

sketched is each evening interspersed with music. The meetings are held fortnightly. During this winter cottage prayer meetings are being held in different houses, and are conducted by the Pastor. The Wednesday evening prayer meeting is always largely attended. The young people conduct a Sabbath morning prayer meeting. The teachers and officers of the Sunday school hold a meeting for prayer at the close of each session. The ladies hold a monthly prayer meeting. The Sunday school last week held its anniversary, the children after tea had a most enjoyable time of it. Our earnest prayer, in entering upon another year's work, is that it may to us be one of "the years of the right hand of the Most High."

HAMILTON.—The annual meeting of the church and congregation was held on the evening of Wednesday, 20th January. This meeting is held for the purpose of hearing reports from the various officers and organizations of the church. This year it was resolved to dispense with the usual tea meeting so that more time might be given to the consideration of the reports. There was a large attendance of the members of the church and congregation. The pastor, Rev. John Morton, presided, and said in his opening remarks that by the good hand of God upon us the office bearers and conveners of committees were able to present the reports of another year's work by this church. These reports record material results rather than spiritual. They tell the number of dollars raised, the number of members on the roll, and the agencies employed. They will show that our membership has increased in spite of the removals and is now over 200. They will show that the ordinary income has been more than sufficient to meet the ordinary expenditure; that we have raised no inconsiderable sum for missionary purposes and that we have cut a large slice off the church debt. They will show also that we have no fewer than ten agencies within the church, viz: The Sabbath school, Young Men's Sunday morning meeting, The Young People's Sunday evening meeting, The Evangelistic Committee, The Young People's Prayer Circle, The Ladies' Visiting Committee, The Gentlemen's Visiting Committee, The Ladies' Sewing Society and the Young People's Mutual Improvement Society. During the year as will also be shown we have raised not a little for benevolent purposes, and of purely extra work we have entertained the Union. It will thus be seen that we make a fair show in members, money and methods of work. These reports cannot tell the spiritual results, which are after all most important and for which all the agencies exist. God only knows how much true worship we have rendered during the year, how much fellowship with Christ, how much elevation of heart from this fellowship, how many evil habits overcome, and how many graces cultivated. God only knows how much purer, better, nobler, we have been on account of our fellowship with this church during the year, nor can we tell the results of our work in relation to others. God only knows in what manner we have led children to love Christ, in what manner we have impressed the claim of Christ on men, and by our lives commended the gospel to the world. I am not downhearted about these results. I believe that though we have fallen short of what we might have done we have left results which will tell to the end of time and which will be seen in the harvest. As to the future let all

the agencies be carried on with energy, but let me urge the need of more communion with Christ. In all our church work let us be looking up into his face for the spirit and inspiration required. Mr. Laing, the church Secretary, then read his annual report, from which it appeared that the membership roll showed after allowing for removals, deaths and members dropped, 204 which is an increase of 7 over the number (197) at the close of last year, the largest number ever upon the books of the church. From the report of the General Treasurer and of J. C. Bule, the Treasurer of the Debt Fund, it appeared that the sum of \$2341 51 had been raised by the Weekly Offerings, \$559.26 from open collections and \$180.39 from other sources, making a total of \$3090.96 for local church purposes; from this and the balances in hand at the beginning of the year there has been paid as follows:—For ministry of the word and extra pulpit supply, \$1,250; for local church purposes including interest on debt (\$2,000,) \$890.59; for church at Stratford, \$20; Congregational Union, \$10; College, \$35; Church debt, (reducing it to \$1,250,) \$750; Total, \$2,955 59; which leaves balances to the credit of the general and debt fund of \$45 81 and \$89.56 respectively. In addition to these amounts it appeared from the report of missionary committee that \$140 was raised by it for missionary purposes, to which may be added \$20 sent direct by one of the contributors and \$110 raised by the Sunday school, in addition to about \$50 also raised by the S. S. for special benevolent purposes at Christmas time. The Ladies' Sewing Society had also raised about \$100 which was expended principally in benevolent objects. Mr. Aitchison, the Superintendent of the S. school and who has been connected with the school in some capacity for more than thirty years, in his report gave a very interesting sketch of its past history, closing with a very eloquent appeal to the parents and friends present to aid the teachers by their co-operation. The school, which is in a very healthy state, numbers 191 children, taught by 19 teachers, the largest number of whom have been scholars of the school. The average attendance of the year was 145. Reports of the other organizations followed. The West End mission school was reported on by Mr. Black, the Superintendent. From the report it appeared that good was being done, Votes of thanks to retiring officers, the choir and one claimant, brought a very successful meeting to a close.

LONDON.—The annual meeting of this church was held on the 30th ult., the attendance was large. Chaired by the pastor, Rev. H. D. Hunter, who in opening said that the close of 1885 completed the fifth year of his ministry among them, as well as another page in church history and life. Contributions to denominational schemes have increased some 34 per cent.; open or plate collections exceed those of last year by a considerable sum; the sums reported for all purposes are \$145.72 in excess of last year. The year has been marked by more of personal and relative affliction in both church and congregation than any former one. The dark shadows of painful and protracted illness have fallen upon many families, and the darker shadows of death have fallen upon the hearthstones of seven beloved families, in the decease of nine of their domestic circle. The loss during the year of members was thirteen; the addition, thirty-eight, eight by letter and thirty by confession. Within the past few months