

Ann 218

REPORT

OF THE

ABERDEEN ASSOCIATION

1898.



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1898.

THE ABERDEEN ASSOCIATION.

FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF GOOD LITERATURE TO
SETTLERS IN CANADA.



Patron :

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

President :

HER EXCELLENCY THE COUNTESS OF ABERDEEN.
Government House, Ottawa.

**President of the Branch in Great Britain
and Ireland :**

THE MARCHIONESS OF DUFFERIN AND AVA.
Clandeboye, Ireland.

Vice-Presidents :

LADY TAYLOR,
Chessels Croft, Fort Rouge, Winnipeg.

HON. MRS. MONTGOMERY MOORE,
Bellevue, Halifax.

Organizing Secretary in Great Britain :

MRS. GORDON OF ELLON.
Office of the Aberdeen Association, Imperial Institute, London.

Treasurer :

MR. FRED. WHITE,
Ottawa.

Recording Secretary :

MR. J. HERBERT LARMONTE,
Ottawa.

Corresponding Secretary :

MR. C. F. WHITLEY,
Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

OBJECTS AND CONSTITUTION OF THE ABERDEEN ASSOCIATION.

OBJECT.

The object of the Association shall be to collect good and attractive periodicals and other literature, and to distribute it in monthly parcels to settlers who apply for it from outlying parts of Canada.

CONSTITUTION.

The Association shall be governed by a Central Committee composed of the elected officers and the President and one delegate from each Branch duly constituted and affiliated.

The duties of the Central Committee shall be to supervise the work of all the Branches, to keep lists of those receiving literature, so that no over-lapping shall occur, to receive literature sent from Great Britain and elsewhere, to distribute it to the various Branches and to provide for the extension of the work of the Association.

RULES.

1. The Association shall be known as the "Aberdeen Association," and each Branch shall add the name of the town in which it is situated.
 2. A supply of reading matter shall be sent to each applicant monthly, except during June, July and August. In these months Branches will act according to their knowledge of circumstances.
 3. The Association shall be undenominational and shall rigidly avoid any semblance of religious or political bias, and shall send out such literature as shall suit the religion and as far as possible the tastes of the readers.
 4. There shall be an annual meeting of the Association to be held during the meeting of the Women's Council to which the Central Board and the Local Branches shall make their reports, and if any representative of a Branch is unable to be present the Branch shall elect a substitute.
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LIST OF QUESTIONS SENT TO EACH APPLICANT FOR LITERATURE IN ORDER THAT EVERY RECIPIENT MAY RECEIVE SUITABLE PARCELS AND SUCH RELIGIOUS PAPERS AS HE MAY WISH.

What is your nationality ?

To what church do you belong ?

Are you married or single. If married, how many are there in the family ?

If children, state ages.

Do you receive any papers from other sources ?

Are there any persons in your neighbourhood receiving literature from the Aberdeen Association ?

Can you pass on the literature to any neighbours ?

ACCOUNT OF THE FORMATION AND GROWTH OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The idea of the Association first took shape at a meeting of the ladies convened to meet the Countess of Aberdeen at Winnipeg on October 19th, 1890, after a trip which Lord and Lady Aberdeen had made to Southern Manitoba. The bare and cheerless aspect of many of the homes on the prairie, the dearth of reading matter everywhere apparent, and the consequent hardship endured, especially by settlers who have had a good education, were discussed. It was pointed out that in many districts schools are often inaccessible during the winter months, and the children are therefore entirely dependent on their parents for means of education and recreation. These are very difficult to provide. The extremely isolated position of bachelor settlers, ranchers, miners and lumbermen was also brought under notice, and plans were considered whereby periodicals and other literature might be collected and sent out every month to such settlers as were not in a position to provide it for themselves.

The result of this meeting was the formation of the parent branch of the Association on November 12th, 1890, at the Clarendon Hotel, Winnipeg, when a number of ladies undertook to carry on this work under the leadership of Lady Taylor, wife of the Chief Justice of Manitoba.

The Association has at the present time fourteen branches in Canada. There is a central office in Ottawa for receiving books and general literature from Great Britain and for distributing to the several Canadian branches. In Great Britain there are branches at London, Glasgow and Liverpool.

At the outset of its work the Association found the expense of postage a very serious item to meet, even with the help of generous subscriptions from friends. It could scarcely have reached its present stage of development had it not been able to secure a kindly and favorable consideration from the Postmaster-General. The thanks of the Association are due to the Post Office authorities, to the Dominion and Allan lines of steamers, Canadian Pacific, Intercolonial and Canada Atlantic Railways, for free transportation, and also to the English railways for half rates, as well as to the authorities of the Imperial Institute, London, for the aid they have rendered in providing rooms for the receiving and transmitting of literature.

The growth of the Association has been very marked indeed; new branches constantly being formed and the number of recipients increasing every day, there are now on the distributing list the names of over thirteen hundred families. Taking on an average four persons to each family this will give over five thousand readers; even this large number is somewhat underestimated as a great many of those who receive parcels of literature pass them on to their neighbors after they have finished reading them. New applications are constantly coming in from settlers in all parts of Canada, making it almost impossible for the supply of literature ever becoming too large for the requirement of the Association.

With its better organization and ever-increasing sphere of activity, large contributions of good periodicals and books, etc., are required, and the Association needs all the assistance that it can obtain from all sources.

LITERATURE MOST USEFUL TO THE ABERDEEN ASSOCIATION.

Weekly and monthly religious and church papers and periodicals of all denominations, in good condition.

Agricultural, scientific and technical journals of the current year only.

Fashion papers of the current year only.

Good magazines of any date, in good condition.

Sets of magazines in consecutive numbers for the year are most valuable.

Sunday School papers of all denominations for teachers and scholars.

Christmas annuals and pictures.

Children's books of all kinds *specially acceptable*.

Standard works of history, biography, travel and fiction.

All good books.

French, German, Scandinavian and Gaelic literature for applicants speaking these languages.

Daily papers are not required on account of their transient interest only, nor reports.

Such contributions can be sent either to the nearest branch, or to the Secretary of the Central Board at Ottawa, Mr. C. F. Whitley, Office of the Aberdeen Association, whence they will be distributed to the branches most needing help.

Friends in Great Britain interested in the Association and willing to send parcels or boxes can send them, prepaid, to the Imperial Institute, London, or to Mrs. MacLachose, University Gardens, Glasgow.

By sending parcels prepaid to the Glasgow Branch, all freight charges will be avoided, as the Canadian steamers carry the packages free.

REPORT OF THE CENTRAL BOARD.

The eighth year of the life of the Aberdeen Association will be remembered as the year when its organization on a permanent basis took shape. The time was ripe for such a development.

The work began in a very small way and its success and growth is largely due to the wisdom and the earnestness with which its early efforts were directed and systematised by its first promoters in Winnipeg. They gave a three year course of object-lessons as to the need for the work and how it could be best carried on, and so encouraged the formation of other Branches.

To-day we can number fourteen Branches in Canada whose order of seniority ranks as follows :--

Winnipeg, Halifax, Ottawa, Calgary, Vancouver, Regina, Toronto, Montreal (English Branch), Montreal (French Branch), Hamilton, Victoria, Brandon, Kingston and Quebec. The last two Branches have been formed and duly affiliated since the commencement of 1898.

We leave the reports submitted by these Branches themselves to speak for the character of their work, and the specimens of some of the letters received speak eloquently not only of the gratitude of the recipients but of the untold good that this distribution of literature is accomplishing.

As far as we can judge, 1300 parcels are being sent out monthly, as compared with 1100 last year.

In order to supply the great amount of good literature required for this distribution, our friends in the old country were appealed to for help, and in 1896 a room was granted by the authorities of the Imperial Institute where literature could be sent prior to being sorted and forwarded to Canada.

The Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava consented to take the Presidency of this Branch, with the Marchioness of Lansdowne, the Countess of Derby, Mrs. Chamberlain and other ladies as Vice-Presidents.

Mrs Gordon of Ellon who took so keen an interest in the work of the Association whilst in Canada, became Organising Secretary for Great Britain and has continued to hold that office until now. A number of workers go over the literature received and despatch it, receiving kind assistance in many directions from the authorities of the Imperial Institute.

Two other Branches have been working in Great Britain, one at Liverpool under the Presidency of " Ian Maclaren " and the Secretaryship of Mrs. Henderson, and the other at Glasgow under the direction of Mrs. MacLehose. The value of Branches at these two cities is very great, as no freight charges are incurred for carrying the literature by rail and the Steamship Companies ship it out free of cost.

Large supplies have thus been received from the old country for which the Association tenders its most grateful thanks, for without them they would not be in a position to carry out their objects efficiently.

Lady Dufferin is now organising a Book Guild in connection with the Association, every member of which must contribute two books or magazines and one shilling yearly.

This is adapting the idea which has proved so fruitful in Needlework Guilds, and its adoption may well be commended to the various Branches of the Aberdeen Association in Canada who find it hard to obtain regular supplies of reading matter and funds wherewith to maintain running local expenses.

The mere mention however of these various Branches and the increase of their work indicates how necessary it was that the bonds which united them should be linked more securely round some Central responsible body than was formerly the case.

A long step in the right direction was taken at the last Annual Meeting when the delegates elected a Central Board, the members of which are able to meet periodically for the transaction of business in a way which was impossible when nearly all the members of the Board were separated by hundreds and thousands of miles.

Your Board has very anxiously considered a system for the efficient working of the Association and they recommend the adoption of the following

BY-LAWS.

1. That the Central Board shall consist of the Presidents of each Branch, together with a representative appointed by each Branch who shall be able to attend meetings of the Board in Ottawa.

2. That the Central Board shall meet regularly three times a year viz.- in October, February and May, and that special meetings shall be convened by the President when required.

3. That the members of the Association, with the right to vote at the Annual or Special Meetings of the Association, shall consist of:—

(a) Life Members who have subscribed not less than \$25 at one time.

(b) Subscribers to the Central Association of not less than \$1 annually.

(c) All Members of Local Branches who have fulfilled the obligation of Membership imposed on them by their own Branch.

4. That the Officers be elected annually at the Annual Meeting by the Members of the Association and that the Central Board have the power to fill up vacancies which occur during the year.

5. That every Branch be required to furnish annually a full and correct list of the names, addresses, religious denominations and number in family, of recipients of literature which they supply, in order to prevent over-lapping, such list to reach the Corresponding Secretary not later than one month before the date of the Annual Meeting.

NOTE—Doubtless the Central Corresponding Secretary will endeavour to lighten this task for the Local Secretaries by arranging a plan whereby their old lists can be returned for them to correct instead of entirely new ones being required each year.

6. That all new applications received through any of the Branches be forwarded direct to the Corresponding Secretary to be distributed by him to such Branches as can increase their number of recipients.

7. That the Branch Secretaries supply the Central Corresponding Secretary from time to time with information as to the special class of literature required, so that as far as possible suitable matter may be sent to each Branch.

Your Board has had to contend with the disadvantage of several changes of officers during the year.

The Rev. T. W. Winfield who was appointed Secretary-Treasurer at the last Annual Meeting and who accomplished much arduous work for the Association under difficult surroundings, with the assistance of the Rev. G. W. Back, was called to the charge of Westmount Church in Montreal and was obliged to resign his post last January. Your Board tendered him the heartiest thanks of the Association and considered themselves fortunate in being able to secure as his successor, Mr. and Mrs. Hayter Reed as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. They entered on their work with the utmost zeal and interest but we were soon deprived of their services by their also removing to Montreal.

Your Board felt it a regrettable duty to have so soon to express their acknowledgement to their new officers and to have to seek to replace them.

It is with satisfaction that they are able to report that they have been able to induce the following gentlemen to take office :—

Frederick White Esq.—Treasurer.

C. F. Whitley, Esq.—Corresponding Secretary.

J. Herbert Larmonth Esq.—Recording Secretary.

These gentlemen have now taken up their duties and if it be your pleasure to re-elect them, your Branch believe that the work of the Association will be very safe in their hands.

One of the great drawbacks under which your Central Officers have had to labour was the want of suitable accomodation, but in the meantime this is removed by the kindness of Major Sherwood and Mr. Slater, who have been good enough to lend the Association two beautiful rooms in the Slater Buildings where their boxes and packages can easily be taken and conveniently unpacked.

Attention must be drawn to the financial position of the Central Association.

Through the kindness of Mr. Andrew Carnegie who sent us a gift of \$500 some three years ago, with one or two other gifts, our running expenses have been met, but we have no source of regular income wherewith to meet necessary expenses of carting, labour, printing, etc. let alone the rent of an office (or the salary of a Secretary) which are contingencies which may very possibly have to be met in the near future.

The matter must be seriously faced by the Members. Either the Branches must make contributions in return for the supplies sent them, or a number of independent subscribers must be obtained.

Your Board trusts that you will give this subject your earnest consideration.

Your Board also respectfully desires to point out that the supplies of literature received from local sources by many of our Branches are not as liberal as might have been expected. Montreal indeed now supplies itself as regards English literature though greatly needing further supplies of suitable French literature. Toronto also has received generous contributions, but your Branch believes that there are many subscribers to magazines and many possessors of suitable books both for children and for adults who do not know or who forget the existence of the Aberdeen Association and therefore fail to send the help which would be so valuable.

One other suggestion remains to be made. The eagerness with which games and puzzles have been received, the interest with which a competition for colouring picture-books was carried out, and the pleasure expressed at the receipt of the President's gift of little paint-boxes to the birns, suggest that the machinery of the Aberdeen Association might well be used for even more helpful ends than at present. Competitions, suggestions for family or individual courses of reading with lists of questions provided on the Chautauqua plan, the offer of rewards for prize essays on specified subjects, might all be developed as time goes on, more especially as the personal correspondence which is so essential a part of our system brings the workers to know the circumstances and needs of their recipients more and more closely.

In conclusion, your Board has the pleasant duty of inviting the members of the Association to tender their thanks to their many friends for all the assistance given in so many forms during the past year.

To the Postmaster General we renew our grateful thanks for enabling our Association to prosecute its patriotic work of bringing happiness

and comfort and intellectual food to the best kind of settlers—and in the same spirit we approach the Dominion and Provincial Governments and Municipal authorities for various rooms granted to us—also the Railway and Steamship Companies for carrying our packages free.

To various publishers we are under deep obligations, and especially to Mr. W. T. Stead who continues his splendid contributions of 1200 copies of the "Review of Reviews" monthly besides many thousands of his Penny Books.

