

REPORT

—OF—

The Session of Knox Church, Ottawa,

*Presented at the Annual Meeting of the
Congregation, held Jany. 9, 1890.*

DEAR BRETHREN,—Another year has passed away since we last addressed you in this manner. In many respects it has been to you and to us a year of gracious privilege and of manifold tokens of God's goodness and favour. For while trials have entered into the experience of many, and sickness and the infirmities of advanced years have laid their burdens and restraints upon some, and sorrows have shadowed the hearts, and bereavements have darkened the homes of others, yet through all God's goodness has been manifested and His grace revealed, so that, in the experience of not a few, where tribulations and sorrows have abounded, the grace and consolations of Christ have much more abounded. Goodness and mercy have followed us throughout the year, giving comfort in sorrow, strength in weakness, guidance in perplexity, and patience and submission in trial and suffering; and our experience of God's goodness not only awakens and calls for thanksgivings for the past, but inspires us with hope as we look into the future, for He is the same through all the changing years, and He has said, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee."

We have been happily shielded from all the contentions and divisions whose record makes the history of a congregation bulk large. It is the abnormal and not the natural in growth that arrests attention, and calls for remark. In some important respects a congregation, like a nation, is happy when it has little in its life of which history is composed. A brief record is sufficient for years of peace, while a month of war will fill volumes. And the year that is past was a year of peace; not much of an eventful character marked its course, and yet no year is an exact repetition of the preceding one.

In view of the increasing number of families connected with the Congregation, the Session deemed it desirable to ask for an addition of