

THE
LETTER-BEARERS FOR 1830

FIFTH REPORT

OF THE

OF THE

Rev. J. McNEILL, D. D.
T. McNEILL, D. D.
K. McNEILL

PICTOU AUXILIARY BIBLE

HUGH DENON, Esq.

SOCIETY.

Rev. JAMES HOBSON,
Mr. JAMES DAWSON

JOHN v. 29. *Search the Scriptures.*

Mr. JAMES DAWSON

W. McNEILL, Esq.
R. McKay, Esq.
J. HARRISON, Esq.
D. GARDNER, Esq.
Mr. JOHN GARDNER

PICTOU:
Mr. JOHN GARDNER,
Mr. JAMES PARKER,
Mr. GEORGE McNEILL,
Mr. JOHN GARDNER

PRINTED AT THE COLONIAL PATRIOT OFFICE.

1830.

OFFICE-BEARERS FOR 1830.

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MR. JAMES PRIMROSE,

MR. GEORGE M'KENZIE,

MR. JOHN GEDDIE.

Minutes of the last Annual Meeting held in the Court House, on Wednesday, the 10th February, 1830.

Rev. Thomas M'Culloch, D. D. in the Chair.

The Meeting was opened with prayer.

The Report was read by Rev. James Robson; the Cash Account also was laid before the Meeting; and the following Resolutions were unanimously passed:—

I. That the Report be adopted, and 400 copies of it printed, under the direction of the Committee.

II. That the statement of the Cash Account which has been presented to this Meeting be adopted.

III. That the warmest gratitude of this Society is due to the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, for their continued attention, and truly christian liberality.

IV. That the Bibles and Testaments obtained for the Sabbath Schools, be put into the general stock of this Society, and be disposed of according to the general rules.

V. That the Committee be authorized to grant such a number of Bibles and Testaments, for sale at reduced prices, or gratuitous distribution, among the inhabitants of Cape Breton, as they shall judge to be expedient.

VI. That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Rev. Mr. Ross, of West River, and to the Rev. Mr. Douglas, of St. Peters, and their Congregations, for their respective contributions.

VII. That this Meeting, deeply lamenting the apathy in the Bible cause, which the state of our funds too plainly indicate to exist in this district, will use additional exertions to increase the amount of contributions.

VIII. That the appointment of the Annual Meeting, as respects time and place, shall be left to the discretion of the Committee.

IX. That the Secretaries be instructed to write to Ministers of the Gospel, within the sphere of this Society's operations, urging upon them the propriety of being punctual in making annual collections in their congregations, for the benefit of its funds.

Concluded with prayer.

Minutes of the last General Meeting held in the Court
House on Wednesday the 10th February, 1830.

Rev. Thomas M. Cullough, D. D. in the Chair.

The Meeting was opened with prayer.
The Report was read by the Secretary; the Cash
Account also was laid on the table, and the following
Resolutions were announced.

REPORT.

The dissemination of the holy scriptures, how long so-ever it may have been prosecuted, can never, while any portion of our race remains unsupplied, lose its interest with genuine Christians. The operations of the British and Foreign Bible Society, accordingly, though continued through the full period of a quarter of a century, have never been, and are not now relaxed. Long after the influence of novelty may be supposed to have expired, this noble Institution still proceeds in its course, and proceeds in it with increasing zeal and energy. For some years past, the pressure of the times has been severely felt, at home, by the middling and the lower classes, from whose contributions the funds of the Society are chiefly supplied. But, notwithstanding this pressure, its treasury has always been adequately furnished, and it has been enabled, from year to year, to send forth an increased number of copies of the sacred volume, and to open up new channels for conveying them to perishing mortals. In these benevolent labours it has already expended upwards of One Million Six Hundred Thousand Pounds sterling. It has put into circulation more than Six Millions of copies of the holy scriptures. It has caused the scriptures to be published in One Hundred and Nine different lan-

guages and dialects, in Sixty-Two of which they had never been previously printed. And under its auspices, new translations have been commenced or completed in Thirty-Six languages and dialects more. So that, when all these versions have been printed and dispersed, it will have been the means of publishing editions of the scriptures in no less than One Hundred and Forty-Five different tongues.

