

THE
FIRST REPORT
OF THE
NIAGARA DISTRICT
Committee,
IN CORRESPONDENCE WITH
THE
QUEBEC DIOCESAN COMMITTEE,
OF THE SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING
CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD
AT NIAGARA, AUG. 30, 1827.



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1827.

PATRON.

His Excellency Sir P. MAITLAND, K. C. B.

PRESIDENT.

THE HONOURABLE AND RIGHT REVEREND THE
LORD BISHOP OF QUEBEC.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

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“ “ WM. LEEMING, *Chippawa.*
“ “ JOHN LEEDS, *Fort Erie.*
“ “ GEORGE R. F. GROUT, *Grimsbey.*
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THE REV. THOMAS CREEN,
CAPTAIN PHILLPOTTS, Royal Engineers.

STANDING COMMITTEE.

ISAAC SWAYZE, Esq.
GEORGE BALL, Esq.
JAMES MUIRHEAD, Esq.
GEORGE CONNOLLY, Esq.

And all officers of the Society.

NIAGARA DISTRICT COMMITTEE
OF THE SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING
CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.



REGULATIONS.

—
THE OBJECT OF THIS SOCIETY IS

1. To circulate the *Bible* (either with or without the Prayer Book,) and such other of the *Society's* publications as appear calculated to be useful in this Province.

2. That to constitute a *Member* of this local Committee, an annual subscription of 12s. 6d. shall be sufficient; and all the money thus raised shall be expended under the direction of the Committee.

3. That an Annual Meeting of this Society shall take place during the Assizes for this District, on the first day of the Court, at 10 o'clock.

4. That the Quarterly Meetings of the Standing Committee be held on the 2d day of the Quarter Sessions, which commence on the second Tuesday in January, April, July and October, at the hour of 10 o'clock.

☞ Subscriptions and donations may be paid to the Treasurer, or at the Depository.

* * Persons at a distance wishing books to be sent to them, are requested to forward orders to one of the Secretaries, by application to the Vice-Presidents in their neighbourhood.

REPORT, &c.



In making their First Report, the Committee feel that they are called upon to begin with expressing their humble and sincere gratitude to Almighty God, for the success with which he has been pleased to crown their endeavours.

A short time after the formation of this Society, a supply of Books was received from the Montreal District Committee—most of which were soon disposed of, as well as a number of Prayer Books, which were, in like manner received from York.

On the 20th Oct. last, the “Niagara Bible Society,” at a publick meeting, passed the following resolution:—

“At a General Meeting of the Niagara Bible Society, held at the Episcopal Church, this 20th day of October, 1826, the Rev. ROBT ADDISON being called to the chair, it was

“*Resolved*, That in consequence of this Society wanting sufficient support, it merges into the Niagara District Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and called the “*Niagara District Committee*”—and that all the Members of this Society who wish to become Members of the above, shall be entitled to all the privileges of the Members, and also, to credit for the amount paid by them respectively, as subscribers to the Bible Society.”

The above resolution was submitted to the Standing Committee, at their next Quarterly Meeting, held on the 9th Jan. last, and it was resolved, “That in consequence of this resolution of the Niagara Bible Society, all Members thereof shall be considered Mem-

bers of this Society." A circular letter was accordingly sent, by order of the Committee, to each of the Members, intimating that they would be considered Members of the District Committee, and requesting them to continue their subscriptions to the same, according to the tenor of the above resolution. The exertions of both these Societies being thus united, the Committee feel warranted in anticipating a corresponding success and extended operation.

During the winter, an order for Books to the amount of nearly £300 was transmitted to the Parent Society in London, through His Lordship the Bishop of Quebec, who was pleased to become responsible for the amount, and to recommend their being sent immediately. The result of this application for Books was communicated to the Committee, in a very obliging letter from the Secretary, which is annexed to this Report. In this letter it is stated that the General Board cordially approved of the proceedings of this Committee at the primary meeting, holden on the 13th September; and that from their long experience of the benefits resulting from the establishment of District Committees, both at home and abroad, they received intelligence of the formation of this Committee with very great satisfaction.

The Books that have been sent, were charged at the *full cost* prices, in consequence of a new regulation of the Parent Society. It had been a regulation for the formation of District Committees that *one third* of all contributions should be remitted to the Parent Society, to defray the expense of binding, &c. which

was consequently deducted from the prices of the books: but as the Society have remitted this *third*, and allowed the District Committees to appropriate the *whole* of their own funds, the books are now charged at full cost prices to make up the deficiency. They would consequently have been much dearer than the Committee were led to expect last year, had not the Lord Bishop, upon being apprized of the circumstance, with his usual liberality, authorized their being taken at the old rate—thus making himself responsible for the difference, if the Parent Society should not alter their regulations accordingly. By referring to the cost prices, and comparing them with the charges which the Committee have been thus enabled to make, every person may be satisfied of the moderate and advantageous terms upon which the books are offered to subscribers. Since their arrival, a great number have been disposed of; and, considering the short time they have been here, the following statement of the numbers sold is most flattering.

Bibles,	-	-	-	-	-	24
Testaments,	-	-	-	-	-	110
Prayer Books,	-	-	-	-	-	234
Bound books, of various descriptions,						192
Unbound do. and Tracts.						340

It is a source of regret to the Committee that, in the present state of their funds, they have not been able to circulate many books *gratis*; which, however, is not of so much importance in the present happy state of this Province, where almost every person who wants a Bible, or Prayer Book, is able to purchase

one. At the same time, applications from indigent persons or unhappy prisoners have not been refused; and it is one of the first objects of the Committee to be able to supply the wants of such more generally, and for this purpose they look to their friends and the publick for liberal support. In the town of Niagara, as well as in some parts of the District, the support that has been given to this institution is truly gratifying; and it is earnestly hoped, that this support, so much needed to promote the objects of the Society, will become *general* throughout the District.

