,

"And one in heart, in interest, and design, Gird up each other for the race divine."

The Society, on whose behalf you are assembled this evening, has found in this catholicity of spirit its surest safeguard, its strongest ground of support, and its most certain means of extensive usefulness.

And it has been a yearly subject of gratitude to Him whose cause you seek to advance, that your Committee have had generally to report, as they now do, the growing prosperity of your Society, and the consequent enlargement of its operations. But still, there is much land to be possessed, not only of that which is wild and uncultivated, but of that in which the enemy of souls has been busy scattering the seeds of evil, and strengthening the plants which he had already succeeded in rooting and sustaining; and to reclaim the one and to check the other, calls for continued and persevering efforts on your part, in order to enable your Committe to grapple with the evil.

And it is a subject of permanent gratification to your Committee that the zeal and Christian enterprise of the two great Parent Societies are supplying them with publications of a character peculiarly fitted to diffuse the knowledge of Divine truth, and these got up in a style calculated to secure for them a very wide circulation.

Through the agency of their Colporteurs, your committee are anxiously sending these among our rural population, and the reports of those laborious men will prove to you with what a very considerable measure of success their exertions have been crowned.

COLPORTAGE.

In 1851 your Committee began the new plan of extending their operations, and engaged Messrs. Rees, King, and Love to carry it out. Mr. Rees travelled through the Township of Waterloo and the adjoining townships in the Wellington District; Mr. King went through Glandford and the other townships in the Gore District; and Mr. Jas. Love, of the Township of King, traversed it and several others, especially those of Vaughan, Whitchurch, and Markham, in the County of York.

Your Committee regret that Mr. King resigned his engagement in the course of last year; but the others have continued theirs and are actively prosecuting them, as the subjoined Quarterly report will show.

Of these reports Mr. Rees has furnished four, which give the following results:—

Time employed, 10 months and 26 days.	£.	8.	d.
Cash received on Sales	216	18	9
Value of Grants of Volumes and Tracts	10	1	Š
Number of Public Meetings addressed 81		-	~
" of Families destitute of all religious Books			
except the Bible 131			
" of Roman Catholic families 821			
" of those who neglect Divine worship 154			
" of persons conversed or prayed with 680			
Whole number of Families visited 2494			
" destitute of the Bible 48			
Amount of Donations collected and Collections after			
Preaching	$\overline{2}$	1	81

Mr. Love has also sent in four Quarterly Reports, the result being as follows:—

Time employed, 10 months.	£.		d.
Cash received for Sales	168	16	111
Value of Grants of Volumes and Tracts	5	15	62
Number of Families destitute of all religious Books	·		
except the Bible			
" of Roman Catholic families			
" of families who neglect religious ordinances 510			
" of persons conversed or prayed with 562			
Whole number of Families visited			
" destitute of the Bible 80			
Amount of Collections		10	o
Number of Families supplied with the Bible by Col-	·	- 0	•
porteur 4			

From these reports the gratifying fact is learned, that during the period of their labours your Colporteurs disposed of Books, &c. to the value of ± 385 15s. $8\frac{1}{2}d$, furnishing an amount of profitable reading to those purchasing, which but for this agency, they could not have obtained.

Moreover, your Colporteurs have had also an opportunity of bringing the concerns of eternity before a large number in conversation, besides preaching to, or publicly addressing still more.

The following extracts from the regular communication to your Scretary will be read with interest. Mr. Rees writes:—

"During the last quarter I have visited Paris, Woodstock, Beechville, Ingersall, Stratford, Hayesville, &c. endeavouring to make the most of the travelled roads. I find it to be a very toilsome and self-denying occupation. and were it not that a gleam of sunshine—a perceptible view of the blessing of Almighty Ged on the work, I should have resigned it before now. The good resulting from the circulation of religious Tracts and Books will never be fully developed till the secrets of all hearts shall be made manifest. It is now nearly a year since I was quite insulted by a Roman Catholic lady; I put two tracts on the door post as I left the house, as she would not receive them. Some months after the occurrence I met with a pious young friend who lived in that neighbourhood, who informed me that he had just come from the funeral of a young lady who had died suddenly; he told me that to his astonishment Mr. ——, a person who had been educated for a Roman priest, attended the funeral sermon. The thing being so remarkable he asked him what had produced such a change in his views? He stated that a person from the Tract Soctety had called at his house and left Tracts in the crevice of the door; he was struck with the plain truths in the Tract, "Conversation between a Protestant Layman and Catholic Priest," that he made a point of attending Protestant worship whenever opportunity offered.

Little did I think while enduring the lash of the sister's tongue, that the Lord would by his spirit direct home the saving truth to the brother; but He has delared that "His word shall not return to him void, but shall accomplish that whereunto He has sent it."

Another instance occurred in West Oxford of a Tract left with a poor Irish Roman Catholic woman, who could not read, as I have since learned; she requested her husband to read it to her, but that he refused to do: she then

applied to a neighbour, who read the precious truth to her. The result has been that the woman and her husband are disentangled from the trammels of Popery.

