

the church and the purchase of an excellent church edifice. The church grew by leaps and bounds, and the superficial observer concluded that the battle had been fought and won. More experienced observers judged more wisely. They knew that the development of character, unity of aim and purpose in the young brotherhood, the nurture of the christian graces in the hearts of believers, and capacity to direct the activities of the church in sustained effort to do her God-given work required time, patience and wisely directed effort on the part of the pastor and the more experienced members of the church. All churches that spring into sudden and large growth find these duties thrust upon them, and Orangeville has been no exception to the rule.

#### WALKERTON ASSOCIATION.

In the Walkerton Association we have assisted in the support of six pastors and three students. This district still "hangs fire." It is doubtful if our position has improved during the past year. There have been distinct gains at some points, but these have been offset by losses at others. There have been a plethora of petty strifes and divisions, and on some fields there has been organized effort to hinder progress and nullify all effort looking in that direction. The aggressive, conquering spirit of the old worthies, the men and women who thirty and forty years ago subdued the wilderness, preached righteousness, planted churches and saw them multiply and increase, must get larger place in the hearts of many of their successors before this large and fertile district shall blossom as the garden of the Lord. Yet there has been much to encourage. Howick reports the best year in a decade and a half. Monck tells of conversions, of church recognition and a purpose to build in the near future. Palmerston continues to grow steadily and surely, while Kenilworth and Farewell live "in the unity of the spirit and the bonds of peace." Listowel and Atwood work under disheartening conditions. The chapel of the former rests under a crushing debt, and the working and contributing force of the latter has, from various causes, been much reduced during the past three years. Clinton is not in as good shape as it was a year ago, but the Base Line Church has made very happy progress. It is probable that the number converted and baptized during the past year exceed the number of any previous year in the history of the Church. Lucknow has not done well, and the outlook is far from encouraging, but Teeswater, though unable to report much gain in membership, believes a distinct advance has been made during the year. Kincardine has

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