

FIRST REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE

OF THE

STONEHOUSE

AUXILIARY BIBLE SOCIETY;

WITH THE

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

AND A

LIST OF THE SUBSCRIBERS.

1815.

HADDINGTON:

PRINTED BY G. MILLER AND SON.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

I. THE Society shall be denominated, "The STONEHOUSE BIBLE SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL;" and its object shall be to assist the *British and Foreign Bible Society*, and otherwise afford aid to Missionary exertions.

II. Every individual Subscribing One Halfpenny per Week, or Sixpence per Quarter, shall be a Member of this Society.

III. A Donation of One Guinea or upwards, shall constitute the Donor a Member for life.

IV. The business of the Society shall be conducted by a President, a Treasurer, a Secretary, and a Committee consisting of Twelve other Members—any Seven of this Committee to be a Quorum.

V. The Committee shall meet once every Quarter; viz. upon the third Tuesday's of March, June, September and December, or oftener as they may find necessary.

VI. A General Meeting of the Subscribers shall be held at Stonehouse upon the third Tuesday of June, yearly, when the Accounts shall be presented, the proceedings of the past year stated, and a new Committee formed.

VII. In the formation of the new Committee, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and such three-fourths of the other Members as have most frequently attended the meetings of the Committee, shall be eligible for conducting the business of the ensuing year.

OFFICE-BEARERS AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE.

The Rev. WILLIAM TAYLOR, *President.*
Rev. DANIEL WILKIE, *Secretary.*
Mr. SCOTT, *Treasurer.*

Committee.

Messrs. JAMES HAMILTON.	Messrs. JOHN COOPER.
JOHN SCOTT.	THOMAS WALKER.
THOMAS MILLER.	GEORGE HAMILTON.
WILLIAM CRAIG.	JAMES WALKER.
JOHN CRAIG.	ROBERT LEIPER.
THOMAS WHYTE.	ANDW. HAMILTON.

*State of the Funds at the Quarterly Meeting of the Society
in March, 1815.*

RECEIVED since the commence- ment of the Society, in Subscrip- tions and Donations.....	£19	1	1½
Paid to the British and Foreign Bible Society, through the Auxiliary So- ciety, for the middle ward at Ha- milton.....	£24	10	0
To the Baptist Mission in India.....	10	10	0
To the Religious Tract Society of Edinburgh, for which One Guinea's worth of Tracts was received.....	3	3	0
Books for the use of the Society.....	0	10	0
		<u>38</u>	<u>13 0</u>
Balance on hand.....	£10	8	1½

FIRST REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE

OF THE

Stonehouse Auxiliary Bible Society.

IN the Report of an Auxiliary Society such as this, it is not to be expected that any very interesting matter can be introduced, particularly flowing from its own individual exertions. But without confining ourselves to a statement merely of the sums collected, and how they have been expended, perhaps it may tend to recommend our Institution to the attention of some by whom it has hitherto been overlooked, shortly to state the nature and object of such Societies, the exertions which have already been made, and the hopes entertained of future success.

No man who has become interested in the Salvation of Christ, and has experienced the power of Religion upon his own soul, can remain callous and indifferent to the temporal and eternal welfare of his brethren of mankind; he must, and will be anxious, above every other thing in the world, to bring others to the knowledge of that religion, which is the source of all his happiness here and hopes hereafter. Hence it has ever been the earnest desire and prayer to God of the Church, that his kingdom might come, and his will be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Within our own time, however, the attention of good men, in this country at least, has been more particularly

particularly directed to this important object. Missionary Societies upon a much wider scale than any then existing amongst us, were about 20 years ago set on foot by the friends of religion, and many regions lately lying under spiritual darkness and idolatry, are now, through their exertions, under the blessing of God, rejoicing in the light of the glorious gospel.

To have the Scriptures of Truth, or important parts of them, translated into the different languages of the nations amongst whom our Missionaries were extending their influence, was soon found to be highly necessary, and that without this, owing to the small number of labourers in the vineyard, and the dangers to which they were exposed from the climate and other causes, no permanent or extensive footing could be established in any quarter. Translations of the Scriptures were therefore immediately begun, and the attention of Christians being directed to this object, a much greater deficiency of the Word of Life than had ever been suspected, was found to exist even in this land of light, and much more on the Continent of Europe. Contemplating these things, a Society was formed in London, styling themselves "The British and Foreign Bible Society," united under the benevolent object of distributing this Sacred Book, without note or comment, throughout the world, that all nations might have the Scriptures speaking to them in their own tongue and language. Than this, no plan could be more simple, more grand, more calculated to unite men of all Christian sects and denominations, or more likely to have the countenance of the great Head of the Church, without whose blessing, all our feeble labours and endeavours will ever be ineffectual. This Society has now existed above Twelve years, and its success and exertions have been beyond all expectation. Multitudes of every different sect are found advocates in its cause and zealous in its support, with one heart and one mind. Many of the Royal Family have taken the lead, and, from the prince
to

