THE

SECOND REPORT

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THE YORK AUXILIARY

BIBLE SOCIETY:

1831.

WITH

AN APPENDIX.

YORK:

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY,

AT THE OFFICE OF

THE CHRISTIAN GUARDIAN.

THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE YORK AUXILIARY BIRLE SOCIETY, was held at the STEAM-BOAT HOTEL, on Tuesday the 15th February, 1831;

HON. J. H. DUNN, President, in the Chair.

The Annual Report of the Committee having been read by one of the Secretaries, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

1st—Moved by the Rev. Dr. Harris, and seconded by the Rev. Wm. Saith—
That the Report now read be approved of, and printed under the direction of
the Committee.

2nd.—Moved by Joseph Wenham, Esq. and seconded by Robert Baldwin, Esq.—
That this Society acknowledge with gratitude the continued support and co-operation of the Parent Institution.

3rd.—Moved by M. S. Bidwell, Esq. M. P., and seconded by Mr. John Jones.— That this Meeting rejoice in what has been done for the Chippewa Indians, that they recommend the further prosecution of the work, and give thanks to the New England Company and all others who have contributed to the trans-

4th.—Moved by the Rev. C. Matthews, and seconded by the Rev. Edeffron Ryerson—

That the success which has attended the labours of this Society and its Branches, demand unfeigned gratitude to God.

5th.-Moved by the Rev. J. Harris, and seconded by Mr. Edward Thomson-

That this Meeting, under a deep impression of the importance and value of the services rendered by Branch Associations, tender them their grateful thanks, while they recommend a continuance of their exertions.

6th.—Moved by W. W. Baldwin, Esq., and seconded by W. Thompson, Esq.—
That the cordial thanks of this Meeting be given to His Excellency Sin John
Colborne, &c. &c. &c. for his continued patronage.

7th.—Moved by P. Penry, Esq. M. P., and seconded by the Rev. W. Boulfons—
That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Honorable John H. Dunu,
for his unwearied attention to the affairs of this Society.

- Sth.—Moved by the Rev. A. Stewart, and seconded by J. E. SWALL, Esq:-That the following alterations be made in the Rules of this Society:
 - 1. That the number of Vice Presidents be unlimited.

lation, either in money or personal labour.

- 2. That the Committee be elected every year, and that two-thirds of the old committee shall be eligible for re-election, without regard to the time they may have served.
- 3. That it shall no longer be requisite to publish any proposed alteration in the Newspaper, but merely be proposed at the general meeting.

Mu .- Moved by the Rev. G. BARCLAY, and seconded by the Rev. WM. SMUTH-

That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Secretaries, Depositary, and Committee, for their gratuitous services for the past year—and that the following gentlemen be added to the Vice Presidents, viz: The Hon. Justice Sherwood, the Rev. Dr. Harris, Charles Small, Esq., and Goorge Munro, Esq.

PATRON.

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR JOHN COLBORNE.

PRESIDENT.

HONORABLE JOHN HENRY DUNN.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

DR. BALDWIN, DR. MORRISON, ROBERT BALDWIN, Esq. JAMES E. SMALL, Esq. JESSE KETCHUM, Esq. Hon. Justice Sherwood, Rev. Dr. Harris, Charles Small, Esq. George Monro, Esq.

TREASURER.

PETER PATERSON, ESQUIRE.

SECRETARIES.

Rev. James Harris, | Rev. Alexander Stewart.

DEPOSITARY.

EDWARD HENDERSON, JUN.

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE.

Mcssts. Thomas Carfrae, Jun.
Duncan Kennedy,
Joseph Wenham,
J. R. Armstrong,
James Cockshutt,
Harvey Shepard,
H. M. Mosley,
James Lesslie,
John Ross,
Malcolm M'Lellan,
James Armstrong,
Thomas Armstrong,
Edward Henderson, sen.
John M'Intosh,

Messrs. John Bishop, junr.
Alexander Armstrong,
Hugh Carfrae,
John Murchison, junr.
Robert Cathcart,
James Hogg,
Robert Petch,
Thomas Parke,
John Ewart,
Matthew Walton,
James Ross,
James Mitchell, and
John Cummer,

10th .-- Moved by James E. Small, Esq., and seconded by the Rev. E. Ryerson-

That a subscription be opened, that those who wish to become members of the Society may have an opportunity to subscribe their names—and that a collection be taken up at the door from those who may feel disposed to forward the objects of the Society.

The meeting was closed with prayer from the Rev. E. Ryerson.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF THE YORK AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

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 difference of religious sentiments.

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

Rule 5th.—The business of the Society shall be conducted by a President, Vice Presidents, a Treasurer, two Secretaries, a Committee of twenty-seven of its own members, and a depositary of its Bibles. Nine of the committee 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 second Mondays of November, February, May and August, or when called by the Chairman, or any three of the Committee.

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 Bibles 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.

PRICE OF BIBLES AND TESTAMENTS IN THE YORK DEPOSITARY.

