

Hamilton.

The Board was authorized to assist the church in Hamilton to support a preacher as soon as their new home would be opened. The house was opened on the fourteenth of September, and thereupon the Board took steps to carry out the instruction of the Annual Meeting. Bro. M. Putman was employed about November 1st, and continues to labor with the church. The following statement of membership and additions for the period June 1st, 1890, to May 20th, 1891, shows that substantial progress is being made. Number of members, June 1, 1890, 25; additions since then, by baptism 11, by letters 5, total 16; lost by removal 3; net 13, present membership 38.

The present financial position of the church will appear from the subjoined statement:—

Assets table with columns for item and amount. Includes Church building \$2,500 00, Lot 650 00, Furniture, etc. 416 00, Cash on hand 68 00. Total \$3,632 00.

Liabilities table with columns for item and amount. Includes Mortgage \$900 00, Furniture, etc. 182 00. Total \$1,082 00. Balance in favor church \$2,600 00.

The following items will illustrate the fact that the church in Hamilton is not sparing itself:—

Expenditures from June 1st, 1890, to May 20th, 1891, not specifying contributions to building fund:—

Table of expenditures: Preaching \$500 00, Mission wood 57 00, Furniture, etc. 281 00, In support of S.S. 76 00, Incidental Expense 150 00. Total \$1,070 00.

The Ladies Aid Society raised \$70.00.

The church is thankful to be occupying a new house; encouraged with the results since the opening, and hopeful for the future. Continued assistance from the Co-operation is requested during the coming year. Bro. Joseph Franklin held a meeting for the church in Hamilton last winter. Reference will be made to that elsewhere in this report.

Owen Sound.

The church in Owen Sound presents a report extending from May 1st, 1890, to May 1st, 1891:— Number of members May 1st,

Table of membership: 1890 48, Added during the year 15, Lost by death 1, Lost by removals 11, Net gain 4, Present membership 62.

In addition to these we have had no less than 13 students, all members of churches in other places, worshipping and working with us during the year.

The amount of money raised during the year by the congregation is as follows:—

Table of money raised: In liquidation of church debt \$350 00, Preaching 400 00, Home Missions 20 00, Incidental Expenses 97 00, Sunday School 80 00. Total \$897 00.

This is an average of about \$17.00 per member.

The church at the present time is in good condition, and marked by an activity that promises well for the future. A good hearing is being gained, the prayer meetings and the meetings for Bible study are largely attended, and so is the young people's meeting for prayer on Lord's day morning, which is proving a blessing to us. The Sunday school and Bible classes (of which there are two) are

doing well. We have just added a S. S. library of over two hundred volumes. Our student members are a great help to us; in so far as their studies will allow, they are faithful workers for the interest of this congregation, while the church to them is a blessing for which they are truly thankful.

Of the importance of Owen Sound as a large and growing town, the great educational centre of the northern part of the Province, a railway and steamboat terminus, we need not speak as the brethren are well acquainted with these facts.

Bro. Lediard's ministry began with us November first last. His labors have been marked by great earnestness and are highly appreciated both by the congregation and by the citizens of the town. He is a member of the local Ministerial Association, and his services are often sought after and freely given to the Y.M.C.A. in Bible class teaching and public meeting work and also to the various temperance societies in Gospel temperance work. He is ever ready for every good work calculated to advance the Master's kingdom.

We may also mention that our Woman's Mission Band is an earnest, active body of Christian women, who are not only interested in mission work generally, but are a power for good in the home church.

We desire to express our gratitude to the Co-operation for the help so cheerfully given this year, and trust they may be as able as we feel sure they are willing to help us continue the services of Bro. Lediard during the coming year. With regard to the amount of assistance we require it was decided at our annual meeting last night (May 21) to ask the Co-operation, if possible, to grant us \$200, with which we expect to be able to continue our work in its present very favorable form.

Welland.

Considerable attention has been paid to Welland during the year. The efforts of the Board for a good while were in the direction of helping to get the work into such a shape that it would be safe to assist. Towards the end of the winter Bro. Alex. McMillan agreed to go to Welland and remain a length of time. Since then matters have taken a more hopeful aspect and there is now reason to believe that with patient and persevering efforts the cause can be put on a solid footing in that town. The treasurer sends the financial statement here given:—

Assets table for Welland: Church property—original cost \$1,200 00, Repairs 153 00, Cash on hand 7 52, Pledges receivable 27 75. Total \$1,388 27.

