

\$31.33; Manchester, \$42.50; Egmondville, \$93; Blake, \$20.25; Bayfield Road, \$9.50; Honkall, \$132.20; Goderich, \$113; Kirkton, \$31.50; Thames Road, \$91.50; Blyth, \$86.09; Londesboro, \$39; Leeburn, \$13; Goderich Township, \$6—\$1,193.25. Mission Bands—Seaford, \$29.22; Brucefield, \$17; Exeter, \$30; Goderich, \$76; Honkall, \$27; Thames Road, \$27.35; Bayfield, \$37.50; Kippen, \$39—\$289.07. Total contributions by both \$1,482.32. At the afternoon and evening sessions some earnest, stirring and practical papers and addresses were given.

## Annual Meetings.

### MEAFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The annual meeting of the Meaford Presbyterian church was held on Wednesday evening, January 27th. Reports of a favorable nature were read from the Session, Board of Managers, Ladies' Aid Society, Sabbath School, Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, Woman's Foreign Missionary Society and the Mission Band. The Treasurer's statement showed a balance on hand after paying all expenses of the year as well as about \$300 spent on painting and papering the church and building a new shed. The mortgage debt was reduced by a payment of \$60 in April last and now stands at \$940. About \$150 was also given for missionary and other benevolent purposes during the year.

### PRESTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The annual congregational meeting of the Presbyterian church was held recently. The attendance was large, and aside from business matters was interesting. Various reports showing work of the past year were submitted and all were satisfactory, especially the treasurer's, which showed a surplus in the treasury. The following officers were also elected: Chairman, W. D. Hepburn, re-elected; treasurer, Z. A. Hall; secretary, Thos. Hepburn; Managers—J. D. Webster, W. L. Wood, and Henry Gimbel, three years term. Auditors—James Gillies and G. A. Roos.

### ZION CHURCH, PARRY SOUND.

The congregation of Zion church held their annual meeting on Jan. 12, which was well attended.

The financial report was very satisfactory, showing receipts during the year of \$1151.71 and expenditure of \$1163, with a balance on manse building of \$225. Quite a large sum had been expended in church and manse improvements, and the schemes of the church have not been forgotten. The following managers were elected: D. Macfarlane, R. J. Lee, and R. Ard.

### ST. ANDREWS, THAMESFORD.

The annual meeting of St. Andrew's Church was held on the 14th. Reports from the various committees were very encouraging. There was 69 communicants added to the roll during the past year, and 12 removed by death and by certificate. There were 128 names on the Sabbath School roll. The W.F.M.S. showed a membership of 57, contributions about \$157. Ladies' Aid showed total receipts of \$419.18, with an expenditure of \$406.36. Auditors' report showed a balance on hand of \$401.60, besides a sum of \$564.00, as the nucleus of a fund with which to build a new manse.

### ST. PAUL'S CHURCH.

The annual meeting of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Prince Albert, N.W.T., was held in the church on Wednesday 27th Jan. the pastor Rev. A. Lee, B.A. presiding. The meeting was opened by praise, reading of scripture and prayer. The report of the session was presented by the Clerk Mr. J. M. Taggart. The report showed 104 members on the roll. There were eight new members added during the year, but twenty seven removals chiefly through members having left Prince Albert to reside elsewhere. The congregation is well organized. It has two Sunday schools, a Y.P.S.C.E., and Ladies' Aid Society. Ordinances are well attended on the Sabbath, and peace and harmony prevail. The pastor reported sixteen baptisms, four deaths and six marriages.

The Ladies' Aid Society's report showed that the ladies had raised for work in the congregation \$244 during the year. A vote of thanks was given to the ladies, for their valuable services. The report of the Managers was presented by Mr. Howard, Secretary-Treasurer. The year past was in some respects a trying one to many of our people, yet the finances are fairly satisfactory. The prospects for the present year are good. Expenses of the year for congregational purposes amounted to \$1,755, and contributions for missions and benevolent schemes \$86. A vote of thanks was passed to Miss Lee and the members of the choir for their valuable services during the year. Messrs. Montgomery, Cassie, Nivens and Stovel were elected as managers to serve for two years and Messrs. Goodfellow and Stewart to act for one year. It was decided that the financial statement of the Managers be printed for circulation among the members of the congregation. The congregation, after a few words from the pastor congratulating them on the work done, joined in singing the doxology and the benediction closed the meeting.

### KNOX CHURCH, GUELPH.

The annual business meeting of the congregation was held Jan. 20th. Reports from all organizations showed that good work had been done during the past year. The session reported 91 names added to the communion roll, 50 on profession of faith. Five were removed by death, and twenty-four by dismissal, leaving the membership at present 508. Eleven adults and five infants had been baptised. The report of the managing board showed receipts for current expenditure about \$2,700; the debt of the congregation has been reduced by over \$300 and an effort is being made to clear off the total indebtedness during 1897. Receipts from all sources for mission work amounted to nearly \$700, while upwards of \$200 had been raised for benevolent purposes. The congregation was brought under the form of constitution suggested in a book of forms and procedure authorized by the general assembly. Under this constitution the following were elected managers for three years: Messrs. A. W. Alexander, A. Hales, Jas. Miller and Thos. Johnson; for two years, Messrs. Robt. Miller, J. A. Lillie, J. H. Cardy and A. Whitelaw; for one year, Messrs. R. Gordon, J. A. Scott, Geo. Steele and Henry Weatherston. J. A. Lillie was re-elected treasurer and J. H. Cardy assistant treasurer. Miss Lamont was re-appointed organist.