Applications are made to me to visit various places to preach the word of life, and I have been much refreshed to hear the penitents cry of "What shall I do to be saved?" burst forth from many during the last quarter. So far as I can consistently with the interests of the Society answer these calle, I do; but I hear the complaint from many church members, that their ministers do not visit and converse with them, and they seem to take it kindly that any one should do so. I only have to regret the backwardness of professors generally in supporting a cause so eminently adapted to communicate religious instruction and comfort to those who are willing to receive it.

I have during the last winter suffered much from accidents, the inclemency of the weather, and damp beds; but I have been privileged in pointing the dying penitent to Jesus, and seeing him expire in a full experience of faith. I have been present where Cholera, with all its horrid cramps has been paralyzing its victim, and pointed him to "The Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world," though by God's mercy the man recovered. I have every reason to believe he sought and found peace in believing.

At Stratford I called at a house and found an old man in the last stage of Pleurisy, his life was despaired of. I found him a Pharisee, but by the grace of God, I trust I left him in the spirit of the poor Publican.

Many similar instances could I record, but the sameness might appear tedious.

In another communication, he says ;—

In reviewing the past year's labours I feel that I have much to be thankful for, to Almingly God for His manifold mercies; though I have been exposed to extremes of cold and heat; sometimes compelled to travel a considerable distance to find shelter for the night, at others to be the subject of derision to the profane and godless. Still, the Lord has been my keeper and support, and if I have had difficulties I have also had my share of pleasure, and have frequently enjoyed that peace which passeth all understanding, under the consciousness that I was engaged in my maker's work.

I have met with the enquiring soul, and I have seen the tears of contrition bedew the manly cheek, and I have been privileged to point them to a crucified Redeemer; I have witnessed the new-born babe in Christ realise the pleasing truth that "His peace has been as a river, and His righteousness as the waves of the sea." I have known one to whom all had appeared darkness, led by the direction of the Holy Spirit, to discern that the presence of the Lord went before him. I have witnessed the last struggle of the dying Christian, whom I was privileged to visit during his last illness, and to hear him with his dying breath say. "All is well, Christ is all." Moreover, I have the promise of my heavenly father, that "His word shall not return unto Him void," and I have been, by God's blessing, the humble instrument of scattering the seed broadcast, and have had the satisfaction of knowing that the labour has been blessed.

May the divine blessing rest upon the efforts of the Tract Society; none can rightly estimate the goodness of such institutions until the secrets of all hearts shall be revealed; then, many I feel assured, will date their first Godly impressions to the reading of some blessed tract or book, which led them to look into the Bible and accept of Christ as an all sufficient Saviour.

From the reports of Mr. Love your Committee can extract nothing peculiarly striking as to visible effects resulting from his labours.

though, as he has been successful in circulating many of the Tracts and Books issued by your Society and travelled over a great extent of country, there is little doubt but that the seed sown will yet appear in its fruits, though it may be after many days.

During the recess of his College, Mr. Robert Atkinson, a student of the University at Lewisburg, Union County, Pennsylvania, offered his services as Colporteur, and the following is his report to your Seretary;—

Time occupied,—1 month 14 days.			d.
Cash received on Sales	18	10	0
Value of grants of Volumes and Tracts	0	16	6
Number of Public Meetings addressed 6			
" of Roman Catholic families visited 8			
" of families who neglect Evangelical preaching 14			
" of families conversed or prayed with 260			
" of families visited 413			
" of families destitute of the Bible 2			

In this laborious way did this zealous learner in the school of Christ spend his last year's vacation in our Province, as several others likeminded with him of our young American friends, spend theirs in the Lower Province.

For Canada has a large share of the sympathies of the Redeemer in the United States, and we may look for some earnest co-operation from them in our labours from year to year.

Further, as a means of circulating Tracts your Committee, during the late Provincial Exhibition in this city employed, a person to distribute tracts and handbills to those who crowded the grounds; in this way 11,224 pages of tracts and handbills were given away, and 1000 Monthly Messengers.

ISSUES.

During the past year your Committee has issued of-	
Books sold	20,233 46,458
	42,966
Sunday School publications, including Libraries Bibles and Testaments with the metrical version of the	12,477
Psalms and Paraphrases	7,738
15,600 Child's Paper	8,160
1,200 American Messenger	328
16,800 Total	138,350
(Nearly doubling circulation of the Child's Paper and quadrupling that of the Messenger.)	
Shewing an increase on the year of	17,962
The total circulation by the Society since its commencement has been	.377.933

GRATUITOUS DISTRIBUTION.

78,966	Pages.
160,434	"
7,836	"
620	"
3,468	"
6,088	"
5,990	44
11,378	66
19,486	"
7,500	44
9,000	66
1,504	66
41,170	• •
353,440	
38,764	
	620 3,468 6,088 5,990 11,378 19,486 7,500 9,000 1,504 41,170 353,440

From this statement it will be seen that the operations of your Committee, by means of the many benevolent friends who voluntarily assist in carrying them out have been more extensive than heretofore, and they trust that the large field in their immediate neighbourhood will still be more widely circulated.

On the Township distribution the increase, as compared with last year, is nearly 52,000 pages.