Liabilities table for Welland: Mortgage held by Mrs. North \$1,048 00, Due Bro. Young on note given by him 46 00, Dno G. & J. Cutler, repairs on building 97 25. Total \$1,190 25. Balance \$198 02.

A letter recently received from Bro. Alex. McMillan gives a clear idea of the present condition of the church. He writes:—

"Yours of May 26 is at hand. I will send you herewith as full a report as possible of the condition of the church. I am sorry that we cannot make a more definite statement, but you will see that in the circumstances we cannot be very definite.

"There is no membership roll here. The original register has disappeared and accounts vary as to the time of its disappearance. There has not been

any account kept of the membership or finances of the church for at least two years; at least none can be found. Our now roll is not completed yet; but at the present shows an active membership of forty three. Of those we are likely to lose three, by removal and otherwise, in the near future, and five are to be added to the church by baptism next Wednesday. Our membership is at least forty and all active. No elders or deacons, in fact no officers at all, have been appointed. The attendance at our Lord's day morning meetings averages about forty, at the evening meeting about ninety, and both are growing very satisfactorily. We have weekly prayer meetings and have lately organized a society of Christian Endeavor. I believe the brethren here are exceptionally willing, but it is impossible to say what they can do financially as they have never made a trial of their strength before. The amount of the cash pledges for the current year so far made is \$77 50. Besides this two of the members have promised that they will each board a preacher for one month. They cannot expect to raise more than \$150.00 at most and probably not that.

Our work here has heretofore been almost entirely among those not rich in this world's goods and we cannot expect to be self supporting until our strength is considerably increased. But the prospects for increase are good. We are centrally located in a quarter of the town where no other Protestant church holds regular meetings. We have a good brick building which ten years ago cost about \$6,000.00 and is now in good repair; moreover the people are willing to hear the Gospel."

As the treasurer's report will show the Co-operation has only made a small contribution this year to Welland.

Georgetown.

As an instance of the value to the cause of the Co-operation it may be noted that when during the winter a company of Disciples in and near Georgetown determined, with the assistance of Bro. W. G. Charlton, to open up and continue services in Georgetown and arrange to have Bro. W. D. Campbell come to hold special meetings, and it was found that Bro. Campbell could not remain as long as was desirable unless some one was sent to take his place in Dorchester and Aylmer.

Bro. D. H. Stewart agreed to go, but the brethren in Georgetown could not pay his expenses as the rent of the hall and other charges were all they could then undertake.

The Board was appealed to and promised to pay Bro. Stewart's expenses while he occupied Bro. Campbell's place. Accordingly Bro. Campbell remained in Georgetown, concluded the series of meetings and did a good work. As the treasurer's statement will show the sum contributed in this way towards the Georgetown work is not great, yet it seemed to be what at the time was necessary to insure the success of the effort.

London.

The Board regrets to have to report that it was found impracticable to make a start in London. To have a reasonable prospect of success in such a place it is necessary to have a large financial backing.

A suitable hall for holding services would be difficult to get, and expensive if secured. An able and experienced preacher would require to be located there, and preparations made for a long, strong pull.

After giving the subject a good deal of attention the Board decided that it would not be well to put forth an effort

which might end in failure and discouragement.

In the course of a year or two it is hoped that the Co-operation will be able to undertake the work in the Forest city with adequate means and forces.

Toronto, Cecil Street.

From this church we have the following report:—

1. The report of this congregation to the annual convention one year ago gave the membership at 167, including 13 who were engaged in the West Toronto work, and who have since taken out letters.

Table of additions: This would leave 144. There were added during the year: By baptism 20, By letter 22, By statement 5. Total 47.

There were also during the year seven members who have not taken formal membership with us for reasons, two of these live at West Toronto. The others are in sympathy with our work, and we hope they will find their way to membership. This makes 27 baptisms.

Table of dismissions: Dismissed by letter 10, For cause 13. Total 23. Leaving a net gain of 24.

And a membership of 168.

2. There are a half a dozen or more Disciples meeting with us and working, whose names are not in formal membership, but ought to be, and no doubt will be before long. Since we have been meeting in our new house our hearing has largely increased; many are expressing themselves as favorable to us, and as our teaching and work are better understood we will reap richly.

