

Report of Session of Chalmers' Church

FOR 1836.

THE changes witnessed and experienced by the congregation during the past twelve months impress upon our minds the words of Scripture: "We are strangers before Thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers." In no year of our existence as a congregation have there been so many deaths among us as during the year just closed. Seven, whose names were on the Communion roll, have thus been called away. Some of these were actively interested in the organization of the Church, and in the various departments of its work, in the earlier years of its history. Seven others have gone from among us, having been called away from this changing scene in childhood or youth. To the bereaved relatives of all of them we tender this expression of our respectful sympathy; and we pray that they may be enabled to say, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord."

Nor are these the only changes that we have to record. Two members of the Session, Messrs. Kennedy and Hadden, have left us for homes in other parts of the Dominion. In the minutes of Session, copies of which were duly transmitted to them, we have expressed our hope that the blessing of our Lord may attend them, and that He may lead them into openings for usefulness in His service. Another member of the Session has, for some years, been afflicted with the loss of his eyesight, rendering it difficult for him to take an active part in such work as he was always ready to undertake. These things lead the Session to suggest to the Congregation that an election of Elders to fill the blanks thus made should soon take place.

The additions to the Communion roll during the past year were 29. The removals by death and by change of residence were 26. There are now 408 on the Communion roll, instead of 405 at the end of 1835. The number of families is 190. The number of Baptisms was 23—adults, 4; children, 19.

The visitation of the Congregation has been attended to as heretofore, the elders willingly taking part in this work.

Reports of the Sabbath School and Missionary Association will be presented by their respective officials. The meetings of the Literary Association have been attended with much success. These afford suitable opportunities for the young people of the Church to become acquainted with each other, and in many ways they are profitable as well as interesting, to those who are ready to turn them to right account.

The Session believe that they are warranted in speaking of an increased interest in the weekly prayer meeting. They would be glad