

## ERSKINE CHURCH ECHOES.

the Church Sunday School, and of \$10 to the Mission toward expenses.

The question of employing a deaconess was considered and laid on the table for future consideration.

Messrs. A. M. Souter, T. H. Keller, J. W. McBean and Alex. Mitchell were elected managers for 3 years.

The elders and managers were asked to appoint ushers.

The question of putting a pipe organ in the Church was earnestly, but pleasantly discussed and left over till the adjourned meeting held on Wednesday, the 24th inst., at 9 p.m. The usual votes of thanks were given to choir, organist, etc.

We have never had a more encouraging annual meeting than was this.

### Report of Session.

In presenting their report the Session would express their thankfulness to God for the many blessings and much grace He has bestowed on us as a congregation since our last report was presented. In all departments of the congregation's work there is unmistakable evidence of growth outward and inward.

While there has been a large addition to our membership during the year there have also been many removals by death, certificate and discipline; yet their remains a gratifying net increase in the number of our communicants after the roll has been thoroughly purged.

The attendance at Sabbath services has been gratifyingly large and steadily improving. At Communion it has been the usual 66%, though we feel it should be somewhat larger. At the Wednesday evening service it has been good all through the year, and much larger since the new year, and we hope the improvement will still go on.

The Session rejoices in the good work being done by the faithful workers in our two Sabbath Schools and would remind these workers of the Master's words: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto Me," and of those of Paul, "Be not weary in well-doing, for in due season ye shall reap if ye faint not."

The Session would extend its benediction also to the Christian Endeavor Society, the Boys' Brigade and the Mission Band, believing that work which will bear fruit for eternity is being done by the workers in these departments.

The Session also is delighted with the excellent work being done by the Women's Foreign Missionary Society and the Ladies' Aid Society, the one in developing an interest in world-wide missions, and the other a spirit of sociability among the people, making strangers among us feel at home, and helping in reducing the congregation's indebtedness. The Session believes that there has been a decided deepening of the spiritual life of the people and recognizes as one of the means to that end, along with the faithful preaching of the Word, the seasons of special services held in May and December. It is glad also to observe the steady growth in the practice of total abstinence from the intoxicating cup and in the temperance sentiment of

the congregation and community. It rejoices, moreover, and very especially in the evidences of development in the grace of Christian liberty and the practice of systematic giving of a fixed proportion of income, and would commend this practice to all the congregation as both scriptural and best.

Let us "thank God and take courage," and go forward to our New Year's work, determined by God's grace to "try more for Him and expect more from Him" than ever before.

#### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP, ETC.,

The number of families in the congregation is.....	260
The number of single persons apart from these families.....	40
The number of members on roll in full communion last year.....	391
The number of members added during the year, by certificate, 29; by profession, 35.....	64
The number of members removed, by certificate, 27; death, 4; discipline, 7.....	38
Net gain.....	27
Present membership.....	417
Number of baptisms during year, infants, 22; adults, 6.....	28
Average attendance at Communion.....	278
Number died during year, Communicants, 4; infants, 10; adherents, 7.....	21

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The Treasurer's book shows balance from last year.....	\$ 44 81
Offerings received for Session Fund Preparatory Services.....	27 07
Offerings received for Session Fund, Thanksgiving Day.....	8 28
Special offering for benevolence.....	22 90
	\$103 06
Disbursed for benevolence.....	\$ 49 78
Balance now in hand.....	53 28
	\$103 06

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. G. SHEARER,                      JAMES GILL,  
Moderator.                              Clerk.

### Sunday School.

We lay before the congregation a brief statement of the affairs of the Sabbath School, but one of which we have cause to feel proud.

The average attendance of scholars for the past year was 242 as against 234 in 1892. The collection amounted to \$239.82—\$175 of which has been set apart for missions, apportioned as follows: Home Missions, \$45; Foreign Missions, \$40; Knox College Students' Missionary Society, \$20; French Evangelization, \$30; Jews, \$5; Girls' Home, \$10; Boys' Home, \$5. Total, \$175. The balance being applied to school purposes. We look forward to still larger collections and better attendance this present year.

Mr. Shearer's class for young men will improve our school in attendance, offerings and interest. Ald. Hall has resigned as Treasurer, after years of faithful service, as has also the Secretary. Mr. Hall is succeeded by Mr. John Keith, and Mr. John W. Gordon is the new Secretary.

R. P. ANDERSON, Secretary.

### Report of Board of Managers.

It is with feelings of gratitude and thankfulness that we present this, the 3th annual report. We begin the year with bright prospects, and we think all will feel encouraged with the satisfactory statement we now present.

Our weekly offerings amounted to \$3,234, being an increase of \$300 over last year, average Sabbath collection being about \$60.

The offerings towards the reduction of the Debt Fund amounted to \$560. Although it fell short of last year and only half the sum hoped for, still we must not feel discouraged, but strive to make a special effort to raise the desired amount—\$1,000—this year. Total receipts for the year amounted to \$4,003, an increase of \$260.

During the year we paid off the Booker estate loan \$400, leaving a balance of \$160, \$160. This, with the \$151 collected by the Ladies' Aid Society, amounts to \$311 to the credit of this fund; which has been deposited in the Savings Bank at interest.

Since our last Annual Meeting we have opened a section of the gallery and upholstered the same. Hope ere long that it will be necessary to open the remaining section to accommodate our increasing numbers. The ventilator, we trust, has given perfect satisfaction.

The managers retiring are: Messrs. A. M. Souter, T. H. Keller, J. W. McBean, and Geo. Harper, the three former are eligible for reelection, Mr. Harper having moved to the Northwest.

We extend a cordial vote of thanks to the Ladies' Aid Society for their handsome sum of \$151 towards the reduction of the Debt Fund. To Miss Edgar and the Choir for their kind services. Special vote of thanks to Miss McBean for her gratuitous services as organist. To the ushers for their obliging and courteous attention.

We would specially desire to return thanks to our Heavenly Father for His manifold blessings to us as a congregation and to our beloved Pastor, strengthening him spiritually and physically and enabling him to attend to the many arduous duties which devolve upon him. Let our united prayers be for a continuance of the same, now and ever, and that harmony and good-will may still be ours in the future, as it has in the past.

J. R. MOODIE, Secretary.

### The Missionary Association of Erskine Church.

The Missionary Association began the year with a meeting shortly after the Annual Meeting at which a Programme Committee was appointed to arrange for the monthly missionary meetings and also a Literature Committee for the purpose of disseminating missionary intelligence. The Programme Committee, consisting of Rev. J. G. Shearer, the President and the Secretary, held a meeting at which it was arranged that these three would in turn conduct or be responsible for the missionary prayer-meetings, when the latest information in regard to the different fields of mission work such as