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	ł	THER			BERS.	
	£	s.	_	£	8.	d.
Quarto Bibles	1	8	6	1	8	6
Small Pica, with references.	0	15	8	0	11	11
do, without references	0	12	8	0	9	7
Minion, with references	1	11	6	0	8	8
Brevier 8vo		8	8	0	6	7
Minion 8vo		7	5	0	5	7
Nonpareil, 12mo		5	2	0	3	11
Minion 24mo	0	6	8	0	5	1
Raby or Pocket	0	5	8	0	4	4
Pearl.		6	10	0	5	2
Brevier, with references	l ŏ	13	-8	Ō	10	2
German 12mo	Ō	9	2	0	6	11
Do. 8vo	l ŏ	12	8	0	9	7
Sabbath School Bibles (only to be used in Schools	õ	2	8	10	2	8
Testaments.	ľ	_	·	"		
German Testaments	0	3	0	0	2	5
Pearl do.	1	2	3	0	1	9
Do, with Psalms		- 2	6	0	1	11
Packet		1	9	0	1	4
Do. with Psalms.		:3	0	0	1	~
Brevier do.	0	1	11	0	1	6
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German Testaments	0	3	õ	0	$\bar{2}$	3
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Note.—A full supply of the above on hand. Owing to extra expenses each Bible is 2d. dearer than last year—but Testaments the same price.—The Pica 4to, 2s. 6d. more as it was rated too low last year. Still the Society lose a little of the real cost price.

SPECIMEN OF TYPE.

PICA.

Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

LONG PRIMER.

Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

BOURGEOIS.

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

BREVIER.

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

MINION.

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he will give it you.

NONPAREIL.

If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all six.

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IT is recorded as one of the sayings of him who was proverbially wise, that "the end of a thing is better than the beginning:" and while this holds true, respecting every human undertaking, it applies more especially to the discharge and surrender of a trust.

Another year having run its course, your Committee are called upon to report the proceedings of the York Auxiliary Bible Society, during which time the management of its concerns has been committed to them.

In doing this, it is their intention and desire to present a simple account of their operations, leaving it for you to determine how far they have properly and conscientiously discharged that trust which was confided to them.

The amount received for subscriptions and donations is £117 5 11—a sum which, your committee are sorry to say, is less than the receipt of the previous year.

This circumstance, while it is owing, in some measure, to causes which it is hoped will be remedied for the future, calls loudly upon all those who desire the prosperity of this Institution for greater activity, liberality, and exertion. The claims of this Society upon the benevolence of a Christian public are unaltered, unabated; and it would be a most indelible stigma upon this, the land either of our birth or adoption, that it should be the only one which did not or could not support a Bible Society. Your Committee have full confidence, that this appeal will not be made in vain, believing, that you need only to be made acquainted with the circumstance, and you will soon provide the remedy. They have, notwithstanding, endeavored to act in compliance with your wishes, by establishing Auxiliary Societies in various directions; the number of which is this year twenty-two-shewing an increase of ten since the last report. On this part of their labors they wish to express the conviction that many more might have been formed had they been able to meet the expense necessarily incurred. For the state of the public mind upon the great question of Religion is such as to present every encouragement whenever and wherever any attempt has been made to promote the object of the Society: on all occasions its advoeates have met with the most friendly reception, and the result

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has, in every instance, been highly gratifying. Your Committee, having received a pressing invitation from some persons residing in the London District, stating, that many individuals in that part of the Province were prepared and anxious to form themselves into Branch Associations, considered they were bound to accede to the request, and for this purpose, one of your Secretaries was sent, whose object it was to form Auxiliary Societies wherever he found it practicable or expedient. His success was much greater than was anticipated-six new Branches being regularly organized, at Vittoria, Woodhouse, Bayham, Waterford (in the Township of Townsend), Galt (in Dumfries), and Eramossa. At Walsingham he was the means of reviving the energies of a Society which had been formed some months before; and as a proof of the good accomplished in this individual instance, the sum of £6 10 0, has been received from them for a supply of the Sacred Scriptures. of the Associations mentioned in the last Report have lately held their Annual Meetings, and furnished very satisfactory accounts of their proceedings and progress; especially those at Colborne, Cobourg, and Whitby, the last of which has remitted the sum of £9, as a donation; expressing, at the same time, a lively interest in the welfare of your Society, and promising to go forward the ensuing year with greater zeal, and, they hope, with greater success. spirit, your Committee anticipate, will be the character of all; although not being as yet in the possession of any direct intelligence, they are not able to give more particulars of a positive kindwhich it will afford them pleasure to communicate at some future period, perhaps in the Appendix. It is particularly desirable to call your attention to this part of their operations, because it is the opinion of your Committee, that in this way great good may be attained. Thus many are called to take an active part in the cause of Religion-to take the field against impiety and infidelity: thus a very beneficial effect is produced in the union of Christians of every denomination for the promotion of one object, and that object the glory of God, and the eternal benefit and everlasting salvation of their fellow men. A spirit of zeal and Christian affection is thus called into exercise, while concentrating their strength for the attainment of an end-equally valuable-equally important to all-this great and cheering truth is realized, that one is their Master even Christ.

That these are not the least beneficial consequences resulting from the formation of Branch Societies throughout the country can be well attested. And your Committee are extreemly anxious to follow up this part of their plan in a much more vigorous manner than has yet been done. It has also been found to be very desirable, that on all occasions where meetings of a public nature are convened, some person should be present from this Society, in order to give countenance and encouragement to their proceedings: but the expense, thus unavoidably incurred, has prevented your Committee from gratifying their own wishes in this respect; nor do they think, that while the amount of annual subscriptions and donations is so

small, that it would be right to expend any large proportion of your funds in this way.

A representation on this subject has been made to the Parent Society, and we are in hopes, that, being assisted by their liberality, it will be in our power to send an Agent on all occasions, wherever an Association can be formed, and whenever they hold their Annual Meetings. The additions of the past year only serve to lead us forward in the anticipation, that every succeeding year will present an increase to the number, until every Village and Township throughout the Province shall have its Bible Society.

