

It is requested that every Family in the Congregation will take
a copy of this Report and preserve it for future reference.

KNOX CHURCH,

STRATFORD.

ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1875.

ADOPTED AT THE

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Held February 14th, 1876.

Stratford :

PRINTED AT THE "BEACON" STEAM PRINTING OFFICE.

1876.

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MEMORANDA.

Divine Service is held every Sabbath, at 11 a. m. and 6.30 p. m.

The Sabbath School meets every Sabbath in the Lecture Room, at 3 o'clock p. m.

The Weekly Prayer Meeting is held every Thursday evening, at 7.30 o'clock in the Lecture Room of this Church and of St. Andrew's Church, in alternate weeks.

The Minister's Bible Class meets every Friday evening, in the Lecture Room, at 7.30.

The Board of Managers meet on the first Tuesday in each month, at 7.30 p. m., in the Vestry.

Pew Rents are payable half-yearly—in advance—on 1st January and 1st July.

Pew Holders giving up their Sittings are requested to give notice to Mr. Henry Gibson, the Treasurer, in order that the Pews may be re-let without delay.

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MEMBERS OF SESSION.

Moderator,

REV. THOMAS MACPHERSON.

Elders,

MR. A. L. ARGO, (removed to Fergus.)
 " RALPH DONALDSON.
 " WILLIAM DUNN.
 " DAVID BARTON.
 " BENJAMIN RIGG, (died during the year.)
 " JOHN GIBB, (" " ")

BOARD OF MANAGERS FOR 1876.

THOMAS MILLER,
 ALEXANDER MACNAIR,
 W. W. FORTUNE,
 J. C. MCPHERSON,

WILLIAM AIRD,
 W. M. CLARK,
 ALEXANDER GRANT,
 JOHN ROSS,

ANDERSON STEVENSON.

STATISTICS OF MEMBERSHIP.

Number of Communicants, Dec. 31st, 1874.....	265
Removed during 1875 { By change of Residence.....	15
{ By Death.....	5
	20
	245
Added during 1875 { By Certificate.....	25
{ By Examination.....	25
	270
Number of Communicants, Dec. 31st, 1875.....	270
Baptisms during 1875 { Males.....	11
{ Females.....	9
	20
Deaths during 1875 { Males.....	3
{ Females.....	2
	5
Number of Families in the Congregation.....	125

SABBATH SCHOOL.

Office Bearers in the School.

MR. JOHN OWEN.....	Superintendent.
" " ".....	Secretary and Treasurer.
MR. R. H. MYERS.....	Asst. Secretary.
MR. W. S. COWAN.....	Teacher of Boys' Bible Class.
MR. J. C. SINCLAIR.....	" Girls' " "
MR. JOHN F. MILLER.....	Librarian.
MR. ANDREW JEFFREY.....	Assistant " "

Teachers.

MRS. MACPHERSON,	MR. J. C. SINCLAIR,
MRS. D. R. MCPHERSON,	MR. WM. S. COWAN,
MISS MODERWELL,	MR. W. HAMILTON,
MISS LINTON,	MR. W. JEFFREY, JR.,
MISS ORR,	MR. ALFRED J. MACPHERSON,
MISS MYERS,	MR. D. R. MCPHERSON,
MISS AMY MACPHERSON,	MR. JAMES HENDERSON,
MISS GIBSON,	MR. A. C. STEELE,
MISS CASSELS,	
MISS J. MILLER,	
MISS REID,	
MISS HOUGHTON,	
MISS PATTON,	
MISS M. S. MILLER,	
MISS HAMILTON,	
MISS ANNIE DUNCAN,	

MANAGERS' REPORT

For the year ending Dec. 31st, 1875.

In presenting their Report for the year 1875, the Managers beg to submit the following comparative statement of the ordinary receipts of the congregation (exclusive of proceeds of soirees and anniversary services) for the past five years :

YEAR.	PEW RENTS.	COLLECTIONS.
1871.....	\$ 959 00.....	\$ 520 32
1872.....	794 27.....	645 80
1873.....	1,681 04.....	951 98
1874.....	1,592 57.....	1,206 10
1875.....	1,740 60.....	1,189 88

From these figures it will be seen that the financial progress of the Congregation has on the whole been very satisfactory.

The Managers cannot refrain from again calling attention to the want of punctuality in the payment of pew rents half-yearly in advance.

The cause of this cannot be attributed to anything but carelessness on the part of pew holders, who do not realize the injury to the interests of the congregation caused thereby.