to the peasant, numbers are every where united in the glorious cause. The most distant parts of the kingdom have now caught the flame, and Societies united under the parent Institution, or with the same grand object in view, are daily increasing, so that, by the last Report, many hundreds are already existing and flourishing in the united Kingdom alone. But this, however flattering, is but a part of what is doing in the same cause, by the example, advice and assistance, of the friends of the Bible in this country. Societies upon the same plan have been instituted, we may say, in every quarter of the globe. Even the Catholics upon the Continent, so long deluded in the Antichristian error, by which the great body of the laity are denied the use of that Book, which is alone able to make them wise unto salvation, have had their eyes opened to see their folly, and numbers belonging to that body are now standing forward in the ranks of those, whose grand object is to distribute to the world unadulterated, the Word and Bread of Life. In the Eastern or Greek Church likewise, the zeal of good men has, perhaps, been still more strikingly conspicuous; and throughout the vast empire of Russia, numerous Societies, with the Emperor at their head, have been formed; editions of the Scriptures, in the different languages of these regions, printed; and men of all ranks uniting in the glorious cause: so that every new communication from that quarter brings the pleasing intelligence, of great additional exertions being made to convey the pure light of the Gospel to these dark places of the earth.

Throughout our own dominions abroad, the disciples of JESUS have not been idle, and there is perhaps not one Settlement of any note belonging to this country, where something, more or less, has not been effected. Numerous societies are already formed and daily increasing in our dominions, both in the east and west, and much has been done by the co-operation and encouragement of the parent Institution. In short,

short, the time appears fast approaching, when in every region where the name of JESUS is known, his disciples will join heart and hand in this most effectual and unexceptionable way of promoting his cause. And whilst we view and acknowledge with adoring humility and gratitude, the hand of God in all that has been done, is it not pleasing to a Briton, treading this soil of civil and religious liberty, to see all these benign rays of genuine christian benevolence, emanating from our highly favoured land as their source and centre?

Having thus hinted at the happy effects produced by the exertions and example of our Bible Societies, in stirring up the Christian world to unite in this important object, we may very briefly notice some of the more immediate fruits of their labours. In this country, besides the common version, numerous editions of the Scriptures have been published in the languages still in use amongst many of our fellow-subjects; viz. in the Gaelic, Welsh, Irish, and Manx tongues. Without which exertions, thousands, acquainted only with these dialects, would probably have remained as ignorant as those sitting in the regions of darkness. In our dominions in the East, the word of God has already been translated, in whole or in part, into more than thirty different languages. The Scriptures in our own land have been largely and liberally distributed wherever proper opportunities occurred: To the poor in general where needed,—to the different prisons,—to the many prisoners of war in captivity amongst us, living in ignorance and sin, to whom the word of God has often been a welcome visitor,—to the different public charitable institutions and hospitals,—to soldiers and sailors in this country and abroad,—to catholics in Ireland,—to the numerous Sunday schools and others throughout the land,—to ministers in the Highlands, for the use of their Gaelic parishioners. Add to all this, a liberal supply to our colonies abroad for the use of the slaves, and immense sums expended in publishing the Scriptures on the continent
of

of Europe in above thirty different tongues. In short, it would take volumes to state, in the most concise way possible, the exertions which have been made in this channel for the cause of Truth; and happy he, who, in contemplating these things, can indulge the pleasing reflection, that he has been enabled and inclined, from love to God and his cause, to unite in some degree his small drop in this mighty stream, flowing with pure and disinterested charity to the whole human race. The facts which we have now stated, without any laboured comment, are surely much more than sufficient to stir up every Christian to exert himself, and unite in this glorious cause. It is the cause of God!—we have the Almighty on our side, and it will prevail.

About a year and a half ago, a Society was formed in this place, to co-operate with our christian brethren throughout the world in the same grand object, and we have no doubt, that every decided and enlightened disciple of JESUS amongst us, will cheerfully come forward with his mite and countenance, to further that which must be the subject of his daily prayers at a throne of grace. It will be seen by the subjoined report of the state of our Funds, that considerable exertions have already been made; but we still look forward to more extensive co-operation, when the subject is more generally known and noticed in our neighbourhood. One *halfpenny* per week, constitutes an individual a member of the Society; and dare any of us, whilst God is continuing health and strength, abundant harvests, and sufficient employment for all classes amongst us, refuse to lend this small pittance to the Lord, as a grateful return for the many talents, spiritual and temporal, which he hath poured into our lot? None of us could refuse to help a dying brother or sister, pining with want, and crying for bread at our door, and shall we turn a deaf ear, or present an unfeeling heart, to the lamentable complaints which we hear from every quarter ^{of} our

our fellow men, bone of our bone, and flesh of our flesh, perishing for lack of Gospel food? Let us rather imitate the example of our Divine Master, who became poor that he might make many rich; who esteemed it more blessed to give than to receive; and instead of being backward in the cause, or behind our Christian brethren around us, let us rather rejoice in an opportunity of becoming the honoured instruments in the hand of God, of relieving the most distressing of all poverty; feeding indeed the hungry, giving joy to the mourners, light to those that are in darkness, eyes to the blind, liberty to the captives, and to the dead in trespasses and sin, eternal life with God in the heavens.