The following is the Financial Statement for the year ending 30th April, 1853:—

tpm, 1655 .—
Total receipts from all sources £1,765 11 11}
Being an increase on the
year of £362 19 23
Total Disbursements£1,691 6 7
Value of gratuitous distribution 84 18 82
Exceeding 1852 by £317 4 9
NEW PREMISES.
The price of New Premises now occupied jointly by the
Bible and Tract Society, cost
One half paid by your Society, your Committee borrow-
$ \operatorname{ing} \pounds 250 $, and taking £125 from your Stock 375 0 0
(The Lease is for 42 years, at a yearly rent of £31 10s. borne equally
by the two Societies.)

This year your Committee has as usual to record the liberality of the honored Parent Society in London; in 1851, they voted your Society a grant of tracts to the value of £35, last year they enlarged their grant to £50 worth, as the following extract of a letter from Mr. W. Tarn, their Assistant Secretary and Cashier will shew:—

"I am happy to inform you that our friends have voted you an increased supply of tracts in consideration of your extended operations by means of Colporteurs. The grants which were ordered yesterday morning were a

supply of tracts to the amount of £50, and 56 libraries at a reduced price. These supplies will be shipped without delay, together with the books ordered, and I hope will reach you in good order and be found useful. You will kindly favor us from time to time with a list of places where our Libraries are located."

And another extract from a subsequent letter of their Corresponding Secretary, Mr. Jones, evinces the solicitude with which that Society seeks to provide the scattered population of the British Colonies with the means of religious instruction and information:—

"Dear Sir,—Our Committee have recently had under consideration the great importance of providing religious Libraries for the rapidly increasing population of our Colonies, in consequence of the number who are now emigrating from Great Britain and Ireland, and other parts of Europe.

"It seems to them to be highly important to form Libraries for the benefit of these persons, particularly for the families that may be far removed from the public means of grace.

"I am happy to inform you that the books mentioned in the invoice has been voted to your Society for the benefit of your district. The Committee hope you will be able to place about 50 volumes in different districts, under the care of a pious friend who will feel the importance of providing religious reading for the people.

"In the case containing the books will be found for gratuitous circulation tracts and also some parts of a valuable periodical we long have published."

The following grants of these books have been made:—

50	books	to	Dugald McLaughlin, Esq.,Haysville.
50	"	"	Mr. Sheil, Post Master,Glenmorris.
50	"	"	Robert Ferrie, Esq.,Doon.
50	44	"	Rev. James Sim

CITY MISSION.

The following is the Report of Mr. Stewart, one of the missionaries employed by the Toronto City Mission:—

SIR,—I enclose you a few facts of the usefulness which has resulted from the circulation of tracts:—

A young man, to whom I had given many, said to me, "I now think, as I never thought, I feel a desire to trust in Jesus, believing that he can save me."

A woman said, "I read a tract you had left with a neighbour, giving a prayer for every day of the week; it gave me much comfort; I asked for it, but my neighbour said, "I cannot part with it, for that tract has been greatly blessed to my family."

A person said, "Through the reading of religious tracts I have been strengthened and comforted with the thought, that Jesus ever liveth to make intercession; only for that my strength would have failed me."

A young woman made a similar acknowledgement, "God only knows," she said, "how ignorant I was, when you first saw me, and spoke to me, and gave me your tracts to read, but I now feel happy in the Lord,—pray for me."

I know of different families who, through the reading of tracts, are now reading the Scriptures and in attendance on the preaching of the Gospel, who neglected public worship before.

A man said, "Through your conversation, with a careful reading of the tracts sent me, I have been induced to buy that Bible (he was reading it) to read to my family, a book not read in my house for the last 10 or 12 years." This man is so much changed that his wife speaks of it with thankfulness to the Lord who has brought it.

Another said, "There is no reading apart from the Bible so calculated to do the sinner good as tract reading, I have been instructed and comforted by it, and I have bought and distributed tracts, that others might be brought to have the same comfortable hope with myself."

In the Jail I found that the prisoners read most attentively the tracts left with them; in the General Hospital the sick and the afflicted appear to take a great interest in reading over these tracts, and will often ask me not to forget, but bring some of a different kind next time."

In the houses where I visit I find that tract-reading is not sought as mere matter of amusement, but as one of deep interest with old and young.

From Mr. Johnston, the other City Missionary employed by the same Society, and who is indefatigable in his distribution of tracts, in the Eastern portion of the City, we have a journal from which the following extracts are taken:—

"While I was reading a tract in the Sabbath School I noticed a little girl about 7 years old crying, and saw that her book was wet with tears; when I had finished the tract I went up so the little girl and asked her what was the matter. Said she, "Will you please lend me that tract to take home to my poor mother—she is such a drunkard." "I will not lend you the tract," I said, "but I will give it to you to keep, and I am glad that you have asked it; take it home to your poor mother and tell her to read it, and take care of it till you can read it yourself." She took the tract with as much pleasure seemingly as though I had given her a silver dollar. On the evening of the following Sabbath, as I was going to my meeting, I saw what was to me a very pleasant sight, I saw that poor little girl leading her mother to our meeting; the poor woman had been so long from the house of prayer, that it seemed almost like a miracle to see her there. The reading of the truth has to all appearance produced quite a change in the little girl herself, she is more thoughtful and serious than before, and her conduct is so good that we all love her.

