

THE annual congregational meeting of West Church, Toronto, was held on the evening of Tuesday 22nd of January, Rev. R. Wallace in the chair. 104 members were received and 134 removed during the year; there are now 700 members on the roll. Over \$1,000 have been contributed to the schemes of the church and benevolent objects; \$1,523 have been paid on the Mission Church, on Clairmont Street, the whole contributions for the year amount to \$7,112 being very much in advance of any previous year. The Ladies' Aid, the Ladies' Auxiliary, The Woman's Foreign Mission Society, the Sabbath-school, Mission Band, Young People's Association, Band of Hope, and Young Men's Sabbath Morning Prayer Meeting are all in a flourishing state.

THE annual meeting of St. Paul's Church, Peterborough, was held on January 23, in the school room, which was crowded with the members and adherents of the Church. There are connected with the congregation 344 families and 674 communicants, a net increase of twenty-four families and fourteen communicants during the year. There are 450 names on the roll of the church school and 100 names on the rolls of the two other Sabbath schools connected with the Church. The contributions for strictly congregational purposes amounted to \$9,615, of which sum \$4,649 was raised by weekly offerings. The rest consisted of special contributions for the reduction of the debt. The contributions to the Schemes of the Church amounted to \$2,135, of which sum \$385 was given to Home Missions; \$517 to Foreign Missions; \$309 to French Evangelization; \$192 to Augmentation; \$305 to colleges (ordinary and special); \$99 to Aged and Infirm Ministers' and Widows and Orphans' Funds. In addition to this \$118 was contributed for other objects.

THE annual meeting of St. Andrew's Church, Halifax, which took place lately, was well attended by the members and adherents. The trustees reported that there was raised for congregational purposes last year \$4,304.93, and from all sources for missionary and benevolent objects, \$1,419.37—making a total of \$5,724.30. Compared with 1887 the contributions for all purposes showed an increase of about \$2,300. The report of the session indicated a most gratifying increase in the number added to the roll of membership, and in the families who have become connected with the congregation during the year. The several organizations in the Church also presented successful reports, notably the Ladies' Working Society which contributed for different purposes \$550. The members and adherents are delighted at the marked advancement made and the bright prospect for the coming year. They feel that the present healthy state of the congregation is in a large measure due to the exertions of the Rev. D. M. Gordon, who as pastor and preacher has endeared himself to all who attend upon his ministrations. Messrs. Philip Thompson, John H. Burton, John McDougall, James Reeves and H. G. Bauld, the retiring trustees, were re-elected.

THE annual congregational meeting of St. John's Presbyterian Church, Bruckville, was held last week. Rev. A. Macgillivray occupied the chair and after devotional exercises reports were read and considered from the treasurer of the Church, the treasurer of the building fund, the Sunday School, the Young People's Association, and the session. These all showed a very satisfactory state of affairs in the various departments of Church work to which they referred. The reports were all adopted. W. J. Davidson and A. G. Dobbie were elected trustees in place of John Grant, sen., who expressed a wish to retire after very many years' service, and Fred Kearns, removed. Mr. Jas. A. Hutchison and Mr. Watson were appointed auditors. A committee consisting of Messrs. Chas. Grant, Robt. H. Gamble, Robt. Wright, jr., Duncan Matheson and John Owens were appointed to carry on the movement for the extinction of the Church debt, which it has been arranged to liquidate in three years from 1st October last, in three annual instalments of \$1,000 each, \$1,900 of the total debt of \$4,900 having been paid off last year. After the meeting an adjournment was made to the basement, where tables had been spread by the Young People's Association, and an invitation sent to every family and adherent of the congregation to partake of their hospitality. Afterwards a short musical programme, with speeches by Rev. A. Macgillivray, Hon. W. J. Christie and Judge McDonald, followed and a pleasant evening was brought to a close.