In this parish, we have already distributed to the aged, a considerable number of Bibles and Testaments upon a large and clear type, to whom they have been most acceptable presents. These were received from the *Hamilton Society*, and we have still a supply on hand to answer any proper application which may be made for them in our neighbourhood. We have now only to request that all will give the subject of our Society a patient consideration, before they come to the dangerous determination of refusing their countenance and support. From some amongst us we cannot expect regular pecuniary aid, but let these be the more earnest and frequent at a throne of grace, imploring a blessing upon such labours of love, and let all of us, in the language and spirit of the prophet, "stand as watchmen on Zion, and never hold our peace, day or night, till the Lord make Jerusalem a praise in the earth."

STONEHOUSE, *March*, 1815.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| REV. W. Taylor | James Weir |
| ✓ Rev. D. Wilkie | Andrew Thomson |
| Mrs. Wilkie | John Miller |
| ✓ Archibald Keir | Susan Curr |
| ✓ John Craig | Isabel Hamilton |
| ✓ Thomas Whyte | Alexander Hamilton |
| ✓ Thomas Miller | James Hamilton |
| Alexander Haddow | Andrew Hamilton |
| ✓ Thomas Scott | John Hamilton |
| Thomas Scott, junior | James Mickle |
| ✓ Thomas Scott, West-Mains | ✓ Thomas Fleming |
| ✓ John Cooper | John Scott |
| John Miller | ✓ Alexander Young |
| Andrew Thomson | William Stewart |
| James Thomson | James Thomson |
| ✓ Robert Russel | George Riddel |
| William M'Gowan | John Hamilton |
| ✓ James Hamilton | ✓ Thomas Alston |
| ✓ William Shearer | John Alston |
| John Train | William Craig |
| ✓ William Wilson | John Letham |
| Andrew Baxter | Thomas Russel |
| John Muter | James Mather |
| John Gray | Janet Hamilton |
| Thomas Weir | Euphan Shearer |
| ✓ William Hamilton | Robert Wilson |
| ✓ Robert Somerville | Robert Mather |
| James Hamilton | John Jackson |
| ✓ Gavin Hamilton | Mrs. Craig |
| John Hamilton | ✓ David Whyte |
| John Thomson | ✓ Adam Gibson |
| ✓ Margaret Millar | John Millar |
| Mary Miller | James Allison |
| ✓ James Craig | John Wilson |
| James Whitelaw | Richard Hall |
| James Watson | James Wilson |
| William Hamilton, senior | Matthew Thomson |
| Archibald Paterson | Robert Paterson |
| George Anderson | Elizabeth Wiseman |
| ✓ Archibald Miller | Robert Hamilton |
| William Gray | Thomas Brown |
| ✓ Adam Fleming | William Craig |
| William Wardrop | Robert Dunlop |
| ✓ Archibald Ingram | John Fellow |
| ✓ Thomas Walker | John Paterson |
| ✓ Thomas Hamilton | Samuel Barr |
| ✓ Robert Howison | William Stewart |

Matthew Thomson, junior	Margaret Law
William Frew	Elizabeth Nicol
Archibald M'Cog	James Curr
Robert Craig	Thomas Duncan
Gavin Lawrie	✓ John Stewart
George Hamilton	✓ James Stobbo
Alexander Naesmith	Alexander Stobbo
James Cochrane	Robert Leiper
William Wilson	Lillias Scott
James Neilson	John Muter
Thomas Aiton	✓ Archibald Cooper
William Sandilands	William Shearer
Andrew Hamilton	Gavin Miller
James Hamilton	Hugh Colquhoun
Marion Hamilton	Gavin Brown, jun.
George Blythe	James Hamilton
Andrew Jack	Helen Naesmith
James Humble	John Crow
✓ Robert Yuille	William Waddel
Margaret Hamilton	Marion M'Dugald
✓ Helen Kirkland	✓ Marion Dykes
Gavin Lawrie	Archibald Stark
George Ritchie	Jean Hamilton
William Cleland	Janet Ritchie
Archibald Sinclair	Allan Frame
William Hamilton	William Thomson
Andrew Hamilton	James Paterson
James Jamieson	John Millar
✓ John Duncan	Alexander Govan
Andrew Paterson	Sarah Jackson
✓ George Peat	Robert Henderson
James Lawson	Alexander Gibb
James Walker	John Cochrane
Agnes Slater	Andrew Hill
Andrew Shearer	John Torrance
Thomas Burns	Robert Thomson
Thomas Wilson	Mrs. Mackay
✓ George Meikle	Daniel Neil
Gavin Brown	Ann Hogg
James Walker, senior	David Millar
John Stewart	James Meikle
James Millar	Andrew Thomson, surgeon
William Renwick	William Lawrie
John Walker	James Frame
James Muter	Hugh Sandilands
✓ Michael Curr	Robert Stobbo.