The Dowager Countess of Aberdeen sent us a present of 250 bound copies of the Life of Lord Haddo which were most heartily appreciated by the families to whom they were sent.

The Central Board also desires to convey to the Hon. Mrs. Montgomery Moore its sense of the deep obligation under which the Aberdeen Association rests with regard to the magnificent work done on their behalf at Halifax where she not only organized the Branch, inspired the workers and carried on the undertaking with ever increasing success, but raised sufficient funds to leave the work in the most flourishing condition. The whole Association will join with the Branch at Halifax to bewail her departure and will scarcely be consoled by the knowledge that she will continue to work for us and to think of us from the other side of the water.

We have been fortunate indeed in our workers as a whole, and one of the pleasantest features of the Aberdeen Association is the keen personal interest awakened by its work in all who are connected with it, which enables them to bring happiness to many heroic souls on whom press the stern realities of life, and makes outside thanks and acknowledgments very superfluous and trivial. But we tender them all the same.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed)

ISHBEL ABERDEEN,
President.

FREDK. WHITE,
Treasurer.

C. F. WHITLEY,
Corresponding Secretary.

J. HERBERT LARMONTH,
Recording Secretary.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Aberdeen Association was held in the Normal School, Ottawa, on Tuesday, 17th May, 1898. Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen was in the chair. There were present besides, a number of the delegates to the National Council of Women, the Treasurer and Secretaries, and the following representatives of the Branches of the Association :

Winnipeg—Mrs. Parker.
 Halifax—Miss Parsons.
 Ottawa—Mrs. Scarth, Mr. LeSueur.
 Calgary—Mrs. Hewett.
 Vancouver—Mrs. Beecher.
 Regina—Mrs. Lake.
 Toronto—Mrs. Edgar, Lady Thompson.
 Montreal (English)—Mrs Hanson, Miss Reid.
 Montreal (French)—Mr. De Celles.
 Hamilton—Miss Kingsford.
 Victoria—Prof. Robertson.
 Brandon—Mrs. McEwan.
 Kingston—Miss Fraser.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The Corresponding Secretary read a communication from Miss Yarker Secretary of the Toronto Branch, asking for information regarding the sending of packages of literature, free, from a distance to the Branches. At the request of Her Excellency, Mrs. Scarth explained, that it was necessary for any one wishing to send parcels free, to apply to the railway authorities for a permit, when this was granted, the Local Agent of the Railway would have the parcels forwarded if marked "For the Aberdeen Association." It was thought by a number of members that small parcels being continually sent in to the Railways would perhaps put them to too much trouble, and that it would be better not to encourage people in sending small parcels without their first paying the charges on them. The corresponding Secretary was instructed to write to Miss Yarker to this effect.

The Report of the Central Board was then read ; after altering some of the By-laws submitted in it for the approval of the Association, it was moved by Mrs. Scarth, seconded by Mrs. McEwan, that the report be adopted as amended—Carried.

The Treasurer's Report was then submitted showing an expenditure of \$212.18 for the past year, leaving a balance in hand of \$267.82.

It was moved by Mrs. Beecher, seconded by Mrs. Hanson, that the Treasurer's Report be adopted—Carried.

Mr. LeSueur thought that owing to the Central Board being put to a considerable expense in sending out literature to the different

Branches, it was only right that the Branches should contribute something annually, say \$10 or \$15, to the funds of the Central Board. A number of members however considered this sum too large, as two or three of the Branches have a very small membership and could not well afford so large a fee, so that matter was allowed to drop with the understanding that the Central Board consider some means of increasing their revenue.

The following officers were then elected :

Patron—His Excellency the Governor General.

President—Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen.

Vice-Presidents—Lady Taylor, Hon. Mrs. Montgomery Moore.

Treasurer—Mr. Fred White.

Corresponding Secretary—Mr. C. F. Whitley.

Recording Secretary—Mr. J. Herbert Larmonth.

Her Excellency gave a short account of the work being done by the Glasgow Branch, which showed an ever increasing interest being taken in the work by its members and the public in general.

Mrs. Scarth read the report of the Ottawa Branch and Mrs. McEwan that of the Brandon Branch. The reports of the other Branches having been printed, they were adopted without being read.

The meeting then adjourned.

PUBLIC MEETING, MAY 19TH, 1898.

A public meeting of the Aberdeen Association was held in the Normal School, Ottawa, on Thursday evening, May 19th, 1898, with His Excellency the Governor General presiding. There was a large attendance of Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, delegates to the National Council of Women, and influential residents of the Capital.

In opening the meeting His Excellency the Earl of Aberdeen said :—

This is not, practically speaking, one of the meetings of the National Council of Women. It is the annual public meeting of the Aberdeen Association, the purpose of which is to distribute literature to Canadian settlers in isolated districts. I mention that fact at the outset, partly because I should be sorry to hear from any part a protest regarding the apparent change in the arrangements from what might be expected, I allude to the occupancy of the chair in this respect. During this week you have been accustomed to see Lady Aberdeen in the chair as President of the National Council of Women and, as will be seen, there is a change so far as the occupancy of the chair is concerned.

Now, the Aberdeen Association comes before you with the healthy vigour of youth and the cheerful vitality which we associate with youth, combined with a bright prospect for the future. When I say that, you will be inclined to ask if it has gone through a certain process, which, as a rule has to be gone through by young animals of the human kind. I refer to the process of teething, and I answer that in the affirmative.

Of course, I allude to the fact that every movement, every institution of practical utility and real usefulness has to go through something analogous to the process of teething. I refer to the process of criticism, prejudice or misrepresentation, that, when we come to think of it, has been the experience of every useful institution, as far as I know. Sometimes that process comes later than expected.

An institution, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children seemed to be an exception to the rule—had all kinds of patronage, and its magnificent work was recognized, and it looked as if it was to go through without the process of criticism I refer to. But, after a time there seemed to be gathering clouds and disturbances and by-and-by the storm burst, and this society, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty, was represented to be in a very bad way. It might be said that mountains were moved in preparing the overcoming criticisms, and what is the result? A mere mouse, and the Society is going ahead to-day with prosperity and with the good wishes of the people.

Sooner or later every institution that is of any good has to go through this experience. Thus, the work of the Aberdeen Association, even, which is of a nature, which might be expected to be exempt from

anything of this kind, has had to go through some kind of misrepresentation. I saw a specimen the other day, but it is hardly worth while to quote criticisms except by way of explanation, when the general feeling of the community is entirely in favor of this movement. I say this emphatically, that this work tells its own tale in this sense, that, those for whose benefit it exists, have given expression in a most gratifying way in regard to its usefulness.

This work is twice blessed in a special way. It sends forth helpful literature, and it establishes sympathy. This is a large country, and we require large sympathies to develop it ; nothing like narrow notions will suit Canada (Applause), and, it is to be regretted that sometimes we meet people who do not recognize the claims of people far off as well as those at hand. (Applause) Instead of enlarging upon the work I propose to read this part of the annual report which was presented to the annual meeting of the National Council of Women, as a branch of that association. (His Excellency here read part of the Report.)

Well, I am sure the report supplies what we want—information and encouraging information. A great many names are mentioned and some are not that might be, but we feel sure that those who compiled this report knew what they were about, and, though we might have expected a reference to the President's name you will not find it, because, as I said, those who prepared it knew what they were about. (Laughter and applause) I think the safest course is to refrain from any further remarks. Some letters from people in other parts of the country will be read, and I have no doubt will be an interesting feature of this evening's meeting. (Applause)

Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen, President of the Association, then addressed the meeting as follows :

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen :

It is difficult for those who are in the inner circle of any Association, and who believe in it, to realize that there is a large circle of people who know absolutely nothing of its operations, and to whom its very name conveys nothing. We of the Aberdeen Association, for instance who have read hundreds of letters from lonely settlers in all parts of Canada, who have been touched with the intense gratitude expressed for this simple monthly gift of a few old papers and magazines, and who by degrees are realizing the really great benefits that may accrue to the country at large by an organized and systematic circulation of such literature, feel so confident of the sympathy of all good citizens and kindly hearts for this enterprise, that we are apt to forget that there are thousands of people in Canada who know absolutely nothing about our aims. The help which we need is easily obtained, and is not costly if distributed over a large number, but we do not receive it simply because we have not taken measures to make our wants known, nor to enlist on our side the help which would assuredly be ours if claimed.

Will you allow me this evening to treat you as if you belonged to the outer world who are strangers to the Aberdeen Association, and

may I tell you why and how it was originated, and a little about how it is carried on, and what is the sort of help we require for it?

Those of us who know the great West of this continent can easily picture to themselves the country, the scattered homesteads, the primitive shacks, the miners' huts, which are inhabited by those pioneers who are winning for us this vast and fertile territory at the cost of endless toil and hardship. Doubtless there are many here who have brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, neighbours and friends, out in those western regions, and they will know something about that life which looks so full of freedom and attraction and of golden hope on the outside, and which, when you come to it, means not only so much grim toil, privation of all comforts, but often the lack of all that makes life worth living to men and women of education and culture. Such conditions are inseparable from a new country, however full of beauty and of natural resources. Its development must be the price of isolation and much hard work, and they are not true friends of the country who would conceal this from intending emigrants. The land is full of hope, and the reward is sure to come, but it has to be striven for.

The traditions of the first settlers of this continent are maintained there by a great effort. Where there are families of children, we will find the little school-house within a possible distance, available for perhaps half the year, and maybe there will be the church. But there you come to the end of the resources of civilization which are at hand.

Look at the walls, bare of pictures and ornaments; look at the little shelf in the corner, with its few treasures which have been read and re-read, and on the table the little sheet which is published weekly or bi-weekly in the town some dozen or twenty miles off, and which is the only source of information as to what is going on in the outer world. Think of the men, especially the bachelors, who are living out their lives amidst these surroundings, who have to come back to them after their hard day's work. Think, still more, of the women who cannot even have the variety of getting away to the fields or the market, but who have to face the constant monotony and daily drudgery of the housework, year in and year out, if the children are to be cared for and the home is to be kept together. Think of the children who are growing up amidst this environment, where the conversation must naturally turn on the all-absorbing topics of crops and the markets, and whether the ends will meet. Is it any wonder that under these circumstances we hear of the drift of the young people to the cities? Can we believe that that life which is lived in so narrow a groove can tend to the higher life of the nation of which these people must be the backbone?

In the old country we hear a great deal about the monotony of country life, and of what can be done to overcome it. It does not appear to us that country life in the ordinary sense of the word suffers from monotony when there is any centre of population at all. From what we have observed, there is a flow of life, of fun and sport, and interchange of neighbourliness and simple gaiety, and there is such a

definite determination to have church and school and hall and hospital and library in every small centre—which make country life very attractive.

But it is of those who live twenty and thirty and forty miles away from post-office or village, and where neighbours are few and far between—it is of the miners and lumbermen and keepers of lighthouses as well as of the farmers and ranchers that I am speaking.

What can be done? That is the question which some ladies at Winnipeg asked one another some eight years ago. Cannot we, whose lives are so amply endowed with opportunities, help our brothers and sisters who are doing so much for us and our country? Out of that question came an answer, which has by degrees grown into an association which desires to reach, as far as possible, all these settlers who cannot obtain reading matter for themselves, who feel that they cannot afford to obtain the literature. These ladies organized a plan by which monthly parcels of literature could be sent out to such settlers. They were very doubtful of the experiment, at first. They did not know how they could get the names of the people who really needed it, or whether it would be abused, or the right people would not get it. They did not know whether they would be able to get enough literature to send. But no sooner was the announcement made to missionaries and to immigration agents and to merchants and others living in these districts, that they would be willing to send out the parcels of old magazines and books to such persons, than the applications came in fast and furiously. And from that time to this the work has grown, until some thirteen hundred families are supplied every month with parcels of this literature.

One of our rules is, that parcels are only to be sent to such families as are heard from twice a year. There must be correspondence between each family and the lady who is sending out literature. In the first place we always send out a circular asking what sort of literature is desired, what church the family belongs to, whether there are children, whether there is any particular kind of literature desired, and the answer comes back.

Sometimes strange answers are received to these queries. Take the following, reported by our Winnipeg Secretary, but which it is only fair to say is quite of an exceptional character:

- | | |
|--|---|
| What is your religion ? | I have no religion. |
| Nationality ? | I am a Canadian, born in Manitoba. |
| Are you married or single ? | I am single. |
| How many in family, if any children state ages ? | Have six sisters and seven brothers. The oldest boy 20, next 19, next 18, then myself aged 17, then a sister 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 8, 6 and 2, which is the age of the rest of my brothers and sisters. |
| State what papers you would prefer to receive ? | Stories of Jesse James, <i>stories of murders</i> . I do not care for religious books, as I do not give any attention to such matters. |

Another rule is that every parcel must contain some secular literature and some religious, the latter to be of the character preferred by each recipient, according to the church to which he belongs.

Then, beside the literature, we try from time to time to send them pictures, games, flower seeds, etc. We are now considering whether something could not be done, by initiating some definite courses of reading with questions, giving certificates, etc. We have tried it in a very small way for the children, and found the most ready response; and often they write us and ask us for school books, and other books for the education of the children who cannot get to school through many of the winter months. We think that there is surely scope for the useful development of our Association along the lines originated by the Chautauqua system, but in a more simple form.

But far more eloquent than any speeches that can be made on behalf of our Association are the letters received by our workers from the recipients, and which make each feel convinced that her particular list requires the very best of the treasures we have to give. Specimens of a number of these letters, both from French and English families will be found in our reports, but perhaps you will allow me to make a few quotations from some.

One man describes the arrival of his parcel as "the welcome visit of a dear friend,"—another as "the light of our home."

(Her Excellency then read a number of interesting and touching letters which will be found in another part of the report.)

These letters require no comment. In the words of our Winnipeg Secretary, "comedies and tragedies unfold themselves continually throughout the year's correspondence, and it often strikes our workers as indeed pathetic that in some instances our Association seems to be the friend to whom they desire first to confide their trouble. The old folks that loved them are no more. The friends whom they knew have passed away, or have moved to another part of the country."

And so for these solitary lives this correspondence with an unknown friend, which seems such a little thing, may yet be doing a great patriotic service, besides unlocking the hearts of those who have grown weary of life's struggle, and who are tempted to think that "nobody cares."

