

# ANNUAL REPORTS.

## Report of Session.

In presenting this its sixteenth Annual Report the Session would put on record its deep sense of gratitude to God for all the grace He has bestowed on us as a people during the most prosperous and encouraging year in our history as a congregation.

He has raised up among us a band of men and women, who, as officers and workers in the various departments of christian activity, are increasingly faithful and devoted to the interests of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, and of His Church in which we rejoice to be numbered as children of God, and to serve as office-bearers to whom has been given by the Holy Ghost spiritual oversight of this part of the Great Flock of Christ.

He has developed in our hearts the grace of liberality to an unusual degree enabling us to erect the splendid new school-room in which we are assembled, a third of the cost of which has been paid during the past year, while at the same time our givings to the support of ordinances and to missionary and benevolent objects are materially larger than on any preceding year of our history. And yet none of us feel the poorer. "There is that scattereth and yet increaseth." "The liberal soul shall be made fat." "He that soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

The work among the young in all departments of it has received a new impetus through the building of our school room, and an ever increasing number of young people of all ages are coming under our influence and care, so that this is becoming a distinctive feature of our work. The great Shepherd is saying to us "Lovest thou me? Feed my lambs." "He that receiveth one of these little ones in my name receiveth Me, and he that receiveth Me receiveth Him that sent Me."

Six of our members in full communion, viz.: Samuel Burns, Mrs. Hugh Nichol, Robert W. King, Mrs. Henry Eland, William H. McGaw and Donald Campbell have been called away in death to higher fellowship and service, besides six of our baptized members, viz.: Lizzie Tufford, Mary Dobraugh, Keneth Scoulie New, George Franklin Bull, William John Burwall and Thos. Toll, and three adherents, viz.; Mrs. McLroy, who passed away at the great age of 95, John McDonnell and Miss Annie Gentle. We have also suffered to an unusual degree from removals beyond our bonds, thirty-six certificates

having been granted. On the other hand we have received new members to the number of eighty-seven, a net gain of forty, and making our present membership 545.

The attendance at the Sabbath Services too has been steadily on the increase. As a Session we feel that while the attendance at the Wednesday evening service may compare favorably with that at other churches, it is far from what it ought to be, and we would earnestly urge all our people who are not imperatively prevented in the Providence of God, to count it their duty as also their privilege to unite with us every week in prayer and praise and Bible study in the mid-week service.

We would affectionately commend the workers in all departments of the Church's work—and all should be workers—to the grace and power of the Holy Spirit, who alone is able to make all grace abound to and in and by us, and to equip us for the great work to which we have been called, viz.: to witness for Jesus Christ in all the world beginning at home. It is promised "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you," and we are reminded that "It is not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit saith the Lord."

## Session Statistical Report.

Members on Roll January 7th, 1896.....	505
Added by Certificate during 1896.....	30
Added on Profession of Faith, 1896.....	57
	592
Removed by Certificate.....	36
Removed by Death.....	6
Removed by order of Session.....	5
	47
	47
On Roll January 7th, 1897.....	545
Number of Baptisms.....	17
Number of Families.....	275
Number of Single Persons.....	95

JAMES GILL, *Session Clerk.*

## Erskine Church Session Fund.

Balance from 1895.....	\$42 05
Preparatory Service Collection.....	33 42
Loan Paid Back.....	15 00
Interest on Back Account.....	1 55
Total.....	\$92 02
Disbursed during the year.....	25 40
Balance.....	\$66 63

WILLIAM BROWN, *Treasurer.*

## Report of Managers.

HAMILTON, Jan. 13, 1897.

To the Congregation of Erskine Church:

We have the honor of laying the sixteenth Annual Report of the Managers before the Congregation. We can congratulate the Congregation for we might say that never before in the history of Erskine Church has such a year of gratifying temporal success been met with. The reports which

W. E. Murray, A. Hay, H. Longhurst, T. Rieger, J. Pringle, J. Carroll, James Turnbull and R. Tiderington.

PEW COMMITTEE.—James Turnbull, Chairman, Thos. Paterson, T. Rieger, R. Tiderington.

ENVELOPE COMMITTEE.—Thomas Paterson, Chairman, T. Rieger, H. Longhurst, Jas. Turnbull, R. P. Anderson.

REPAIR COMMITTEE.—A. M. Souter, Chairman. Alex. Hay, Murray, James Carroll.

ARREARS COMMITTEE.—Thos. Patterson, J. Pringle.

CHURCH CARE COMMITTEE.—J. R. Moodie, Chairman, A. M. Souter R. Tiderington.

USHERS.—A. B. Davidson, A. Mathieson, S. Kennedy, F. McKerlie, A. F. McBean, W. G. Jackman, J. W. Gordon, S. L. Hunter, R. Donbrough, M. Rymal, A. Barnhardt, J. A. Funk, F. C. Overend, Hugh Nicol, John Turnbull and G. Sidders.

### CHOIR.

Miss Anna M. Edgar, Leader.

Miss M. McBean, Organist.

Soprano: Mrs. Woodruff, Miss M. Lawson, Miss Hyndman, Miss S. E. Reid, Miss Cudmore, Miss Lizzie Turnbull, Miss Allen, Miss Towers, Miss Mitchell, Miss Brown, Miss J. Hutchison

Alto: Miss L. Lawson, Miss Chapman, Miss Glass.

Tenor: R. E. Woodruff, R. Cusiter, J. T. Hall, B. Broughton.

Bass: J. McDermot, R. Whyte, C. Maver, D. Souter, J. J. Cavers, Jas. Johnstone.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Rev. J. G. Shearer, Honorary Superintendent.

J. E. Souter, Superintendent.

John W. Gordon, Secretary.

John Keith, Treasurer.

A. M. Souter, Librarian.

Teachers: Rev. J. G. Shearer, J. Newlands, Bible Class.

Messrs. W. Brown, J. Keith, J. Carroll, Thos. Graham, R. Whyte C. McLeod, F. C. Overand, T. Patterson, C. H. Richardson, D. A. Souter.

Mesdames Shearer, W. Brown, Allardice, A. Turnbull, Martin, Edgar, Clunas, Allen.

Misses H. Lawson, A. Turnbull, J. McColl, A. Rennie, J. Souter, R. Jamieson, J. Hare, J. Mitchell, M. Hall, A. Horsburgh, Munroe, A. Gibson, J. Hutchison, B. Davidson, M. Milne, M. Chapman, L. George, A. Thomson, L. Pyle, K. Wilson, Isa Mitchell.

### BOARD OF MISSIONS.

Rev. J. G. Shearer, Chairman.

J. Gill, Secretary.

W. Brown, Treasurer.

Mesdames Shearer, Gill, Newlands, Craig, Allen, Whyte, Kellar, Souter, W. Brown, Keith, Richardson, Graham, Clunas, McAllister, and Misses Annie Munroe, Louise Lawson, Mary Stevenson, Isa Mitchell and L. Martin.

Messrs. Newlands, Craig, Allen, Whyte, Kellar, J. E. Souter, W. Brown, D. A. Souter Keith, Richardson, Graham, James Brown, and A. Mitchell.

### BOYS' BRIGADE.

Captain, T. D. Lawrason.

1st Lieut. and Sec. Treas., D. A. Souter.

2nd Lieut., James Turnbull.

3rd Lieut., James McCulloch.

4th Lieut., R. Brown.

Chaplain, Rev. J. G. Shearer.

The officers of other organizations will be found in their respective reports.