

REPORT

—OF—

The Session of Knox Church, Ottawa, *Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, held Jany. 8th, 1891.*

DEAR BRETHREN,—The circumstances in which the Session present their Annual Address to you determine its character. Necessarily our address must be a review of the year that has just passed away; but while a review of the past, it is not the same past which we annually review. It is ever another and distinct period in our earthly pilgrimage. And much as the years may resemble one another, and though similar events may mark their course, and our work may be along the same lines, and towards the same objects, yet no year is an exact counterpart of any preceding one. Each year possesses a character of its own. There are joys and sorrows, prosperities and adversities, struggles and conflicts, triumphs and defeats, blessings and trials, which are peculiar to itself, and which register their date indelibly upon our lives, and such, with all its apparent similarity to former years, was the year that has just closed. It put its mark upon us. We were not at its close what we were at its beginning, and we will bear its impress upon our character while the years of eternity roll. And yet the past year affords but little, in our history as a congregation, that the eye can see or the pen record that is markedly different from many preceding years. There has been the same failure upon our part to improve our privileges and use our opportunities for doing and for getting good as fully as we ought. There is the same need for confessing unworthiness, faithlessness to duty, carelessness and coldness as burdened our hearts each former year as we reviewed the past; and we have the same reasons for thanking and praising God for His mercy and forbearance, His goodness and grace towards us. The year that has passed has scored more deeply into our hearts the truth respecting ourselves individually, and concerning our covenant God in Christ Jesus.

“False, and full of sin I am,
Thou art full of truth and grace.”

“Many, O Lord my God, are Thy wonderful works which Thou hast done, and Thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto Thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.”

The review of the past is well fitted to abase all pride and destroy all confidence in ourselves, and, at the same time, to increase to the

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