And as regards the parcels themselves, do not these letters give us an idea how the magazines and papers of the Aberdeen Association may shed a radiance over life, charming away the aching sense of loneliness, the feeling of desolation that so often comes to those shut out from the outer world? The story of adventure and the tale of heroism, the explanation of a scientific truth, the picture of the life of some leaders in thought or action, which we passed over so lightly as we cut the pages of the magazine, have a new meaning when received in those far-away places of the earth. Can we not imagine the rush for the papers when the mail arrives? Can we not picture the breathless

interest of the group gathered round the father in the evening? Can we not conceive how new aims and new motives transform the whole life of many a young man and maiden who ponder over an article which has revealed new truths to their hearts?

This then is the work which those who support the Aberdeen Association are doing; they are helping many a family to fight the battle of life, lightening the burden of overworked fathers and mothers, educating the children in a thousand pleasant ways, and giving wholesome recreation and food for thought to many a solitary young fellow far from all kith and kin, and who may be thereby strengthened against temptation and directed towards noble ends.

And now how do we want you to help us? For I know that those letters have stirred your hearts and have made you long to be participators in this. Perhaps you will say that with free postage granted us by the Post Office authorities, free carriage by the ocean steamships and railway companies, free service rendered by our officers, and free quarters for many of our branches, that we require no assistance. And still more perhaps will you think this when you hear of an English Branch working under the Marchioness of Dufferin at the Imperial Institute, and of a Scotch Branch working at Glasgow, both sending us large contributions. But the truth remains that we do need help, for there are numberless small expenses to be constantly met, the cost of conveying parcels from the railway depots to the various offices, the cost of paper and twine, the postage of letters, printing expenses, and so forth. We should have been long ago bankrupt had it not been for a generous gift of \$500 from Mr. Andrew Carnegie, but we feel that we ought to be able to support ourselves now, and that we ought also to prepare for a time when we shall probably have to pay for the rent of a Central Office and a paid Secretary, owing to our ever-increasing business. We think that a large increase in our membership would best meet the circumstances, each member paying an annual subscription. Most of the branches already demand a fee of 50 cents from their members, but I think that the Ottawa Branch has no members except the active workers, and I would like to say a word on behalf of our active Ottawa Branch, under the supervision of Mrs. Scarth, one of the earliest friends of the movement.

But besides subscriptions we want our friends to bear us always in mind when they are disposing of their old magazines, or of any other literature which would be bright and attractive. The Montreal Branch now entirely supports itself with literature, and I should think that Ottawa ought also to do the same. Please remember that the office of the Ottawa Branch is in the Langevin Block. Our Central Offices are now in Slater Buildings, and it is there that our good Secretaries, Mr. Whitley and Mr. H. Larmonth go through the real manual labour of unpacking and sorting and re-packing and sending out to the branches all the piles that come from

England. I am sure they will be proud to show our quarters and their methodical arrangements to any of our friends. They will also be very glad for any supplies of French literature, in which we are lacking. And then besides papers and books, and especially consecutive numbers of the same magazine for a year, we are grateful for coloured pictures or prints in good condition, and games small enough to go by post for our Christmas parcels.

And when you have become subscribers, when you have sent us all the nice literature and pretty things you can, please do us yet another service—please speak a good word for us whenever you can. Tell others what the Aberdeen Association means, and how gratefully its parcels are received—tell them that there is no charity, no desire to patronize about it, but merely the expression of a frank brotherly interest between those who live in cities and have abundance of literature at their disposal, and those who live in lonely places and have no such advantages—tell them of the influence that this circulation of good literature is having in the homes of the West, and especially amongst the young people. Tell them that we are not crabbing the country or minimizing its resources or its bright future because we speak of the necessary solitariness of the lives of the brave, bright pioneers who have shown their belief in it by making their homes there, but that we are on the contrary helping to bring happiness and contentment to the very best class of settlers, who desire something outside material advantages. And tell them too that apart from the direct helpfulness and brightness which our organization brings in its train, that the indirect good of forming links between East and West, between dwellers on the prairie and in the forests with those in the cities is a very real source of strength to the country.

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for coming here to-night, and for showing your interest in this scheme. I thank especially the Ministers and the other friends who are to speak to us, who have spared time to come and express their personal approval, and I leave the Aberdeen Association with the utmost confidence in your hands, and I know that from this evening you will all be Aberdeen Association members. (Applause.)

Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, on being called upon, said :—I have great pleasure in moving the following resolution :—

That this meeting heartily commends the aims and objects of the Aberdeen Association for supplying good literature to settlers in isolated parts of Canada, recognizing that it is distributing reading matter of a high standard to people otherwise unable to obtain it.

In moving this resolution, which I trust will be seconded, I am glad indeed to be able in some slight measure to forward the aims of the Association. In common with others Her Excellency has referred to, I must confess that until quite recently I was very little acquainted

with the work of the Association. Unfortunately, even members of Parliament are not by any means omniscient and there are many good things in Canada as elsewhere which have not come under our observation. It is perhaps the modesty of this Association that this fact is due to.

The Aberdeen Association does not seem to me to have brought itself sufficiently before the people of Canada, when we think of the great good the Association has performed for the people of this country. Those who dwell in the cities like most of this audience, can hardly appreciate the isolation, the loneliness, the lack of information and pleasure the people in the country labour under. Coming as I do from the country parts of Eastern Canada I know perhaps better than you do of this, and still more perhaps it is the case of the settlers who dwell out in the Western plains, isolated miles and miles from the nearest neighbor and away from all the advantages of older civilization.

We know that in the thickly settled parts of this young country all sorts of facilities are given to supply literature to the people, to say nothing of the immense importance of the daily papers. We have our Public Library, Sunday School library, Y.M.C.A.'s and various other associations which give the people in various localities abundance of reading matter, but these people who live far off in the country have not these advantages, and as I know well, even in the older parts of the country they are very much in need of such advantages.

The Association seems to have been carrying on this work to a very great extent; I am surprised to find that they have some six thousand odd readers whom they reach, and thirteen hundred parcels of this literature have been sent out regularly every month, and all this seems to have been done with hardly any expenditure and with a comparatively small membership. Her Excellency indicated that one contribution coming from one of our neighbours to the South seems to be practically all the money received by the Aberdeen Association. It is a reproach to the people of Canada that such a statement could be made. But when we think that there are only a few score members in Canada, we cannot but be impressed with the great work they are doing for the people in the country who need this help, and then think for a moment what a large number of Canadians who ought to belong to this Association could do for the people needing such assistance.

It is fit and proper that this meeting should take place at the time of the meetings of the National Council of Women, because it is a women's association. We look to the tender heart of the women, we look to women to do good, and here the means is supplied by the woman whose name the Association bears, and I trust a large number of members will be obtained. A hundred and fifty members is a mere nothing; it is no result as regards membership during the seven or eight years the work has been going on, but I am satisfied that it is because a knowledge of its work has not been spread among the people

that this state of affairs exists. I believe that the means taken now to make it known will lead to greater results, and I am satisfied I have only to read this resolution to have it endorsed by you.

I have only to say that the fact that this Association bears the name of the Countess of Aberdeen ought to be a reason of its increase and growth among our people. I cannot help thinking of a line or two from the pen of a great divine :

“ *Do noble deeds, not dream them, all day long,
And so make Life, Death, and that vast For Ever
One grand, sweet song.*”

It is a noble sentiment, a sentiment in which in the Countess of Aberdeen we have had for the last four and a-half years a living example which should go forth among the people of Canada and be an impulse to them in carrying out the good work which she has so well inaugurated in our country. (Applause.)

Sir Sandford Fleming being next called upon, said :—

It affords me very great pleasure to second this resolution for two or three reasons. The object of the Association is a most deserving one and has already been productive of great good. I need not go over what has been so well said by Her Excellency and Mr. Fisher about those people who in the long winter months have nothing except what comes to them from a distance and which this Association largely supplies. I am told that there are at least thirty thousand people in the North-west alone in settlements, and so far removed from the centres of civilization that they are dependent solely upon such an Association as this, and I know of no other to supply them with what they want.

I know something about this Association. Some of my dear friends are members and enthusiastically engaged in the work. How their enthusiasm and work have been appreciated has been outlined by Her Excellency. They have told me of the letters they received. Some of them are amusing, some touching, and all intensely interesting ; and I wish I had some of those I have read to read to you to-night, but I need not say more, I will only say it gives me very great satisfaction indeed to second this resolution.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and unanimously carried.

The Hon. Sir Adolphe Caron, being called upon, said :—

Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,—Your Excellency Lady Aberdeen, on behalf of the Canadian people, let me thank you and express the deep gratification that every Canadian feels to you for having organized the Association which is doing so much good in Canada. (Applause.)

Ladies and gentlemen, we have within the confines of this great

Dominion, we have possibilities which are inexhaustible, and it was the design of Providence, I believe, that the gifts given to Canada should be developed by the introduction into our country of men and women coming from other countries and wishing to find under the same constitution which gives liberty and freedom to everybody, to find in Canada a happy home for themselves. (Applause.)

But, ladies and gentlemen, it was felt, and we know the pang of those leaving their homes and coming into a new country with the brightest prospects—we know how difficult it is for those who are leaving their families and who are coming into a new country to forget the old associations of the old home they left behind. Your Excellency, you felt when coming from the old country and coming to Canada, you felt that it was necessary that there should be a connecting link between the old country and the new settlement that was bringing into Canada the people who were extending the great prospects of the British Empire. You knew that you could by giving to those who came from the old country and settled in new homes, whether in the great prairie lands of Canada, whether in the mining camp, whether in the mining shacks all over this country, you felt that if you could keep the men and women who were coming into the country in intimate communication with their associations, you were contributing your mite towards getting them to forget that they were separated from the old associations. It is almost impossible to comprehend how men go forth spreading liberty, spreading the constitutional views of the British Empire all over the world, without some Association like this.

But your Excellency, you gave to us Canadians the secret of how these men could go forth and carry out all over the world the civilization and the constitutional privileges which obtain in England. You said, if you can keep the men who leave their old home in touch with the literature, with the news of their old home, you make them become attached to their new home. Let me tell you, we Canadians appreciate the work you have done among us.

You were kind enough to refer to me as one of the former Post-masters-General; I believe, I am not quite sure, that I was the first who inaugurated the system of permitting this literature to be circulated free all over Canada, because I thought it was the best news that could be conveyed to those who were adding to the wealth and prosperity of Canada and settling in the western sections of Canada. But I was carrying out the views of Her Excellency. I was asked if it was in keeping with the statutes—and I would not do anything contrary to the statutes—and I am not quite sure whether I found it or whether Her Excellency did, but combining our knowledge of the statutes of Canada, to give literature to the people settling in our country, we found it was within the statutes.

Can you imagine people coming from the Old Country, not in the

sense of England alone, but taking the settlers from almost every portion of the continent of Europe, can you imagine the privilege that these people appreciate of receiving books and newspapers keeping them in intimate touch with their old country? Why, it makes them feel that Canada is a country where everybody can settle and feel that within this country they can be in intimate touch with their own land.

Your Excellency, I wish to refer for one moment to a question which I think is of very great importance. It is to us Canadians a very important feature of the development of our national life that we should have more population. We have an unlimited territory and Providence has given us unlimited prospects as far as prosperity is concerned. We want to have within our territory the best people to come and shake hands and make Canada what we hope to make it, one of the greatest colonies of the British Empire. (Applause.) We want to have within our own country people who will be good, educated people, not educated in the sense of being classically educated, but educated sufficiently to make good citizens, and if there is one thing which will contribute towards that object it is the establishment of this Aberdeen Association, which is an institution destined to work, as it has worked, for the greatest benefit to Canada.

I am glad to see the Postmaster-General is now here and I know that he absolutely agrees with me that the efforts made from time to time in the introduction of spreading literature have met with good results and upon that subject I am perfectly certain we agree. I can only say I am happy to move the resolution placed in my hands. I hope there will be no opposition (for sometimes I am accustomed to meet opposition in the House). It is as follows :—

That this meeting place on record its appreciation of the great kindness of the Post Office Department, also the Allan and Dominion S.S. Lines and the Canadian Railways for free transportation of parcels, and tenders cordial thanks for the privileges granted.

The Hon. Sir Henri Joly de Lotbinière, K.C.M.G., Minister of Inland Revenue, said :—

I am very glad to be called upon to second this resolution. His Excellency has tendered the thanks of this meeting to all those who have assisted in the work, but if I might be allowed to do so, I would like to go further and refer for one moment to those who receive the benefit of the work done, those who in my own knowledge live many thousands of miles away. I can draw a picture to myself of the pleasure and gratitude with which they receive in their lonely homes those books by which they are brought into contact with the civilization they have left behind. Some of them, too, have left relations whom they may not see for many years.

When I think what they owe to the generous idea of Lady Aberdeen, I can well understand how, after seeing those Victorian Nurses

who will go and relieve them in their loneliness and solitude, or when in times of suffering from ill-health they may owe their lives to these nurses, and then again when their minds are freshened and kept in contact with civilization by those books, I can readily understand that from one end of the Dominion to the other, and especially away from the centres of civilization and among the poorer people Lady Aberdeen will always be remembered gratefully. (Applause.)

The resolution was thereupon adopted.

The Hon. William Mulock, Postmaster-General, said :

May it please your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen,—I beg to move the following resolution :—

Resolved, That this meeting commends the work of the Aberdeen Association to the attention of the Press of the Dominion, believing that through its valuable assistance the work can be largely extended.

Not having had the advantage of being at the meeting at an earlier stage, I am not quite familiar with the proceedings prior to my arrival. Her Excellency was good enough, however, to show me a report to which is annexed several letters from people in the Northwest who have been recipients of the literature, and among them I find one which contains very touching sentiments in which the writer says, “many thanks for your kind favor and long may the Association be a light of knowledge and may the lady whose name it bears be long spared to bless humanity.” Further on I find a letter from a mother who has lost her four children, and which is very pathetic. Therefore I think that all who take part in the work can feel that they are contributing to the comfort of others at a very slight expense ; perhaps no other work done with so slight expense bear such good fruit. Is it not a satisfaction to know to-night that there is an Association gathered for the promotion of the happiness of those people far away in their lonely homes who will feel more associated with the more fortunate people, and will feel that while their Excellencies are about to leave Canada, their hearts are in the good work they have organized ?

When I took charge of the Post Office Department I was not aware of this organization. And I made my acquaintance with it in a very funny way. The literature is taken on trucks to the Post Office. One morning I had enough curiosity to ask the porter what he had on that truck, and he said, “Lady Aberdeen, sir.” (Laughter.) On further explanation I found what the true significance of it was, viz., that he had a load of literature from the Aberdeen Association.