SINCE the induction of the Rev. F. Smith to the pastorate of the Bradford Presbyterian charge, one year has elapsed, and a very satisfactory showing is the result of the several congregational meetings that have recently been held. In membership the increase is reported at thirty-one, additions being made in each church. Financially the three congregations have each a handsome surplus, the Bradford congregation at the close of the year reporting a balance on hand of nearly \$100. Some \$1,750 were raised in all by the united charge, the Settlement congregation expending for all purposes \$576; St. John's, \$303, and Bradford, over \$680. The Sabbath schools are also in a healthy condition, and have raised, by way of Sabbath collections, the sum of \$100, to be devoted wholly to mission purposes. A branch of the Woman's Foreign Mission Society is also in active operation in connection with the Bradford congregation, and is doing a good work. Altogether the Church has had a most successful year, which must be very gratifying alike to pastor and people, who are upon the most intimate and happy terms. Rev. Mr. Smith has worked zealously and has been equal to every emergency. To his painstaking labour and to the influence of his Christ-like character is largely due the success of the church. It is the unanimous wish of a happy and contented people that the peace and harmony which now prevails may long continue.

THE annual meeting of the Collingwood Presbyterian Church was held Monday evening week. There was a fair attendance present who were all interested in the welfare of the Church. Mr. W. A. Copeland being called to the chair, the business was commenced. The first was the receiving of reports from the following committees, namely: Session, Working Men's, Mission Band, Woman's Foreign Mission Society, Society of Christian Endeavour, Sunday School, Cemetery Debt and Finance. All these reports went to show that the Church is in a very prosperous condition. The Session report showed that on the roll of the Church there are the names of 286 bona fide members. The amount raised for all purposes during the past year was \$3,500; out of this the debt of the church was lessened by some \$1,300. This is a good showing. The next point of business was the election of the Board of Management. Those who will compose this Board for this year are: Messrs. W. A. Copeland, R. Henry, W. Reekie, J. H. Duncan, J. F. Stewart, D. G. Cooper, A. Buist, A. C. Weddell and James Neil. Then came the election of a board of ushers. Those that were on remain for another year. To provide for a debt committee the following ladies and gentlemen were elected: Mrs. Henry Robertson, Mrs. D. Best, Mrs. W. J. Frame and Messrs. C. E. Stephens, T. H. Best, A. Buist and A. McDermid. Mr. Henry Robertson and Mr. W. J. Frame were appointed auditors. The Board recommended that the Rev. J. Campbell's salary be increased to \$1,100 for the year of 1889, with promise of a further bonus of \$100 if funds allowed.

THE annual meeting of Mill Street Presbyterian Church, Port Hope, was held last week and was largely attended. The pastor, the Rev. W. McWilliam, acted as chairman, and Mr. Williamson as secretary. The various reports read show that this congregation has enjoyed a large measure of peace and prosperity during the past twelve months. An earnest and kindly address from the Session was read; showing, among other things, that the additions to the membership during the past year were twenty-five; and the diminutions by death and removal from town amounted to fourteen. The present membership is one hundred and thirty-three. The Superintendent of the Sabbath School reported a year of successful work; the school being specially well provided with teachers both for the children and for the Bible classes. The contributions of the school amounted to \$87. The Woman's Foreign Mission Society and the Mission Band also

presented reports of a favourable character: showing their contributions to have been \$70, and \$15.37 respectively. The managers reported that, after meeting all expenses and outstanding accounts, there was a balance in the Treasurer's hands at the close of the year of \$77. Messrs. Mulholland, Gray, W. Carson and N. Williamson were elected to take the places of the retiring managers. The contributions to Missions were apportioned at the meeting to the various schemes of the church. These amounted to \$150.80 making, with the contributions from the ladies, a sum of \$206, or an average of \$2 per member to missions. The amount contributed for congregational purposes was, by envelope, \$1,121.63; and by plate collections \$216.96; in all \$1,338.59, or an average of \$10 per member. The congregation may be congratulated on these evidences of prosperity.