3. It is proper to note in this report two things (1) That figures of gains and losses do not always fairly represent the actual status. Gains are sometimes merely a gain in names, and losses more a loss in names, and which side is the heavier in this nominal scale depends on circumstances in a city like Toronto, where population rapidly changes, the conditions are felt more than in smaller places and in the country. Here people come and go very rapidly, and in a large city area removals from point to point make changes. In this report, while we have gained a few, no doubt, who are soon lost as to actual help, though blessed, no doubt, spiritually, the most of the losses are so only in name. (2) One of the most difficult things in our city work is the positive lack in many Disciples of feeling the responsibility of local church membership, and consequently of thoroughly organized local work. The necessity of building up strong local congregations in order to strengthen the cause at large needs to be deeply impressed. The bond of local fellowship needs to be strengthened.

1. The Cecil Street church does not forget that it has been dependant largely for three or four years on the Ontario Board, and for this liberality we are deeply grateful. Were it not for the fact that in order to meet essential requirements of our work we are compelled to bear heavy financial burdens, both in paying principle and interest toward our new house, we would feel nearly, if not wholly, able to meet our current expenses. But, taking the fact as it meets us, our official Board weighing their embarrassment feel compelled to beg assistance of the Co-operation for the coming year to the extent of last year's generous allowance.

STATEMENT OF DISBURSMENTS AND RECEIPTS OF TORONTO CHURCH FROM 1st JUNE, 1890, TO MAY 31st, 1891.

Disbursements table: J. R. Gaff, on acct. salary \$920 00, Foreign Missions 24 85, Home Missions 47 33, Rent Denison Ave Bldg. 300 00, Janitor 90 00, Fire 68 80, Gas 50 58, Water 3 35, Sundries, Printing, etc 72 52. Total \$1,583 83.

Receipts table: General Weekly Collections \$1,103 32, Foreign Mt. Collection 24 85, Home Mission Collections 47 33, Received from Co-operation 320 00. Total \$1,195 50.

Balance due Treasurer \$38 83.

Amounts due by Church and unpaid: Balance due Treasurer \$48 33, J. R. Gaff duo on salary 380 00. Total \$428 33.

Amount due to Church 228 00.

Balance due by Church \$40 35.

This statement does not include any interest on mortgage in connection with Cecil Street Building, of which about three months have now accrued, or any sums received or paid out on account of erection of same.

JAMES D. HIGGINS, Treas.

STATEMENT OF THE BUILDING FUND OF CECIL STREET CHURCH.

Table of building fund: Cost of building and furnishing and lot about \$26,723 38, Amount still owing on building and furnishing 17,032 00.

Amount paid on account of building and lot \$9,671 33.

Table of donations: Donations by members of the Church \$9,021 99, Donations by other brethren 919 26. Total donations \$9,971 53.

Amount paid on account of building and lot 9,671 33.

Table of balance: Balance in Treasurer's hands \$300 37, Amount still owing on Church \$17,032 00, Pledges by members of Ch. not yet redeemed \$1,933 00, Pledges by other brethren not yet redeemed 663 00. Total pledges not yet redeemed \$2,596 00.

Balance yet to be provided for \$11,454 00.

We are under interest on, say \$17,000, at, say 6 per cent. per annum, which, of course, would amount to \$1,020 a year.

JAMES D. HIGGINS, Treas.

In General.

It is no part of the business of the Board to report the progress of the cause in general throughout the Province, nor is there any desire to make such reference to it as would be misunderstood; yet it will not be out of place to express gratification at the evidences of prosperity both among the churches that support this Co-operation, and those that do not,—new houses erected, old ones repaired, new churches organized, old ones revived, young preachers set to work and the older ones kept busy; continued and growing interest in Sunday school work, young people's work, and woman's mission work, and very considerable additions to the churches in many places. All these things may be noted and rejoiced over without offence to any.

Neither has the Board any desire to set up a middle wall of partition between the churches that work with the Co-operation and those that do not. No such sectarian purpose is entertained. It is fully recognized that the churches which do not see fit to join in the Co-operation have a perfect right not to do so, and at the same time it is thought that there can be nothing unpleasant in expressing the hope that they will not fail to do all they can to extend the cause of Christ in some other way, which they may deem more effectual or more Scriptural. The Board, for its own part, and on behalf of the Co-operation, desires to say that those connected with the Co-operation have no other design than to do what they can to make disciples of Christ, and to teach them to observe all things whatsoever the Lord Jesus has commanded. They are unwilling to waste time and foster bitterness among brethren in a wearisome and fruitless discussion of methods, but are rather anxious, as the days hasten by, to use their best endeavors to further the truth as it is