

ADDRESS BY THE SESSION.

The Session has much pleasure in placing another Annual Report before the Congregation, and hopes that what is encouraging in it may cheer us to new efforts in that cause in which it is the privilege and responsibility of us all to be engaged, and that what is the reverse may stimulate us to amend the failures and outdo the achievements of the past.

Let us begin with the encouragements, and do so with thankfulness; for a readiness to recognize the goodness of God is a good preparation for further favours; while to receive without acknowledgement is to provoke and likely will ensure the withdrawal at least to some extent of those received. Naturally we begin with the Sabbath days, experiences of the past year for the new pastorate, and the financial year of the Congregation had nearly the same beginning. Upon these experiences we think there is reason for congratulation. The attendance and apparent interest both at the morning and evening services has been such as to afford some encouragement and give occasion for hoping that we have not been altogether without the Divine blessing. The prayer meetings come next, and with regard to them it has to be stated that whilst the weather permitted there were besides the village meeting, 6 prayer meetings maintained in as many districts of the Congregation, with upon the whole a very favorable attendance. Along with these meetings there was congregational visitation by the pastor; which, like the meetings, has been interrupted by the severity of the weather. The remaining agency to notice is that of the Sabbath Schools. Of these there have been maintained three, inclusive of the one in the Village. These have been conducted by a force of 19 teachers, inclusive of superintendents; with an average attendance of 112 pupils, divided into 24 in infant classes, 22 in bible classes, the remainder into what may be called the intermediate division. The untowardness of the weather prevented the holding of the annual examination, which would otherwise, no doubt, have shewn some good work done. It is hoped that the next time will afford a more favorable experience.

Having noticed the agencies at work amongst us, the mind turns naturally to the results. The Session entertains the hope that more results than they can show, have arisen from them. That more than is apparent, they have helped on the great work in which we are engaged—that of building up the cause of Christ among us, edifying his people, and saving souls. The only thing that in the way of result the Session can point to besides the encouragement derived from the attendance already noticed, is the addition to the Communion Roll of 14 names—5 at the June Communion, 9 at the Communion in December. Of these two were admitted by certificate, the remainder by profession; and the Session hopes that the names so added have a place in the Communion Roll of the Church above, and will be increasing ornaments to the Church below.

We turn now to our discouragements, and it seems appropriate to begin where we have just ended with our roll, and we immediately remember that death has been doing his work in our midst, repeating his solemn admonition "Be ye also ready." Lately he removed two, Robert McGregor and the mother of our Elder, Mr. Cromar; previously we lost Mrs. Telfer, and before that Mr. and Mrs. Bannerman—making 5 subtracted from our number, which with two dismissed by