Having accomplished so much, the British and Foreign Bible Society is far from regarding its work as completed. It contemplates still greater things than these; and will not, it is hoped, remit its exertions, till every tribe of the family of Adam be able to read in their own tongue wherein they were born the wonderful works of God. When more prosperous days seem to be dawning upon the British people, when the working classes have the prospect of again enjoying full employment with adequate remuneration, contributions to its funds will probably become more abundant than ever. And when peace is again shedding its benign influences upon some of the most interesting countries of the world, which have been lately filled with the confusions and desolations of war, augmented facilities will be afforded for diffusing more widely the word of life. May it not, therefore, be hoped, that this great Society, will advance with accelerated speed towards the accomplishment of its designs; and that, through the blessing of heaven upon its operations, it will be a powerful means of hastening forward the blessed day, when the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea?

Amidst the magnificent objects which engage the attention of the British and Foreign Bible Society, it ceases not to extend its benevolent regards to its hum-

blest auxiliaries. The Pictou Auxiliary Bible Society has reason to acknowledge and commemorate its paternal care. At our last anniversary, it was resolved to apply to the Parent Institution for a new grant of Bibles and Testaments for general use, and also for a number of copies fit to be put into the hands of children who attend the Sabbath Schools. And both these requests have been promptly complied with. An assortment of 500 Bibles and 400 Testaments has been received, and also 300 Bibles and 700 Testaments for the benefit of the Sabbath Schools. But as we intimated a wish that a part of the Bibles, and the whole of the Testaments, for general use, might, on account of cheapness, be such as were bound in Scotland, these have been purchased for us in Edinburgh, and are consequently charged to our account.

Upon receiving the Bibles and Testaments designed for the Sabbath Schools, it was resolved by the Committee, that they should not be made use of, by those in whose hands they might be placed, except in the Schools. But upon further consideration, and in consequence of circumstances which have since come to light, it would appear that such a method of disposing of them will not be practicable; and that if the books should be given upon such a condition, the condition would not be observed. The Committee, therefore, are now of opinion, that these Bibles and Testaments should be put into our general stock, and be disposed of according to the general rules.

Beside the books obtained from the Parent Society, an order, agreeably also to a resolution at our last anniversary, was sent to Scotland for 50 Bibles and 100 Testaments, bound up with the metrical version of the Psalms; and also for 100 Gaelic Psalm Books;

as books of this description would not, in consistency with its regulations, be obtained from the British and Foreign Bible Society. All these books have also come to hand.

Since our last anniversary, 299 copies of the scriptures have been issued from the depository: 43 of which were French, 34 Gælic, and 222 English. Many of them have been sold for their full value, some at reduced prices, and others have been bestowed gratuitously. There being, in the French settlements, an increasing desire for the establishment of Schools, and in such Schools the New Testament being the principal class book, there is ground for hope that the demand for French copies of the scriptures will be, ere long, considerably augmented.

There are now in the depository 440 copies of the scriptures in the French language, 134 in Gælic, 5 in Hebrew, and 738 in English; beside 298 Bibles and 696 Testaments of the Sabbath School grant, and 100 Gælic Psalm Books, and 50 English Bibles and 100 English Testaments bound up with the metrical version of the Psalms. Having so large a stock on hand, no farther supplies are at present required.

We often hear that, in England, and in the States of America, very particular enquiry is made, how far the population of certain districts are furnished with copies of the holy scriptures; and that, in many instances, the deficiency has been found to be much greater than had been anticipated. Your Committee have repeatedly made such investigations with regard to the town of Pictou and its immediate vicinity, and done what was in their power to supply the wants of the indigent; and they are ready to do so again. And they beg leave to suggest, that ministers in conjunction with their Sessions should institute similar inqui-

ries among the inhabitants of their respective districts, urging such as are able to pay for copies to get themselves supplied, and making application to your depository for copies at reduced prices or gratis for those whose circumstances require it.

It may not be improper here to state, for the information of those who are little acquainted with the operations of Bible Societies, and into whose hands this report may come, the principles upon which the Depository is authorized to dispose of copies of the scriptures. To such as are able to pay for them, they are sold for a sum barely sufficient to cover cost and charges: and surely, none that is able to purchase would wish to obtain them on more reasonable terms. But to such as are not able to pay the full price, the Depository is authorized to sell at prices less or more reduced, according to the circumstances of the purchaser: or even to give them, without money and without price, to persons in absolute indigence. But, in such cases, the circumstances of the applicant must be verified by the Depository's personal knowledge, or by the recommendation of a minister of the Gospel, or some other respectable individual.