Subsequently I learned the part the Department was playing in assisting in the free distribution of literature, through the work undertaken by my predecessor, Sir Adolphe Caron, and so far as I am concerned, as long as I am in charge of the Department, the permanency of the service through the mails will be assured. (Applause.)

I think as there is a long programme I would not be doing my duty in doing more than submitting this resolution and stating that I shall cheerfully do my part to assist in the work. (Applause.)

Frank Oliver, Esq., M.P., in seconding the resolution, said :

I am very much in the same position as some of the other speakers. Although a Member of Parliament and connected with the Press, I have not had that knowledge of the Aberdeen Association which might be expected. That I claim is my misfortune, not my fault. It has been the misfortune of a large number of the people of the country, and the resolution I have the honor of seconding is to remove that drawback—that is, to call upon the Press to give publicity to the character of this work and thus promote it.

For myself and the slight connection I have with the Press I can assure the Association of my help, and with my knowledge of the people connected with the Press generally, with their philanthropic sympathies, and their general desire to do good, I have no doubt whatever that throughout all Canada they will be glad to assist the object of the Association when they become aware of its existence and of its deserving character.

I might say one word as I come from the Western part of the country where I understand the work of the society is chiefly carried on. I will support, I think, what has been said in one of the letters, that it is hard to understand just exactly the extent of the advantages from the work being carried on by the society. It is hard for those who do not understand the conditions there to understand the value of the distribution of good literature amongst people who appreciate it, in that country. I will not describe the situation there as others have already done so, but there are some disadvantages, and it is on account of the disadvantages that the opportunity is afforded for the good work of this society. The people who have gone there have gone there not as exiles or strangers, but went there with big hearts and with the highest intentions of building for themselves homes and laying the foundations of such institutions as you have here.

This country was under similar disadvantages in its early days, and it was the work of those who suffered those disadvantages to rear the superstructure of civilization which you enjoy to-day. So is it the work of those in the West who are bearing those disadvantages and overcoming them ; it is their work which will build that country and this country. So let the young ladies who collect those books and parcels think when they are doing that work, that it is certainly a way in which they share in the building up of that country. I hope they will feel the importance of the work they are doing every time they tie a string around a parcel of books.

I would not like it to be understood altogether as a matter of charity in the common usage of the word. It is an expression of sympathy on the part of the people here towards the people there, and as such it is especially elevating and valuable. It is womanly sympathy ; and when I say that, I mean it is the most precious thing there is in the world to-day.

Realizing the value of the work I certainly hope that it will go on. The field is large and is widening, and that is what we want. And I certainly think that as a tribute to the judgment and the graciousness of the lady whose name the Association bears, it would be one of her happiest remembrances when she leaves this country, that this Association should go on and flourish in the east and in the west and for the good of all people in Canada. (Loud applause.)

The resolution was then carried.

A. McNeill, Esq., M.P., said :

At this late hour of the evening I would not think of inflicting a speech upon you, but whatever my desire might be in that respect, I stand here at the present moment feeling very much embarrassed. (Laughter.)

His Excellency—One moment ; Her Excellency is taken at a disadvantage, because I suspect she does not know what is on that paper. (Laughter.)

Mr. McNeill—I might say I am not only embarrassed by being asked to move a resolution, but by the very extraordinary course pursued by my friend Sir Adolphe Caron. When I was asked to come here I understood that I was asked as a member of the Opposition and as we understand that, it is those who are opposed to Her Majesty's Government, and I regarded this invitation as somewhat in the nature of a challenge. Naturally I felt that as I was also an Irishman and consequently "agin the Government" from every point of view and especially "agin the Executive," I felt it was still more of a challenge and I could not refuse. So I came here prepared to say what I could against this movement. My friend Sir Adolphe astonished me by speaking strongly in favor of it and very much embarrassed me. Then when I commenced to cudgel my brains to find arguments against the Aberdeen Association I could not find one. (Applause.) Therefore I appear before you in the situation of one who has been beaten and thrown up the sponge.

Now I find I have to move this resolution which is one of thanks to Her Excellency, and here is another embarrassment, because I always understood that it was not quite right to praise people to their

faces ; but I am not sure after all that holds good, because I am inclined to think there is an exception made in regard to the ladies. I fancy we are allowed to praise the ladies even to their faces, though I am not sure whether that cannot be done more satisfactorily in private. However, Her Excellency occupies altogether an exceptional position and while I do not wish to say anything frivolous in her presence, I venture to say in all seriousness that this resolution requires no commendation from me or anyone else to recommend it to the meeting. I venture to think that among the many good, kind and wise things that Her Excellency has done in Canada and which have endeared her to the hearts of the people of Canada, one of the best, and kindest and wisest things that she has ever put her hand to, is the establishment of this work. I beg to move the following resolution :—

Resolved, That this meeting regards the organization of the work of the Aberdeen Association by the Countess of Aberdeen as another evidence of her deep interest in the welfare of the people of Canada, and cordially thanks Her Excellency for her thoughtfulness, energy and skill in organizing and furthering the work both in England and Canada.

Professor Robertson, Commissioner of Agriculture, in seconding the resolution, said :

I cannot help giving expression, although brief and inadequate expression, to our appreciation of the unselfish and self-spending labours of Her Excellency in Canada. The work of this Association is closely connected with nation-building. Some men say that the ladies in public affairs are always "pottering" about little things. That is one of the sayings men whisper among themselves. Let us think it is not want of courage, but consideration for the feelings of others which keeps them from proclaiming it aloud. Home-making, which is at the bottom of all wise nation-building, is not a trivial affair. A nation can be no stronger than are its people in themselves and in their homes. Just as far as this Association helps to make boys and girls and women and men stronger and better, just so far is it a benefit to the nation.

A Scotch boy was supping his porridge one evening with the beams of the sun glinting across the kitchen and gilding his horn spoon. Suddenly he put the spoon on the dish and holding his hands over his breast said,—“ My ! I've swallowed a whole spoonful of sunshine.” Later on he said brighter things and did better things. He fed other people on his sunny sayings and unselfish doings. The supplying of good books is the shedding of the kindly light of soul-sunshine into homes. Two things make a boy strong, gentle and just—his food and his sentiment. These are what hold a nation together. Sometimes there is a weakness of sentiment or a want of robust and loft sentiment. The remedy is to distribute more good books—or immigrate more Scotch people. (Laughter.)

People soon deteriorate when there is a lack of fun in their lives and homes. As they are without that, just so far do they lack in the sense of fairness. You will notice that people who do not appreciate humor are edging towards selfishness. The saving grace of humor, and the gospel of it in fine books, are a great power to prevent what is wrong and to promote what is right.

The Association does much good in strengthening the hearts of men and women who go to settle and work in lonely places. When men and women, old and young, are cheered in their hearts, they do better work, and they are able to bear what of privation comes to them with less crushing grief. While the bodies of those dear little ones (referred to by Her Excellency and Mr. Mulock) those sweet children who were drowned in the lake, are blanketed by God's green grass, their souls go marching on. When the soul is made good and glad, the good is everlasting; and that is the kind of work the Aberdeen Association is doing.

The Association is carrying on a good work in creating new ties of sympathy and attachment between those who live widely apart. That does good to all concerned. It prevents that sort of separation which is dangerous to the unity of the State, and which is sometimes caused by distance and difference of occupations and interests. It helps to bind us all together.

The Aberdeen Association is doing a noble work in helping to make the people gentle as well as strong, in laying the foundation of home life and national life. When men suppose that gentleness is a little thing, they should remember that could the throne of Britain itself, in all the splendour of its might and majesty with a firm foot on every continent, upheld by the grateful love of free peoples, could even the throne and all that it stands for in greatness and goodness, find a voice, it might well say to our Queen, "Thy gentleness has made me great." And when we look back on the many good works of Her Excellency, her thoughtfulness and ardent devotion to the welfare of the people of Canada, we may think of her and say of her, as also of His Excellency who represents the Queen in our country, "Thy gentleness hath helped to make us great." (Applause)

Hon. Wm. Paterson, Minister of Customs, said:

I did say that I would prefer to come as a listener, but if that is not to be implied as a contract, I would like to say a word or two. I did want to hear a little more about the work of the Association. I was pleased to hear the way the aims of the Association have been endorsed by the meeting, and although Her Excellency perhaps thinks this resolution should not have been proposed to the meeting, I have evidence of the interest that Her Excellency has taken in this work. In my official capacity I had occasion to consider whether the usual formality would not have to be observed as to the contributions of books from

England, but when changes in the tariff did take place it happened that these gifts found a place on the free list of the Customs. (Applause.)

I am glad to endorse this resolution. I am pleased to notice the way it is worded ; as one evidence of the interest Her Excellency has in the welfare of Canadians. One word is added without which it would not be complete, and that is the *deep* interest that Lady Aberdeen has ever evinced. (Applause.) And that need not be mentioned in Ottawa, after this hearty response, for I know that its inhabitants know that in Her Excellency Canada has one of the truest friends perhaps she has ever possessed. The resolution commends her thoughtfulness and there is that in the splendor of its good work. Skill is required in the work of such an organization, and energy is required too, even in those good works which commend themselves to the community as a whole. I trust that the men and women of the country will recognize that they are called upon, not only to give their sympathy but to give material assistance towards this good work.

I believe, with the expression I have heard to-night, that in this work there is a bond of union that is bringing the people of Canada closer together, and no one will doubt that it must have been due to Lady Aberdeen and her influence that this feeling has been kindled. Canada is deeply indebted to Lady Aberdeen not only for this good work but for the evidence she has given time and again of her interest in the country's good, while it has been our good fortune to have her in our midst. (Applause.)

The resolution was put to the meeting and carried with hearty applause.

Lady Aberdeen, in reply, said :

I need not say that I am deeply touched by the many kind things I have heard said to-night, but I cannot allow this meeting to part under a misconception. It has been said that I organized this Association, and this is really not the truth. Let me tell you exactly what happened. In 1890 we had a meeting of ladies in Manitoba, and when talking about the isolated condition of the settlers, I ventured to throw out the suggestion. Lady Taylor, Mrs. Scarth, Mrs. Kirby and others took up the matter heartily and showed how it could be carried out, and it is due to them that this Association has been carried on. I really cannot allow things to be said that are not true. (Laughter and applause.)

The meeting then adjourned with the singing of the National Anthem.

WINNIPEG BRANCH.

The Winnipeg Branch of the Aberdeen Association beg to report the year terminating May, 1898 :—

The seventh annual meeting was held on Thursday afternoon February 17th in Holy Trinity School, when the following officers were elected :—

Hon. President—Lady Schultz, St. Johns, Winnipeg.

President—Lady Taylor, Chessels Croft, Fort Rouge, Winnipeg.

First Vice President—Madame Gautier, 52 Edmonton St.

Second Vice-President—Mrs. Wickson, 61 Kennedy St.

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. Kirby, 52 Edmonton St.

Collecting Secretary—Mrs. Dwight, Roslyn Road, Fort-Rouge, Winnipeg.

Recording Secretary—Miss Taylor, Chessels Croft, Fort-Rouge.

Treasurer—Miss Thompson, 303 Colony Street.

Committee :

Mesdames :

Culver, 92 Edmonton St.,

Clarke, 260 Colony St.,

Sutton, Kennedy St.,

Howard, 93 Edmonton St.,

Macdonald, Hargrave St.,

Aikins, 15 Kennedy St.,

Code, St. Johns, Winnipeg.

Misses :

Robinson, Broadway,

Codd (Fort Osborne Barracks),

Hart, Qu'Appelle St.

Howell, Carlton St.,

Whitla, Carlton St.,

King, 443 Ellice Ave.

The fee paid by the Committee and all our townspeople who are interested in the work is 50 cents yearly. This fee constitutes being a member of the Association, and pays for paper, twine, labels, cartage, etc., necessary for the carrying on of the work.

The meetings of the Committee are held the second Tuesday of each month in the rooms kindly placed at the disposal of the Association by the Local Government in the Lands' Titles Building.

Two thousand four hundred and six parcels were distributed during the last year, making an average of 301 a month ; the greatest number sent out in any one month being 418, and the smallest number 240.

Owing to the excellent direction of our most able President, and what the experience of seven years has taught us, the working of our Branch is in extremely good order. The Committee display the greatest interest and intelligence in their work, and I may add each one feels convinced that her particular list of twenty families is the one requiring the best treasures of the literature we have to give. This somewhat grasping propensity has the great merit of showing that *heart* as well as brain and labor, is in the work, and therefore, while protecting the interests of the less clamorous it is a tendency our President likes to see and does not discourage.

I cannot express with sufficient force the appreciation of those to whom we distribute the reading matter. Letter after letter comes full of gratitude, and telling of the pleasure and profit derived. It has been said that many of these people could afford to subscribe for magazines and papers, did they wish to do so ; but I am convinced such is not the case. There are very few, even at the end of this enlightened century who would in any way starve the body to feed the mind, and besides this, reading matter is still looked upon as a luxury, to be indulged only where there is money and leisure *to spare*, not a duty owed to oneself.

With the advent of a regular monthly parcel of pure, elevating, educating reading sent free of expense, goes incalculable benefit to hundreds of families, a benefit that *must* have a salutary and far reaching effect in the future good of this country.

For example, let me give a copy of the following form returned to me by a young girl :

What is your religion ?

I have no religion.

Nationality ?

I am a Canadian, born in Manitoba.

Are you married or single ?

I am single.

How many in family, if any children state ages ?

I have six sisters and seven brothers. The oldest boy 20, next 19, next 18, then myself aged 17, then a sister 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 8, 6 and 2, which is the age of the rest of my brothers and sisters.

State what papers you would prefer to receive ?

Stories of Jesse James, *stories of murders*. I do not care for religious books, as I do not give any attention to such matters.

Can anyone doubt the good these 13 children will gain from wholesome reading being put in their hands ?

One man describes the arrival of this parcel as " the welcome visit of a dear friend."

Fathers and mothers thank us for the only means they have of educating their children. In many instances distances are too great to send children to school, and they also thank us for the happy recreation contained in each parcel.

Her Excellency's presents during the past year have called forth the warmest appreciation and delight.

The picture books of well known " nursery rhymes " with box of crayons and instructions to color and return same, so that Her Excellency might send prizes, was forwarded to each family having children. We cannot estimate how many little lives were thereby made glad and happy. Several mothers wrote that the children loved their little books too dearly to return them even for a chance of one of the coveted prizes, or that after committing the rhymes to memory the little books, through much fingering, were not in a condition to return.

