

voluntary contributions. The various reports which were disposed of, each revealed a gratifying zeal and self-denial on the part of the workers of the various branches. After devotional exercises conducted by the pastor, Rev. W. J. Clark, Mr. J. I. Anderson read the annual statement, showing receipts for such purposes as relief of the poor, \$189.01; disbursements, \$109.50. Seventeen infants and one adult were baptized. The membership of the church last year was 451. Fifteen were added by profession, and 29 by certificates, but 9 were removed by death, 32 left on certificate, and 5 without certificate, leaving the total 449.

Mr. Gibson, for the Mission Committee, reported that the receipts were \$772.60, as against \$776.00 the year previous; \$250 went to home missions, and \$180 to foreign missions. Favorable reports were read from the Sunday School, W.F.M. Auxiliary, Ladies' Aid Society, for Bible Study, Victoria Mission Band, Columbus Mission Band, Waterloo Sunday School, and the Music Committee.

On motion of Mr. J. I. Anderson; Messrs. W. J. Craig, R. Reid, B. Bryant, R. Henderson, A. McPherson, A. Templeton, and W. C. Ferguson were elected to the board of managers, the latter two being new members, in the place of Messrs. J. C. Crombie and J. H. Gillespie, who retired.

Mr. A. M. Hamilton was re-elected treasurer, and Mr. Walter Simson and Dr. Wood are the auditors.

CALVIN CHURCH, ST. JOHN, N. B.
The annual congregational meeting of Calvin Presbyterian church was held recently. The reports were satisfactory, showing that the finances were in a good condition and that the year had been a successful one. The election of trustees resulted as follows: James Buchanan, chairman; T. S. Hill, secretary; A. E. Belyea, treasurer; M. McNaughton; W. Robertson, W. Megarity, J. S. Clarke, J. H. Armstrong and J. D. McKay.

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH GALT.

The annual congregational meeting of the Central Presbyterian Church was held on Jan. 19th. In the absence of the pastor, Mr. Wm. Weir, took the chair. He being the Superintendent of the Sunday School, he gave a verbal report of the work done in it during the year, which showed a very satisfactory state of affairs. During the year the amount of money collected in the Sunday School was \$269.15, the total amount to the credit of the Sunday School being \$329.79.

Dr. Dickson, who had been in attendance at the Presbyterian meeting at Guelph, arrived as Mr. Weir concluded his report, and he read the report of the Session. It showed that the Sabbath and mid-week services had been well attended during the year, while 60 new members had been added—20 by profession of faith and 40 from other congregations.

The membership roll had been purged, and 9 were removed, 8 had received letters and 11 died; showing still a gain of 32. The total number of members, in good standing, now on the roll, was 705. The weeks of prayer just concluded had been the best attended that ever had been held in the Church. On motion the Sessions report was adopted, as was also the report of the Sunday School Superintendent. Dr. Dickson then retired from the meeting, and Mr. R. Gilholm, Chairman of the Board of Managers took the chair, and the Secretary read their report, and the financial statement, which showed total receipts of \$6,105.07. The income from pew rents open and envelope collections, amount to \$3,639.58 against \$3,951.43 for the year 1895, a decrease of \$3185. The expenses for the year amount to \$4,075.00, being a shortage of \$435.30 for the year. The assets of the church amount to \$42,748.47, and the liabilities of \$14,050—leaving balance of assets over liabilities of \$28,698.47.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PARKDALE.

The annual meeting of the Parkdale Presbyterian Church was held Jan. 27. Mr. William Murchison occupied the chair, and the reports disclosed an encouraging state of affairs. Private

business prevented Rev. D. C. Hossack from being present. The reports of session showed that the present membership of the church is 730, an increase of ten during the year. The number in attendance on the Sunday School is 908. The total amount raised in the year was \$8,410.58. Of this the Sunday School raised \$563.39, the W.F.M.S., \$235.75, the Christian Endeavor Society \$75.39 and the Coral Mission Band \$86.87. In addition \$976.95 was raised for missions, etc. The total expenditure for church purposes was \$7,380.72, leaving a balance on hand of \$74.46. The debt was decreased by \$800 during the year. The bulk of the contributions were by the collections, \$4,425.72 being by envelope and \$1,518.75 by open collections. The Treasurer estimated the revenue for 1897 at \$6,940 and the disbursements equal to this, provision being made for a debt reduction of \$1,000.

A matter of a good deal of importance is the question of the Sunday School accommodation, the present quarters being too small. A special committee appointed to consider the matter suggested that a committee be appointed to gain information as to methods in which this could be done. Assistant Superintendent T. Jack spoke strongly in favor of an extension of the Sunday School building. Mr. Asher held that a new building is necessary, and said that he understood that a school could be built for about \$10,000; the children have already raised \$1,250 for this purpose, and he advocated that the congregation duplicate this sum and proceed to build the building. Mr. J. Perry advocated the use of the church for a number of the classes; the school could be organized in two sections. This proposition was debated at great length and finally Mr. Perry's motion was carried. It was also decided to apportion \$200 for the purpose of improving the present quarters for the primary classes, which a number of those present denounced in vigorous language as entirely unsuitable.