In a letter which was received, soon after our last anniversary, from the Rev. Mr. Brandram, one of the Secretaries of the British and Foreign Bible Society, it was requested, that we should endeavour to get a Bible Society established in Prince Edward Island. In consequence of this communication, a correspondence was opened with some gentlemen in that Island. The object aimed at, however, has not yet been gained, though hopes are still cherished that it will be ultimately accomplished.

Your Committee were also desirous to see an in-

crease in the number of Bible Societies in the eastern part of this province; and for this purpose, they opened a correspondence with gentlemen at Antigonish and St. Mary's, and in the Island of Cape Breton. But the means which have been employed, have not been crowned with success. The scarcity of money, and the general poverty of the people, seem to present insurmountable obstacles to our purpose, though individuals are no doubt favourably disposed. A minister of the Gospel in Cape Breton says, "There are not a few who want Bibles, but they cannot pay for them. We had a Bible Society formed four or five years ago; but for want of means it could not be kept in operation. These things grieve me: but I cannot help it. Did you know the state of the country, you would not be surprised that they cannot support a Bible Society. You would rather be surprised that persons should be found living in such unfavourable circumstances. If you would send us any copies of the scriptures, send them gratis." Another correspondent in the same Island says, "There is a great want of the scriptures in this country; but if they must be paid for, a great many must remain without them. I cannot believe that the Parent Society would refuse to the poor inhabitants of Mabou or Lake Ainsley, a copy of the scriptures for the want of cash. I know the sentiments of our Society, and may venture to assert, that the few that are able to pay are very willing. But their numbers are very limited. They would likewise be very willing to communicate with any Society that would lend them aid to the good cause, and would at once join themselves to any institution that would assist them in procuring from the Parent Society, London, any portion of the Word of

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"God, that may be dissiminated gratis. And, from
"what I have seen of their Reports, it appears to
"me they will not deny a copy to any poor creatures
"who anxiously long for it."

It may be here observed that, in the year 1828, the Committee sent to Cape Breton, 6 English and 3 Gælic Bibles; also 11 English, 6 Gælic and 5 French Testaments: And that last year they sent to the same Island, 8 English and 4 Gælic Bibles, and 16 English and 8 Gælic Testaments. But the necessities of the people of Cape Breton being, according to the foregoing statements, so very urgent, it rests with this Meeting to determine whether a more abundant supply should not be forwarded to our correspondents there, for sale, or gratuitous distribution. Our present stock may afford a larger supply; and the benevolence of the Parent Institution forbids us to think that such an appropriation of its bounty would not be approved.

By a circular from the Secretaries of the Parent Society, dated July 1st 1829, it was recommended that measures should be taken for establishing Village Bible Associations; accompanied with suggestions relative to the mode in which such Associations should be constituted and conducted. But the Committee, having taken the matter into consideration, were unanimously of opinion, that such Institutions were not at all suitable to the present circumstances of this part of Nova Scotia.

The state of our funds is not, by any means, so prosperous as could be wished. The amount of subscriptions is only £9 15 9d. From his Excellency Sir Peregrine Maitland £3 has been received as a donation. There has also been a contribution from St. Peter's in Prince Edward Island of £1 10s; and

a collection from West River of £4. 2s. It is much to be regretted that Ministers of the Gospel, in general, within the sphere of this Society's operations, have overlooked its claims upon their respective congregations. Many, no doubt, who do not feel themselves warranted to become subscribers, would rejoice to contribute, according to their ability, were an opportunity given them by means of a congregational collection. And the whole amount of many small contributions would be considerable. It is hoped that our next Report will prove more gratifying. There is now in the hands of the Treasury £26 5 2 1-2d.

The Pictou Auxiliary Bible Society occupies, indeed, a very humble place among Bible Institutions. Our means are small, and our operations feeble. But such considerations should not discourage us. It is in a great measure from Auxiliary Societies and Associations, not a few of which are as inconsiderable as our own, that the Treasury of the Great Parent is so amply replenished. And while we contribute our mite for the furtherance of its object, let us not think that our co-operation is useless. In the immediate sphere of our own operations, also, we may humbly trust that our labours will not be in vain. Who hath despised the day of small things? Every copy of the scriptures that we put in circulation, reveals the unsearchable riches of Christ; and every individual into whose hands it may be conveyed, is capable of prizing, and of possessing them: and there is a promise that "the fruit of an handful of corn upon the top of the mountain shall shake like Lebanon." God also says by the prophet, "As the rain cometh down and the snow from Heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed.