"I am thankful to you," said a poor woman, (a Roman Catholic) "for calling here with your tracts, my son can now read them and we are all very fond of them, they are precious little books, and each one I get seems better than the last, I love Protestant books and begin to love l'rotestants themselves better than I ever did."

A poor drunkard after returning from his work one evening took up a tract that I had left against that particular sin, and after having read it twice through, he laid it down and cried like a child. "What is the matter with you?" said his wife, "Oh!" said he, "That is the most remarkable book I ever read, it suits my case exactly. I am so much ashamed of my past conduct that I know not what to do."

A poor man who seldom went to any place of worship said to his wife one Sabbath morning, "I must go to church to-day." "How is that?" said his wife, "You have not been there for a long time." "Oh!" said he, "I was reading about it last night, in the tract that Mr. Johnston left! I cannot stop at home! I must go!"

The woman who told me about her neighbour, who had not attended any place of worship for years, asked me if I had spoken to her about it, "She

now goes to church every Sabbath, does she not?" said I, "She does," she answered, "and I am both surprised and delighted to see it." I left a small tract with her," I replied, "called the barren fig tree, which was the means of leading her to church, and if I mistake not, it would take something very formidable to keep her from it." "I believe it would," she said, "for I saw her going when it was very stormy and formidable."

A poor fisherman told me that I had left a tract with him at my last visit which was the means of doing him much good. "I am very apt," said he, "to murmur and repine at the dealings of Providence with me, but I have learnt from that tract in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content."

Mr. J. finds that tracts open a way for him into nearly every house, giving him an opportunity of speaking with the people, and of urging home upon their hearts and consciences the impressive truths of which their little messenger treats.

CITY TRACT DISTRIBUTION.

This interesting portion of the work sought to be accomplished by your Society, your Committee is happy to report is as heretofore zealously carried on by many pious persons, from among them the various evangelical denominations.

It is not however in your Committee's power to give any particulars as to the effects produced during the past year, as, owing to the sickness of the Christian friend who superintends the operations of the City Tract Loan Society, no report has been furnished; but they have the satisfaction of knowing that a larger amount of tracts has been distributed than in any preceding year, and they trust a corresponding increase of good has been effected.

From three reports with which they have been favored from the Tract Distribution Committee of Knox's College Students, your Committee rejoice to find that these young friends are increasingly active in the voluntary labor which they have undertaken.

Nine thousand pages of tracts were voted to them by your Committee, and these they have put into circulation.

During the year 29 students have engaged in this good work: 12 have been employed in Sabbath School teaching, and 4 have carried on the Gælic meeting, which was begun last year for the behalf of the poor Highlanders living in our City, and who have very generally availed themselves of the privilege.

On the Peninsula also, they have continued their praiseworthy exertion, having been induced to make it a special field, from having received a petition signed by 39 of the residents, entreating them to institute a regular meeting there on the Sabbath; this they have done, and the prospect of a blessing resting on their labours is very encouraging.

Though no statistics are given to these Reports, such as were furnished last year, yet your Committee know that, had there been supplied for this year, they would have exhibited a cheering evidence of the good which has been done, and the great extent of the work which has been entered on.

While then, your Committee have to report what has been done and is now doing more directly through the instrumentality of your Society and its many Christian friends and assistants,

They have peculiar pleasure in noticing that their sister Society in Montreal is pressing on also in the work which is common to both. From their Annual Report, read at the Public Meeting, held in that City, on January last, the following summary taken:—

The number of Publications received into the Depository for 1852 is				
The number on hand at the beginning of that year was				
Making a total of				
Leaving in the Depository, December 31	174,725			

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The Society's total Income from all sources for	c the			
year is		580	6	9
(Of which £123 9s. 4d. was received in free contribution)	utions.)		
(Of which £123 9s. 4d. was received in free contrib The payments amount to		586	18	6
1 4116 6150 4- 21				

The gratuitous issues reach the value of £159 4s. $3\frac{1}{2}d$, being £36 5s. more than the free contributions.

And they publish some interesting anecdotes, which show the beneficial effects resulting from the work in which they are engaged.

Such are the details which your Committee have to lay before you of the operations of the past year, and they trust that these will not only prove satisfactory, but serve to stimulate you in prosecuting the good object your Society has in view, and in which for twenty years it has been busily engaged.

As has been customary, your Committee would also lay before you abstracts of the proceedings of the two great Societies, which, as vast fountains are sending forth copious streams of divine truth into all lands,—The America and London Tract and Book Societies.

At the Annual Meeting of the American Tract Society, held in New York in the beginning of May last, the following statistics were given as abstracts of the General Report for the year then ended.

١	New Publication 157, in ten languages, of which 23 are volumes.	
	Total Publications 1832, including 374 volumes.	
	Total approved for circulation abroad, in about 119 languages a	ind
	dialects, 2801.	
	Of the American Messenger over 200,000 are issued monthly.	
	German Mssenger	000
	Chld's Paper 250.0	000
	Illustrated Christian Almanack for 1852 250,0	000
	Christian Almack in German 30.0	000

Circulated during the year 9,173,640 Publications, including 881,766	
volumes, and embracing 268,902,315 pages.	,

Total circulation since the formation of the society 137,893,480 Publications, including 8,416,830 volumes.

