

BRITISH AMERICAN BOOK AND TRACT SOCIETY.

In accordance with a request received, we have made an abridgement of the report of the annual meeting of this institution, given in the *Citizen*:

The Second Anniversary Prayer Meeting in connection with the Society, was held in Grafton Street Church on Monday evening Feb. 21st, the Rev. G. W. Hill, one of the Vice-Presidents, occupied the chair. The meeting was opened with devotional exercises, the chairman congratulated the Society on the success of its operations and concluded by introducing the Rev. Mr. McBean, Secretary for the Society, who read the Report.

The receipts for the year were \$14,583, being an increase over the amount of the preceding year of \$8,270, about \$5000 more than the united receipts of this Society, and the Depository on Barrington Street for the same year. The total expenditures have been \$14,363. Under statistics of Colportage the following interesting particulars are given. The number of Colporteurs employed is 6; time-employed 49 months, total sale by ditto \$3,155. Gratuitously circulated by ditto \$255. They have held 250 Prayer Meetings, and found families destitute of religious books to the number of 57, destitute of the bible 71 families. Roman Catholic families visited 946, the number of Protestant families neglecting religious ordinances, visited 130, number of families conversed with on personal religion and prayed with; 5,543. Total of families visited 11,226.

There have been distributed by sale and grant over 50,000 volumes—including 3261 bibles, 1882 testaments, 4026 of the "Pilgrims Progress," 3250 of "The Annals of the Poor," 674 "God's way of Peace" 828 copies of "Anxious Inquirer," "Baxter's Call" and "Allein's Alarm," 297 copies of "Saints Rest" 406 copies of "Come to Jesus," 350 copies of "Call to Prayer" and 144 copies of the "Way of Life." Besides these, 115,000 Periodicals have been circulated, including over 10,000 given away gratuitously, with 1,000,000 pages of tracts which have been sown broadcast over the land. One cause given of the Society's success is its unsectarian character. So careful are the Directors of this Institution, that no tracts on controverted points are distributed, and everything tending to stir up prejudices rigidly excluded. The Society are anxious—seeing the good resulting from having Colporteurs in the field—to augment the number now employed and for that purpose they offer great inducements. "For every \$200 in donations or contributed to the Society, the committee will employ and sustain a Colporteur for the period of twelve months in this or any of the adjoining Provinces." And in this connection we may state that this Province is not alone in receiving benefit from this Society, but the adjoining Provinces have to some extent been benefited also. The Report was an able one, and the committee have reasons to feel grateful at the results. Much credit is due to the talented Secretary for the zeal and ability which has characterized his management. After the reading of the Report D. Blackwood, Esq., moved the following Resolution, which which was seconded by Ald. Montgomery:—

Resolved,—That the Annual Report, an abstract of which has now been read, be published under the direction of the Executive Committee and that devout thanks be rendered to God for the Divine favor in prospering and enlarging the operations of the Society, and for the crowning blessing of souls saved through its instrumentality.

The next resolution was proposed by the Hon. S. L. Shannon, and seconded by the Rev. Mr. Simpson, and was to the following effect:—
Resolved,—That Union Missionary Colporteur combining the personal, prayerful efforts of christian men in seeking to win souls to Christ and the distribution of religious books and tracts of an evangelical character, is an important auxiliary in promoting the cause of the Gospel, especially among the more destitute of our population.

On motion of T. F. Knight, seconded by D. H. Starr, the following gentlemen were appointed office-bearers for the ensuing year.

President:

Hon. M. B. Almon.

Vice-Presidents:

Rev. G. S. Milligan, Rev. G. W. Hill,
Rev. J. E. Goucher, Rev. John Forrest.

Treasurer:

George H. Starr.