The translation of the Scriptures into the Chippewa language is still proceeding—the Gospel of St. Matthew being completed, and also the Gospel of St. John; the former is ready for the Press, and the other nearly so, but the funds of the Society are not such as to meet the expense which would thus be incurred.

It cannot be concealed, that in the promotion of this object, your Committee have been much disappointed in not receiving the liberal aid and assistance which might be, and was reasonably expected.

We do not intend, by any means, to use the language of despondency; for, having a full conviction of the real excellence and importance of the object in view, we have also full confidence that it will be completed; but it is a painful task to be compelled to seek that aid from other quarters which might so easily be afforded on the spot.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge a donation of £20, Sterling, from the New-England Society, towards the expense of this translation, obtained in consequence of a representation made by the Reverend Richard Scott, one of their Agents in this Province; and your Committee are willing to hope, that, upon a further application being made, under the peculiar circumstances already stated, that Society may be induced to afford such assistance as will expedite the work, so that the undertaking may not be delayed for want of funds—an undertaking which must surely commend itself to every individual sincerely desirous of promoting the moral and religious improvement of the Native Indians.

Your Committee think this a favorable occasion to state, that whatever sum may be given for this particular object, will be faithfully applied in this way.

The proceedings of the Parent Society exhibit the same munificent character, the same splendid exertion, as ever. The amount of its expenditure, according to the last annual Report, was £81,670 13 6, for the current year—making, since its formation, an aggregate of £1,696,970 14 8. The number of Bibles issued since its commencement is 2,583,709, of Testaments 3,970,089—making a total of 6,553,798. The number of Translations, into various languages, either completed or in progress, is 146; yet, to express their own sentiments, the Society's object is but partially accom-

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plished: wants, unimagined by some, are found actual matters of fact. It is true, the number of associations is continually increasing: but their very formation is caused by a sense of their own wants. The Parent Institution being, in some instances, the means of first sustaining those Societies, which afterwards become Auxiliaries to them, and thus, as is well proved in our own case, a spirit is fosfered which, but for their timely and generous aid, would oftentimes be stifled in its birth.

It is indeed one of the most pleasing parts of our duty, to record the liberal conduct which they have manifested towards us during the past year: Bibles and Testaments having been furnished to the amount of £509 3 4; and this supply has been so generously afforded, while the account of the previous year was not fully paid. They have thus evinced a truly Christian spirit of liberality towards your Society; and it has been the desire of your Committee to prove, that this generous conduct is rightly appreciated. The object of the British and Foreign Bible Society is to accomplish, in the exercise of discretion, the most extensive circulation of the Word of God. We have endeavored to follow their example, to imitate their conduct, to manifest the same desire, and to act in the same spirit. It has been our care, that the wants of every association should be liberally supplied; and your Committee have judged it expedient, in every case where a Branch Society was fully organized, to present them with a small donation of Bibles, not exceeding, in any instance, £5.

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The number of Bibles issued from Annual Meeting is	330
restaments,	
	Тотаг, 1,208
Total, from our commencement,	Bibles 482
	Testaments,1,268
	

In all, 1,750 Copies.

There now remains in your Depositary 1,058 Bibles and 2,007 Testaments—making a total of 3,125 copies of the Sacred Volume. In closing this Report, it is very satisfactory to state the increasing disposition which is every where manifested to promote the distribution of the Sacred Scriptures. It is one of the peculiar characteristics of the age in which we live, that the Word of God is becoming more and more the only test of Religious opinion—the acknowledged Standard of Truth. Against this fact it is impossible to close our eyes. That purity of design, that simplicy of character, and operation, which so eminently distinguishes this Society, cannot fail to attract the notice, and claim the approbation of every impartial and enquiring mind. No possible objection can be made to it in either of these respects: wherefore, we are bold to recommend it to the notice of every one—inviting all who are favorable to the

free and unfettered circulation of the Word of God, to stand forth as the advocate of such a principle and such a line of conduct. And your Committee would conclude with the ear nest prayer, that the Lord Jesus Christ, and God, even our Father, who hath loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hove through grace, may comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

ABSTRACT OF THE CASH ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 14th FEBRUARY, 1831.

RECEIVED.

EXPENDED.

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To " per Depositary for Bibles sold	109	13	0		By " " J. Bradly, rent of his large Hall 2 10 By " " Hon. J. H. Dunn, for Bill of Ex.	0
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To "do. from Toronto Branch do. from Whity	17	15	0	THE STREET	l By " " Gazette Office, do. do - 1 90 l o	0
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New England Society per					By "Insurance of Bibles against Fire 4 15	0
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Audited and approved by us-Balance in the Treasurer's hands, Eighty-eight pounds, eight shallings, and seven pence.

March 22nd, 1831.

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Joseph Wenham, James Armstrong, i.

APPENDIX.

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RULES RECOMMENDED FOR BRANCH SOCIETIES.