Gratuitous distributions for the year, in 5036 District grants by the Committee 63,789,976, besides 8,234,865 to Life Directors and Life Members, value over \$48,000.

RECEIPTS:

In Donations, including	147 374	64

Making a total of...... \$385,286 68

EXPENDITURE.

For publishing Books and Periodicals	8282,211 29	
For Colportage	79,711 29	
Cash remitted to Foreign and Pagan Lands	20,000 00	

Total expended, including other minor charges... \$385,075 07

COLPORTAGE.

Whole number of Colporteurs who have laboured the whole or part of the year, 642; of whom 117 were devoted chiefly to the German and other foreign population, and 126 were Students from Colleges and Seminaries

Of these 642,-41 laboured in New England, 195 in the Middle States, 395 in the Southern and Western and 11 in Canada.

Families visited during the year	530,758
Families conversed or prayed with	260,414
Found destitute of all religious books except the Bible	54,600
Found destitute of the Bible	
Roman Catholic families visited	43,824
Total families visited by the Society's Colporteurs	

FOREIGN AND PAGAN LANDS.

The \$20,000 remitted in Cash has been distributed to 39 Missions and Stations as needed to meet the wants of the ensuing year:—

\$4,300 to Continental Europe,

1,800 for countries on the Mediterrean,

3,800 for Southern India,

3,000 for Northern India,

4,600 for Burmah, Assam, Siam, and China, and 2,500 for the Sandwich Islands, Africa, and in our Aborigines.

These are gigantic operations.—May the blessing of God rest upon and greatly prosper them.

The Report of the London Religious Tract Society for 1853 has not been published, but from that of last year the gratifying intelligence is obtained, that its operations and funds have steadily increased:-

The total issues of the Society during that year has been 22,546,747, being an increase over the previous year (1851) of 1,659,683.

The total circulation of tracts and books in 112 languages and dialects has been about 576 millions.

The grants of money, paper, and publications to India, China, and British Colonies, together with the grants to Great Britain and Ireland, amount to £9525 0s. 11d.

FUNDS.

Total receipts, including the balance on hand for 1851, £68,126–11s. 4d., being an increase on the year of £5,957–1s. 5d.

And it is a subject of devout thanksgiving to God that, at a time when from the strenuous efforts which the irreligious are putting forth to disseminate publications of a pernicious tendency, the strongest exertions are necessary to meet and counteract them, by the diffusion of the evangelical publication of the Society. The friends of Jesus should thus come forward to strengthen the hands and encourage the hearts of the Committee of this great Society in the good work in which they are engaged.

The Report contains as usual a singularly ample detail of the beneficial effects which have resulted from the dissemination of the many excellent works which they have been the honored instruments of giving to the world.

The following are instances taken almost at random from the Appendix to their Report; but first, mark what they say of Colportage:—

"In Shropshire, a clergyman employed an active, pious, and persevering poor man, and fitted up for him a small box of the publications of the Religious Tract Society, with a few Bibles and other books. He obtained for him a hawker's license. Thus prepared, the agent went to all the small towns and villages within a circle of twenty miles round the clergyman's residence. At first, his sales were small, but he went forward till he created a demand for religious works to a very large extent. The clergyman kept the account of sales, ordered the publications, marked the price of each book on the first leaf, and corresponded with the Society. Within three years Within three years from the commencement of the plan, he actually received from the man about £1,300, the produce of sales! How large a portion of religious and moral truth was diffused amongst the scattered population visited, and how comtortable a source of income was obtained by the agent! Supposing that, after payment of all expenses, he cleared upon the sales fifteen per cent., then he had £65 a year for his own support. In addition to which, a pious person would rejoice in being the means of scattering so large a portion of Divine

The great success of colportage in America is sufficient to encourage thristian friends in Great Britain and Ireland to try the plan. The preceding Report shows that the subject is engaging the attention of Christian friends in foreign lands, even in China and India. In the latter country, several of the leading Societies have called the special attention of their supporters to the object, and have urged upon them the importance of supplying every part of our vast Indian possessions with a pure Christian literature through that agency. In Canada, the plan is partially adopted. On this subject a minister writes: "I have full confidence that if intelligent, devoted, efficient colporteurs were sent into Canada, a field of vast promise and usefulness would be found. The fact that there is no book-store east of Montreal, and none in Canada East, except in Quebec and Montreal, and that books are very dear, makes

books of all descriptions very scarce. Very little religious reading can be found. I can conceive of no means at the command of the church so well adapted to do good in Canada as a good system of colportage, which would scatter your excellent volumes through the country among the Protestant population. Some five or six colporteurs are labouring among the French Christians.

THE CONVERTED INFIDEL.