Auditors:

R. N. Beckwith, Joseph Bell.

Directors:

Rev. F. Almon, W. Montgomery.
Rev. E. M. Saunders, Hon. Dr. Parker,
Rev. A. Simpson, D. Simpson,
Rev. R. Murray, T. F. Knight,
Rev. J. A. Clarke, W. B. McNutt,
W. S. Stirling, W. Roche, Junr.,
J. S. Maclean, J. Grierson,
T. A. Brown, H. N. Paint,
A. K. Doull, E. Binney, Esq.,
D. H. Starr, W. H. Wiewell, Esq.

Devotional exercises were engaged in at intervals, a collection was taken and the meeting was closed by the pronouncing of the Benediction by the Chairman.

There is no note in the harp of Gabriel more welcome to Jehovah than the cry of a penitent for mercy, or the supplications of a child of grace.

Come to God for what no one else can give you, or do for you; plead his promise, and expect his aid; so you honor him. You can not trust man too little nor God too much.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

OTTAWA CORRESPONDENCE.

In consequence of the delay in the steamer from Portland. The following letter which should have appeared in our last issue was not received till after we had gone to press last week. Although somewhat late, yet it gives a sketch of things in the Dominion Parliament which will interest our readers, and show them something of the position of parties.

OTTAWA, Feb. 22nd, 1870.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

It is a week to-day, since Parliament opened. The address in answer to the Speech, has not yet passed the Commons. The debates are spicy, and highly interesting. Symptoms of discord and disaffection in the ministerial ranks appear. Sir A. T. Galt has openly declared his hostility to the existing government, and his determination to assist in overthrowing it. Cartright, Bowen, and Jones have made similar declarations. Sir F. Hinck's appointment to the office of Finance Minister is the principal reason given by these gentlemen for their hostility. McKenzie and Mr. Blake are the principal spokesmen of the opposition thus far.

McDougal sits on one of the front opposition benches, and has spoken several times defending himself, and assailing Mr. Howe, and Mr. Langevin as is supposed, without directly naming him.

Sir John A. McDonald has addressed the House several times, explanatory of his policy, and of the new *personnelle* of his government.

Senator Aikin's acceptance of office has been sharply criticised by the Reformers, his former political friends as the breach of a compact entered into, in the formation of the coalition government, on which they say Ontario was guaranteed three out of five seats, accorded to that Province, which is now represented by himself alone, unless Hinck's is to be considered a Reformer, which they deny. Aikin's contents that he had McDougall's consent to the act. McDougall flatly denies the statement.

Sir John says that when Geo. Brown retired from the Council, Howland took his place and that he had Howland's authority for the change of three to two, and the introduction of a conservative to fill a vacancy existing.

The Secretary of State for the provinces, defends his conduct while at Red River, and denies that he in any way prompted the population to revolt. Blake maintains that from his own showing his acts implicate him as the cause of the trouble there.

Dr. Tupper, reviewed Sir A. T. Galt's political career, and declared that the government were well rid of such a supporter. That his support was a source of weakness to the ministry hereafter be reversed. That he resisted in building and strength to the opposition which will up Confederation, and is now seeking to pull the fabric down by his disloyal utterances in reference to Independence, which was a mere pretext and stepping stone to Annexation.

Galt repelled the attack, and explained that so far from his views on Independence being regarded in that light by Her Majesty's Government, that before he accepted the recent honor of knighthood conferred upon him feeling it to be his duty to explain his views fully and in writing to the Governor General. He also submitted them to Lord Granville. Her Majesty's government fully aware of his sentiments, conferred upon him the honor. He therefore, now re-affirmed his views, that confederation was only a system of training for the farther development, to follow at some future time, not to pave the way for Annexation, as alleged, but to prevent Annexation.

Cartier read a correspondence with Galt, on the subject of the vacancy caused by Rose's retirement from the office of Finance Minister, on which reference is made to his (Galt's) views on the subject of Independence. Cartier replied that the ministry knew Galt's opinions in part, and desired to protect themselves against the supposition that the ministry held these, or like views in common with him, should he accept the seat tendered. This furnished Galt with the opportunity for the full explanations above related, and with which he defended himself against Tupper.

