

smaller towns and cities, which while enriching them weakens us. But this may be our mission to some extent, and in its remembrance let us find consolation; for "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

HAMILTON.—The annual meeting of the church and congregation was held in the lecture room of the church, on Wednesday, 19th January. The pastor, the Rev. John Morton, presided, and there was a good attendance of the members of the church and adherents. The business of the meeting consisted chiefly of listening to the annual reports of the various officers, and chairmen of committees and other organizations connected with the church. The pastor expressed his pleasure in reviewing the work of the past year, and at the satisfactory progress that had been made—though in some minor matters there was room for improvement. Mr. A. Alexander read the statistical report of the church, from which it appeared that the number on the roll at the beginning of the year was 204. During the year there had been added to the church eleven on profession of faith and four by letter from other churches; while the church had lost one by death (Mr. Thomas Drever), three transferred to other churches, and three dropped from the roll by rule—a total of fifteen added and seven lost, or a net gain of eight, making the number of members now on the roll 212, eighty-four males and 128 females, the largest number ever on the roll of the church. Of this number, seventy have been scholars in the Sabbath school. The treasurer, Mr. D. Aitchison, read the annual financial statement. From this it appeared that there had been raised for local church purposes: From weekly offerings, envelopes \$1,819.21; open collections, \$474.27; open collection at Lord's supper, \$97.05; from other sources, \$4.75; total for church purposes, \$2,395.28. There was expended: Pastor's salary, \$1,200; pulpit supply, \$40; organist and blower, \$124; caretaker, \$156.75; Mrs. Pullar, \$100; interest on debt, \$88.03; to debt fund committee, \$280; Welland Mission, \$5; Foreign Mission Society (special), \$20; Congregational Union, \$15; Provident Fund, \$25; fuel and light, \$96.40; printing and advertising, \$48.30; other expenses, repairs, etc., \$153.72; total expenditure for this year, \$2,352.20, which, with a balance of \$45.81 at the beginning of the year, leaves a balance of \$88.89. The Sunday school report was read by Mr. Ernest Alexander, the secretary, and showed that there were 218 scholars on the roll, with an average attendance of 146, taught by twenty-three teachers, with an average attendance of twenty-one. The children had raised \$122.73, which had been expended for mission and charitable purposes. The superintendent, Mr. David Aitchison and Mr. Thomas Ball, spoke on the Sabbath school and its work. The next report read was that of the Debt Fund Committee.

The treasurer of the fund, Mr. J. C. Ball, read the statement which showed that \$578.09 had been raised through the envelope plan which with a balance of \$101.11 at the commencement of 1886, and \$280 received from the General Church Fund, enabled them to pay off \$600 from the debt of \$1,250, with which the year commenced, and left the committee a balance in hand of \$359.20 toward the remaining \$650, which it is hoped will be cleared off in a few weeks, when the church will again be in the happy position it was in for many years before—not a cent of debt. Mr. John Black, the chairman of the Missionary Committee, reported that \$190 had been raised for missionary purposes, including the special contribution of \$50 promised at Ottawa, which was sent soon after. The prospects are that from this church the contributions for this object will be better still for the current year. The Ladies' Sewing Society next reported through Mrs. J. E. Brown, the secretary-treasurer. From her report it appeared that the ladies had raised by their needles \$72.26 during the year, which, with a balance of \$88.43 at the beginning of the year, enabled them to send \$50 as a donation to the church at St. Thomas, as well as \$50.30 for other charitable purposes, and have a balance on hand of \$43.74. This society has been a great blessing to the church, and has had an uninterrupted existence of nearly twenty years, meeting monthly throughout that period. From the foregoing reports it will be gathered that this church has raised the aggregate sum of \$3,358.36, while the aggregate amount of balances in hand at the beginning of 1887 is as follows: General Fund, \$88.89; Debt Fund, \$359.20; Sunday school, \$23.48; Ladies' Sewing Society, \$43.74; total, \$515.31. Mr. Francis Maxwell, chairman of the Evangelistic Committee, reported what had been done during the year in the way of cottage and other prayer meetings; while the Gentlemen's Visiting Committee, through its chairman, Mr. J. Greenaway, and the Ladies' Visiting Committee, through the pastor, reported an aggregate of over 500 visits made. The Congregational Mutual Improvement Society, another very old and uniformly successful institution connected with the church, made its report through its president, Mr. E. Alexander. The class that meets monthly for the reading of papers on the subject of the previous month's sermons had its report presented by Mr. Charles Duff, who bore testimony to the high character of these essays and the good effected, and the Young Men's Sunday Morning Meeting was spoken of by Mr. Robert Hopkins. It will be seen that there was so much "reporting" that very little time was found for anything else in the way of music and other accessories usual to an annual church meeting. The church here seems to have a great many "wheels," though from the reports presented in regard to each