

THIRTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

—OF THE—

Temporal Committee of Knox Church, Ottawa.

31st December, 1874.

In presenting its annual Report for the past year, your Committee does so with feelings of a very mingled character. The year just closed has been marked with transactions of no ordinary nature. Troubles and anxieties, more or less severe—mingled hopes and disappointments—successful efforts in some quarters and mortifying failures in others, have marked its course from beginning to end, teaching us a stern lesson of humility and dependence upon the will of Him who, in His infinite and unfathomable wisdom, overrules the best directed and apparently wisest designs of man to his own purposes.

Into all the trials and difficulties with which, as a congregation, we have been beset, it is not our intention, nor is it our place, to enter. At the same time, before dealing with what is peculiarly the sphere of your Committee—viz., the finances—we may be allowed to mention briefly one of the most important. We refer to the want of a Pastor. In this respect the close of 1874 finds us no farther advanced than its opening. Hardly, indeed, can we say that we are as favorably situated now as then. Repeated failures are always undesirable and dangerous, and calculated to weaken the energies and lead to despondency, if not even to carelessness. Failures enough have been our portion—no less than three calls having been given to ministers, and the result in every case been disappointment. We can only hope that the infinite goodness of God may so overrule these dissappointments that good instead of evil may arise therefrom—that our next attempt may terminate in a successful result, and thereby relieve us from the source of one of the greatest dangers to any congregation or Christian community—more especially to one situated in the peculiar and difficult position that we are.

In treating of the financial condition of the congregation, it has ever been customary to present a brief comparative statement as betwixt the past and previous year. This we