“ to the sower, and bread to the eater; so shall my
 “ word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall
 “ not return unto me void; but it shall accomplish
 “ that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing
 “ whereto I sent it.” Conducting ourselves with
 simplicity and godly sincerity, and supplicating the
 blessing of Heaven upon our operations, we may hope
 to be the honoured instruments of making some of
 our fellow creatures wise unto salvation, of saving
 souls from death, and hiding multitudes of sins.

Catalogue of Books in the Depository.

Hebrew Bibles	- - - - -	£1
Galic do.	- - - - -	6s. 8d., 7s. 6d. and 10s.
Do. Testaments	- - - - -	4s. 6d. and 2s. 6d.
French do.	- - - - -	- - - 2s. 6d.
English Bibles from	- - - - -	16s. 8d. to 4s.
Do. Testaments	- - - - -	4s. 6d. to 1s. 9d.
Galic Psalm Books	- - - - -	2s. 3d. and 2s. 9d.

List of Contributions to Pictou Aux. Bible Society, 1829.

	£	s.	d.
A Friend	-	-	5
Blanchard J. Esq.	-	-	5
Crichton D. Esq.	-	-	5
Campbell John	-	-	2
Cameron D. R.	-	-	2 6
Denoon H. Esq.	-	-	5
Dickson T. Esq.	-	-	5
Dawson Robert	-	-	5
Dawson James	-	-	5
Fraser J. D. B.	-	-	5
Fletcher W. S.	-	-	3
Fraser James	-	-	1
Geddie John	-	-	5
Gordon John	-	-	5
Jamieson John	-	-	2 6
Killer James	-	-	5
Kitchin James	-	-	5
Kitchin William	-	-	2 6
Kitchin J. R.	-	-	1 3
Maitland his Ex. Sir P.	-	3	-
M'ulloch Rev. T. D. D.	-	-	5
M'Kinley Rev. J.	-	-	5
M'Kenzie Rev. K. J.	-	-	5
Mortimer W. Esq.	-	-	5
M'Kay John	-	-	5

M'Kay Alexr.	-	-	0	2	6
M'Kay R. Esq.	-	-		5	
M'Kenzie John	-	-		5	
Patterson A. Esq.	-	-		5	
Patterson Thomas	-	-		2	6
Patterson Matthew	-	-		5	
Patterson John	-	-		5	
Purvis James	-	-		3	
Purvis Mrs.	-	-		2	6
Robson Rev. J.	-	-		5	
Smith G. Esq.	-	-		10	
Sutherland Donald	-	-		2	6
Thompson John	-	-		2	6
Thain Mrs.	-	-		5	
Yorston John	-	-		5	
Pyments received for arrears of last year				1	10 0
			<hr/>		
			£	12	15 3
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The Depository being desirous of completing a file of the British and Foreign Bible Society's Reports, for the use of the Society, will feel thankful to any person who will furnish a copy of the 9th and 17th Numbers.

M'Kenzie Rev. J.
M'Kenzie Rev. K. J.
M'Kenzie W. Esq.
M'Kay John

Cash Account from February 7th, 1829, to 11th February 1830.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Cash for Printing Report		5	0	0	By Cash in hand		
For Books imported from Edinburgh	83	18	10	For Books sold by Rev. Mr. M'Gregor P. E. I.	15	13	9
For Postages	1	5	10-1-2	From St. Peter's per Rev.	1	10	0
Paid Printer Advertising	1	1	0	Mr. Douglas	3	0	0
For Blank books & stationery	1	0	0	From his Ex. Sir P. Milnand	0	9	4
Paid Depository for Freight, and Incidental Charges on Books.	4	17	5	For books sold by Rev. J. Mitchell	4	2	0
In hand	26	5	8-1-2	From West River per Rev. Mr. Ross	9	15	3
				From Subscribers	35	5	6
				From Depository for Books sold	0	10	6
				For books sold by Rev. Mr M' Rae	2	15	0
				From East River per Dr. M'Gregor			
	£73	8	10		£73	8	10

We have examined the above account, and find it correct and satisfactory.

JOHN YORSTON,
JAMES PRIMROSE.

February, 1830.