- 1. That a Society be formed, in connexion with the British and Foreign Bible Society, through the medium of the York Auxiliary Bible Society, for the purpose of contributing towards the circulation of the Holy Scriptures, without note or comment. The English, of the authorized verson only.
- 2. That the Society be denominated "THE BRANCH BIBLE SOCIETY."
- 3. That all persons subscribing five shillings or upwards, or one pound five shillings at one time, shall be Members of this Society.
- 4. That the business of this Society shall be conducted by a President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretaries, and a Committee, consisting of not less than —— other members. Five to constitute a quorum.
- 5. That all Ministers of the Gospel who join this Society shall be reckoned Members of Committee.
- 6. That the Committee shall meet quarterly, or oftener—the time and place of meeting to be fixed by themselves.
- 7. That the Committee divide their sphere of operations into districts, and appoint two of their own Members for each District, to solicit subscriptions and donations from the inhabitants, as also, to ascertain the wants of the people regarding the Word of God.
- 8. That the whole of the subscriptions and donations received by this Society shall be applied, after deducting incidental expences, to the purchase of Bibles and Testaments from the York Society, to supply this neighborhood; (which copies of the Scriptures the Committee are to sell to all at cost price; to members at the reduced price (one-fourth less), and to give gratis to those who they know cannot purchase), and that the overplus be remitted half-yearly to the York Society, for the purpose of translating the Word of God into the Indian languages, and supplying other nations, through the Parent Institution, with the pure Word of God.
- 9. That a general meeting of the subscribers be held on the ——day of —— in each year, at ———, when the accounts shall be presented, the proceedings of the past year stated, a new committee appointed, and a Report agreed upon—the Report to be published inder the direction of the Committee.
- 10. That in the formation of a new Committee, the President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretaries, and such three-fourths of the other Members of Committee as have most frequently attended, shall be eligible for re-election for the ensuing year.

SUSCRIBERS AND DONORS TO THE YORK AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

Names of Subscribers and Donors.	Subscript	ions.	Dor	atio	ns.
A.	£ s.	\overline{d} .	£	s.	d.
A. Wm	1 0	0			
Anderson, J. A	10	0			
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Brand, James		1		1	3
Bird, John	5	0			
Bishop, John Junr	5	0			
Blair, Francis	5	0			
Blight, Capt's. Servant	5	0			
Boice, Abraham	·			Æ.	6
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Harris, Robert	10	0			
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Helliwell, Thomas	5	0			
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We are sorry the Secretaries of several of the Branch Societies have neglected to make any returns. We received a very good account of the flourishing state of some of them, but fear that some others have made less progress than was anticipated. It is to be recollected, however, that they are but in their infancy; and that, as the subject is almost new in this country, it will take some time, and some visits from the more experienced, to bring this best of undertakings to maturity in the country generally.

The disposition generally manifested, however, and the numerous cases of individual zeal brought into action, bids fair for a glorious harvest. It is hoped we may draw the comfortable conclusion, that the zeal and exertion now begun to be manifested will increase, and that the work will not be abandoned until all the human family possess the Sacred Oracles.

We would gladly give extracts from the Reports of the Colborne, Cobourg, Newmarket, and some other Societies, were it not that the increase of expences of printing would be curtailing the operations of the Society in another quarter: viz. the translation into the Indian language—an object to which we wish to apply every penny we can spare or collect.

We understand those above mentioned are prospering, as also

Toronto, Whitby, and several of those to the Westward.

We hope the Secretaries of each Branch Society will send a list of their Office-bearers, the day of their annual meeting, the amount of their Subscriptions, and the number of Bibles and Testaments distributed, each year, in the month of January, so that we may give a full and correct list of the whole every year.

All orders for Books to be sent to the Depositary, and all other matters to be written to the Secretaries, or to either of them. If assistance is necessary in any Township to form Branches, the friends of the cause should send a request to that effect. Any information where there is a prospect of forming them will be thankfully received.

SPEECHES DELIVERED AT THE SECEOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE YORK AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY.

BY THE HON. J. H. DUNN, PRESIDENT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I rejoice to see so many here this night to join in the object of this magnificient and noble purpose, and members of all Churches uniting in communicating the Word of God. The more our Society retains the simplicity, and is governed by the designs of the Institution, the better will our wishes attain that consumation we all desire. Our cause spurns party distinctions: it is one where Christians of every name, and Christians of every denomination, inspired by similar sentiments, may meet together under the banners of this great and glorious Institution, in which every Christian heart may be one, actuated by the same hope, the same faith, and the same love. If there is a prejudice, let it be asked, is the spreading of the Gospel, the conversion of the heathen and ignorant, the translation of the Scriptures into every known tongue, a good work or not? Is it good to feed the yearning heart with this heavenly food? I antici-Then let us make one common cause of this Sopate the reply. ciety, and unite our best efforts towards its glorious accomplishment. We see the Institution of which we are an humble Auxiliary spreading the Bible, and making rapid progress over all the earth. We feel its blessed effects in this Colony; and their liberality towards us should call forth our warmest thanks. Whilst the Parent Society is engaged in translating the Scriptures into every known tongue,

we have not been less active in affording the Indians the same advantages. The translation of the Gospels into the Chippawa language is far advanced; but we feel much difficulty in prosecuting the object from want of funds. We have organized many Branch Societies by the exertions of our Agents; and had we means, we should soon succeed in establishing them throughout the Province: Such is the spontaneous disposition evinced generally to possess and circulate the Scriptures: and I look forward to a period, and not a remote one, when I hope that every dwelling in the Colony will have that Heavenly Book which teaches us the only way unto I think that the British and Foreign Bible Society will aid us in the translation, and afford us some means, for a limited time, in the employment of an Agent. A letter has been addressed to the President, and Resolutions transmitted to the Society in London, passed by your Committee, on these subjects: these communications will explain more fully the views of our intentions. I shall, therefore, conclude these few remarks by tendering my thanks to the Officers and the Committee, for the zeal manifested by them in this holy cause.

BY THE REV. DR. HARRIS.

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Mr. President:

I have been requested to move, "That the Report now read be approved of and printed, under the direction of the Committee."