ZION CHURCH, BRANIFORD.

The annual congregational meeting of Zion church was held February 10. Dr. Cochrane presided, for the thirty-fourth year, as pastor of the church, and in two months more he completes thirty-five years of ministerial life in Braniford. After devotional exercises he referred in brief terms to the continued harmony and activity of the church, as proved by the membership, and the amounts raised for the support of ordinances and for missionary and benevolent objects. It had ever been his aim that the congregation should, at least, give for good objects beyond their own wants, as much as was spent on itself, and this year, he was glad to say, they had kept up their record. He also referred to the excellent work done by the Sabbath school teachers and the Young People's societies, and the self-denying efforts of those in charge of the missions and those who ministered to the wants of the poorer brethren of the household of faith. Reports were then read by Dr. Nichol, Mr. Thomson, Mr. Moffatt and others from the different Sabbath schools and missions, showing that connected with the three schools there were 88 teachers and 735 scholars. From the Missionary association, showing that there had been raised for the different schemes of the church, \$2,188.97; that there had been given for the three Sabbath schools, Zion church, St. Andrew's and Balfour street, and towards the buildings, \$3,080.92; while the Ladies' Benevolent and Aid societies, the King's Daughters and Christian Endeavor societies reported \$344.60 for benevolent and other purposes. The report of the treasurer, Mr. Wm. Grant, and the secretary of the board of management, Mr. J. A. Wallace, showed that \$1,296.05 had been contributed for the regular maintenance of ordinances, and \$2,500 for the reduction of the debt, making a total for all purposes of \$12,340.54.

Mr. Thomas McLean, the session clerk, then read their report for the year which showed that during 1896, 102 members had been received into the communion of the church, eleven had died, eighty-two had been dismissed or dropped from the roll, leaving 830 members and 375 families at the close of the year.

The report referred, among other things, to Dr. Cochrane's visit to Great Britain last summer; his appearance at the Presbyterian council, his services in leading pulpits in Glasgow, Edinburgh and London and his constant advocacy of the Dominion of Canada.

The following managers who retired this year by rotation, were re-elected, namely, Dr. Philip and Messrs. Alexander Robertson, J. F. McLaren and William Grant, and the following were elected as new members of the board: Mr. James Sutherland, Mr. George B. Salmon, Mr. T. L. Wood, Mr. A. C. Strathdee and Mr. Thomas Spence. Sheriff Watt and Mr. Thomas Watt were elected auditors for the year.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, GUELPH.

The annual meeting of the congregation of St. Andrew's Church, Guelph, was held Jan. 11th. Mr. K. Maclean was elected chairman, and Dr. Lowry as Secretary. After devotional exercises led by the pastor, Rev. J. C. Smith, the minutes of former meetings of previous years were read and adopted. Following this were presented reports from the many different organizations of the congregation, which severally gave evidence of progress having been made during the past year. Those present were happily disappointed in hearing that notwithstanding all forebodings of deficit as a result of, and incident to admitted hard times, the managers had been able by careful work to announce a respectable balance on the right side. Votes of thanks were passed and heartily accorded to all who had aided in efficient work in connection with the congregation.

Board for 1897—W. A. Knowles, Jos. Fielding, W. H. Toul, Robt. Howie, C. Pettiferd, A. Scott, W. Spaulding, S. Broadfoot, J. Duff.

CHALMERS' CHURCH, QUEBEC.

The annual congregation meeting of Chalmers' Church was held in the lecture room of the Church on Monday, Jan. 25, the pastor, the Rev. D. Tait, B.A., in the chair, and Mr. Archibald Miller, acted as Secretary.

Reports of a very satisfactory and encouraging character were presented from the different organizations connected with the church.

The report of the Session was read by Mr. Robert Brodie. Reference was made in the report to the deaths which had occurred during the year. Mention was also made of the faithful services of the Rev. J. W. Mitchell, M.A., who supplied the pulpit during the minister's absence.

Mr. Archibald Miller presented the report of the Board of Management, which contained the gratifying statement that after paying all liabilities for the year there was still a small balance on hand.

The report of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society, showed that the meetings had been well attended, and that the members had raised over \$100 for missions besides sending a valuable box to Trinidad for the use of the mission there.

The report of the Y. P. S. C. E. showed that this Society is doing a good work "for Christ and the Church."

The Mission Band sent a very valuable box to Miss Jamieson for the use of the mission with which she is connected in India.

Appropriate reference was made to the removal of Mr. P. R. Miller, the late Superintendent of the Sunday School, and to the appointment of Mr. James Muir, as successor to Mr. Miller.

Messrs. A. Foulds, Gavin Moir and D. H. Geggie, were re-elected Managers, and Mr. James Muir was elected to fill the vacancy on the Board caused by the resignation of Mr. P. R. Miller.

It was decided that those who prefer to contribute according to the "envelope system" should have the right to do so, and to be exempt from the payment of pew rents.

The congregation contributed for ordinary revenue..... \$3,313 23
For Missions and benevolent object 2,214 00

Total contributions \$5,527 23
Messrs. Amos Campbell and A. Forrest were appointed auditors. As all the business was not finished the meeting adjourned to meet again in February.