

THE annual meeting of the congregation of Melville Church, Fergus, was held on Monday, January 26, at two p.m., the pastor, Rev. R. M. Craig, presiding. After spending one half-hour in devotional exercises the different organizations presented the financial reports for the past year, all of which are in a very satisfactory state. The managers' report shows a total revenue for the year of \$2,044.53, with an expenditure of \$1,887.16, leaving a balance in the hands of the treasurer of \$157.37. The Missionary Association reported the total receipts to be \$594.63, of which amount the following allocation was made: to Home Missions, \$110; to Augmentation, \$73; to Foreign Missions, \$150; to French Evangelization, \$70; to Knox College, \$50; to Manitoba College, \$30; to Queen's, \$10; to Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, \$50, and to Widows' and Orphans' Fund, \$50. The report of the Woman's Aid Society showed a total income of \$188.87, which, with the exception of a balance of \$48, has been expended in Church work at home and abroad. The report of the Auxiliary to the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society showed the total receipts for the year to be \$276.90, an increase of \$46 over the preceding year. Of this amount the Willing Workers' Mission Band contributed \$26, and the "Harvesters," \$26. From an examination of the various reports it is seen that upwards of \$1,061 has been expended on the Schemes of the Church, and in addition upwards of \$1,000 by private contributions not reported by the Missionary Association, making in all upwards of \$2,000 to this important work. The Sabbath school report showed a total revenue of \$369.53, of this amount: \$229 represents the contributions of the school for the year, \$112 for missions and \$117 for support of school and library. The Building Committee gave a detailed statement of the work performed and the expense connected in the building of the new manse. The total cost was shown to be \$3,667.32, of which amount \$2,367.32 has been fully met and arrangements were made to meet the balance as it falls due. The total expenditure of the congregation for the year for all purposes it will be seen is in the neighbourhood of \$7,000. The reports were freely discussed and great satisfaction expressed with the results. Messrs. Michie, Argo and McHardy were appointed managers, and Messrs. Phillips and Taylor, auditors. It was agreed to furnish a copy of the Record to all families in the congregation. The Rev. Dr. Smellie, who for nearly half a century ministered to this congregation, and whose deep, continued interest in all that pertains to the welfare of the congregation is a source of pleasure and gratification to all, called the attention of the meeting to the reference made on the preceding day to the danger to which our missionaries in Honan are exposed, and to the great distress in that district from inundations, and asked that a treasurer be at once appointed to receive contributions for the relief of those in distress. On motion the Rev. Mr. Craig was appointed, and, judging from the contributors, a goodly amount must have been handed in. The congregation sang "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," and Dr. Smellie led the congregation in prayer, and thus closed a very successful and harmonious business meeting.

THE PACE IS TOO FAST.

This is a question that from time to time is discussed in scientific journals, and when one sees the vast number of broken down, listless and prematurely old men found in every community, one is almost forced to admit that the race is deteriorating. The causes leading to this decline in manhood are various, and among them may be mentioned overwork, mental strain, loss of sleep, over indulgence of appetites, and excesses of various kinds, all leading to shattered nerves, loss of vital forces and premature decay, and often to insanity. To all thus suffering, Dr. Williams' Pink Pills come as a boon. They build up shattered nerves, enrich the blood, stimulate the brain, and reinforce the exhausted system. All who are suffering from any of the causes that break down and enfeeble the system should use these pills, and will find them a sure and speedy restorative. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are sold by all dealers, or will be sent, post paid, on receipt of price—50 cents a box—by addressing The Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

The Rome, Watertown & Ogdensburg Railroad has arranged its 5th Annual Excursion to Washington via West Shore and Pennsylvania Railroads. The excursion will leave the line of the R., W. & O. R. R., on Tuesday, Feb. 24th, 1891, and be run by special solid trains through to Washington. The rate from any station on the line of R., W. & O. R. R. will be only \$10.00 to Washington and return. Wagner Sleeping Cars will be attached to all special trains; price for double berth, \$3.50; section, \$7.00, from any station to Washington. Excursion tickets allow ten days in the city of Washington, and on the return trip allow stop-off at Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. Special rates for side trips have been made to all historical places and interesting cities in the vicinity of Washington. Reduced rates have been arranged for at seventeen different hotels in Washington; price from \$1.50 to \$4.00 per day. Six special tourist agents will accompany the excursion and attend to the comfort of the party on the trains and during the stay in Washington. The President will hold receptions on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays at 1 p.m. Sleeping car tickets, excursion tickets, time-tables, information and illustrated programmes, illustrating and describing the city of Washington and giving all details concerning the excursion, can be obtained from all R., W. & O. R. R. ticket agents or from Theo. Butterfield, Gen. Passenger Agent, Oswego, N.Y.

For the new parish church at Largs, Mr. Archibald Muir, of Broomfield House, has presented a steeple clock, with four dials, which are to be illuminated at night, and furnished with bells to chime the Cambridge or Westminster quarters. Stained-glass windows are also being furnished by several donors.

British and Foreign.

A MOVEMENT is on foot to hold an exhibition of Burns' relics in Glasgow.

DR. LIVINGSTONE made it a rule never to read or preserve any words of praise.

THE twelfth triennial conference of the Y. M. C. Associations of all lands is to be held in Amsterdam in August.