The Depository is kept at Mr. *William D. Miller's* Store, who has kindly given a room for the purpose, and rendered every assistance in his power towards arranging and disposing of the books. The best thanks of the Committee are justly due to Mr. Miller, for his highly important services during the past year.

A list of the Books now in the Depository, is attached to this Report, with their prices annexed, and it is requested that all persons who, in consequence of late application may be disappointed, as well as those who may wish any of the other Books published by the Parent Society, will give in a list thereof to either of the Vice-Presidents in their neighbourhood, who are required to send the same to either of the Secretaries as soon as possible.

In conclusion, the Committee feel that they cannot too earnestly recommend the important objects for which they are associated, to the serious consideration of all their Members. It is not enough that they content themselves with the payment of their annual sub-

scriptions. They should feel themselves under a solemn obligation to augment the Society's means of usefulness, by exerting themselves to increase the number of its Members; to make known its objects to those who are ignorant of them; to distribute the Society's Books and Tracts, as far as their means will admit, wherever they think they may be usefully bestowed; to inculcate religious principles and practice; to suffer, in short, no opportunity to pass of "Promoting *Christian Knowledge*," both by precept and example, within the sphere of their influence.

If these important duties be discharged with activity and zeal, the Committee cannot doubt that the Divine Blessing will crown their humble exertions with increasing success.

By order of the Committee,

THOMAS CREEN, }
GEO. PHILLPOTTS, } *Secretaries.*

*Copy of a Letter from the Rev. WILLIAM PARKER,
Secretary to the Society for Promoting Christian
Knowledge, to the Rev. CROSBIE MORGELL, Chap-
lain to the Hon. and Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Quebec.*

67 *Lincoln's Inn Fields, London,* }
March 12th, 1827. }

REV. SIR,

Your letter of the 29th January, enclosing a Report of the Proceedings and a List of the Subscribers of the Niagara District Committee, together with an application for Books, and a Bill of Exchange for £50 sterling on account, was received a few days ago, at the office of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

I embraced the earliest opportunity of laying this communication before the General Board of the Society; and I have now the honour of acquainting you that the Board cordially approved of the proceedings at the primary meeting of the *District Committee*, holden on the 13th Sept. ult. as well as of the regulations adopted on the following day.

Having had long experience of the benefits resulting from the establishment of District Committees, both at home and abroad, they received intelligence of the formation of a Committee at Niagara, under the sanction of the Lord Bishop of Quebec, with very great satisfaction: and were led to anticipate the most important advantages to the poorer classes in Upper Canada, from the united exertions of the Clergy and Laity resident in the Town of Niagara and its vicinity.

The Board unanimously agreed to grant all the books and tracts which are specified in the list transmitted by the Secretaries of the District Committee at Niagara, at cost prices.

The enclosed copy of regulations will make you acquainted with the Society's new arrangement for supplying Foreign Committees with Books and Tracts. Messrs. Rivingtons, the Society's Booksellers, have received the strictest orders to forward the books, which have been granted by the Board, by the first vessel in Spring. In compliance with your request, the Package will be directed to Niagara, Upper Canada, and will be consigned to the care of Wm. Blackwood, Esq. Montreal: I trust that it will reach in safety its place of destination.

The Bill of Exchange was accepted in due course; and as soon as it has been paid, the sum of fifty pounds will be placed to the credit of a book account opened between the Society, and the Niagara District Committee.

I am desired to convey to you the best thanks of the Board, for having transmitted the Report, &c. to the Society's office in London:—and I beg leave, at the same time, to offer the expression of my own good wishes for the prosperity and permanence of the District Committee. Allow me to add, that it will always afford me much pleasure to pay the utmost attention to any communications which you, or the Secretaries of the Committee may have occasion to address to the Society.

I have the honour to be, Reverend Sir,

Your Obed't and humble serv't.

WILLIAM PARKER, *Secretary.*

To the Rev. CROSBIE MORGELL, &c. &c. &c.

A true Copy, THOMAS GREEN, }
 GEORGE PHILLPOTTS, } *Secretaries.*

FOREIGN DISTRICT COMMITTEES
OF THE SOCIETY FOR
Promoting Christian Knowledge.



OBJECT.

THE object of FOREIGN COMMITTEES is to collect and transmit information respecting the best means of promoting Christian Knowledge in their respective districts; to establish, enlarge, or superintend schools; to supply settlers and natives with the books circulated by the SOCIETY; to promote translations when necessary, into the language of the country; and, lastly, to make collections in aid of the SOCIETY'S Funds.

RULES.

1. The General Rules and Orders of the SOCIETY and the Rules for District Committees shall in all cases apply to the regulation of FOREIGN COMMITTEES, except where the contrary is hereinafter provided.
2. Two or more subscribing or corresponding Members of the PARENT SOCIETY, residing in any *British Settlement or Colony*, may, with the consent of the Bishop or Ordinary, form themselves into a District Committee for such settlement, and all other Members of the SOCIETY residing in such District shall be Members of the Committee.
3. Members of the PARENT SOCIETY residing within the limits of any FOREIGN COMMITTEE may transfer their Annual Subscriptions due to the SOCIETY to the Funds of such Committee, and be supplied with books by the Committee at cost prices, with the addition only of such a per centage for carriage as the Committee may fix.
4. FOREIGN COMMITTEES shall be supplied with books at cost prices.
5. FOREIGN COMMITTEES shall have power to make local regulations not contrary to the foregoing Rules.

