

Building Fund showing an increase of \$29.75 over any former year.

We began the year with a balance from 1895 of \$45.00; to this has been added the contributions of 1896, viz., \$172.70, with interest, making a total of \$219.35. Out of this fund \$218.35 has been handed over to the Manager's Treasurer leaving a small balance of \$1.00.

Our General Fund (which is made up entirely from extra contributions by the Active Members) carried over a balance from 1895 of \$14.28. Contributions for this year \$14.72, making a total of \$29.00. Disbursements out of this fund \$25.74, leaving a balance of \$3.26.

The Active Members of this Society also furnished the Church Parlor with necessary blinds and curtains. They have also made over 100 purely social visits apart from their regular monthly calls.

In March we held our 2nd annual "At Home," which was largely attended and much enjoyed. At that meeting it was unanimously resolved that, Whereas we have heretofore been appropriating our monthly contributions from Honorary Members exclusively towards reducing debt on Church, that it be now applied towards the S. S. extension and Building Fund in compliance with request contained in communication from Managers.

During the year we were sorry to lose the service of Mrs. Wm. Hyndman, who removed to Michigan, as she had been our faithful Treasurer for several years. And while along with her we have lost by removal and other causes some of our active workers yet we feel thankful that so far death has caused no vacancy.

The Active Members of this Society again thank the Honorary Members for their kind receptions and cheerful givings, also our Pastor for encouragement and help.

The following Officers have been elected for 1897:

President, Mrs. McBean.
1st Vice-President, Mrs. Shearer.
2nd Vice-President, Mrs. Whyte.
Secretary, Mrs. A. Turnbull.
Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Glass.
Treasurer of Building Fund, Mrs. Baines.
Treasurer of General Fund, Mrs. Wm. Brown.

Organists, {Mrs. Phillips.
 {Miss Binkley.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

MRS. A. TURNBULL, Secretary.

Report of the Sunday School Building Committee.

To the Members and Adherents of
Erskine Church:

Your Committee in presenting their report do so with a deep sense of gratitude to God, by whose grace we have been able to complete our work, and it is with feelings of confidence it has been appreciated and that the building in our possession will always remain a credit to the Congregation and of great service to all who have occasion to use it.

As regards the interior of the building we feel assured that all are pleased with its design and appearance. The auditorium is large and commodious, the acoustics are perfect and the sight lines are all that can be desired. As a school it has many advantages which are a great benefit in efficiently carrying on the work of a well organized school. There are twenty-five class rooms, including two for the infant classes, all of which open into the auditorium by folding doors, two Bible class rooms, Library, Ladies' Parlor, Vestry, Manager's Room, Boys' Brigade Armoury, Kitchen, besides lavatories, etc. The building is well lighted, ventilated, and heated by two large furnaces.

Your Committee were greatly encouraged with the manner in which the Congregation so liberally responded towards the amount required before they could allow the work to commence. Subscriptions to the amount of \$3,000 were subscribed, \$1,515 of the same has been paid during the past year.

The corner stone was laid on July 14th, 1896, by Mrs. Shearer, and witnessed by a large number both of our own and other congregations. The services were presided over by our Pastor, and consisted of prayer, singing and addresses by the following: Rev. Dr. Fletcher, Dr. Brethour, Dr. Beavis, Rev. A. McWilliams and Mr. D. McGandier, also Messrs. John Knox, John Crearer and A. I. McKenzie. The corner stone was the gift of the Secretary, the work on it being done by Mr. John Keith. The trowel used was presented by Mr. Thomas Lees, the handle being of carved wood, the gift of our Treasurer.

The opening services were held on November 8th to the 16th, and were well attended by a large number who were loud in their praises of our fine school and of the wonderful progress of our church. Each evening had a different programme, all of which were enjoyable and beneficial.

The Committee cannot close their report without special reference being made to our worthy and esteemed Treasurer, who was untiring in his efforts to produce a building in all its parts at the least possible cost, and

who spent so much of his time in carefully overseeing the construction of the building. We feel there are few who really know how much he has done for us, as day after day he watched the progress of the building, and there are many ideas and suggestions which are due to his skill and ability, that were carried out greatly adding to the design, finish and appearance of our model school. The thanks of the Congregation are also due the following for their kind gifts, namely: Mr. Thos. Lees for the handsome clock, Mr. Malcolm for the blackboard, Mr. R. S. Collins for the two panels with the ten commandments, Mr. R. E. Gallagher for the Lord's Prayer beautifully illumined and framed, and to the Treasurer and Secretary for the decorations and texts on the freize.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAS. GILL, B.A., J. R. MOODIE,
Chairman. Secretary.

Treasurer's Statement.

Contractor.	Class of Work.	Contract.	Extras.	Total.
Wm. Hancock.....	Mason work.....	\$1122 00	\$3 50	\$1125 50
Fred Taylor.....	Carpenter Work.....	2390 00	140 00	2730 00
Hammond Bros.....	Plastering.....	375 00	5 00	380 00
W. D. Riddell.....	Thinsiding.....	119 00	13 00	230 00
A. McKenzie.....	Plumbing and Gas.....	193 00		206 00
D. Smith.....	Painting.....	275 75		275 75
C. McKenzie.....	Sewer Work.....	144 00		144 00
C. O. Sprague.....	Doors and Hangers.....	41 40		41 40
Malcolm & Souter.....	Folding Doors.....	95 80		95 80
Gurney-Hilden Co.....	Furnaces.....	430 00		430 00
Ross Bros.....	Glass, (obscure).....	42 08		42 08
Chas. Mills.....	Sketches.....	50 00		50 00
W. F. Witton.....	Architect.....	175 00		175 00
Cost of Building.....		\$5779 03	\$161 50	\$5740 53
Malcolm & Souter.....	Gallery Seats.....	123 00		
J. T. Hall.....	Carpets, &c.....	74 57		
T. Reiger.....	Chairs.....	14 00		
	Wire Guards.....	6 75		
Total cost of Building and Furnishings.....				\$6158 85

RECEIPTS:

Cash from Sunday School.....	\$ 103 37
Subscriptions to Building.....	1525 11
Opening collections.....	197 04
Ladies' Aid Society.....	218 35
Mortgage, J. Moodie, Jr.....	3000 00
Private Loan, Sprucedale Estate.....	1000 00
Bank of Hamilton.....	250 00

\$6283 87

EXPENDITURE:

Contracts and Furnishings.....	\$6158 85
Insurance.....	21 00
Legal expenses.....	13 90
Opening expenses and interest.....	88 20
Balance on hand.....	1 92

\$6283 87

A. M. SOUTER, Treasurer.