

THE
FORMATION,
AND
CONSTITUTION,
OF THE
YORK, U. C. BIBLE SOCIETY,
WITH THE
FIRST ADDRESS OF ITS MEMBERS,
TO THEIR
CHRISTIAN FRIENDS.

YORK :
PRINTED BY ROBERT STANTON.

1828.

PATRON.

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, MAJOR GENERAL
SIR JOHN COLBORNE, K. C. B. &c. &c. &c.**

PRESIDENT.

1956 **The Hon. J. H. DUNN, Receiver General.**

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

**Dr. Baldwin, M.P.
Dr. Morrison,
J. E. Small, Esq. Barrister.
J. Ketchum, Esq. M.P.
Robt. Baldwin, Esq. Barrister.**

TREASURER.

Peter Paterson, Esq.

SECRETARIES.

**Revd. James Harris.
" Alexr. Stewart.**

DEPOSITARY.

Mr. Edward Henderson.

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE.

Messrs. Abrm. Wilcox.	Messrs. Colin Drummond,
" Peter Seacord,	" Jas. Armstrong,
" John Ashbridge,	" Jas. Cockshut,
" Andrew Johnston,	" Harvey Shepherd,
" James Ross,	" Henry Mosley,
" George Dennison,	" Jas. Leslie,
" John Gamble,	" John Ross,
" Josh Van Allan,	" Malm. McLellan.
" Thos. Carfrae, Jun.	" James Mitchel,
" Andw. McGlashen,	" Jas. Armstrong,
" Wm. Patrick,	" Thos. Armstrong,
" Duncan Kennedy,	" Dr. Burnside,
" Joseph Wenham,	" John McFarlane.]
" Jas. S. Howard,	

FORMATION AND CONSTITUTION
OF THE YORK
BIBLE SOCIETY.

&c. &c.

A Meeting convened in the Masonic Hall, on the evening of Monday, the 3d November, 1828, for the purpose of forming a Bible Society, auxiliary to, and to co-operate with the British and Foreign Bible Society.

After prayer by the Rev. James Harris,—1st, It was moved by Mr. Stewart, and seconded by Mr. Harris—that the Hon. John Henry Dunn take the Chair, which was unanimously agreed to.

2nd, The Honble. Chairman, in a neat and pathetic Speech, which did great honour to his feelings for the good cause, opened the meeting, by pointing out the purpose for which it took place, viz.—to form a Bible Society, whose sole object should be the circulation of the Scriptures, without note or comment.

3rd, The Secretary of the Committee read the following Rules, which had been prepared by the Committee, for the adoption of the meeting:

Laws & 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 differences 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, five Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, two Secretaries, a Committee of twenty-seven of its own Members, and a depositor of its Bibles. Nine of the Committee (the first on the list) shall go out annually—and five shall be a quorum. Ministers, of all denominations, who subscribe, shall be stated members of Committee.

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

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

RULE 8th.—Every Subscriber of one pound five shillings annually, shall be entitled to purchase 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 is any overplus Funds to spare, to remit the same to the Parent Society, for the purpose of supplying other Nations with the pure word of God.

RULE 10th.—No alteration shall be made in these laws, but at a General Meeting of the Society—and any proposed alteration must be published, in at least two, of the York Newspapers, one month previous to that Meeting—and approved of by two thirds of the Members present at such Meeting.

These Rules having been read.—

Motion 1st.—DR. BALDWIN, M. P., *Moved*—That the Rules now read, be adopted as the *Constitution* of this Society. The Dr. delivered an excellent Speech,—after which, Jesse Ketchum, Esq. M. P. seconded the motion. The motion was then put from the Chair, and carried unanimously.

Motion 2nd.—DR. MORRISON then rose and *Moved*—That the Hon. John Henry Dunn, Receiver General of this Province, be President of this Society. Dr. Henderson seconded this motion, which was put by Dr. Baldwin, and unanimously agreed to.

Motion 3rd.—DR. BURNSIDE *Moved*—That Dr. Baldwin, M. P., Dr. Morrison, Jesse Ketchum, Esq., M. P., James E. Small, Esq., Barrister, and Robert Baldwin, Esq., Barrister, be Vice-Presidents of this Society. Mr. McLellan seconded the motion—carried, nem. con.

Motion 4th.—THE REV. WILLIAM RYERSON rose, and after a very impressive Speech, *Moved*—That Peter Patterson, Esq., Merchant, be Treasurer—the Rev. James Harris, and Alexander Stewart, Secretaries—and Mr. Edward Henderson, Depositor of Books. This motion, having been seconded by Mr. James Armstrong, was carried unanimously.

Motion 5th.—JAMES E. SMALL, Esq., Barrister, after an excellent, appropriate Speech, *Moved*—That the following persons be Members of Committee, until the next General Meeting in February, 1830, and that the Committee may fill the vacancy if any one refuses to act.