A NEW church for the congregation at Ballymena, of which Rev. D. McMeekan is pastor, is approaching completion.

PROFESSOR DRUMMOND, it is said, will reply to Mr. Stanley in the preface to a new edition of "Tropical Africa."

MR. ROSE TROUP, the senior surviving officer of Stanley's rear guard, recently lectured in Aberdeen, where he was educated.

LORD TENNYSON has ready a volume of verse that will be published immediately the American Copyright Bill becomes law.

THE Rev. Dr. Lynd has been delivering the series of Carey lectures on "Pulpit Oratory" in the Common Hall, Magee College.

THREE years ago the Church Missionary Society had twenty-two female missionaries; now it has sixty. And the case is typical.

PRINCIPAL DAVID BROWN, D.D., will issue shortly a small volume on "The Structure of the Apocalypse and its Primary Predictions."

MR. J. G. C. ANDERSON, M.A., son of the Free Church minister of Edinkillie, has won an exhibition in classics of \$425 at Christ Church, Oxford.

PROFESSOR YOUNG, of Glasgow, regrets to say that a much larger proportion of the Aberdeen than of the Glasgow students are able to speak German.

LAST year the Scottish Association for aiding school boards in the inspection of religious instruction visited 275 schools, against 254 in the previous year.

THE congregational committee of St. Stephen's, Edinburgh, have resolved to recommend Mr. Macadam Muir, of Morningside, as Dr. Norman Macleod's successor.

DR. SCHLIEMANN'S widow, it is said, intends to resume and complete the excavations at Hisarlik, which it had been the doctor's intention himself to resume in spring.

PROFESSOR HENRY DRUMMOND has resumed his meetings with the Edinburgh students in the Oddfellows' Hall. At the first meeting the place was crowded and the audience enthusiastic.

DR. SMILES' latest work is the biography of the late John Murray, the well-known publisher of "Byron" and of "Moore," and doubtless the selections from his correspondence will be of interest.

DURING the last four years no fewer than seventy-nine English university men have become missionaries. The flower of university youth everywhere is pressing more and more into the foreign field.

MEDICAL missionaries having British degrees number about 141; while from America and the Continent there are 150. The number of female practitioners seems to grow rather more rapidly than that of medical men.

THE late Dean Church had almost finished his work on "The Oxford Movement," the revision of the last four chapters being all that remained to be done at the time of his death. This is to be carried out by Canon Paget, and the book will be issued within a few weeks.

THE venerable Principal Brown, of Aberdeen, who is in his eighty-eighth year, conducted anniversary services on a recent Sabbath in Lunithgow church, of which Rev. Alexander Mitchell, M.A., is pastor. The audiences, which were very large, were greatly interested and deeply impressed.

THE Rev. Jacob Primmer, who has projected a new series of meetings in continuance of his defence of the purity of worship, began at St. Andrew's lately. The students turned out with penny-whistles, toy trumpets and bags of flour; and a free fight ensued between them and the younger portion of the townspeople. Ultimately the students were driven from the hall.



The importance of purifying the blood cannot be overestimated, for without pure blood you cannot enjoy good health. At this season nearly every one needs a good medicine to purify, vitalize, and enrich the blood, and Hood's Sarsaparilla is worthy your confidence. It is peculiar in that it strengthens and builds up the system, creates an appetite, and tones the digestion, while it eradicates disease. Give it a trial. Hood's Sarsaparilla is sold by all druggists. Prepared by C. L. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.

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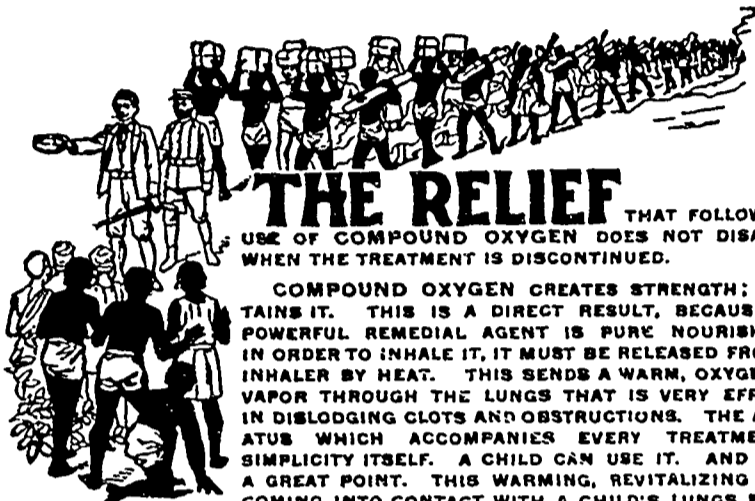
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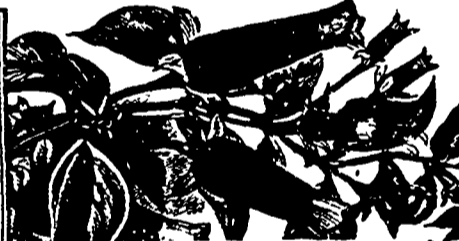
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AN increase is reported of above \$10,000 in the contributions to the Irish Presbyterian Sustentation Fund for the nine months of the financial year already expired.

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