### DEATH OF REV. G. PORTEOUS.

The following resolution was passed by the members of the Presbytery of Kingston, assembled for the funeral of the late Rev. Geo. Porteous, at Kingston, on January 29th, 1897:

"On motion, duly seconded, it was resolved:—That the members of the Presbytery of Kingston, assembled for the funeral of their late co-presbyter—the Rev. George Porteous, would hereby give expression to their humble and reverent submission to the will of God in removing from the work of the Church on earth one who was for so many years privileged to labour in the cause of the Master—and did labour successfully in several different portions of the field.

"To the bereaved widow and children of their deceased brother they extend condolence, and commend them to the tender compassion of a sympathizing Saviour in this, their day of sore affliction."

Rev. Mr. Porteous was born in Quebec province in 1832. He studied at Queen's and graduated in 1854. In 1860 he was called to the pastorate of the Presbyterian church on Wolfe Island, where he remained for several years. During his first year in charge of the Wolfe Island congregation he was married to Miss Gunn, second sister of Alexander Gunn, of Kingston. From Wolfe Island he was called to Iroquois and afterwards was stationed successively at Toledo, Ont., Harrowsmith, and lastly at L'Amable. For twelve months past his health has been very poor and last autumn he was compelled, reluctantly, to resign his pastorate in consequence. He went on a trip to England in hope that the sea voyage would benefit him, but the

hope was vain. It was then plainly apparent that it would be only a matter of time until his complaint would terminate fatally.

Deceased is survived by his widow and a family of six sons and two daughters, all of whom are grown up. He was most popular and sincerely beloved by the members of each of the congregations to which he ministered, and by hosts of friends of all denominations, and in all parts of the country. Faithful in performing the duties of his office, charitable, gentle and forbearing to a degree, he won the esteem and affection of all with whom he came in contact, and his death is deeply mourned by hundreds who had known and loved him. He was in the sixty-fifth year of his age.

## A MINISTER'S STORY.

### The Painful Experience of Rev. C. H. Backhus.

For Five Months he was Helpless and Endured Agonizing Pains—Could neither Rise Up Nor Sit Down Without Aid—He Tells How He Found a Cure.

From the Tilsonburg Observer.

The Rev. C. H. Backhus is a resident of Bayham township, Elgin county, Ont., and there is probably no person in the county who is better known or more highly esteemed. He is a minister of the United Brethren Church. He also farms quite extensively, superintending the work and doing quite a share of it himself despite his advanced age. But he was not always able to exert himself as he can to-day, as a few years ago he underwent an illness that many feared would terminate his life. To a reporter who recently had a conversation with him the rev. gentleman gave the particulars of his illness and cure, with permission to make the statement public. The story as told by the Rev. Mr. Backhus is substantially as follows:—About three years ago he was taken ill and the doctor who was called in pronounced his trouble an attack of la grippe. He did not appear to get any better and a second doctor was called in, but with no more satisfactory results, so far as a renewal of health was concerned. Following the grippe, pains of an excruciating nature located themselves in his body. He grew weaker and weaker until at last he was perfectly helpless. He could not sit down nor rise from a sitting posture without assistance and when with this assistance he gained his feet he could hobble but a few steps when he was obliged to be put in a chair again. For five months these agonizing pains were endured. But at last relief so long delayed came. A friend urged him to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. He yielded to the advice and had not been taking them long when the longed for relief was noticed coming. He could move more easily, and the stiffness and pains began to leave his joints. He continued the use of the pills for some time longer and the cure was complete. Seeing Mr. Backhus now it would be difficult to think of him as the crippled and helpless man of those painful days. Mr. Backhus is now past his 80th year, but as he said, "by the aid of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills I am as able as those ten years younger. You can readily judge of this when I tell you I laid forty rods of rail fence this year. I am glad to add my testimony in favor of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills strike at the root of the disease, driving it from the system and restoring the patient to health and strength. In cases of paralysis, spinal troubles, locomotor ataxia, sciatica, rheumatism, erysipelas, scrofulous troubles, etc., these pills are superior to all other treatment. They are also a specific for the troubles which make the lives of so many women a burden, and speedily restore the rich glow of health to pale and sallow cheeks. Men broken down by overwork, worry or excesses, will find in Pink Pills a certain cure. Sold by all dealers or sent by mail postpaid, at 50c. a box, or six boxes for \$2.50, by addressing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Brookville, Ont., or Schenectady, N. Y. Beware of imitations and substitutes alleged to be "just as good."