Messrs. Abram Wilcox,	Messrs. Colin Drummond,
“ Peter Seacord,	“ Jas. Armstrong,
“ John Ashbridge,	“ Jas. Cockshui,
“ Andrew Johnston,	“ Harvey Shepherd,
“ James Ross,	“ Henry Mosley,
“ George Dennison,	“ Jas. Leslie,
“ John Gamble,	“ John Ross,
“ Josh. Van Allan,	“ Malm. McLellan,
“ Thos. Carfrae, Junr.	“ James Mitchel,
“ Andw. McGlashen,	“ Jas. Armstrong,
“ Wm. Patrick,	“ Thos. Armstrong,
“ Duncan Kennedy,	“ Dr. Burnside,
“ Joseph Wenham,	“ John McFarlane.
“ Jas. S. Howard,	C2.

This motion was seconded by Mr. Peter Paterson and carried—*nem. con.*

Here the Secretary read the Address which accompanies these Rules and Resolutions, for the approbation of the Meeting—after which—

Motion 6th.—JOHN ROLPH, Esq., Barrister, M. P., *Moved*—That the Address now read be adopted as the primary Address of the Society, and be printed and circulated, with the Rules, by the Committee. Mr. Rolph, with his usual eloquence, made a most appropriate, and pathetic Speech, which gratified, and animated the Meeting.

Mr. Mitchel spoke after Mr. Rolph, and seconded the motion, which was carried without opposition.

Motion 7th.—ROBERT BALDWIN, Esq. Barrister, next addressed the Meeting, with much feeling and zeal for the good cause, and with his usual acumen—and *Moved*—That His Excellency, SIR JOHN COLBORNE, K. C. B., Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, &c. &c. &c., be respectfully requested to become Patron of this Society.

This motion was seconded by Mr. Henderson, and carried with applause.

Motion 8th.—THE REV. ALEXANDER STEWART, after a few appropriate remarks, *Moved*—That it be recommended to Ladies, as well as to Gentlemen, in York, and in the country around, to form Associations, in aid of this Society.

Mr. James Cockshut, after a short Speech of commendation of the grand object, seconded the motion, which was carried.

Motion 9th.—THE REV. JAMES HARRIS, after reading a letter from the Rev. John West, and shortly, but pathetically, recommending the measure, *Moved*—That the thanks of the Society be given to the Rev. John West, for his visit to York, and to the Parent Institution for its generous offer of assistance through him. This motion was seconded by Mr. Howard, and carried.

Motion 10th.—MR. SULLIVAN *Moved*, after some appropriate remarks,—That the thanks of the Meeting be

given to the Society of Masons, for the use of their Hall. This motion was seconded by Mr. Ketchum, and carried.

Motion 11th.—JAMES E. SMALL, Esq. Barrister, then *Moved*—That a Subscription be now opened, for forwarding this good cause.

This motion was seconded by Dr. Baldwin, and carried.

Motion 12th.—It was then *Moved* by John Rolph, Esq. Barrister, M. P., and seconded by Robert Baldwin, Esq. Barrister—That the thanks of the Meeting be given to the Hon. J. H. Dunn, for his attentive and polite conduct in the Chair. Carried with applause, after being put by Dr. Baldwin, M. P.

The Hon. Chairman, in that condescending and polite manner, so peculiar to himself acknowledged the honor done to him by the Society.

Motion 13th.—The Hon. John Henry Dunn, *Moved*—Seconded by Dr. Baldwin, the thanks of the Meeting to the Secretary of the Committee for his activity in the cause, which was carried—and after his acknowledgment of the honor done to him, and expressing his determination to continue to exert himself in this cause.

MR. SMALL *Moved*—That Mr. Stewart should conclude the Meeting by Prayer.

After Prayer, a number Subscribed—and to such an amount, that it is evident they feel the importance of the object.

The Meeting lasted from Seven o'clock, till a little past Nine. It is hoped those who attended reckoned it a feast; and the Committee regret that arrangements were not made for giving all the Speeches to the public at full length.

The cause is of God, and is sure to prosper. It is hoped that many of those who have now stood aloof, particularly those who are looked to by others as patterns of all that is good, will soon come forward and shew their good will to this noblest of causes.

We ought not to satisfy ourselves by supporting one good Institution, but, in as far as God has prospered us, we should forward every cause, which has the glory of God, and the good of our Neighbour for its object. Of

all the schemes supported by Christians, the present stands first on the list. In circulating the Bible, we send out the Apostles of Christ to preach—the best Missionaries that ever went out,—and Christ has promised to be with them to the end of the world. *They* speak truth and nothing but the truth. *They* have the *keys* of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Committee appointed to prepare for, and call the General Meeting, have acted according to their best judgment; and invited those whom they thought the best friends of the Institution to take an active part. *They may have erred.* They may have left out some of its best friends, and invited others whose zeal is not so great. If so, they have done it in ignorance—and they know that the real friends of the Institution will manifest their zeal by the next time the Society meets. They merely notice this that none may take offence; assuredly declaring that they wished to avoid giving offence.

