

## PASTORATE OF THE REV. JOHN THOMPSON (Concluded)

gregation's life was ordered to be embodied in the church report of the year.

A thorough canvass of the congregation in the interests of the Century Fund was made in 1900. Subscriptions to the amount of \$4,209 were received, of which the sum of \$2,163 was *The Century* applied to the payment of the church mortgage debt. *Fund*

Special services were held on the last Sabbath of the Nineteenth Century by the Rev. W. J. Clark of First Presbyterian Church, London.

On the Monday evening following a meeting of the congregation was held in the church. A. MacLean, M.D., occupied the

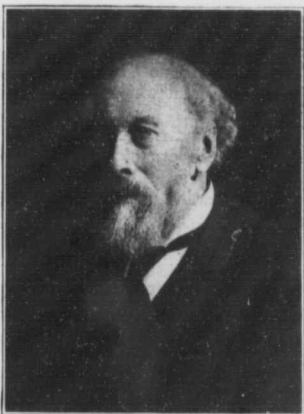
chair. Addresses were delivered by Francis Blaikie, the Hon. A. Vidal, Mr. R. I. Towers and the Rev. Dr. Thompson. Suitable music was rendered by the choir. An adjournment to the school room took place about 10 o'clock where refreshments were served by the ladies and a very pleasant social hour was spent. A particularly pleasing feature of this part of the proceedings was a presentation to Mr. Francis Blaikie, who had served for 35 years as Session Clerk, and to Mr. H. Barnett, who had for 40 years acted as caretaker of St. Andrew's Church.

Shortly before the Nineteenth Century drew to a close all present returned to the church and greeted the advent of the new century in silent prayer to Him who from everlasting to everlasting remaineth God.

On Sabbath, 13th of November, 1898, Messrs. John Cowan, John Mitchell, and Alex. Wark were ordained, and at the same time Messrs. Henry Ingram and J. Ross Geddes were *Increase in* inducted into the eldership of St. Andrew's Church. *The Session*

On the 30th of November, 1902, the following addition was made to the eldership: Messrs. Wm. A. Smart, D. N. Sinclair, Robert Wanless and Norman Parks. Mr. John B. Watson had also been elected to the eldership at this time, but considered it his duty to decline the honor conferred upon him.

One of the penalties attached to a lengthy pastorate is that the minister is fated to see the staunch and steady supporters of the early days of his ministry pass away, leaving gaps sometimes



MR. FRANCIS BLAIKIE  
Elder, 1855-1904