But little room remains for doubt, that the coalition organization is rapidly dissolving, and that the next appeal to the constituencies of the Dominion, will be one upon party grounds.

Galt characterizes the administration thus far, as a failure. Nothing accomplished, he says, towards extending the jurisdiction of Confederation since 1867. Neither P. E. Island, nor Newfoundland brought in, nor yet the North-

west, Nova Scotia but partially propitiated, &c. &c.

McKenzie maintains that all the success that has attended Confederation is in spite of mal-administration.

Ministerialists declare that every thing that could reasonably be hoped for, has been accomplished, and that the lapse of time under the existing policy, will prove that entire success is certain, and may be confidently anticipated.—
Com.

For the Christian Messenger.

HOME MANUFACTURES.

STARCH FROM POTATOES.

Mr. Editor,—We have heard a great deal said about hard times of late and there is much of truth in it, but in great measure it is the people's own fault. If persons were more enterprising and persevering, we should see very different results from what we now behold. Why cannot we have manufactures of some kind established in every township in the Province?

True we have some, I wish to speak in particular now of one kind that would benefit the farmer, more than any other class of persons, I mean establishments for making Starch from potatoes. No such thing exists in Nova Scotia. I have no doubt it would be a profitable investment of money. Here is what the *American Agriculturist* says about Starch factories.

"In Northern New Hampshire, remote from rail-roads and markets starch-making is profitable. Thereabouts there are said to be forty Starch factories each turning out fifty tons a year of prime Starch worth one hundred and fifty dollars a ton. A half million bushels of potatoes make two thousand tons of Starch, which sells for about \$300,000. Thus the community realize 60 cents per Bushel for their potatoes. The farmers' share is of course much less in cash but he is benefited by having the manufactures going on in his vicinity."

Now if this is so profitable a business in New Hampshire it surely would be more so here. In the first place they pay 20 or 30 per cents more for labour than we do. In the next place they have to export all of their surplus Starch, admitting they ship it to us (which they do in considerable quantities) their would be the expense of shipment, insurance, commissions &c., and when it arrives at any of our ports of entry they have to pay forty dollars per ton duty which is our tariff on the article. Now if we had Starch-factories here we would have this advantage over the American shipper. We would save all the expense of shipment and duty which would be quite an item on every ton, again potatoes are higher there than with us, they seldom get their potatoes at less than 50 or 60 cents per Bushel. Here they can get them by the thousands of bushels in Kings County for 20 or 25 cents: True they are cheaper this year than usual; but admitting we had to pay 40 cents for them, establishments would do well here at that, and farmers would get a good compensation for their potatoes.

Another advantage to the farmer is that small ones answer as well as large for starch. There is plenty of wealth and I presume enterprise in Horton and Cornwallis, to have a number of factories started at once. I speak of these places because they are the greatest potatoe raising townships in the Province. Kings County has now large quantities of potatoes on hand, and they are almost a drug, and they can raise potatoes easier than they can in New Hampshire, and enough to keep forty or fifty factories in operation.

It would insure for the farmer a good market for all time to come if they had factories established in these townships. I do not know at present what quantity is shipped out of Kings County, but a few years ago upwards of eight hundred thousand bushels yearly went to the States. Now if the Nova Scotians do not establish Starch factories in the potato producing districts I should like to know where they expect to find a market for their potatoes. They cannot ship them to the States with profit, the enormous duty they would have to pay (25 cents per bushels in gold) and the day is far distant when we shall yet Reciprocity with the United States on as favourable terms as we had a few years ago. Why cannot Kings County get up factories at once and they can do it as well as in New Hampshire. Indeed the latter place is not to be compared to the former as a farming district. I have traveled in both places. I cannot conceive why we do not have the energy and perseverance that the Americans have. Many of our forefathers came from them; surely there is nothing in the soil, climate, or government, that need make any difference. Let companies be formed amongst the people. I presume, there are no persons acquainted with the working of Starch-factories here but that need not stop the work.