They wrote to all the Ministers of Religion in Town, requesting them to intimate the Meeting, and to attend themselves to give a Stimulus to the Meeting.*

* NOTE.—It is hoped that the substance of some of the Speeches will appear in the public prints, and stimulate others to form Societies for forwarding the same laudable purpose.

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Resolutions of the Committee, 10th November, 1823.

That the Town of York and its Neighbourhood, be divided into nine Wards, and that two of the Committee go together as Collectors to each Ward, and call at every house, to request Subscriptions and Donations, and to enquire into the wants of every person as to Bibles. They are to ascertain how much (and at what season) each can give for a Bible or Testament, (the highest, only cost price.) These are to recommend necessitous cases to the Secretaries, and give in their list to the Treasurer. To begin their visits next week.

WARD 1st.—East of Market Square, and south of King Street. to the Don.

Collectors.—Messrs. Mitchel and Cockshut.

WARD 2nd.—West of Market Square, south of King Street, and east of Yonge Street.

Collectors.—Messrs. Jas. R. Armstrong and McLellan.

WARD 3rd.—All west of Yonge Street, and south of King Street, including the Garrison.

Collectors.—Messrs. Henderson and James Armstrong.

WARD 4th.—From Peter Street, to Humber Bay, both sides of Dundas Street.

Collectors.—Messrs. Dennison and Wenham.

WARD 5th.—From Peter Street, east to Yonge Street, north of King Street, excepting McAuly Town.

Collectors.—Messrs. Patrick and Shepherd.

WARD 6th.—McAuly Town, and all north of Dundas Street, on both sides of Yonge Street, to the blue hill Creek.

Collectors.—Messrs. John Ross and F. Armstrong.

WARD 7th.—From Yonge Street, East to Central School Street, north of King Street to the woods.


Collectors.—Messrs. Howard and Kennedy.

WARD 8th.—All east of Central School Street, and north of King Street, to the Don.

Collectors.—Messrs. Carfrae and Mosley.

WARD 9th.—From the Don to Mr. Chas. Small's, both sides of the Road.

Collectors.—Messrs. Van Allen and Ashbridge.

 The Committee respectfully, but earnestly, request **Ministers** of all denominations to form Bible Societies, or Associations.

ALEX. STEWART, SECRETARY.

N. B.—The Treasurer and each of the Secretaries take in Subscriptions at their houses. The above division is published, that none may fear the above named are impostors. Besides each two will have a paper with the number of their Ward on the back, signed by the Secretary.

*Primary Address of the YORK BIBLE SOCIETY, to their
Christian Friends of all denominations.*

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

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

It is the cause of God, therefore we are certain of ultimate success. The Lord has engaged to build up Zion—to raise her ruins—and to make her “a praise in the whole earth.”

He has from the beginning wrought by means, and the great appointed mean of illuminating the world, is the word of God. The labours of the Missionary will be in vain, unless he carries the Scriptures along with him, and *out of them* unfolds the way of life.—These only are able to make the nations wise unto salvation. They only teach the plan of salvation, and exhibit that morality which is pleasing in the sight of Jehovah. In them we have eternal life, because they testify of Jesus. If the Bible has enlightened our minds—purified our hearts—and filled our souls with the hope of eternal life, &c. shall we not exert ourselves to the utmost of our power to convey the same blessing to others? Giving will not impoverish our own souls, and we are only Stewards, under God, of our money. Is it possible for us to love our neighbour and

not endeavour to give him the greatest gift under Heaven? Can we apply our money to forward a better cause? No! There is no cause equal to this! The salvation of property, however valuable, nay even the salvation of the body, is nothing to the salvation of the soul!—Come then, dear friends, let us unite our exertions in the good cause. It is true we must meet with opposition. To suppose the contrary would be to suppose the work we aim at is already accomplished. All who love darkness will oppose the circulation of the Bible. Its light they would extinguish. But the faithful of every denomination are on our side, and the great Jehovah is our Captain. Under his guidance we may march forward—in his power we may trust—not doubting “that our labour shall not be in vain in the Lord.” The puny prudential reasonings of men against the circulation of the word of Jehovah, spring from darkened understandings and vitiated feelings.—They cannot stand one moment before the pure rays of the sun of righteousness, which emanate from the word of God. We need not fear to exhibit our light, for instead of being bedimmed by any other standard of light, it will have the same effect upon them, as the sun has upon the glimmering taper.

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

While this Society thinks the circulation of the word of God the first and great work of the people of God, they by no means despise the laudable, though inferior exertions, in which, many of themselves and others are en-

gaged. Neither do they think any apology necessary for thus addressing their christian friends, as they think the importance of the subject far overbalances every objection that can be made.

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

York, U. C. 3d November, 1828.