THE people of Carmel Presbyterian Church in this place, on the occasion of their anniversary on Monday last, made a new departure. Instead of the old fashioned tea-meeting, with its bustle, and stir and clatter, weary listening to long speeches and weary dishwashing afterwards, they gave a sacred concert, consisting of music, readings, recitations and short addresses, by the Clinton Quartette club; the Seaforth Presbyterian choir; Mr. K. H. Collins, of Exeter; Mr. Hoar, of Clinton; Miss Grace Robertson, of Clinton; Rev. Mr. McDonald, of Seaforth, and Rev. Mr. Fletcher, of the Thames Road, assisted by local talent. Apparently the people of Hensall relished the change, for the church was filled to overflowing by a very appreciative audience. Rev. Mr. Henderson, the pastor, occupied the chair, but his duties were very light, for the order throughout was excellent. The programme was long, but notwithstanding this the interest was kept up throughout, which is no small compliment either to the committee who had the management of the concert in hand, or to the performers. When the programme was at an end the doxology was sung, Rev. Mr. Cook pronounced the benediction, and all departed to their homes, apparently delighted with the new kind of tea meeting. The proceeds, including the Sunday collections, amounted, we believe, to the handsome sum of \$182.15. On the preceding Sabbath, Rev. Dr. McLaren, of Knox College, Toronto, preached in the forenoon and evening, and Rev. Mr. Wilson, of Exeter, in the afternoon. The several congregations were large, but that on Sunday evening scarcely left standing room anywhere within sound of the voice of the learned and eloquent preacher. The good people of Carmel Church and their worthy pastor are to be congratulated on the very great success which has in every way attended their anniversary services.

THE annual congregational meeting of Chalmers' Church, Guelph, was held last week. The attendance was the largest that has yet been seen at an annual meeting. Mr. Sturton, chairman of the Board of Managers, presided, and Mr. Melvin acted as secretary. The managers' report is a very full and satisfactory one, showing that the congregation is now entirely free of debt. The mortgage on the church building has been paid, as well as the cost of re-painting and renovating. The total amount raised by the congregation during the past year from all sources for congregational purposes and for the different schemes of the church amounts to \$5,684.34, a large sum considering the number of members. This sum, with the exception of \$140, which was realized by a public entertainment in aid of the benevolent fund, was wholly contributed as free will offerings by the congregation, without the aid of outside attractions or entertainments, and represents contributions of about \$30 per family. The congregation was organized in July, 1868, with a membership of 116, at commencement of Dr. Wardrope's pastorate. Sep., 1869, 130; in 1870, 182; 1875, 308; 1880, 330; 1888, 443. As an evidence of the active missionary spirit in the congregation, it may be mentioned that \$1,055 were raised last year for the various missionary schemes. The reports of the Session, Sabbath School, Missionary Association, Ladies' Auxiliary, Mission Band, and Young People's Literary Association, were also very satisfactory, and showed that every department of the work is being efficiently and successfully carried on under the care of the esteemed pastor, Rev. Dr. Wardrope. The managers who retire by rotation were re-elected, and Mr. Geo. Shortreed was appointed in place of Mr. Geo. A. Somerville. Hearty votes of thanks were given to the Managers, the Secretary and Treasurer, and these were re-appointed, Mr. Sturton being Chairman, Mr. Melvin, Sec., and Mr. A. J. Little, Treas. During the evening the choir, under the management of Mr. Maitland, gave some excellent music, and the proceedings, which were of a most pleasant and congratulatory character, were brought to close with the benediction.