In making this motion, whilst I cannot but wish it had fallen into abler hands, I feel that I have less cause to regret my inability to address the meeting effectually in its support, because it is a motion which may well stand on the ground of its own merits: for though, in one respect (that of the amount of Subscriptions), the Report may not be quite so satisfactory as we could wish; yet, its general details are so favorable and encouraging, that it speaks for itself in a language most intelligible and persuasive to every well-wisher of the Society.

It is not necessary, on such occasions as this, to enlarge on the claims which a Bible Society has to Christian support, nor to refute objections against its principles: its claims, I presume to be allowed by all, and objections against it to be entertained by none of this assembly. Yet, I cannot but confess, that it has ever been matter of surprize to me, that there could be two opinions as to the good or ill effects of an association whose object does appear to be the most unexceptionable, the most necessarily beneficial to the human race, in which man can be engaged: nor could I ever explain how any one, who himself appreciated the blessing of possessing and being guided by the Word of God, could scruple, for a moment, to lend his assistance to a Society formed for the sole purpose of communicating this Word to the poor and ignorant, and that too not ac-

companied with the comments of this or that particular sect, but in its own pure and divine integrity, unimpaired by any human invention or tradition.

To say that it is most desirable that every human being should possess the Bible who is capable of reading it, is only asserting a truth, which few probably in the present day would be inclined to dispute: for I do not believe that any one, who would not have the Bible altogether a sealed book to the people, whatever his opinion as to the merits of Bible Societies, were he to find the Sacred Volume in the meanest hovel, would think of saying to its possessor, "this Book can do you no good, you had better get rid of it." If then the possession of this Book be so indisputably beneficial, can they be doing wrong, or rather must they not be following the plain path of Chirstian duty and charity, who are endeavouring to place the Holy Scriptures in the hands of every one within reach of their means? Or is it an argument against a work confessedly good and Godly in itself, that in its performance, members of various (I will not say creeds, for we all believe in the same God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the same sanctifying spirit—but that members of various) Churches and denominations should forget their minor differences, to join hand and hand in this labor of love and mercy?

"By its fruits shall ye know it." If those fruits have been evil, there has been ample time for the discovery: but though objections have ever been made, I am not aware that objectors have ever pointed out any ill consequences which have actually resulted from the exertions of Bible Societies. If, on the other hand, we may argue, as we surely may, from success signal, and continued. that the blessing of God prospers these exertions, how strikingly has the divine approval been manifested in the extraordinary success which has attended the efforts of the British and Foreign Bible Society since its formation. We cannot suppose that the millions of copies of the Word of God which have been dispersed over the whole world, through the instrumentality of that Society, have gone forth without the approval and co-operation of its Almighty Author, and still less in opposition to His Sovereign will: and will He have thus sanctioned the means, and shall He not also bless them in their effects? He has declared that "His word shall not return unto Him void; that it shall accomplish that which He pleases, and that it shall prosper in the thing whereto He sent it." "The thing whereto the Word of God is sent," is the salvation of man; and to this end we have the recorded promise of Jehovah, that it shall prosper-that this promise is continually receiving increased and remarkable completion, we have only to look at the successive Reports of the Parent Bible Society and its multiplied Auxiliaries, to be most fully convinced. To this accumulated evidence, let us now add the testimony of the York Auxiliary Bible Society, as borne in the Report which has just been read.

BY THE REV. WILLIAM SMITH.

Mr. President.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is with those feelings which the occasion is calculated to inspire, that I rise to second the resolution just offered. I have frequently read of the anniversaries of Bible Societies with satisfaction and interest, but never had the pleasure of attending one before. While I consider the Bible as a sovereign antidote for the evils under which mankind are suffering, I must regard its propagation as the indispensable duty of every man who claims the character of a Christian. It is the Bible which brings life and immortality to light, and shows the only sure and unerring path that leads from earth to heaven.

And here, Sir, I cannot, but with feelings of deep gratitude to Almighty God, reflect upon our situation, while I look back upon the ages which are past and gone. It is but a few years since the light of divine truth shone upon only a few detached points of Society, while all around was the darkness of the region and shadow of death. Such was the condition of the world until a Wickliffe and a Luther arose—the lights of the ages in which they lived,—and dared, by the diffusion of the Word of God, to dispel that dark cloud which had so long brooded over the understandings of men. Previous to that time, to read the Bible was considered a species of licresy. It had been withheld from the poor, and was known only to the learned, until these venerable men arose to develope the great principles of the reformation, which, from that period until the present, have continued to enlarge the borders of Zion, and extend the privileges of civil and religious liberty.

Is it not to the Bible that we are indebted for every privilege which we at present enjoy? What is it, I ask, that forms the distinctive difference between ourselves and the most barbarous tribes! What gives that great moral elevation to our national character for which we are so particularly distinguished, if it is not the Bible? To this Book do I verily conceive is it, that we are indebted for those civil and religious institutions which so eminently characterize us among the nations of the earth. But, Sir, ours is not the only nation which feels its benign efficacy. It is producing the same happy results wherever it is sent. The islands of the Sea, and the wilds of Canada have been made partakers of its benefits. In the former, many of those places which were once the theatres of the most brutal barbarity and bloodshed have become the abodes of peace and virtue—and in the latter, where nothing was once heard but the wild yell of the Indian, is now heard the voice of prayer and praise. Order and bappiness, peace and hope, has been communicated to those who were before destitute of every thing which could possibly render life desirable.