One little girl, on hearing that she had been fortunate enough to merit a prize, wrote exactly three times for it before we had time to get

the awards forwarded from Her Excellency. She wrote: "It is the very first money I have ever had, and to think I earned it myself." One could read between the lines that there was nothing on earth the child had not contemplated buying with that dollar.

The valuable gift from Mr. Stead of his Unabridged Editions by Standard Authors and Poets enabled us to send to every name on our books a Xmas parcel of 14 works, and I have heard he has made another generous grant of 26,000 penny novels which have been dispatched to Ottawa, and will in time be distributed among the different branches.

We also have to thank the English branch of our Association for the prints of the Queen sent in commemoration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. These were suitable for framing, and gave unqualified delight.

Her Excellency's gift of shrub and flower seeds also given in commemoration of our beloved Sovereign's Diamond Jubilee with directions for planting and caring for them called forth very many expressions of gratitude and great pleasure. I have since been informed by many of the result and well being of these truly precious gifts to them.

Our treasurer's statement for last year shows a deficit of \$1.12, the expenses having been \$62.83 and the receipts \$61.76.

I attach the following letters and extracts from letters received during the past year.

PIPESTONE, FEB. 1897.

"We receive the parcels of literature regularly and enjoy them very much and in many cases our less fortunate neighbours have also shared in the blessing. Especially have they been a great boon in winter when we are in a great measure shut in, sometimes for whole days storms. Our reading in winter is a great enjoyment to us, at once a source of pleasure and profit. We are well pleased with the character of the literature. "The Review of Reviews" is ever a welcome visitor. We like the "Cosmopolitan" The "Strand" "The Munsey" "Men" "Outlook," "Interior" "McClure."

At present our household consists of my brother, myself and a young Englishman who gives us a tune on the fiddle occasionally. After our chores are done we do our reading, play checkers, etc.

That we are still living in single blessedness is perhaps more our misfortune than fault. Our sister used to keep house for us, but she left us for a home of her own, and we have never been able to persuade anyone to fill her place.

I was born in Perth, when my father took a farm in Logiealmond I was fourteen. Logiealmond is now known as Drumtochty. My father leased the farm of 125 acres from the Earl of Mansfield. The lease was for 15 years. The rent high, times were hard, agricultural depression, foreign competition made it hard to make ends meet. However, we worked hard and economically to pay our way honorably to the end of the lease. Our landlord would not renew our lease on terms we could live at, so consequently we left the estate. My father, mother, two brothers and a sister still live in Scotland on a farm in Forfarshire. Three of us are in Manitoba doing the best we can to earn an honest livelihood. When we lived in Logiealmond my father wished me to learn the milling business and I went to the mill. A friend lent me "Ivanhoe" to read, no boy was ever more delighted and was not satisfied till I read all the Waverley novels, some of them three times. Some years later a

friend gave me to read "Adam Bede" and for years George Elliot was an inspiration to me. Then I got hold of Thackeray, Dickens, Charlotte Brontë, Macaulay's History of England, Essays.

While in Logie-mond it was my good fortune to enjoy the friendship and the ministrations of Dr. John Watson "Ian McLaren," my father was one of his session. The chapter in the "Bonny Brier Bush" "His Mother's Sermon" is an autobiographical sketch and we who heard him give out his text that morning "This man received sinners and eateth with them" saw and heard that John Watson did not forget his mother's dying charge "mind and speak a gude word for Jesus." Ian McLaren's characters are to a larger extent idealistic, but I knew the old doctor of Drumtochty and three old Highland elders in his session, one an Argyleshire man, the most intellectual character in his congregation. There is no doubt Drumtochty for beauty, and its men for true worth and sterling independence, fearless in asserting their freedom in matters civil, religious and political, have ever distinguished themselves.

Please excuse this rather long and rambling epistle. Many thanks for all the trouble you have taken on my behalf. Wishing you all success in your noble work and long may the Aberdeen Association be a source of light and leading, and may the noble Lady whose name it bears be long spared, honored and blessed in her many noble efforts to raise and cheer the lot of humanity."

NEEPAWA, MARCH 1897.

"I have been meaning to write for a long time, but whenever I sat down to do so I have become so overwhelmed with sorrow that I failed to do what I knew was my duty. I feel sure you will forgive me, for since the 14th July I felt a different woman, and can feel no interest in life. I only write to my aged mother in England, and business letters. On the above date my four beautiful lads and wee girlie went to the lake shore for a run (our homestead being about a mile from same) and never returned again.

The second day the one aged 10 was washed up. No sign of the rest was ever found. Neighbours helped search the Lake and shore for three weeks. Then as my health was indifferent and I was expecting a little one, my husband brought me here, the nearest town. A daughter was born to us on the 4th of September she is still doing well, but I have never fully recovered my health. Yet I have to work hard when often I would rather rest. Last week my husband returned to Dauphin and I am living with my wee girlie in a small shanty on the outskirts of this town. We have suffered very much with cold this winter. Sometimes I think it be that they were taken, and then again I long for them. I feel so lonely and quiet, my husband also has become a very silent man and he is old before his time. He is not strong and earns so little. I have to-day received a letter from the district of our old homestead saying that all our fine little things have been taken away altho' our neighbors all knew we intended returning after a time. Our one cow died just after we left. We could not bring our few traps with us as we had to do the journey by road and get a lift as we could. I asked my nearest neighbor to try and sell the chairs and table, stove etc. I hear they have done so, but I have never had the cash although I have expected it by every mail, but no, it seems hard, but may be they need it more than us.

Don't send reading matter for little ones *it breaks my heart*; but I truly thank you for making the last months of my dear ones' lives happy. They were truly delighted with the books."

ALEXANDER, JUNE 18TH. 1897.

"I must thank you for the charming selection of my last parcel, also the seeds, and we hope to plant them (as desired) on June 22nd. I hope they will grow. I think maples are the only trees to be depended upon out here. We are so interested in the coming Diamond Jubilee. We hope from our hearts that the dear Queen may have strength to go through all the arduous ceremonies of the day and be spared to

us for many years to come. I know every step of the route she will travel. I saw the procession of 1873 when the Prince of Wales went to St. Pauls to return thanks for his recovery from fever. It was a sight indeed; but this will be much grander. We are isolated from most of these pleasures, but we look forward for the promised picture of Her Majesty to be sent later on.

I must tell you how useful the picture papers are you send us. Our house is nearly papered with them from top to bottom and we have made frames for the good ones. We cover the walls with cheap factory cotton and then paste over. It is more durable and warmer than any wall paper besides being pretty to look at and such a pleasure and amusement for winter evenings."

SOLS GIRTH NOVEMBER, 1897.

"I cannot tell you how grateful I am for the reading sent. It is such a boon in the long winter evenings and I have ever been a "book worm." All you send goes round quite a circle of friends. I try to carry out your wishes with regard to "passing on" the literature.

In concluding, I should like to say that anything in my power that would be of service to the Association in any way I will most gladly do.

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. KIRBY,
Corresponding Secretary,
Winnipeg.

HALIFAX BRANCH.

President—Mrs. Montgomery Moore, Bellevue.

Vice-Presidents—Mrs. Corey, 12 South Park Street.

Mrs. Henry, 26 South Park Street.

Treasurer—Mrs. Cameron, 162 Pleasant Street.

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. Boak, Inglis Street.

Recording Secretary—Mrs. Borden, Pinchurst, Northwest Arm.

Executive Committee:

Mrs. Anstruther-Duncan,

Mrs. Troop,

The Misses Dwyer,

Miss Black,

Miss Wood,

Miss Daly,

Miss Hughes,

Miss Tremaine,

Miss Abbott,

Miss Corey,

Miss Cady,

Miss Bullock,

Mrs. Clements,

Mrs. Lethbridge,

Miss Gilpin,

Miss King,

Miss Troop,

Miss Townshend,

Miss Cameron,

Miss Chipman,

Miss Graham,

Miss Wallace,

Miss Willis,

Miss Wiswell,

Miss Story.

In presenting the report of The Halifax Branch of the Aberdeen Association, the Committee of management are glad to be able to record the fact that the Association is in good working condition.

At the present time 190 packages of literature are sent to the applicants every month.

In consequence of the growth of the Society, the Committee have found it impossible to carry on the work in the Hollis Street Room which they have occupied for the last three years.

A suitable room has been engaged in the Aberdeen Building 237 Barrington Street, at a rental of \$75 per year. The Association take possession the 1st of May.

In February some "Tableaux Vivants" were given in the Academy of Music in aid of the Association, and after all expenses were paid the Treasurer was enabled to bank \$370.56 as a fund for the Association.

The ordinary member's fee is one dollar. The office bearer's fee one dollar. The executive committee's fee is fifty cents.

The committee feel that the good work that is being done by the Association is so well known that it is quite unnecessary for them to sound its praises.

A few extracts from letters received from the recipients during the last few months will show those who have the welfare of the Association at heart that their efforts are appreciated.

"We are in receipt of your kind letter and hasten to answer it at once. We received the parcel of books you sent and were well pleased with them. The little magazines were a treat for the bairns. We have neither church or school although we have been here thirteen years in May. It is a very lonely place. There are a few English farmers but their children are nearly all grown up and far apart. Our nearest store and market is thirty miles distant."

"Your letter and form to hand. Have filled out form as per request. I also received the parcel of literature, was very pleased with it. There are three families living close by with a number of children in each family. One family consists of parents and six children, another has five children, the other three children, the younger ones were greatly pleased with the picture books. Poor little things, it is few pleasures they have in this far off prairie land. It does one good to be able to brighten up their lives. New settlers in a new country have a hard struggle in making a home and procuring the pleasures for their children that they would like."

"I think the association is a grand movement in putting good literature into the hands of the older children who, during the long winter evenings, will devour any reading matter that they can get hold of and that not always the best. And I am sure God will bless the Society and indeed I think it is always blessed, for after all the greatest pleasure we have in living is in giving pleasure to others."

"Your kind letter and parcel came duly to hand, and I beg to tender you our warmest thanks for both. In respect to the kind of reading we should like, I think you can scarcely make a mistake as to myself, as I am troubled with an omnivorous appetite in reading matter, as for the "Sunday at Home" we shall be very much pleased to have it. It is an old friend as we subscribed for it many years ago in Eng

land. As to being in a lonely district well I think we are, as we have very few neighbors. We are an old couple, 70 years old 25th March, wife 66 in April. All the young birds have flown from the nest. Our nearest neighbor is half a mile away, the next a mile and a half, others two, three and seven miles respectively, so you will see we are not crowded up much."

"Thank you so much for your never failing kindness. It was so kind of you to send the two little books in the last parcel called "In the Evening" and "Addresses on the Creed." I particularly write to thank you for the Sunday reading. It is most welcome to us. We have had such a long winter it would have been hard to get through, only for the nice parcels sent us."

"May I ask a favor of you, dear Madam: it is that for the next three months you would send our parcel of literature to my brother at Dauphin, instead of sending it to us. He has gone up there all alone to hunt and trap, and I am sure he must be having a lonely time, as he is away from everybody, 45 miles northwest of Dauphin. He is about 20 years old and is very fond of reading. If you could send him something that would help him onward and upward as well as entertaining I would be so glad. He has neither father nor mother, and is the youngest of our family."

"I receive my books with great regularity, and enjoy reading them greatly. Indeed I do not know how we should get on without them, as literature is difficult to get in these small towns. We have established a branch of the W.C.T.U. in this town and I am elected President, so that is why I am enquiring about temperance books. At present we are busy protesting against the hotel liquor licenses.

Wishing you a Happy New Year with every blessing spiritual and temporal."

All of which is respectfully submitted,

LAURA BORDEN,
Recording Secretary.

OTTAWA BRANCH.

President—Mrs. Scarth.
Secretary—Miss McLimont.
Recording Secretary—Mrs. Hewett.
Treasurer—Miss Kingsford.

Executive.

Mrs. Lake,	Miss Gwynne,
Miss Elsie Smith,	Miss Griffin,
Miss Scarth,	Miss MacLean,
Miss Caron,	Miss Jessie Scarth,
Miss Hamilton,	Miss Clarke,
Miss Ethel White,	Miss Grace Ritchie,
Miss Toller.	

The Ottawa Branch of the Aberdeen Association has had a very successful year. At a meeting of the Board on May 12th 1898 the Secretary announced that Her Excellency the Countess of Aberdeen, being President of the Association for the whole Dominion, desired to resign the Presidentship of the Ottawa Branch, and asked the Officers to elect a President in her place. Mrs. Scarth was unanimously elected President. By her election the Secretaryship became vacant and Miss McLimont was unanimously elected Secretary.

During the year 1896-97 the average number of parcels sent out monthly was 135, and during the year 1897-98 the average number has been 167 monthly, and new names are added to the list every month.

The numbers of appreciative and grateful letters received from the readers are most touching, and help more than anything else to encourage us in our work. One writes from Manitoba :—

“I received your kind and welcome letters and three parcels of beautiful literature. You seem to guess our tastes exactly. We are more than pleased with the magazines and, as for the children, I scarce know how to open the parcels for the excitement, and anxious eyes and hands also.”

One writes from Assiniboia :—

“Thank you very much for your kindness. The books are a great delight to us. We like something to read, they are the only thing we have in this lonely country, and I have no chance of getting books for myself.

Another writes :—

“I am so thankful at all times to get the parcels of reading, and, now the evenings are getting long, I feel lonely without them, and in the next distribution please don't forget the old man and his boys on the lonely prairies.”

A mother who is recovering from a surgical operation writes :—

“I received your kind letter but could not answer it sooner. My arm is bandaged to my side. The wound in my breast is not healed yet, and I don't gain strength fast. The books are a great help to me to pass the time. The children are all well and were delighted with the Xmas cards and books. We live at a mine 23 miles from town.”

Another writes :—

“I am so pleased with the reading we receive, and we never fail to bless and thank the sender.”

Another says :—

“Thank you for your kind letters. You, who have all this world can give, can never know how these little kindnesses are appreciated, more especially out in this lonely country. The books are indeed a great help to wile away the long winter evenings, and I hope and pray you may be long spared to send them.”

The two following letters give interesting particulars of work among the Indians :

LAC SEUL MISSION,

DINORWIC, ONT.,

Oct. 28th, 1897.

It is with great pleasure that I sit down to acknowledge the receipt of your kind note of the 4th inst. and to tell you that the two parcels of literature have come safely to hand for which please accept my hearty thanks.