"I visited," says a London City missionary, labouring in the Gray's-inn Road, "Mr. M., a shoemaker. When speaking about the illness of his child, which was not expected to live, he said he could with Christian resignation say, 'Father, thy will be done,' which drew from me some remarks, in which I compared infidelity with Christianity; when he replied, 'I know what each system is; for more than ten years I was a slave to the former." He then stated that when an apprentice he was placed in a room with seven men, all of whom were infidels. One assisted the other in his arguments against the Bible, which after a time led him to entertain the same views. He said all his actions were against the law and being of God. Infidel books were his delight. He read them alone (which he said is generally the case with persons of a false creed). At last, by the providence of God, a pious friend solicited him to read a tract, entitled Testimonies to the Truth of Prophecy, from Volney's Ruins of Empires, (No. 450,) which led him to examine that despised book, the Bible. He first read the tract, then the passage in Volney, and then the quotation from the Bible. He also perused several works on the evidences of Christianity; but the tracts convinced him so much, as to lead him to renounce infidelity. He was then lead to see his awful state as a sinner, and sought for an interest in Christ, as his Saviour. He parted with all his former companions, and Volney's and Paine's likenesses, which he had in his house; and now, in exchange, he has a nice collection of works on the evidences of Christianity, ranged in a book-case; and endeavours to do what he can for that Saviour he so long despised, by testifying to the ungodly the power of Divine grace. On the walls of his apartments are to be found the portraits of Christian ministers."

"I DON'T KNOW HOW IT IS, BUT I DON'T GET ON." MARGATE.

In conversation with a young female, who is obliged to use crutches because of an accident she has had, I found she was not ignorant of the simple way of salvation. I said, "Do you feel religion of any real use to you?" She smiled, and replied, "I do, indeed; the fact is, I know I am a sinner; but I believe in Jesus Christ to my comfort." I wished to know how she was first led into the marvellous light of the gospel. She said, "You left me a tract some time ago, which has been a great blessing to me—and, indeed, to many others, I hope. I have lent it round, and several have expressed themselves as having found it beneficial." I inquired what title it had: it was the above. When I was leaving, she said, "I have a request to make—I hope you will excuse me, but the tract I have named is lost—some of my neighbours lost it; you will much oblige me if you can supply me with another." I engaged to do so with pleasure.

I have met with Mr. G—— to-day, in a miserable condition. He said he hated to leave his house, and he hated to go back again; and, what was worse, he felt he hated God's house—at least, he felt strongly disposed to do so; he could not be more miserable, he thought. I talked to him about his condition faithfully, and urged him to turn to God, if he would be happy. "Why," said he, "in coming home yesterday, I was very miserable; something seemed to say to me, almost as a voice, "Turn thou to God, and something will turn up for thee." I thought, surely, that is the right way, for a tract

you gave me some time since struck me very much; I shall never forget it—it has followed me ever since: the title was, I don't know how it is, but I don't get on." I found he had been saved from violence by that little messenger of mercy, and its truths were working in his mind. He promised to seek the Lord.

THE BAR OF IRON.

Numerous instances of spiritual good have been effected through the tracts circulated by the London Christian Instruction Society. The following fact is extracted from its Twenty-sixth Annual Report:—

"A visitor gave a tract to a scafaring man, entitled, The Bar of Iron, which, from his statement, made a powerful impression on his mind. He lent it to several of his messmates, by whom also it was read with much pleasure. 'It is quite affecting,' said the sailor, 'to see the tears starting from their eyes as they sit and read it.' Another tract, Joseph Archer, was given to him; and this also was read as before. Several other tracts, obtained from the depository, were likewise given to him. At length they were read by the captain, who has about thirty craft under his superintendence. He was already a pious man,—but since the reading of these tracts, and, it is believed, in consequence thereof, Divine worship has been regularly established among the seamen; and on the sabbath the Bethel flag is hoisted, when about thirty sailors attend to hear the gospel, which is proclaimed by the captain."

LONDON OUTCASTS.

The following letter to the Committee, from a City Missionary, will be read with mingled feelings of pain and thankfulness:—

"I am," says he, "still visited by the oldest outcast classes, at my own house; and as I am out of your valuable tracts, and books, addressed to 'Unfortunate Females,' I venture to ask for another grant. Many a poor ruined young woman has sat reading these tracts in my house; and often after reading has she asked me, with her eyes suffused with tears, 'Please, sir, will you give me the little tract I have been reading?"

"That little book entitled THE UNWEDDED WIFE, has been a valuable aid in my visitations. I meet with large numbers of young couples living together in an unmarried state, and have left the book, or lent it, or given it. The guilt and criminality of their lives have been admitted. It is a gratifying fact, that of the 184 couples with whom I have come in contact, I have succeeded in inducing 166 couples to be married; several of whom are now constantly attending the means of grace, and to whom (through the generosity of the Earl of Shaftesbury) I have given Bibles where they were not previously possessed.