As an illustration of the pleasing hopes with which it inspires that long neglected race of men. I cannot deny myself the pleasure of

relating part of an address which I once heard a native Preacher deliver to a mixed congregation of Whites and Indians. "I have, my Christian friends, (said the converted Indian) been told that the time has been when your fathers wore leggings, and used bows and arrows the same as the Indians now do. But how are you changed! What a great nation have you become! And to what do you owe all this elevation, all this greatness, is it not to that book which the great, good Spirit has given you?" Then turning to his Indian friends, he observed, "when, my brethren, shall we able to pursue the arts and sciences with the same advantage and success as our white brethren? When shall we be like them? May we not anticipate that we shall yet see the happy day? Yes, we may, for they were once as we are, and we may become as they are."

When, Sir, we consider the moral and political advantages resulting from the possession of the Bible, can we feel it any thing more than our duty, to imitate the noble example of the Parent Institution, as far as our limited means will permit, by sending the Bible to all the destitute of our country. Do we regard the spiritual and eternal welfare of our fellow men? Are we lovers of our country? true to its weal, and desirous to avert its woe. Let us manifest our regard for the one, and our dread of the other, by putting into the hands of all, that book which points man to his immortality and life—and directs the weary wanderer to his rest—which shall be as a lamp to his feet, and a light to his path while passing through this labyrinth of woe; for such sir must we emphatically consider the world without the Bible—a dark chaos of uncertainty and doubt, men with souls to save, and yet no salvation for them.

With these remarks permit me to say, that I do most cordially second the Resolution, "that the Report just read be adopted and printed under the direction of the Committee."

ROBERT BALDWIN, Esquire, in seconding the second Resolution, after a few prefatory observations, referred to the Report of the Committee for the last year, and expressed his surprize and regret, that at a time when the Town and Country generally were rapidly improving, the exertions in support of this most valuable of all Institutions appeared to lessen. Without intending, he said, to derogate from the importance of other Institutions, he urged the paramount claims of the Bible Society upon all classes of the community, and called upon the public to imitate the example of the Venerable Institution to which the motion referred, in their renewed activity and increased exertion.

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BY THE REV. C. MATTHEWS.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I rise to take a part in this evening's proceedings, which has been assigned me in the spirit of harmony, and accepted, I can assure you, with corresponding readiness and cordiality: for I would not have it supposed, for a moment, that sincere Christians make any difficulty in concurring to circulate the entire Scripture, however they may differ in their views of separate portions of it. For my own part, I am resolved, by the Grace of God, that neither my heart nor hand shall falter, whenever, and by whomsover raised, the cry goes forth, "Let us evangelize." In that blessed sound there is power to allay the fiercest animosities—how much more to drain the gall from the pen of controversy, and banish suspicion and prejudice from the bosoms of Christian brethren? How forcibly does the work we are engaged in remind us of the period, when a similar zeal for the Faith conducted some primitive Apostle of Christianity to those very forefathers from whom, however remotely, we each of us derive our Religion. Thus, an eloquent speaker has just told us, the Indian convert of our own day carried back his instructor to the time when the white man roamed the woods no less a barbarian and a heathen than himself. What then? Christians in our own persons, descendants of the Evangelized, can we hesitate, under any circumstances, to promote the work of Evangelization? Forbid it every generous feeling of the heart-forbid it God and man-imperishable gratitude to both alike, forbid it.

The Report ordered for publication presents us with an animating picture of the highly prosperous condition of the Parent Society. Its exertions and its funds both continue to be nobly and equally supported. The affairs of our own Auxiliary Society do not exhibit as complete a parallel in these respects as I could wish. [Its exertions have exceeded its funds-its zeal has outrun the liberality of its funds. To what is this attributed? At the last Anniversary there seemed to be excited no common warmth and glow of feelinga vigour and loftiness of purpose inspiring the best hopes. I myself was a witness to them, and by no means an indifferent one. What has since occurred to disappoint them? Have any doubts arisen as to the goodness of our cause? The Report convinces us such doubts are not generally entertained. Have any doubts arisen as to the ability, faithfulness, and diligence displayed in its manage-Such doubts would be in the highest degree unjust towards the Committee. Ah! my friends! if the fervor now lighted up in our breasts by the consciousness of a high, a hallowed object, were but present to invigorate every effort, every where and at all times made in behalf of this Society! This I would say, in reference to our supporters in general: for a steady uniform ardour has not been wanting to those engaged in the daily conduct of this sacred cause.

and it is to the success vouchsafed to their labours that it is now my pleasing province to advert. For the details of this success, I shall refer you to the Report: it is my business to direct the general feeling of satisfaction they have diffused into the proper channel.

For what then do we rejoice? Do we rejoice in the prosperity of the work for its own sake? This would be indeed a legitimate ground of rejoicing, but a more legitimate one still would be, the prosperity of the work as a proof of the sanction and blessing of the Almighty; For if He be for us who can be against us? Do we congratulate ourselves on the share we have had in producing such happy results? Some allowance must be made for human infirmity, and this feeling be not altogether repressed, (though the Apostle refuses to indulge it: "Who is Paul, or who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed: ye are God's building-ye are God's husbandry")-only let it be secondary to that more subdued and safer joy springing from the recollection that God condescends to admit us to be fellow-laborers with Him—that He has left us the blessed work to do. and gone before us in the execution: for, as every good Christian knows, without his preventing grace in putting into our hearts the good desire, and his co-operating grace in enabling us to bring the same to good effect, nothing can be undertaken, much less brought to a successful issue, even in his own most mighty and righteous "Not unto us, therefore, O Lord! not unto us, but unto thy name be all the praise."