THE annual meeting of St. Paul's Church, Hamilton, was held last week. The happy spirit that pervaded the meeting and the admirable showing presented by the reports of all the organizations of the Church made it an interesting occasion. After devotional exercises conducted by the pastor, Rev. Dr. Laudlaw, Mr. M. Leggat was chosen chairman, and Mr. Lyman Lee, B.A., secretary. The report of the Session showed the additions to the membership during the past year to have been fifty-seven; dismissals by certificate, thirty-one; removals by death, eight; present membership, 543, a net increase of eighteen: number of elders, sixteen, four of whom—Messrs. George Black, A. A. McKillop, Alexander McLagan and William Wilson—were added to the Session in December last the financial statement of the treasurer of Session showed that the sum of \$141.89 had been disbursed for congregational charity and session expenses, leaving a balance of 69.00 in the treasury. The report of the managers as well as that of the Session made reference to the increased attendance at the various services of the church and the increased zeal and activity manifest in all departments of the Church's work. The ordinary Sabbath collections for the year amounted to \$3,202.65, an increase of \$205.49 over 1887, and an average of \$60.45 per Sunday. The increase is partly due to the increased adoption of the envelope system, for which the managers expressed their indebtedness to the efforts of the Ladies' Association. Pew rents for the year, \$2,128. The course of medical lectures under the auspices of the Ladies' Association netted the sum of \$225. After paying off a debt of \$352.36 on the Sexton's cottage, and \$673.77 of yearly interest on mortgage, the managers, out of the revenue received by them from all sources, were in a position to meet the current expenses of the Church, leaving a balance of \$76.35 on hand. The report of the Missionary Committee—Geo. A. Young, treasurer—was the most gratifying report this committee has ever presented. He showed the receipts from half yearly collections from missions, etc., to have been \$645.75; from special collections and individual contributions toward missionary, benevolent and educational objects, \$1,949.81; from Women's Foreign Missionary Auxiliary, \$277.45; Home Circle Mission Band, \$121.52; Buds of Promise Mission Band, \$19.89 making a total of \$3,014.42, which was apportioned to Home and Foreign Missions, French Evangelization, Stipend Augmentation, Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund, Queen's, Knox and Manitoula Colleges, and various other objects, including two city missions. A pleasant feature of the evening was the reading of the reports of the Ladies' Association, Home Circle Mission Band and Buds of Promise by their respective secretaries, Mrs. Bidwell Way, Miss J. I. Crawford and Miss E. A. Smith. The report of Miss I. Wilson, secretary of the W.F.M. Auxiliary, was, in her absence, read by Mr. Wm. Wilson. The report of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour, read by the President, Mr. A. A. McKillop, stated that the society has 106 members, forty-eight active and fifty-eight associate, and that at a recent meeting at which Rev. J. Wilkie, from Indore, was present, one of the members had pledged herself for the yearly support of a teacher at Indore, and it is expected that the society will in the near future undertake the support of other teachers among the heathen. The Sunday-school report showed the total number of scholars enrolled to be 340; teachers and office-bearers, forty-one. Total average attendance, 250. Offerings, \$297.47—\$24.03 higher than in any former year—being an average of \$5.62 per Sabbath. The following managers, retiring by rotation, were re-elected: Messrs. Samuel Briggs, Donald Grear, H. P. Coburn and Wm. Malcolm. Mr. John Stewart, was re-elected in place of Mr. Robert Hutchison, resigned. Major John Glasgow and Mr. Byron Smith were re-elected Auditors.

Sabbath School Teacher.

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

Feb. 11,
1889.

THE TIMID WOMAN'S TOUCH.

Mark 5
25-34

GOLDEN TEXT.—Be not afraid only believe. Mark 5: 36.

SHORTER CATECHISM.

Question 7. We speak of "decrees" because, being finite, we necessarily think only of one small part of God's plan at a time. But to his mind and will it is only one single plan, embracing as one system all the ends, means, and conditions of events in their natural relations. It establishes the dependence of ends on means and conditions, so that these can never be separated. The liberty of free agents and the contingency of second causes are included in God's decree, and, therefore, can never be interfered with by it. (Compare the 24th and 31st verses of Acts 27.) This one all-comprehensive decree is necessary if God infallibly foreknows whatsoever will come to pass. For if he foresees how any man will act in a given conjuncture, and so foreseeing proceeds to create him and place him in that conjuncture, he, of course, in so doing, predetermines the occurrence of the event. But the event itself is no less free, being produced solely by the rational, unbounded will of the man himself. This Plan must be sovereign, since God alone exists when he formed it, and all things that afterward exist are made what they are by the plan itself. And for the same reason the single great end of the Plan is the glory of God himself; that is, the manifestation of His inherent excellence by the exercise of His perfections. If the glory of God is the chief end of the plan, it must, of course, be the chief end of every part of it—of creation, of providence, and of redemption, and so the Scriptures declare. This Plan, being universal, must include the designed and deliberate permission of sin, and the determination to overrule it to the end of his own glory. But God cannot be the cause of sin. The only cause of sin is the rebellious wills of his creatures. The Scriptures assign to God only these relations to sin: (1) He abhors it; (2) He forbids it; (3) He permits it; (4) He restrains it; (5) He punishes it; (6) He overrules its consequences to good. (Ps. 70: 10; Acts 2: 23; 4: 27, 28).—A. A. Hodge, D.D.

INTRODUCTION.

