

heartily tendered the choir, the ushers, the managers, the librarian and secy.-treasurer of Sabbath school, etc., and the most successful meeting was brought to a close by singing the doxology, and the benediction.

STEWARTON CHURCH, OTTAWA.

THE annual meeting of this growing church was held on the 23rd January, and was largely attended, Rev. R. E. Knowles, B. A., minister, presiding. It was the best, in every way, the church has had in its short yet eventful history. The reports of the various agencies were most encouraging, showing progress, financial success and much activity. Through its clerk, Mr. J. H. Halkett, the kirk session intimated the total number of members in full communion as 171, or an addition of 54 during the year. This result was attributed mainly to the faithful ministrations of the pastor, and the harmony within the congregation. The financial statement of Mr. J. S. Durie, treasurer, showed that the revenue amounted to \$2,344.46, an increase of \$1,000 since 1891, when the congregation was organized, and that, notwithstanding the enlargement of the church building, all claims had been met. A very pleasant feature of the evening was the presentation by the Alpha League—the Young People's Association—of a handsome copy of Tennyson's Poems, to Miss A. A. Hillary, one of its most esteemed and active members, and who is leaving Ottawa for a short time. Miss Emma Stewart gracefully made the presentation, and the fair recipient feelingly acknowledged the kindness of her associates. The popular chairman of the board of managers, Mr. D. B. MacTavish, Q.C., desired to withdraw from the board and made a strenuous effort in that direction, the outcome being his unanimous re-election for another period of three years. Messrs. E. L. Taylor and W. A. Ogilvie were chosen to fill vacancies, and Mr. James Skead was continued as the efficient secretary. At the conclusion of the business meeting, cake and coffee, kindly provided by the ladies, were enjoyed and appropriately brought to a close a delightful evening. From present appearances Stewarton Church will, in the near future, be one of the largest congregations in the capital, if not in the denomination.

CARMAN, MANITOBA.

THE annual meeting of St. Andrew's church, Carman, Manitoba, took place on the 18th of January, the pastor, Rev. H. C. Sutherland, B. A., in the chair. The reports showed the various branches of the work of the church to be progressing favorably. The Ladies' Aid, formed during the year, raised \$132, which sum was expended in beautifying the interior of the church. The Sabbath school, under the care of Mr. J. H. Haverson, and a staff of twelve teachers, has been steadily growing. Thirty-eight new members were added to the roll of the church during the year, bringing the total membership up to 132. At the close of the business meeting, the congregation spent a social hour together, the ladies providing refreshments.

FLESHERTON.

THE annual meeting of Chalmers Church, Flesherton, was held on Jan. the 11th, under the presidency of the pastor, Rev. J. Wells, M. A. There was a fair representation of members and full attendance of office-bearers. After devotional exercises, the minutes of former meeting were read by Mr. Charles Stewart, secretary, and approved. Although the congregation had suffered during the year by the removal of several families from within the bounds, the finances have been fully maintained. The reports of board of managers, Sabbath School, Ladies' Aid Society, and Y.P.S.C.E. were read, and various financial statements presented by Mr. A. M. Gibson, congregational treasurer. These were all of a very interesting character, showing that a fine new "chapel" organ had been purchased and paid for, the liabilities for church improvements in finishing the commodious basement, and, in some rent, sexton's and general expense accounts had all been fully and promptly met, leaving a balance of cash on hand. The total revenue for the year being \$1,466.21, expenditures \$1,372.75, leaving a

balance in the various treasurer's hands of \$93.46. The question of reducing the debt on the church came under consideration and it was resolved that an effort be now made to raise subscriptions for that purpose. The addition and improvements in church property during the year have been largely due to the liberality and untiring efforts of the pastor, assisted by the Ladies Aid and choir of the church. Mr. W. Neil, also rendered valuable services. The year has also been marked as another year of faithful pastoral work in the spiritual oversight of the congregation. The following compose the board of managers for the current year:—Messrs. A. Carr, W. Wright, A. S. Vandusen, J. McKee, A. Cairns, A. M. Gibson, F. Chard, T. R. McKenzie, C. Stewart, D. McTavish, A. McRae and W. Henderson. Auditors,—A. S. Vandusen, and C. Stewart. Mr. W. Petch was appointed choir-leader, and Mrs. J. Blackburn, organist. The secretary, on unanimous vote of the congregation, was instructed to convey to Mr. S. Damude, recently removed to Toronto, the sincere thanks of the congregation for his long and valuable services so cheerfully rendered to the church. Mr. Damude has taken an active interest in the Presbyterian congregation in Flesherton since its organization about eighteen years ago, has been congregational secretary during that time; the first Sabbath school superintendent, and on the purchase of a site for a new church, was elected a trustee, and was a most valuable member of the building committee. He was held in high esteem by the congregation, which has suffered a great loss by his removal. The meeting closed with the benediction by the pastor.

DUNDAS.