I would not, however, be understood to say, that all sense of our happiness and privilege in being the instruments of God's mercy to his creatures should be wholly lost in the ascription of the entire glory to Him: on the contrary, I think it may justly furnish both the motive and the measure of devout gratitude. Can we be appointed to a work more direct and congenial to the benevolent intentions of the Creator, or more conducive to the best interests of the creature? Can there be any more signal mark of God's favor, than to be charged with an errand like this? It is natural, that the measure of the Society's success-(as it has been the means, under God, of bringing many to righteousness, and penning folds under the great Shepherd, here in the wilderness)-it is natural, I say, that the measure of the Society's success should regulate the measure of thankfulness it ought to feel and express towards its Omnipotent Framer, Friend, and Guide; and I am confident every one here present aiding and partaking in this his blessed work, deeply convinced of the necessity and paramount importance of the undertaking, and sensible at the same time how greatly we are indebted to Him for grace to conceive and strength to execute it, will see the propriety, and acquiesce in the justice, of the sentiment, which I have been deputed to submit to the meeting in the following Resolution: "That the success of the Parent Institution, and of this, its Auxiliary and Branches, demands unfeigned gratitude to Almighty God."

BY THE REV. E. RYERSON.

Mr. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is with more than ordinary feelings of pleasure that I rise, in compliance with the request of the Committee, to second the Resolution of grateful acknowledgement to Almighty God, for the "success of the Parent Institution, and this its Auxiliary and Branches"—an institution whose principles have inspired and brought into active operation, the sentiment which has just burst forth so forcibly from my Reverend and learned Friend, who moved this Resolution—"Let us evangelize."

If we travel back to the period when the "Parent Institution" commenced its operations, and observe it, like the mighty River of Egypt, burying its numerous and swelling tides in a scarcely perceptible fountain, and yet watering in its progress vast regions and countries into fertility, wealth, and happiness;—If we explore the continents over which its operations have extended—the provinces it has illuminated—the clan sand tribes it has instructed the individuals it has instrumentally comforted, blest and saved; if we reflect upon the languages in which it has spoken to sinful fallen man from the mouth of his Creator and Redeemer; -if we come home to the little circle of our own personal observation, and survey the infant but successful labors of "this its Auxiliary and Branches" -the Sabbath Schools they have supplied with the word of life-the destitute to whom they imparted the revelation of God; -if we call to our recollection the fact, that the efforts of this "Auxiliary" are now directed to the translating and printing of the word of God into a language in which that Word is now unknown-into a language which constitutes the vernacular tongue of many tribes and thousands of our long neglected and enquiring neighbours; -and if, finally, we remember that the formation and wonderfully extended operations of this vast machine have been commenced and carried on by the protection and blessing of that "Hand which moves the world,"—that He directed the mind in the invention, prompted the active desire, and has prospered the hand of labour-must there not be engraved upon every heart and arise from every tongue in this assembly, "unfeign. ed gratitude to Almighty God."

There is another light in which the "success of the Parent Institution, and this, its Auxiliary and Branches" may be viewed, which presents claims equally strong upon "our unfeigned gratitude;" namely, the influence which this Institution has exerted upon those who have been employed in promoting its objects, in uniting them to one another, and animating them to increased fervor and activity in other departments of Christian devotion and enterprise.

This Institution has taught christians to feel, as well as to know, that they hold an intimate relationship to each other. It is with reluctance that I would for a moment, interrupt the pleasurable feelings

of this meeting, by referring to days of bigotry, of persecution and But the time was, even in the Kingdom of which we have the happiness to form a part, when, for no greater differences of religious opinion than those which obtain amongst the members of this meeting, Christians, by Christians, were hunted, like the stricken deer, in one part of the Kingdom upon the mountains, in the vallies, the clefts and caves of the rock-in another part of the kingdom, were immersed in dungeons-and in a third part, were lashed to the burning pile, or executed in the castle yard, or doomed to the lingering tortures of the gibbet. But the platform of the Bible Society has removed this film of cruel prejudice from the eyes of Christianshas practically taught them not only that "God of one blood made all nations to dwell on all the face of the earth," but that they were subjects of the same vicarious purchase—were partakers of the same gracious call-stood in the same relation to their Maker-were inspired with a common hope—were not strangers and foreigners to each other, but fellow citizens and joint heirs, were all the children of the Most High,—that they were not to imbrue their hands in each other's blood, but were bound by every human and divine tie, to love as brethren, and to do good to each other as they had opportunity and ability.

The Bible Society has taught Christians that their differences of religious opinion were less numerous and less important than they had been wont to consider them. I believe the period is within the recollection of many present, when these differences were treated of as the essentials of Christianity, and the opposing combatants denounced each other as the "enemies of the cross of Christ." But what has the Bible Society done in this respect? It has wrested from the eyes of Christians the deceptive glass which magnifies inadvertancies into crimes, modes into doctrines, differing shades of opinion, into the antipodes of truth and error;—it has placed before their minds the faithful mirror of candour and impartiality, through which to trace the footstep impress of the Divine Spirit in their respective faith, and hearts, and lives: -- it has shown them that some of their imaginary essentials consisted in the peculiarities of words or arbitrary soundsthat, as the Rev. and learned Gentleman who moved the adoption of the report, has observed, "they are not members of various creeds, for they all believe in the same God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the same sanctifying Spirit;" it has, as my Rev. Friend has expressed it, "allayed the fiercest animosities," and "drawn the gall from the pen of sectarian controversy;" and, in the language of the Honorable President, "it spurns party distinctions-it is a great and glorious Institution, under whose banners Christians of every denomination may meet together, and every Christian heart may be one, actuated by the same faith, and the same love,"