"A little tract or book, tells the poor outcast I am a religious man; and many are the tales of woe and misery I have to hear in the east of London. I often meet with from 300 to 900 poor wretched girls in the space of one night, or say in the course of from three to four hours, when visiting the places where they assemble. Being known to many as a friend to poor unfortunates, your excellent tracts are links of friendship which as a means are drawing these victims of crime to Him who has said, 'Neither do I condemn thee; go, and sin no more.' One fact I wish to impress on the mind of the Committee is this, that several of the reclaimed, now in situations—some of whom are members of Christian churches—invariably ask me for a supply of tracts when they come to visit me; but I am now destitute of them, and am too poor too buy. I visit a neighbouring workhouse, and one of the wards occupied by some of these outcasts has been well supplied. The gratitude of

these weeping Magdalenes has been pleasingly manifested to the missionary, when they have become able to attend the service held on Wednesday evening."

"THE SINNER'S FRIEND."

A gentleman who once made a high profession of religion, who moved in the upper circles of life, and whose name stood prominently before the public, became so deeply the subject of depravity that he was expelled his former society, and became a miserable wanderer. Hardened in conscience, he doubted the efficacy of a Saviour's to atone for his enormous guilt. Sickness of a most alarming nature came upon him, and while in this state a copy of The Sinner's Friend was placed before him. This little work roused him from his death-like sleep in sin, and he saw himself in colours that made him miserable, and awed him with reflection, condemning himself as the vilest of mankind. The tract probed his heart, and led him to exclaim, "God be merciful to me a sinner!" He never lost sight of the little book from the moment of his conviction of sin until the day of his death. It was his constant companion, and he was always speaking about it, blessing God that it has come into his hand.

IRELAND.

From the Speech of the Rev. D. D. Heather, Travelling Secretary of the Primitive Westeyan Methodist Home Mission for Ireland, of the last Anniversary.

We have derived, in several districts in Ireland, great advantages from the publications of this Society. The tracts, containing, as they do, the fundamental doctrines of the gospel, have penetrated during the past twelve months some of the darkest districts of that land. Last October, I spent a few days in the mountains of Kerry. Before day-break in the morning I started for a long journey. I had to reach Tralee, to meet a car that was to leave at nine o'clock. I travelled over a mountain that lies between Castlemaine and Tralee; and just at the top of the mountain, when it had been clear day for some time, as I was going along with one of the missionaries, a man started before us, and said, "Och, but your reverence is welcome so early in the morning." "What, Peter! what are you daing here?" "Same Your reverence is welcome so early in the morning," "What, Peter! what are you doing here?" "Sure, I am doing honestly; I am paying for the book." He led us to a turf-stack, and behind it were scated six Roman Catholic men, away from the eyes of the priest, before their work commenced; and there was Peter teaching them to read the blessed book of God. But how does this bear on the Tract Society? The missionary I have just introduced to your notice lodged for a night with a gentleman in that district. In the morning the gentleman said, "Do you see, sir, the man taking care of the sheep? That is one of the most shrewd men we have in the district." The missionary started towards him, entered into conversation, and said, "Can you read this?"-a tract of this Society, in the Irish tongue. He put it into the hand of Peter, at the end of four weeks the missionary met the man again. He had, as he said himself, "swallowed the whole tract!" "Well," said the missionary, "I will give you an Irish Bible, if you will swallow it as well." He said, "I will never be indebted to a missionary for a Bible, but I will buy it of you, if you will sell it." "I have got two or three; I will sell one." "What is the price?" "The price I ask is, that when it shall please God to strike the light and love of it into your heart, the payment shall be, you will teach six men like to yourself to love the Bible." And there indeed was Peter behind the turf-stack, teaching them to read the word of God. In that same district of country, a tract of this Society, headed Do YOU WANT A FRIEND? was circulated, and we ascertained that in a course of four weeks such was the hold that tract gained upon the attention of the poor people, that it was read in the darkness of the night, by torch-light, away from the observation of the priest, in no fewer than fifty-two crowded cabins. But what followed? Four men presented themselves at the

door of a missionary; and when a little girl opened it, one of them said, "Is the missionary man under your roof?" "There are two of them," said the little girl; for there was a mission from Edinburgh there, sustained by some ladies. Sometimes the missionaries get together, and pray together, to consult about God's work, and help one another. The Scotchman was light-haired. Our missionary was rather dark. The societimate was said the girl; "they are both here." "Well, I want the black one." So the little girl called out our missionary, who said, "What do you want?" "We can't be afther telling you, but we want you to come five or six miles"—(not your short miles, for the roads are very bad, and we get pleuty of length in five or six miles). "At this time of night?" said the missionary. "You may be assured of it," said the men, "we will do you no harm; and the heart within you will dance when you have come away to the mountain." The Scotchman said, "God is in it; I will go with you." They started off, at the end of six Irish miles, to a valley amongst the Kerry mountains. Away from the observation of man, the missionary was introduced to a cabin, crowded with Roman Catholics, who had got together, and were induced, by the reading of the tract, to send a deputation for a missionary of Jesus Christ. In that district, I am happy to state, we have now an application for two missionary schools to educate the young Romanists in the truth as it is in Jesus. We have some little controversy now and then, though we do not push controversy. It may be gratifying to the people of London to know, that in that town, in the county of Cork, where about two years ago twenty of God's own Bibles, which had previously been each of them besmeared with tar, were burned in three heaps publicly in the streets, a spirit of inquiry has been excited. was the circulation of the tracts of this Society, through three pious young ladies, that under God originated that spirit of inquiry. So far from the burning of the Bible having arrested or destroyed the spirit of inquiry, when I was there last, after addressing a mass of my countrymen from the mountain's brow, I had the privilege of ascertaining that there were ten copies of the Scriptures in circulation amongst the Roman Catholics for every one that was read before the burning of the Bibles.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

From the Twenty-sixth Report of the American Tract Society.