Plenty of men can be obtained from the States well acquainted with the business. Give them a share in the concern. The machinery could all be made here.

The factory could be carried by steam or water power.

We are now paying a large sum of money yearly for Starch that is all imported. It all could be made here and a large quantity besides for exportation. "A penny saved is as good as a penny earned."

If we can save that large sum of money that is sent out yearly from amongst us for an article that could as well be made here and far cheaper than in the U. States; if we can give employment to hundreds of men at the starch-factories besides numbers that would be wanted to make and repair machinery and others that would be needed to make boxes, it would be an incalculable benefit to Nova Scotia.

I feel it stated in the papers that the Society for encouraging Home Manufactures here sent an agent on that business through the country. He has my best wishes for his success.

PLAIN FARMER.

Hants County, Feb. 19th, 1870.

THE MEMORIAL OF THE N. S. TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

At the Annual Session of the Provincial Teachers' Association held at the close of last year in the Lecture Room of Dalhousie College, it was resolved, that a Memorial be presented to the Legislature on its assembling in Parliament.

The following is a copy of the Memorial introduced on Wednesday last, by M. B. Desbrisay, Esq., but which was not allowed to be read.

To the Honorable the House of Assembly of Her Majesty's Province of Nova Scotia, in Session convened.

THE MEMORIAL OF THE EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA:

HUMBLY SHEWETH,—1. That your Memorialists view with alarm and indignation the recent adoption of an Educational policy in this Province, which, if persevered in, must ultimately destroy our present excellent School System, by making Education the prey of sectarian and political partisanship. Your Memorialists are convinced that the introduction of a political and sectarian element into the administration of Educational affairs is wrong in principle, and undermines the very foundation of a system of Public Education, which must command the confidence and cordial support of the people, irrespective of party. Your Memorialists emphatically declare that party politics and ecclesiastical dictation should not in any way be allowed to interfere with the cause of Education, and that Educational interests should not be sacrificed to sectarian or political considerations in the dismissal or appointment of Superintendent, Inspectors, or other educational officers. And your Memorialists cannot but characterize the repeated disregard of this vital principle, lately evinced by the existing Administration, as reprehensible tampering with the most sacred interests of the people of this Province. They, therefore, respectfully pray your Honorable House to take such measures as may in your wisdom seem necessary, effectually to check such ruinous policy, and adequately protect our Educational system from the future intrusion of political and sectarian elements.

2. Your Memorialists acknowledge with sincere gratitude that the present System has in nothing been more beneficial than in its tendency to promote stability in educational arrangements. They believe however, that further progress in the same direction is requisite and attainable. Much may be done by legislative enactment and the distribution of Government aid to encourage teachers to remain in the Profession. There cannot be a doubt that the services of trained and experienced Teachers and Inspectors are much more valuable to the people than those of young and inexperienced persons, who can only learn at the expense of the physical, intellectual and moral welfare to their pupils.

3. Your Memorialists have always been in favour of an efficient system of Inspection, which is capable of conferring important benefits on the cause of Education, both by improving the methods of instruction and elevating the status of the Teacher. The qualifications of a well-educated and skilful Teacher are the very qualifications required in an Inspector, whose business is not only to observe excellencies and defects, but to show how difficulties may be surmounted, and also to aid by sympathy and counsel. The Education Act specifies that in Inspectors are to be appointed on the recommendation of the Superintendent of Education, who is in the best position to make a judicious selection from the Teaching profession. Your Memorialists therefore occupy strong ground when they ask that Inspectors should be selected, as far as possible, from the ranks of the teaching profession, or from those who have had practical experience in teaching. The frequent adoption hitherto of a different course in the selection of Inspectors, seems to your Memorialists notably at variance with justice and common sense, but also partaking largely of an insult to the profession, and a mockery of the office.

4. Your Memorialists are of opinion that the tenure of office by which most Educational appointments are at present held, is neither defensible in theory nor beneficial in practice. The bad practice under the old law has been too gene-