The Bible Society has heen instrumental in impressing upon different denominations of Christians, that they are bound together by a common interest and are employed in promoting a common cause, as well as agreeing in the essential principles of their faith. Who does

not know that the different classes of professing christians have, in times gone by, viewed each other's success as so much lopped off from their own territory, as so much withdrawn from their own treasurv, and have sought to limit and dispute it to the last extremity? But the principles of the Bible Society have rectified this lamentable error of judgement and feeling, and have convinced them that the badges of party distinctions are, to a great extent, like the geographical lines upon the earth's surface, imaginary,—that even their respective names have, in most cases, originated in fortuitous circumstances,-that the proper and rational line of demarcation, is that which divides between them in common, and the dominions of ignorance, misery, and sin,—that the success of one is, in fact, the success of the whole, inasmuch as it is, in part, the accomplishment of the object of the whole, the glory of God and the happiness of human kind. Hence the assembling, and harmony, and mutual co-operation of members of various Christian denominations this evening;—hence, the similar and united efforts to establish and promote Branch Societies in different places in the country;—and hence the noble resolution of my Reverend Friend, that "by the Grace of God, neither his heart nor his hand shall falter, whenever, and by whomsoever raised, the cry goes forth, 'Let us evangelize.'"

These circumstances appear to me to exhibit an important branch of the success of the "Parent Institution and this, its Auxiliary, and Branches," and present strong claims upon our "unfeigned gratitude to Almighty God." And I fervently hope, that our offering will not be merely the expression of the lip, or a ceremony of the evening; but that the adoption of this motion will be an earnest of a future, more zealous, and extensive abounding in the good work of distributing the pure Word of God, and of consecrating our means, our hearts, and our lives to Him, whose we are, and in whom we live, and move, and have our being.

BY W. W. BALDWIN, ESQUIRE.

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Mr. President,

I rise to propose a vote of thanks to our excellent patron, the Lieutenant Governor; and in so doing anticipate the most cordial unaminity in the society.

It must be, Sir, a matter of peculiar satisfaction to all, who in the ordinary transactions of the day are unconnected with persons high in office or fortune, to be met with by them occasionally and as frequently as those occasions call, at public meetings of associations, having for their object the promotion of intellectual exercise in the religious and social duties of mankind. It is, Sir, by such communion of benevolent intention and co-operation, that the authority of

office softens its asperity; and the splendor of fortune abates its blaze; while the community imperceptibly imbibe a confidence in their superiors which will never be conceded to pride and distance.

Sir, under such sentiments impressed upon us by the kind condescension of His Excellency, in having become the Patron of our Society, our gratitude must not be confined to the honorable distinction derived from his worthy name at our head. We have also to thank him for his powerful co-operation in the most interesting department of our Society; the conversion of the Indians. To this great and glorious end civilization must lend its aid. It is well known, (I presume to speak only of what is publicly known) that our present Lieutenant Governor has most happily obtained from his Majesty's Government the management and control of the Indian Department; that castle of indolence in which slumbered so long the geni of In-Amongst the benefits resulting from this change is dian destinies. the commencement of a system introductory to the civilization of the Indians; the building of houses in the form of villages, now prosecuted under his Excellency's directions cannot fail to have the happiest effects; if we feel the endearments of our fire sides so powerful, shall we deny them to the Indian? We ought not. He beyond all doubt, may drink this cup of bliss as full as we do. Perhaps fuller still; for the more simple the more humble the manners and condition of men in civilized society; the more powerful is their attachment to home. The cottage has it in every corner, while the palace often lies vacant and joyless-certainly, Sir, no one, better than our excellent Patron, knows how these finer sympathies of our nature must be called in, to aid any and every plan of civilization. This formation of villages is the first happy step to the great work; and this without doubt will be followed up in due time by the grant of appropriate farms to the industrious Indiansthus in the enjoyment and security of private fixed property, the Indian will more readily receive the spiritual instruction of the Missionary, whose labours will, under the blessing of God, be crowned with glorious results. Another powerful claim on our concurrence in the vote to be proposed is, that while we so justly appreciate the importance of Religious liberty and rejoice in its extension by means of our Parent Society; we have reason to know that our excellent Patron ranks high amongst its sincerest friends: I therefore beg leave to move, "That the cordial thanks of this meeting be given to His Excellency Sir John Colborne, &c. &c. &c. for his continued patronage.'

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The Rev. WILLIAM BOULTON, in seconding the vote of thanks to the President, moved by P. Perry, Esquire, spoke as follows:—

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am sure it gives me as much pleasure as it can any one here present to second the motion of the worthy Gentleman who has just sat down, and in doing so, I, feel confident that I do but express the sentiments and feelings not only of the present Company but of every well wisher to the cause which we have assembled to promote.

It is one of the most amiable features in the dispensations which the Almighty is pleased to hold with his creatures from time to time upon that subject which most nearly concerns them, that of religion, that he makes men the instruments of their own improvement—the benefit is not bestowed through the intervention of angels or any other being of a higher nature than ourselves—much corruption as there may be in us yet we have feelings and sentiments that shew our divine origin, and these are left us to be exercised, improved spiritualized by being associated together in promoting one anothers everlasting benefit; and when the dignity of worldly station is for the time forgotten and time and talent are zealously revoked to the sacred cause of religion, it is then that the feelings and sentiments I have alluded to shew themselves in perfection, and high and low are then bound together more strongly than even by the reciprocal ties of love and gratitude.

I therefore concur most cordially in the object of the present Resolution because I think it a tribute of gratitude justly due to the Hon. Gantleman who has presided over this Society with so much benefit to its interests and so much credit to himself.