I was very glad to get the two Jubilee pictures of the Queen. The Chief got one and was so pleased when I told him he might have it. As the Indian Department sent us a coloured one last summer for the school I thought you would not mind my giving the other to Charlie Carpenter the Indian lad who brought the parcels in. He will treasure it. He is such a nice Indian and I know you would be delighted to hear him singing "God save the Queen" and the "Maple Leaf" all in English.

I am sorry to know that "Wee Willie Winkie" has come to an end. It was such a bright cheery little paper and I am sure did much real good among the young people. Many thanks for your kind wishes. I am thankful to say the work has prospered during the past summer and I have had not a few evidences that God is blessing the sowing of the seed. The Mission is rather deserted just now, but a considerable number of the Indians will return as soon as the lakes set fast—the latter part of next month. They are engaged just now in what they call the "fall fishing" and are camped at various points along the shores of this lake. The nearest ones paddle in on Sunday mornings for the services—which is very encouraging. The Chief and family had a paddle of about 10 miles last Sunday and did not at all mind it.

LAC SEUL MISSION,

DINORWIC, ONT.,

Jan. 20th, 1898.

I thank you very much indeed for your kind letter and all the other good things that arrived with it—the cards, magazines, papers etc etc. I am deeply grateful to you for your continued kindness and sincerely trust there may be abundant blessings in store for you during the year upon which we have just entered. It is indeed a great pleasure as well as an encouragement to know that you are so interested in what is being done for the Master here, and I do wish you could arrange to spend a few weeks with us here in the summer when all the Indians are here. If there is any chance of your coming you must let me know so that I may arrange for your passage from the railway to the Mission.

I am glad to have the large Xmas card—the copy of the fresco in Ely Cath. Eng. I have seen the original so that it has a special interest for me.

The little calendar is so neat and useful—thank you for it.

We had a very delightful time at Christmas. We had talked of the blessed season days and weeks beforehand, we had prayed together for "prepared hearts" and I think we all more or less realized the cause, there was joy on that day. The communicants met together on Friday afternoon (the day before Xmas) for united meditation and prayer preparatory to approaching the Lord's Table. It was refreshing to listen to our Chief pleading, in his own language, with God for clean hearts for us all and not for us only, but "for all everywhere who intended to partake of the Good Spirit's Food on the approaching Great Praying Day" and it was equally touching to see twenty-four ignorant children kneeling at the Altar rail to receive the Blessed Sacrament which commemorates the sacrifice of the Saviour whom they have learned to love. The offertory amounted to \$8.05—almost all the money in

circulation here—and the Indians wish it to be devoted towards sending the gospel to the heathen Indians.

We had another enjoyable service on New Year's Day—attended by almost the whole Band and at their own request.

The Chief at the conclusion of the service and just before we dispersed, addressed his Indians and I hope his words of counsel and advice may be acted upon by us all. The time is as fully occupied as ever—in fact more so since I began teaching at Canoe River—the village where the Indians are, 4 miles from here. On my return late in the p.m. I have 7 or 8 children to teach here besides getting wood, cooking etc etc. I took over some yarn to the school to-day and 3 sets of needles—3 of the girls are already able to knit, they were all so interested. The children are making good progress I wish you could hear them singing their English and Indian Hymns.

I have dozens of other letters equally touching, but enough has been quoted to show how much the reading is appreciated by our readers. We are very anxious to have those who feel interested in this work join us as Honorary Members at an annual subscription of 50 cents, to do no work but to send us such literature as they can spare from time to time, consecutively if possible.

It would encourage us very much if the citizens would help us in this way, and I feel sure that the object of the Aberdeen Association has only to be known to ensure sympathy and support from the people.

Respectfully submitted,

JESSIE S. F. SCARTH.

Hon. Sec. A. A.

Ottawa Branch.

CALGARY BRANCH.

REPORT OF THE CALGARY BRANCH OF THE ABERDEEN ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR 1897-98.

President—Mrs. Barwis.

Secretary—Miss L. Moodie.

Miss Pinkham, Miss Moodie and Miss M. Moodie.

The Calgary Branch of the Aberdeen Association was organized on November 30th, 1894, in connection with a circle of King's Daughters. There were eight members, and the officers were as follows: President, Mrs. Barwis; Treasurer, Mrs. Green; Secretary, Miss Moodie. No fee was charged for joining the Association. The work of the King's Daughters was soon given up, and the society met simply for the work of the Aberdeen Association.

It was decided at our first meeting to send out parcels monthly from November to May, and during summer collect what literature was available for winter use. Notices were printed in the Calgary papers of the formation of this branch of the Association, and offers of literature to those in want of it, and with a request for literature from town people who could spare it.

Work began with eight or ten parcels, most of which were left at shops to be called for by the applicants. Some few sent stamps for postage when applying. The work was carried on without funds till 1897, when a request for such help as could be given was made to the applicants, and sufficient was received to defray present expenses. The same request was sent out this year. The Association has been supplied with paper and twine free through the kindness of Mr. Taylor, Manager for the Hudson's Bay Co. at Calgary, almost since the formation of this branch, without which it would have been impossible to carry on the work without funds. When free postage was granted to the Association in 1895 our applications largely increased, and we now have 70 names on our list. We shall not be able to supply any above this number, as we have already experienced some difficulty in securing sufficient literature in spite of the help received from Ottawa. Any Scandinavian or French reading would be very acceptable in this branch. Since the last report was issued our branch has had a great loss in the death of our Vice-President, Mrs. Morris, which occurred last August. The Association is poorly represented at present, and work is done under some difficulties. Grateful letters are occasionally received from applicants. I close this report with one recently to hand :

“I must thank you very much for your mindfulness of our family in sending us such nice parcels. The children dance with joy, and won't go to sleep the night your parcel comes.”

To many of us, surrounded by books, magazines, and papers of all kinds, a parcel of miscellaneous reading matter, much of it a year or more old, would seem little worth such gratitude; but such a letter stirs one to do all one can for this work, which brings a bit of brightness into the lives of our hardworking and lonely brothers and sisters in their prairie homes.

Respectfully submitted,

L. C. MOODIE,

Secretary.

May 4th, 1898.

VANCOUVER BRANCH.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1897-1898.

President—Mrs. Charles M. Beecher, Hastings Mill House.
Secretary—Mrs. Walter E. Graveley.
Treasurer—Miss Mayo Lawson.

Members.

Mrs. Senkler.	Miss Townley.
Mrs. Tovey.	Miss Lillian Moore.
Mrs. Plunkett.	Miss Springer.
Mrs. Carroll.	Miss Cambie.
Mrs. Weld.	Miss Charleson.
Mrs. Sherlock.	Miss A. Robertson.
Mrs. Ceperley.	Miss Skene.
Miss Richards.	Miss L. Skene.
Miss Susie Richards.	Miss Wilson.

Contributions for the Vancouver Branch may be sent either to the care of the President, Mrs. Beecher, Hastings Mill House, to Miss Cambie, Georgia Street, or to Mrs. Tovey, 229 Columbia Street, New Westminster, B.C.

The work of our Vancouver Branch has gone on prosperously the past year, and we feel that we have made progress in systematizing it. As considerable labor is involved we have welcomed every idea which would save our steps and time, while parcels have increased in number. We meet the second Tuesday morning of nine months in the year, and a few of us many extra times, spending whole days often in unpacking, sorting, and arranging the generous supplies of reading from our own region and the Old Country. Like last year so much has been given that we have not had to appeal once to the public. The object of our Association seems to win the approval directly of all who hear of it, and many steadily donate their periodicals. The central society has sent several boxes of valuable literature, including Mr. Stead's gift of many copies of his "Review of Reviews," and penny publications, for which we and our correspondents have been most grateful. We were much pleased to have the Souvenir Wee Willie Winkies, and the paint boxes for the children, so kindly given by Her Excellency, for our one want is more good reading and diversion for the young folks.

The pictures of Her Gracious Majesty, so suitable for her Diamond Jubilee, were also highly appreciated. Occasionally we supplement our usual efforts by forwarding reading through private channels to those not reached by the Post Office system.

The Mounted Police in the Klondike and many other men through them have received from us large packages of literature—the kinds we thought they would prefer. The Government has only been able to send in letter mail, owing to the great difficulties attending transportation, but Mr. Wood, the Inspector, could forward reading with their supplies, and wrote most appreciative letters, some of which I sent on to Her Excellency our President. Probably an opportunity to help such isolated men eager for reading and otherwise unable to get it, may never again occur, for we hope in behalf of the best interests of that great and rich region that development through railroads and telegraph systems may not be delayed—then reading will be obtained almost as easily as in other parts of our land.

In our December parcels we sent choice Christmas cards, and bought also about a hundred parcels for the Provincial Asylum in New Westminster, supplementing this number with almost as many more booklets and cards collected from our friends. Packages of reading were also given to the Provincial Jail, City Hospital, and Young Women's Christian Association opened January 1st, and some merchant ships with English crews.

The winners of the Nursery Rhymes Competition wrote grateful letters of thanks, and the bachelors who won a prize gracefully presented it to our Association as a slight mark of appreciation of its benefits received. We have had one other gift of money. In this connection I would say that we have no regular elected committee—just officers and members who divide the responsibilities as seems convenient. Our expenses are chiefly for wrapping paper and twine, as the fetching of our literature by box loads, and the carrying of the mail bags to the postoffice has been kindly done for us free of charge. For these services our hearty thanks are rendered as well as to all those who have in any way helped us in our work.

Greatly to my regret our headquarters have had to be changed this spring from my house as the room could no longer be spared. But the mayor and aldermen have been so good as to allow us the use of one in a city building, and the Branch is now comfortably established there to enter, we hope, on a period of increased usefulness.

Respectfully submitted,

ANNA J. BEECHER,

President Vancouver Branch of A. A.

REGINA BRANCH.

Hon. President—Mrs. Richardson.
President—Mrs J. H. Ross.
1st Vice-President—Mrs. Davin.
2nd Vice-President—Mrs. Beneke.
Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. McIllree.
Collecting Secretary—Mrs. J. W. Smith.
Recording Secretary—Mrs. R. Martin.
Treasurer—Mrs. G. W. Brown.

Committee.

Mrs. J. W. Smith,	Miss Macara.
Mrs. Scott,	Miss Rothwell.
Mrs. A. S. Ross,	Miss Benson.
Mrs. Robson,	Miss Gordon.
Mrs. Kerr.	

The Regina Branch is still growing though of course not so quickly as during the first year. In February 1896, we had fifteen parcels—last year in the same month we had sixty-eight, and now there are one hundred and fifty. During the year owing to change in the Indian Department, we unfortunately lost our vice-president—Mrs. Forget—whose place it was very hard to fill, as she helped the association in every possible way—indeed without her we should hardly have been able to start. In the same way we also lost Mrs. Ponton, one of the first members of our committee, who always took a keen interest in the work—also Miss Robson, but I am glad to say several new members have joined our committee.

Another loss, and a very important one, is the free twine and wrapping paper we had given to us for a year and a half, now we have to buy both, and find it comes to quite a big sum for our small funds to meet.

Also from the same cause—the closing of the Indian Department offices where we had our room—we were obliged to look for other quarters to carry on the work and suffered temporary inconvenience during the removal, but through the kindness of a friend of the association who gave us the use of a room rent free, we were soon re-established in very comfortable and even more convenient quarters.

We are almost entirely dependent on outside help for our literature, Mrs. Beneke has again come to our aid and got us four nice boxes this winter from England and we got three from Ottawa and expect another. Lady Aberdeen sent paint boxes as Xmas gifts to the children and a picture of the Queen. The following letter will show how these were appreciated :—

DEAR MADAM :—Many thanks for parcels of books received last night also for Xmas parcel containing Lady Aberdeen's blessed gift to the children which has done more good than she can ever realize, and thank you ever so much for your extreme kindness in taking so much trouble for people you do not know, but who are indeed grateful and wish you every blessing and happiness in the New Year."

Another writes :—

"We receive your monthly packages of "Aberdeen's" as we call them—many, many thanks— we know well how to appreciate such high-class literature, especially Munsey's, Strand and F. Leslie's Magazine, with novels by standard authors. Many thanks for the pictures of the Queen. I shall keep it as a jubilee souvenir, also for the seeds you sent last spring. We had good results from them. Please accept the enclosed dollar for the association."

Just one more letter I will quote :

"I received the parcels of books and was very pleased with them as I got no other papers. I planted theseeds that you sent but did not have good success with them—some of the maples came up but not the other trees, but the flower seeds did splendid—will plant more next spring. I have lent the books you so kindly sent me to my neighbors who are very pleased to read them. I also gave some to a few Indians who were camping near here and were taught at Kamsack and Regina schools. I found much pleasure in reading over the reports of the association that you sent in last parcel."

Hoping the above will show our Branch is getting on,

LILY McILLREE,

*Corresponding Secretary, Regina Branch,
Aberdeen Association.*

TORONTO BRANCH.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1897-98.

President—Miss Dickson, 7 Queen's Park.

Vice-President—Mrs. Bruce Harman, 25 Cecil Street.

Hon. Secretary—Miss Yarker, 58 D'Arcy Street.

Committee :

Lady Thompson,	631 Sherbourne St.
Mrs. Morris,	588 Spadina Avenue.
Mrs. Hayne,	
Mrs. White-Fraser,	7 Queen's Park.
Mrs. Edwards,	598 Spadina Avenue.
Mrs. Hollwey,	13 Bedford Road.
Miss Boulton,	107 St. Vincent Road.
Miss Darling,	100 Avenue Road.
Miss Dewar,	112 St. George St.
Miss Mackenzie,	28 John Street.
Miss A. Campbell,	Carbrook, Queen's Park.

The list of ordinary members numbers 53, all of whom pay a small fee annually.

The Toronto Branch of the Aberdeen Association begs to report a year of successful work from May, 1897 to May, 1898.

Last September we were obliged to move from the Bank of Commerce Building, and our address is now 87 Confederation Life Building. We are much indebted to Mr. J. K. Macdonald who has kindly given us the use of a large room on the fourth floor.

Thanks are due to Messrs. Kilgour Bros., who keep us supplied with wrapping paper.

We also have to thank Mr. Benjamin for giving us a set of scales, a most useful donation.

We have been well supplied with magazines, illustrated papers etc., but find great difficulty in getting literature for children. We never have enough to supply the demand. If any contributions are sent from Ottawa we shall be glad to have something suitable for little people. Last year the Association sent out ninety three parcels a month. This year the number has increased to one hundred and forty five (being about 12,000 books and papers monthly). Many grateful letters have been received, and that the Society is doing a good work is shown by the following extracts :

MINES CENTRE, ONE.

