

## Report of the Kirk-Session,

1883.

It is cause for devout thankfulness that the "lengthened vacancy" referred to in last annual report has terminated, and that the choice of the congregation has fallen upon a minister of large experience and acknowledged ability, whose record in other spheres of labour encourages us to believe that his coming amongst us will be a blessing not only to this city and congregation but also to the Church at large.

THE REV. JAMES BARCLAY, M.A., formerly of St. Cuthbert's Edinburgh, was unanimously selected by the committee entrusted with the important duty of securing the services of a minister for this Church in room of Rev. Dr. Jenkins who retired from the active duties of the ministry in October, 1881. In that selection the congregation having unanimously and heartily concurred, Mr. Barclay was inducted by the Presbytery of Montreal on the 11th of October last. It was very gratifying to the congregation that their venerable ex-pastor was appointed to preside at the induction and also that the Rev. Andrew Paton of Penpont, the convener of the the sub-committee in Britain, was present on that occasion and on the following Sabbath introduced Mr. Barclay to the congregation. The Session hopes and prays that the new relationship thus formed may long continue, and that by the united efforts of pastor and people this congregation may not only continue to prosper as it has done in the past, but that it may by the blessing of God enter upon a career of increased and ever increasing usefulness. For twelve months prior to Mr. Barclay's induction the work of the congregation was carried on by Dr. Jenkins, with the assistance of Mr. Heridge, now minister of St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, and so efficiently that the congregation passed through the trying ordeal of a two year's vacancy without any appreciable diminution of its numbers. It may not be out of place to mention here that both of the former assistant ministers of St. Paul's are also occupying, with marked ability and success, prominent positions in the Church—the Rev. Robert Laing, as minister of St. Matthews congregation, Halifax, and Rev. W. R. Cruikshank as minister of St. Matthew's congregation, Montreal.

The Session notices that, compared with former years, the hand of death has been but lightly laid on us. Last year there were *twenty-six* burials: this year only *eight*,—enough, however, to remind us of the uncertainty of life and to admonish us to work for the Master while we may.