Returning from the eastern side of the lake to Capernaum Jesus accepts an invitation to a feast in the house of Matthew the publican, or tax gatherer. While there He embraces the opportunity of instructing the people assembled. A ruler of the synagogue, named Jairus, calls requesting Jesus to heal his daughter who is at the point of death. On the way to the house of Jairus another miraculous cure is wrought by the Great Physician. In the miraculous cures wrought by Jesus there was no respect of persons. Rich and poor, young and old alike, were the subjects of His tender and gracious dealing. Jairus was a man of some influence and social position; while on His way to the house of a ruler in the synagogue He healed the poor woman who was not only weak but destitute of means.

I. An Afflicted Woman.—This poor woman had long been a grievous sufferer. Her disease was of long-standing, and, therefore, incurable by human skill. The nature of her complaint rendered her unclean according to the Jewish law, and the depressing effect of her separation from friends would make her case all the more distressing. She had used all the means within her reach, and in seeking aid from the doctors of the time she was none the better and had spent all her means. There is a great difference between the doctors of that day and the thoroughly trained physicians and surgeons of to-day. Vast improvements have been made in the science of healing, but still there are cases that baffle the skill of the wisest and the best. This poor woman had heard of the wonderful things Jesus had done; how He had cured many afflicted ones, and how compassionate He was with all the distressed. The woman had strong faith in Jesus. It overcame many obstacles. Modest and shrinking as she was, she determined to embrace the opportunity of Christ's presence. She pushed through the crowd that followed Jesus on the way to the house of Jairus, and touched His garment, the fringe or tassels that depended from the loose flowing outer robe. Herein is her faith revealed, she evidently believed that a healing power went forth from Christ. It was not sufficient for Him to say a word; the silent touch would be sufficient. Her confident faith is expressed in her own words, "If I may touch but His clothes I shall be whole." The disease that had afflicted her so long is at last cured, and is cured instantly. Christ's miracles were all immediate. These instantaneous cures wrought by Jesus are significant of the soul's healing. It is a complete salvation that Jesus offers and that He has provided.

II. The Woman's Faith Confirmed. Jesus, who knows all things, was perfectly conscious of what had taken place. He knew that His healing power had been exerted, and, turning round to those pressing on Him, asks, "Who touched my clothes?" The question was not to elicit information, but to call forth the acknowledgment of the woman who had been healed, and to afford her the opportunity for the confirmation of her faith. The disciples rather wonder at the question, and refer to the closeness of the eager crowd, and have no idea that the touch of faith by a timid woman had been responded to by Christ's miraculous healing. How quiet and silent in its exercise is Christ's healing power! He looked round. The woman was agitated by that look. She knew that it was searching her. She was afraid and trembling. She naturally shrank from publicity, and she may have possibly dreaded a rebuke for what she might suppose was her presumption. She goes forward at once, and, following the custom of her country and race, she prostrated herself at Jesus' feet, and tells her story in the hearing of those round about. No word of reproach, no rebuke proceeds from Him who never quenches the smouldering flax, nor breaks the bruised reed: He speaks in tender and loving accents to the agitated woman reassuring words of comfort. He gives prominence to the truth that faith had been the instrument of her cure, as it is the essential condition of salvation. He bids her go in peace. It is in Christ only that peace and joy can be found. She now departs whole in body and in soul with Christ's benediction.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

Soul physicians cannot heal the soul from the disease of sin, but they can point to the Physician who is able to save.

What a compassionate and loving Saviour is Jesus!

Faith is necessary to salvation. It must lay hold on Christ.

Christ desires even the humblest and most timid of His followers openly to confess Him.

Suffering, though never in itself agreeable, may be the means of leading the sufferer to Christ, from whom alone effective help can come.

LESSON BIBLE READING.

THE TOUCH OF JESUS.

Desiring Jesus' touch (Mark viii. 22; Luke xviii. 15).

Desiring to touch Jesus (Matt. ix. 20, 21; Mark iii. 10; v. 27, 28; Luke vi. 19; viii. 44).

Healed by the touch of Jesus (Matt. viii. 3, 15; ix. 29; Mark i. 41; vii. 33; Luke v. 13; vii. 14; xxi. 51).

Healed by touching Jesus (Matt. xiv. 36; Mark v. 27-29; Mark vi. 56).

The toucher sought (Mark v. 30, 31; Luke viii. 45).

Touch forbidden (John xx. 17).