March 16th, 1898.

All the packages have arrived safely, thank you, and have done generous service here. Some time ago I was interested to observe pictures cut from the illustrated weekly magazines sent adorning the walls of the cabins of some of the Indians living on the Reserve near by. I think I can assure the Society through you, that this literature sent here performs its duty to assist in the entertainment of fully as many indigent persons as on any station of the Society, for I believe that the number must run up to at least one hundred and possibly double that number. As you may be interested to learn my method of distribution I would say that after enjoying the magazines myself I give the ones containing illustrations and short stories to a boarding-house here which caters to the miners and others of the poorer class. From this point the books are carried to all quarters by the men themselves, into camps, mines and dwellings. Others of the list, such as the novels and papers of the higher class I donate to private families here who have sufficient education to appreciate them. A very few of the best I keep myself and lend only to those qualified to enjoy.

Thus I think I make good use of all sent, and as this is a new and struggling district where few can afford to subscribe to current literature I feel that your Society can feel assured that it is doing an excellent and appreciated work. Please accept therefore, my thanks, sincere and heartfelt, both for myself and for the many others who are the recipients of your bounty.

DOKELEY, ASSA.

Dec. 28th, 1898.

I was glad to get your letter and the very nice parcel which was fetched from the Post Office on Christmas Eve. Thank you for your kind wishes which we heartily reciprocate, trusting sincerely that 1898 may prove to you a happy year.

Please convey to Her Excellency our sense of the kind interest she displays towards us and assure her that the presents she has sent are thoroughly appreciated.

CHURCHBRIDGE, ASSA.,

March 25th, 1898.

It was with great pleasure I received your letter. It is very lonely here all the long winter through. Since Christmas no one has been here except my sister and her husband and three dear little children twice, so you will think it is no wonder we prize the books. I am sure if every one that gets a parcel feels as happy as I do when they get it they must have a very happy day. The books you send are so nice I could not wish for any nicer.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully submitted,

EDITH YARKER,

Hon.-Secy. A. A.,

Toronto Branch.

MONTREAL, ENGLISH BRANCH, 1897-1898.

President—Mrs. Gillespie, Upper Stanley Street.

1st Vice-President—Lady Hingston, 882 Sherbrooke Street.

2nd Vice-President—Mrs. Oxley, 474 Prince Arthur Street.

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. Hanson, 1152 Dorchester Street.

Assistant Secretaries—Mrs. Minden Cole, 481 Guy Street.

Miss Reid, 2710 St. Catherine Street.

Recording Secretary—Miss Scott, 81 Redpath Street.

Treasurer—Miss Parker, 207 Stanley Street.

Executive Committee.

Mrs. Drummond, 874 Sherbrooke Street.

Mrs. Godfrey Weir, 155 University Street.

Mrs. Greenshields, 53 Simpson Street.

Miss David, 746 Sherbrooke Street.

Miss H. David, 746 Sherbrooke Street.

Miss Redpath, 24 McTavish Street.

Miss Gillespie, Upper Stanley Street.

Miss Laidlaw, 34 Luke Street.

Working Members :

Mrs. MacDuff, 222 Wood Avenue,

Mrs. Colby, 127 Bishop Street,

Miss Carruthers, 35 Luke Street,

Miss M. Gillespie, Upper Stanley Street,

Miss H. Redpath, 24 McTavish Street,

Miss Vasey, 752 Notre Dame Street,
 Miss Cooke, 134 Mackay Street,
 Miss Dunlop, 912 Sherbrooke Street,
 Miss L. Dunlop " " "
 Miss Lyman, 72 McTavish Street,
 Miss Ewan, 265 Drummond Street,
 Miss MacNider, 1018 Sherbrooke Street.

The Montreal English Branch of the Aberdeen Association beg to report a successful year's work.

Through the kindness of Mr. Clouston the Committee continue to hold their meetings in a commodious room over the Bank of Montreal in Seignear Street. These meetings have been well attended during the year, and the work of the Association has progressed satisfactorily.

Ordinary members of the Association pay an annual subscription of fifty cents.

Appeals for books and magazines are made periodically through the medium of the daily press, and by this means a fair amount of literature is secured to the association.

To facilitate the selection of literature the plan is adopted of keeping a register of the names of all settlers to whom reading matter is sent, with particulars as to their religion, etc. This has been found to be of great assistance.

There are now 152 names on the association's list.

A correspondence is kept up between the workers and recipients and the Committee have been greatly encouraged by the many letters of gratitude and appreciation received from settlers.

ELISABETH SCOTT,

Recording Secretary,

Montreal English Branch, Aberdeen Association.

RAPPORT DE LA BRANCHE FRANÇAISE A MONTREAL.

Depuis notre dernier rapport nous avons continué avec bonheur à contribuer pour notre modeste part à l'oeuvre éminemment charitable établie par son Excellence Lady Aberdeen en faveur des colons établis et isolés dans les diverses parties du Canada et en particulier ceux du Manitoba et du Nord-Ouest.

Notre comité est resté le même.

Présidente—Madame Louis Masson.

Vice-Présidentes—Madame de Beaujeu et
Mademoiselle M. Burtzell.

Trosorière—Mademoiselle Amélie Roy.

Secrétaires—Madame Arthur Gagnon et
Madame Provencher.

Les membres de cette branche sont au nombre de trente-deux, et la souscription annuelle est 50c., mais quelques dames donnent davantage et c'est en particulier à un cadeau très généreux reçu dans le cours de l'hiver que notre oeuvre doit sa prospérité actuelle. De bons amis nous ont aussi aidé en nous envoyant des livres, des brochures et des journaux illustrés, mais nous avons tant de demandes que nous craignons toujours de ne pouvoir satisfaire tous ceux qui s'adressent à nous. Notre branche étant la seule qui s'occupe spécialement des colons de langue française, nous espérons que toutes les personnes qui s'intéressent à l'oeuvre voudront bien nous venir en aide en nous procurant des livres, suivant en cela l'exemple de Son Excellence Lady Aberdeen qui est aussi venue à notre secours à plusieurs reprises.

Nous expédions cent-cinquante paquets par mois et nous consacrons à ce travail la matinée de chaque samedi. Notre dépôt de livres et notre bureau d'expédition, sont comme l'année dernière, au château de Ramezay, par la bienveillante permission du président et des membres de la Société des Antiquaires.

De même que dans notre dernier rapport, nous publions ci-après, et avec plaisir, quelques-unes des lettres de demandes et de remerciements que nous avons reçues, car rien n'est plus propre à faire apprécier notre oeuvre et à prouver son utilité et ses bienfaits que de faire connaître l'empressement et la reconnaissance de nos lecteurs. Beaucoup de lettres sont trop confidentielles pour être publiées mais nous en donnons autant d'extraits qu'il est possible de le faire sans indiscretion.

Quelques lettres sont entre les mains de Son Excellence Lady Aberdeen, ce sont celles qui la remercient des prix accordés par elle aux heureux gagnants dans la compétition des "Nursery Rhymes" Cette année, nouvelle faveur de sa part, chaque enfant a reçu une petite boîte de peinture. Le cadeau a dû leur faire grand plaisir, car, on le verra par quelques lettres, la moindre chose, une simple image, est appréciée comme un objet de prix et conservée comme un précieux souvenir. A la demande de Madame Hayter Reid, alors secrétaire générale de l'association, une liste complète de nos lecteurs lui a été envoyée avec tous les détails nécessaires pour le choix des livres qui leur conviennent selon leur âge et leur degré d'instruction. Presque tous nous ont écrit qu'ils passaient leurs livres à leurs voisins, et plusieurs

les remettent aux missionnaires qui, avec le temps, en formeront des bibliothèques de circulation, ce qui est le meilleur moyen de les conserver et de les faire servir à un plus grand nombre de lecteurs.

MELFORT.

A Madame la Comtesse Aberdeen.

Madame la Comtesse.

J'ai su avec joie que votre Excellence avait créé une association. Je vous demande si vous auriez la bonté d'envoyer cette lettre à la branche française afin que je sois sur la liste. Je n'ai pas le moyen de pouvoir goûter la joie que vos envois de livres pourraient me procurer. J'aime beaucoup la lecture et j'envie d'avoir tous ces beaux livres que votre Association a la bonté de nous envoyer. J'attendrai avec impatience et je me fie à votre bonté. C'est une amie qui m'a appris que vous aviez la bonté d'âme de créer cette belle oeuvre. C'est par elle que tant de pauvre monde peut enfin jouir du bonheur de ces belles lectures "

Madame :

Arrivée au Canada il y a quelques mois, j'apprends seulement ce jour l'existence de cette charitable société. Je serais très heureuse si vous pouviez m'envoyer un livre pour apprendre aussi l'anglais. Comme lecture, je préfère l'instructif à l'amusant. Agréez mes remerciements à l'avance"

Les lettres suivantes remercient des livres reçus.

" DUCK LAKE, 9 avril.

" Je viens par la présente vous accuser réception des trois derniers paquets de livres. Ma femme se joint à moi pour vous remercier des dons généreux que vous daignez nous envoyer, car ils sont d'excellents auxiliaires pour l'instruction de nos enfants. Eux aussi vous bénissent et si vous pouviez voir leurs figures rayonnantes lorsqu'ils me voient arriver avec les paquets, vous pourriez voir que vous faites des heureux."

" DOMREMY, 14 août, 1897.

" Je vous suis bien obligé et soyez assuré de ma sincère reconnaissance. Arrivé de France tout renouvellement je commence à m'établir ici et m'y plais bien ; la lecture des livres que vous me procurez nous fera trouver l'hiver moins long La variété que vous faites dans la distribution me satisfait au mieux, quels que soient leurs titres, ils seront toujours reçus avec reconnaissance."

" J'ai semé les graines que vous avez jointes à votre dernier envoi ; l'ébale de Manitoba est celle qui a le mieux levé ; ensuite l'arbuste a pris et le Purple Lilac. J'espère qu'elles pousseront et me seront avec le souvenir du Jubilee de la Reine, le souvenir de mon installation au Nord-Ouest."

" BATTLEFORD, 7 janvier.

" Je désire vous dire un mot de remerciement pour les envois de lectures qui nous arrivent si régulièrement et si à propos. Nous vous souhaitons succès, non seulement dans la bonne oeuvre que vous poursuivez, mais encore dans tout ce qui vous tient à coeur. Cordial merci et félicitations à toutes les dames qui vous aident à nous procurer ces doux plaisirs de la bonne lecture."

" ST. LOUIS DE LANGEVIN.

" Je vous remercie du plaisir, que vous nous faites éprouver par vos envois, c'est une précieuse oeuvre que la votre ; tout mon petit monde vous bénit ; j'ai dix enfants, l'aîné a quinze ans : nous prions le bon Dieu de vous récompenser de tout le bien que vous faites ; pour nous, chaque fois que vos livres arrivent, c'est une réjouissance extraordinaire."

LAC CHAPLEAU, 22 FÉVRIER.

".....Nous avons reçu votre lettre le 31 décembre avec un paquet de livres et des images dont les enfants ont eu bien de la joie et les conservent comme de précieux souvenirs. Mille mercis de vos générosités, vos livres charment les enfants et les grandes personnes, et ils égayaient les longues veillées d'hiver....."

St. Louis de Langevin, 24 JANVIER.

Je m'empresse d'accuser réception de vos deux derniers envois et je vous en remercie bien cordialement. Mes enfants ont beaucoup aimé les poupées en papier et les images, ils vous trouvent bien bonne de leur envoyer cela. J'ai huit enfants dont l'aîné a seize ans, ils vous adressent leurs mille remerciements....."

FLETT SPRINA, 1 JANVIER.

Je me fais un devoir de répondre à votre bonne lettre aujourd'hui étant le jour de l'an. J'ai reçu votre dernier envoi et je vous remercie beaucoup du goût que vous avez eu en choisissant tous ces bons et beaux livres.....Je vous envoie mes plus grands souhaits pour la nouvelle année et que vous jouissiez d'une bonne santé et que vous ayez de la prospérité dans toutes vos entreprises, J'ai aussi à vous remercier de votre carte de la nouvelle année, je vous remercie beaucoup de ce présent....."

Lac Marguerite.

Mille fois merci pour vos envois de livres qui nous sont si utiles et servent à nous et à nos enfants pour les instruire. C'est bien triste d'être ici seul avec sa petite famille, à 2000 lieues de ses parents que nous regrettons ainsi que les amis laissés la bas. Vos bons livres sont intéressants, nous instruisent et nous rendent le courage si utile ici plus que partout ailleurs pour qui est sans autre fortune que son courage et son savoir. C'est bien peu, et les colons qui emploient d'autres sont si rares et si loins. Nous les prions aux voisins qui les aiment aussi.

En terminant ce rapport, qu'il nous soit permis d'offrir nos remerciements à Son Excellence Lady Aberdeen pour son inépuisable dévouement et sa générosité envers les intérêts intellectuels du Nord-Ouest. Nous sommes aussi bien reconnaissantes à Madame Scarth dont l'expérience et les conseils nous ont été si utiles. Enfin, nous remercions sincèrement tous les amis de l'oeuvre et toutes les personnes généreuses qui par leurs aumônes et leurs dons nous ont permis de faire un peu de bien, et nous osons espérer que leur précieux concours ne nous fera pas défaut tant que nous travaillerons à rendre service aux colons canadiens et français des vastes prairies du Nord-Ouest.

LOUISE-D. PROVENCHER.

Secrétaire de la Branche Française.

Château de Ramezay,

Montréal, 10 mai, 1898.

HAMILTON BRANCH.

Honorary President :

Mrs. Malloch, 301 Bay Street, South.

President :

Mrs. W. A. Logie, 79 Markland Street.

Treasurer :

Miss Doolittle, 212 James Street.

Secretary :

Miss Vallance, 42 Herkimer Street.

Executive Committee :

Miss Malloch,	Miss MacInnes,
Miss Hobson,	Miss Harvey,
with the Officers.	

Members :

Miss L. Harvey,	Miss I. Macdonald,
Miss E. Lucas,	Miss T. Watson,
Miss M. Findlay,	Miss Kennedy,
Miss Wood.	

Honorary Members :

Mrs. Malloch,	Mrs. Kennedy,
Mrs. Wood,	Mrs. Crerar,
Mrs. Geo. Vallance,	Mrs. Gibson,
Mrs. Charlton.	Miss Wilcox.

