

REPORT OF THE KIRK-SESSION.

1883.

I.

The Session's report this year is probably the most encouraging in the history of the Congregation. While this affords reasonable ground for thankfulness, it affords none for surprise. Were the report any less satisfactory than it is there might be good cause for surprise.

With the increase of comfort, means, education, and religious privileges, there surely should go hand in hand enlarged christian faith and action. At the last annual meeting the hope was expressed that God would grant us substantial progress in His work during the year then begun ; that hope has in some degree been realized.

II.

The number on the Roll of the Congregation is 305. The number of families identified with the Congregation, and under the pastoral oversight of the Minister is not less than 150. But a less number than that is reported in the annual statistical statement required by the Assembly, so that the figures given may fairly indicate our *real working strength*. The number added during the year is 56. There have been 31 baptisms, and of this number 7 were adults. The removals by death were six : Mrs. Shairp, Mrs. Moffatt, Mr. Mansfield, Mrs. F. B. Allan, Mrs. R. Andison, and Mr. A. D. Moodie. The Congregation will unite with the Session in this expression of sympathy for our brethren whom God has visited with sorrow.

III.

The attendance at Sabbath services has been fairly good. But better is both desirable and possible. There appears to be a slight tendency in the direction of "half-day hearing." In many cases this, as the Session is well aware, is unavoidable. In others where it prevails, there is no apparent necessity for it. Regular attendance, where practicable, is earnestly and respectfully recommended, as desirable both in the interests of personal religion and of helpful example. Absence from one service without sufficient reason is too often only the prelude to careless habits and absence from all the services. In this connection a sentence or two from the last report can bear quotation : "Let the Session and all the Congregation take more interest in the welfare of Zion, and carelessness and irregularity will disappear. The Session asks the cordial assistance of every member and adherent in developing more aggressive christian life among us. The Lord requires it." Yes, and we ourselves have need of it.

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