The Rev. Dr. Spring closed his remarks at the last annual meeting by relating a personal incident connected with the publications of this society.

"Two or three years ago," said he, "I had a son, thirty-five or forty years old, residing in a southern city, who spent the hot months of summer in his native home in this city. At the time for him to return to his southern residence, his mother and myself took him to our chamber to bid him adieu. At the close of the interview we presented him one of the books of the American Tract Society, with this injunction, 'My son, you will have leisure to read while in the steamboat and rail-car; I wish you would read this book, and read it through. Will you do so?' He said, promptly, 'Yes, papa, I will.' Will you read it carefully and prayerfully?' He hesitated here, was thoughtful a moment, his eyes filled with tears, and he at length said solemnly, 'I will, papa,' We parted, and in about three months we received a letter from him, informing us that through the influence of that book he had been led to Christ: he had enjoyed the privilege of uniting with the Presbyterian church in the city of New Orleans, under the pastoral care of Rev. Dr. Scott, and was the superintendent of the sabbath-school in that congregation. Sir," added Dr. Spring, "there is a blessing in the publications of this Society."

Such are some of the happy results which flow from the circulation of the tracts and books put forth by Religious Tract Societies, and they are only a few of the many that might be given; but they are sufficient to shew how admirably these little treatises are fitted to win their way, where other means might fail, and how frequently the Spirit of God seals the instruction which they communicate to the saving of precious souls.

May your Committee therefore beg the continuance of your contributions, and the comfort of your p ayers. They desire to occupy the field in which their lot is cast, and confidently looking to you and trusting in your willingness to co-operate they will, with the help of Him whose cause they desire to promote, persevere in their labors, and endeavour, through the instrumentality of your friends and agents, to sow the incorruptible seed of the word more widely than ever.

JAMES S. HOWARD, Esq. Treasurer, in Account with the

			
₩r. 1852.	£.		d.
May 1. To Balance from last year			6
"Collection at the Annual Meeting		5	9
"Cash received for the sale of Tracts and Books for	_	Ū	•
12 months, ending the 30th April		18	2
"Cash received for the sale of publications of the	•		
London Sunday School Union		2	103
" Cash received for the sale of Bibles and Testament			-
with the Metrical Version of the Psalms and Pa			
raphrases	493	10	2
"Cash received for Child's Paper and Messenger		0	3
"Amount of Loan effected towards the purchase o			
New Premises		0	0
"Proportion of Collection Congregational Church	,		
Boltonville on account of the Building Fund, per	¢.		
Rev. J. Wheeler		10	5
"Donations from friends in the City of Toronto for			
the same object		8	9
" Subscriptions and Donations for General purposes		7	9
"Collections per the Rev. S. King 1 7 6			
"Subscription and Collections per Rev. H.			
Rees	}		
" Mr. J. Love 2 0 0	-	0	6
"Proportion of Rent received from Tenants in the	- 5	8	83
-		_	_
occupation of the New Premises	. 11	2	8
		/	
	£2,015	12	0
To Balance per contra	73	19	9
To Datation box community			

WILLIAM OSBORNE, JOHN LAIDLAW, Auditors.

UPPER CANADA RELIGIOUS TRACT AND BOOK SOCIETY.

1853.	Cr.			
	By Cash remitted to the Parent Society£175 stg.	£		
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	Edinbanal			
	Edinburgh	433	3 17	7 9
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	Rochester	9.0	. 10	
	" remitted for Child's Paper and Messenger		12	-
•	' paid for books purchased	26		7
6	paid duty on books	19	13 7	7 <u>}</u>
4	paid proportion of purchase money of New De-	U	4	3
	pository	375	0	0
61		14	•	3
60	paid proportion of sundry expenses, drawing up			3
	Leases, Mortgages, Registration, Interest, &c.	6	12	10
. 60		10	0	6
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	1852	9	15	0
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	proposition of the population	24	0	0_
	proportion of Taxes	10	8	8
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**	expenses do. freight of Books,&c. 24 19 7	110	11	101
46	salary to the Depositary, including fuel, gas, and	110	14	103
	candles, with £5. additional for the past year	63	15	0
66	= -	13		14
44	proportion of sundries for New Depository	5	18	31
	incidental expenses, including extra assistance in			- 2
	the Depository, opening Stock, Stationery,			
	Postage, Packing Cases, Cartage, &c. &c	16	9	71
44	paid commission for collecting Subscriptions	8	18	$4\frac{7}{2}$
46	balance to next account	73	19	9
		015	10	
	£2	,015	12	0

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Received towards the Building of the Book and Tract Society Depository; also Annual Subscriptions to the Society's Funds.

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Watertown	0	9	6	George Nott, Brooklyn.	0	1	3	
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