At the annual meeting of Knox Church Dundas, held on January 24th, Mr. Thomas Bain presided. The annual reports were all adopted and were considered very satisfactory. The managers for the coming three years will be Messrs. T. H. Mackenzie, William Connell, Henry Bertram (re-elected,) and Charles Hetherington. The retiring officers, Messrs. T. H. Mackenzie, chairman; Peter Laing, treasurer; and F. D. Suter, secretary, were re-elected; and Messrs. R. T. Wilson and James More were elected auditors. The managers report showed during the past year sufficient has been contributed to the funds of the congregation to pay the current expenses, and one hundred dollars in full for the shed built in the rear of the church, leaving an indebtedness of \$280 still owing by the congregation. The auditors report showed receipts amounting to \$3,088.82, while the following extract gives the gist of the session's report: The past year has been one of continued depression in some respects and the number attending church has sensibly decreased. On the communion roll there are now 250 names in good standing and able to attend ordinances, of these sixteen were added during the year, five being by certificate. Thus our increase in full membership has been very small. Twenty-one have received certificates of "dismissal," two died, and several others are removed who have not yet asked for their certificates. This is certainly discouraging, as it shows a decrease of five, the first time during the present pastorate that there has not been an increase. Still, however much we may deplore the holding back of many from making a profession, there is no reason for thinking that our young people are less hopefully interested in religion than formerly. The baptisms during the year were eighteen, deaths nine, and marriages celebrated five—only two parties connected with the congregation. A printed copy of the communion roll is appended, if there are any errors or omissions therein they will be rectified when the Moderator has been informed regarding them. The mission receipts amounted to \$1,168.39; those of the Sabbath School to \$214.48; the Young Women's Society reported \$34.72; \$25 of which were devoted to the procuring of a proper dwelling for a missionary in Manitoba, through Rev. Dr. Robertson. The Happy Workers Mission Band sent a contribution of twenty dollars to Pointe aux Trembles. The Y. P. S. C. E. show a good record, and the W. F. M. S. report well, with an income of \$179.52 for all purposes. All the agencies of the church are flourishing.

For The Children.

Some Thoughts for the Young on the Power of Littles.

BY REV. MARCUS SCOTT, B. A., CAMBRIDGEFORD.

Some time ago I read the story of a bell which is to be seen in the church tower of the little town of Grosslaswitz in the north of Germany. The bell is surmounted by a bas-relief representing a six-eared grain of corn, with the date, October 15th, 1729. The story of the bell is this: at the beginning of last century the bell of the little church of Grosslaswitz got cracked and ceased to be of any use. A second bell was needed, but as the people were so very poor where was the money to come from? One Sunday as the schoolmaster, Gottfried Hayn, was going to church, he saw growing out of the churchyard wall a beautiful stalk of green corn, the seed of which had been dropped by some passing bird. All at once the idea struck him that this one stalk of corn might be, if taken care of and rightly used, the means of procuring the new bell which they wanted so badly. He waited till the corn grew ripe when he plucked the six ears which were on it and sowed them in his own garden the next spring; then when the harvest came he gathered in his little crop which he again sowed, and the next year again, till at last he had not room in his garden for the crop. So he divided the seed among a certain number of farmers, who went on sowing the golden grain until, in the eight year the crop was so large that when it was put together and sold, they found they had money enough to buy a large beautiful bell, with its story, and its birthday engraved upon it, with a cast of the corn stalk to which it owed its existence, and so every time that bell rings it preaches a sermon to the good people of that little German town on the power of littles, and what may grow from one little action rightly done.

Let me tell you the fable of the little rain-drop. Far away in the clouds one warm summer day were a number of little rain drops. It was so very hot and sultry that they could do nothing but lie idly around. One of them looking down saw a poor farmer go out to look at his fields, where for want of rain there was not a single green blade growing. He thought of his sickly wife and his young family all needing so much care, and he sighed as he looked at his bare fields and thought of empty barns when harvest time came. "All at once the little rain-drop said, 'I'm going down to water the farmer's fields.' So one of the other raindrops looked up and said, "What can only one raindrop do?" "I'll do the best I can," said the little rain-drop as it sped away down on its errand of mercy. "If you're going we'll all come," shouted they all as they hurried away after the first. "Why! a shower!" said the farmer as he stood in his fields amid falling raindrops which watered his fields and gave plenty of food to his starving family. Yes, a shower, and all through the influence of one little rain-drop. We all have an influence on some one else. Let us exert it for good. Let us always try to do all the good we can, in every way we can, to every one with whom we come in contact. Thus we will be true disciples of Jesus Christ who went continually about doing good and whose constant aim it was to make others happy.

A child went merrily forth to play,
But a thought like a silver thread,
Kept winding in and out all day
Through the happy golden head;
Her mother had said, "Do all you can,
For you are a part of God's great plan."

So she helped a younger child along,
When the road was rough to its feet,
And she sang from her heart a little song,
That a thought was passing sweet,
And her father, a toil-worn, weary man,
Said, "I, too, will do the best I can."

Our best! ah, children, the best of us
Must hide our faces away,
When the Lord of the vineyard comes to look
At our tasks at the close of day,
Let us frame our lives on the Master's plan,
And work and pray, and do the best we can.