This branch of the Aberdeen Association, now in its second year, commenced in October, 1896, by sending out ten parcels, we now send fifty-six.

We are greatly indebted to Her Excellency Lady Aberdeen for the copies of "Wee Willie Winkie." We are also indebted to the Ottawa Branch for boxes of literature, which assisted us very much in making up our parcels.

At first we had some difficulty in procuring suitable quarters for our Association. Mrs. Malloch had given us the privilege of using a room in her house for a year, but we felt we must not impose upon her generosity longer. We now have a nice room in the Court House, given us by the County Council, which is central and convenient.

The members' fee is fifty cents, and the honorary members one dollar.

Many of the recipients of our parcels write us grateful letters, which adds much to the interest of our members, who try to study the tastes of those to whom they send.

Respectfully submitted,

ANNETTE VALLANCE,

*Secretary Aberdeen Association,
Hamilton Branch.*

VICTORIA BRANCH.

President—Mrs. J. H. Turner, Point Ellice.
Vice-President—Mrs. McKilligan, Fort Street.
Secretary—Mrs. J. W. Church, Beacon Hill.
Treasurer—Miss Finlayson, Douglas Street.

Executive :

Mrs. Carmichael,	Mrs. Crompton,
Miss Newton,	Miss Hall,
Miss Galley,	Miss Devereux,
Miss Davie,	Miss Davie,
Miss Loewen,	Miss Rennie.

The Victoria Branch of the Aberdeen Association has entered upon its second year, having been inaugurated in October, 1896. The meetings of the Committee are held the first Monday of every month in the room kindly placed at the disposal of the Society by the Government in the Provincial Buildings, James Bay. The Committee have been faithful in their attendance and interested in the work, sending out an average of fifty parcels monthly. The increase is apparently slight, but this may be accounted for by the Klondike fever. It is very doubtful if the Association could have accomplished as much had it not been for the valuable aid from Ottawa through the kindness of the Rev. T. W. Winfield. The thanks of the Association are also due to the C.P.N. line of steamers going north, for free transportation of parcels to missionaries and lighthouses. Personal correspondence is kept up between the workers and recipients. To give an idea of the value attached to the parcels I will give a few extracts from letters received :

“ SAAHTLAM, 1st March, 1898.

“ I am in receipt of your letter of the 22nd ultimo, and in reply would first of all endeavor to thank you and the kind ladies of your Association for your very great kindness to us people who are, one might say, living out of the world. I am sure

you can have but little notion of the pleasure your kind favors have given us from time to time. I find no words sufficient to show my gratitude. Therefore I shall say nothing but just this, God bless you and the good lady of Aberdeen. What a great, grand, warm, loving heart she must have! She throws sunshine round everywhere she goes.

"Now, as to the kind of reading I would prefer, first and above all would be some good sensible Christian literature; second, anything except the usual abusive twaddle touching Ireland; third, being an ex-Colour-Sergeant of Her Majesty's Imperial Service, anything of a military nature would give me much pleasure.

"I am, dear lady,

"Most gratefully and respectfully,

 "VESUVIUS BAY, SALT SPRING ISLAND.

"I am in receipt of your very kind note of the 7th instant. I wish to say in reply that the literature so kindly sent to us by the ladies of the Aberdeen Association is indeed in every way satisfactory, and it gives us great pleasure to receive your parcels of nice books. Then we hand them on to others who care to read them.

"Many thanks for the nice Christmas cards you sent for the children, they were the only ones they received this year. We are out in B.C. alone, all our friends and relations in England.

"I do hope your parcels will continue to come when the Countess leaves. She is such a good, kind lady to think of everyone as she does. Thanking you for the books, cards, seeds and pictures you have so kindly sent us,

"Yours respectfully,

 "ALBERNI, B. C.

Mrs. Bird and myself wish to say that the literature sent us is very satisfactory and very welcome,—when thoroughly read is passed on. Unfortunately our Xmas parcel got mislaid on the wharf here and we did not get it until lately. It contained the prize of the crayon competition for the Bairns. Our little boy is delighted. However, it was just as welcome even if a little late. We have received each parcel with that exception very regularly.

Yours gratefully,

 The association is much indebted to Her Excellency for a box of Wee Willie Winkie's and boxes of water colors, and for a valuable parcel of Penny Popular Novels, edited by W. T. Stead, all of which must be productive of much pleasure and profit.

Respectfully submitted,

ELIZABETH TURNER.

BRANDON BRANCH.

President—Mrs. Donald McEwen, Brandon.

Secretary—Mrs. J. N. Kirchhoffer, Brandon.

Treasurer—Mrs. Cumberland, Brandon.

Executive Committee :

Mrs. Hearn,	Mrs. McDiarmid,
Mrs. Nation,	Miss McKenzie,
Miss Kirchhoffer,	Miss McEwen.

The Brandon branch of the Aberdeen Association begs to report that it has sent out 36 parcels of books and papers for the month of December, 1897, each of such parcels intended for families including children in its circle containing amongst its contents one of the envelopes provided with such loving thoughtfulness by our beloved President for "the bairns."

The last mail bag forwarded to Ottawa contained 42 packages. Our membership is yet small, being only about twelve. Our membership fee is fifty cents annually. We desire to tender our warm thanks to Her Excellency for her kind gift of books and paint-boxes and to the Central Committee for generous boxes of books sent us at different times. We have done very little as yet but hope to give a better account of ourselves another year.

Respectfully submitted,

JESSIE McEWEN,

President.

KINGSTON BRANCH.

President—Mrs. Skinner.

1st Vice-President—Miss Nichol.

2nd Vice President—Mrs. Jenkins.

Treasurer—Mrs. R. V. Rogers.

Secretary—Miss Helen Fraser, 228 Johnson St.

Committee (Besides the Office Bearers.)

Mrs. Yates,	Miss Strange,
Miss J. Shaw,	Miss Dobbs,
Miss M. Britton,	Miss Innes,
Miss E. Mowat,	Miss Carter,
Miss Dalton,	Miss C. Britton,
Miss F. Cunningham.	

The Kingston branch of the Aberdeen Association being a very young offshoot of the parent tree, has a very short history to relate.

At the suggestion of Mrs. Skinner, Chairman of the "City Union of The King's Daughters," it was decided to form a branch of the association having the same executive as the Union, which for the present is also to pay the expenses of the new undertaking. The branch was formally organized and authorized to proceed with its work so lately as the end of April and we sent out our first mail bag this month to 27 families, all in the N. W. T. The members of the committee who make up the parcels are young girls, members of the Order of the King's Daughters, and they appear to enjoy the work.

We get the books from many sources, for instance, an application was made to two book-stores for shop worn magazines and illustrated papers and they at once sent a goodly supply and we have to thank the press for kindly notices which have helped us in securing suitable reading matter for the purpose of the association.

All our members are enthusiastic and zealous in their desire to promote the objects of the association, and hope that when next it is called upon to give an account of its stewardship the Kingston branch will be able to show at all events that it has not buried its talent.

HELEN FRASER,
Secretary.

ENGLISH BRANCH.

President and Treasurer—Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava.

Vice-Presidents.

Marchioness of Lansdowne	Hon. Lady Ridley
Countess of Derby	Dow. Lady Tweedmouth,
Dowager Countess of Aberdeen	Dow Countess of Albemarle
Mrs. Chamberlain	Mrs. Molesworth
Lady Harriet Lindsay	Hon. Lady Northcote
Miss Monk.	

Secretary—Mrs Gordon of Ellon.

Since the last report sent by the London Branch of the Aberdeen Association to Ottawa in May of last year, consignments of literature have been dispatched to Ottawa, consisting altogether of 48 cases and 4 bales. Of these, 25 cases and 4 bales have been sent this year. Besides this, Mr. Stead has very generously made a further grant of 12,000 Penny Novels (Masterpiece Library) which were dispatched

direct from his office in 11 bales on March 10th. Mr. Stead also continues to contribute a consignment of "Review of Reviews" monthly direct to Ottawa.

An article written by Mrs. Moleworth on the objects and work of the Association in MacMillan's Magazine for December last has been largely instrumental in enabling the London Branch to send out such good consignments, and the Committee hope that the public interest in the Association may be kept up by the publication of another article from a well known pen shortly.

At a Committee meeting held in London on March 5th, Lady Dufferin proposed the formation of a Book Guild in connection with the Aberdeen Association, members of which shall undertake to give two books, or 12 consecutive numbers of a magazine, and one shilling every year. Cards of membership have already been printed, and a number distributed, and it seems probable that the scheme will prove a most valuable aid to the resources of the Association.

The consignments sent out to Canada being so far in excess of what was anticipated when the Allan and Dominion Shipping Cos. were asked to carry consignments of literature free to Canada for the Association, the Beaver Line has been asked whether they would also carry consignments free for the Association, and this they have very kindly consented to do. It is hoped that by sending consignments consecutively by the three S. S. Cos., the Association will not tax the generosity of any one of them unduly. (Consignments are, however, only sent by Dominion Line during the summer months, as in winter this Line's Steamers go to Portland, thus creating complications with regard to U. S. Customs.)

The 1000 reprints of a portrait of Her Majesty, the purchase of which was mentioned in the last report as having been approved by the Committee, were included in a consignment sent to Ottawa in July last, and they appear to have given pleasure to many of our readers.

The Committee are of opinion that it is of the greatest importance that a regular collecting Branch of the Association should be established in Liverpool, since Mrs. Henderson, who very kindly acted as a forwarding agent during last year, states that she cannot continue to work except within the limits of her own Church Guild, and that she does not wish to receive or forward parcels from other parts of the country. Under these circumstances steps are being taken to organize a branch of the Association in Liverpool which shall conform to the main rules of the Association, and work in connection with the Central Committee under Lady Dufferin's Presidency, and it is hoped that this may be accomplished before long.

CAROLINE GORDON,

Hon. Sec.

GLASGOW BRANCH.

During the last year magazines have been received from a number of contributors, and bales have been sent periodically to Canada. As the result however, of the letter which appeared in the Scottish newspapers from the Countess of Aberdeen, there has recently been a very large increase in the number of contributors and the quantity of magazines forwarded to Canada is accordingly much greater than before. If they continue at the present rate, or if as a result of further appeals they are still further increased, it will be necessary to take steps to find some centre for the reception of the magazines in Glasgow, as the work will be more than is suitable for the resources of a dwelling house.

MARY MACLEHOSE.

7 University Gardens, Glasgow,
6th May, 1898.

 LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND.

The Young Women's Guild of Sefton Park Church, was asked by their President, Dr. Watson, (Ian Maclaren) to take some interest in the work of the Aberdeen Association. For the last twelve months they have collected magazines from their own congregation and have despatched three parcels numbering in all over four thousand magazines and a number of books. They are hoping to continue the work, but wish it clearly to be understood, that their efforts cannot go beyond their own congregation which is a very large one and supplies as many magazines as they can undertake to sort and despatch.

They regret that they cannot found a public branch in Liverpool but believe there is room for one and hope their effort may have prepared the way for a more extensive working of the scheme in this city. They would advise that a note should be inserted in the new report distinctly stating that there is no *public* branch in Liverpool as yet, and that parcels are *not* carried free in England.

E. M. HENDERSON,
Secretary.

DIRECTIONS TO DONORS OF LITERATURE.

Friends desirous of assisting the Association can do so either by sending donations of money, or contributions of literature.

Those living in a district where a Branch of the Association exists can send their gifts addressed to

" ABERDEEN ASSOCIATION,"

at

Brandon, Man., care of Mrs. Kirchhoffer.

Calgary, Alta., care of Secretary.

Halifax, N.S., 237 Barrington Street.

Hamilton, Ont., Court House.

Kingston, Ont., care of Secretary.

Montreal, Que. (English Branch), care of Bank of Montreal
Seigneur Street.

(French Branch), Chateau de Ramezay.

Ottawa, Ont., Mrs. Scarth, Langevin Block.

Quebec, Que., care of Secretary.

Regina, Assa., care of Secretary.

Toronto, Ont., 87 Confederation Life Building.

Vancouver, B.C., Mrs. Beecher, Hastings Mill House.

Miss Cambie, Georgia Street.

Mrs. Tovey, 229 Columbia Street, New
Westminster.

Victoria, B.C., Provincial Buildings, James Bay.

Winnipeg, Man., Lands Titles Buildings.

It is advisable when forwarding contributions of literature to Branches as above, to send a post card at the same time to the Secretary of the Branch.

Donors are in all cases requested to place a label both inside and outside the box or package, giving their name and address and the date of the transmission of the contribution, so that it may receive due acknowledgement.

A list of the literature most desired will be found on another page.

Friends in the Old Country interested in the Association and willing to send parcels or boxes direct can send them free of cost during the summer either by the Allan, Dominion or Beaver lines of steamers, if addressed as follows :

LITERATURE FOR THE ABERDEEN ASSOCIATION.

J. CORBETT,

General Freight Agent,

C. P. R.,

MONTREAL, CANADA.

Care of Agent for ALLAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY,
(or BEAVER, or DOMINION)

LIVERPOOL.

(or GLASGOW)

Kindly forward to
MR. C. F. WHITLEY,
Hon. Sec. Aberdeen Association,
OTTAWA, ONT.

(From Ottawa the Central Committee will distribute literature to the different Branches as it may be needed.)

In all cases the words "Literature for the Aberdeen Association" must appear above the address.

The Dominion Line prefer that the literature forwarded through them should be packed in stout paper parcels, not exceeding 15 lbs. in weight.

or if to Halifax direct like this :--

LITERATURE FOR THE ABERDEEN ASSOCIATION.

Care of Agent for ALLAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY,
(or DOMINION)

LIVERPOOL.
(or GLASGOW)

Kindly forward to

SECRETARY ABERDEEN ASSOCIATION,
HALIFAX,
NOVA SCOTIA.

It is more convenient that literature for the Halifax Branch should thus be sent direct thither, as the Allan and Dominion steamers go to that port, and no further transmission by rail is therefore required.

The only cost which the package will involve to the sender will be the carriage to Liverpool or Glasgow.

Small parcels (and all contributions however small are heartily welcome) will be gladly received by Mrs. MacLehose, 7 University Gardens, Glasgow.

Any contributions sent to The Secretary, Aberdeen Association, Imperial Institute, London, will be promptly acknowledged and duly forwarded to Canada.

Mrs. Gordon, Ellon Castle, Aberdeenshire, who was formerly Secretary in Canada, will gladly give information and answer questions at any time.
