

In the hope that you may be led to confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, because you believe in your heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, we have postponed our usual communion to the first Lord's day of January, 1901. Do not let us be disappointed in this hope. Let us see you there, with others saved by grace, reverently and gladly showing forth the Lord's death, till He come.

In name of those placed over you in the Lord, I would affectionately and urgently press upon you this all important matter.

Your servant for your highest good,

A. B. MACKAY.

Scarcely had the year 1901 commenced when we were called upon to mourn the loss of one greatly beloved by all of us, our Senior Session Clerk. In preaching from the parable of the talents last Lord's day, I concluded my sermon thus :—

“ Fifty-seven years ago a little company banded themselves together in this city to do business for the Saviour. I have known a few of them personally, I have heard of others, and have entered into the labours of all, and it seems to me that if ever men set themselves to work with a single eye to God's glory, it was these men. They differed greatly as to the talents entrusted to them. From all that I have heard through competent witnesses, the leading spirit in that little band, John Redpath, was a man of great mental power and of corresponding nobility of character. Another of them, Donald Fraser, lived to do more for Presbyterianism in England than any other man of his day, after the death of Dr. James Hamilton. But whatever the gifts and graces bestowed on any of them, of this I am confident, that not one of them was more faithful than the last survivor of that historic band, who fell asleep last Monday, Archibald McGoun. No one can estimate the service he has rendered this church during his long and blameless life. A member of the Free Church Committee, constituted in 1844, to which this congregation owes its origin, he has long outlived his compeers. He has served the congregation as deacon, elder, senior clerk and treasurer, with the greatest faithfulness and diligence. His mastery of figures, his methodical habits, and his painstaking care have made his services invaluable. Of a quiet and retiring disposition, modest and kindly in all his ways, upright and conscientious in every transaction, he consecrated every power he possessed to the service of his Master. Well may we think of him while we listen to the Master's words, “ Well done, good and faithful servant. Thou hast been faithful over few things, be thou ruler over many things. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.” And well may his departure press heavily on our hearts, the sense of our responsibility for the use of all the talents bestowed upon us, be they few or many. How is it with us? Are we good and faithful or wicked and slothful servants? What word will the Saviour pronounce over us when he reasons with us at the last?

During the year there were registered 13 births, 5 marriages, 19 deaths.

The number of names on the roll is 682.

A. B. MACKAY.