The sum of \$45.25 still remains unpaid on account of pew rents for the past two years ; and the Managers conceive that it is absolutely necessary to relet at once all sittings of which the rents are in arrear from last year.

The Sabbath collections it will be observed fall a few dollars short of the amount collected in 1874, but this is probably owing to the fact that unfavorable weather more frequently interfered with the attendance at church than in the previous year.

In the Annual Reports for some years past, reference has been made to the necessity for an increased liberality in the Sabbath collections, and the present Board take the liberty of again referring to the subject, and the special attention of the congregation is most respectfully called to these remarks :

It has been observed by the Managers that the collections received from the congregation on an attendance of from 500 to 600 persons are made up somewhat as follows :

About 250 persons give one cent each.....	\$ 2.50
" 250 " " five cents "	12.50
" 25 " " ten " "	2.50
" 10 " " 25 " "	2.50

When it is considered that as a rule the same individuals contribute at the same rate all the year round, it will be seen how little is done by a large portion of the congregation to make up the revenue. The habit of getting children to contribute to the collections even though in such small sums as one cent each is certainly proper and praiseworthy, nor are we to despise such offerings from the poor who generously give all they can afford. But it is simply surprising that grown-up people who can afford better, and particularly heads of families, should think of offering one cent pieces for sustaining Gospel ordinances. It may safely be said that no other object under the sun is left to be satisfied with the payment of a copper. In the ordinary daily expenditure incident to the social habits of the age, how freely are half-dimes, dimes and larger coin paid out and that without a murmur ! The Church alone enjoys the unenviable distinction of being considered well enough sustained by copper contributions.

The Managers do not for a moment suggest that these remarks apply exceptionally to this congregation. On the contrary, they point with pride to the fact that no other Pro-

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testant congregation in the community excels this one in liberality, and this liberality is constantly increasing. But the fact remains that a large part of the people fail to bear their proper share of the expenditure of the church, and leave a double burden on the shoulders of their more liberal neighbors. It is to be hoped that an effort will be made in the current year to bring up the average Sabbath collections to at least \$30—a figure which has been reached in Presbyterian congregations in the neighborhood, of smaller numbers.

The total ordinary receipts for the year, including proceeds of anniversary services (which are not included in the ordinary Sabbath collections) and the annual festival of 1875, are larger than the receipts of any previous year, and upon this the Managers are very glad to be able to congratulate the congregation. Some years ago the hope was expressed in one of the Reports that in a few years the ordinary revenue would amount to \$3,000, and this hope has been realized at an earlier date than was anticipated.

The demand for sittings in the church has been constantly increasing of late, and this fact more urgently calls upon the Managers to insist on taking possession of pews that are in arrear.

The Managers are of opinion that a larger rental should be charged for the pews in the middle part of the church not covered by the galleries, and they venture to submit this matter to the consideration of the congregation.

By means of such increased rental and by such an improvement in the Sabbath offerings as might reasonably be expected, the ordinary receipts ought ere long to reach a figure not far short of \$4,000.

The Sexton's salary was in the middle of the year increased from \$180 to \$200, making his salary for the past year \$190.

An abstract of receipts and expenditure is appended to this Report.

From the total expenditure of \$2,700.07 for the year should be deducted \$79.56 for payments of liabilities incurred prior to 1875, as appears in the abstract. At the end of last year, there was a deficit of \$243.47, which has been repaid out of the past year's receipts, leaving a surplus still on hand of \$232.79.

By the sale of a portion of the land immediately adjoining the church property, purchased some time ago in the interests of the congregation, a further piece of ground of the width of 18 feet on Ontario street, with a larger width at the rear has been acquired by the congregation without any cost.

The sum of \$261.50 was raised during the year for the schemes of the church, and distributed as follows:

Home Mission Fund.....	\$30 00
Foreign " "	30 00
Knex College "	50 00
French Evangelization Fund.....	50 00
Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.....	25 00
Assembly Fund	16 00
Presbytery "	10 50

\$261 50

By an amendment of the constitution of the congregation effected at the annual meeting a year ago, it was provided that three members of the Board of Managers shall retire annually. Under this provision, Messrs. J. A. Scott, David Scott and A. Macnair retire at the present time.

All which is respectfully submitted.

HENRY GIBSON,

Treasurer.

J. A. SCOTT,

Chairman.

Treasurer's Abstract of Receipts & Expenditures.

o **RECEIPTS.**

Pew Rents.....	\$1,740 60
Sabbath Collections.....	1,189 88
Collections at Anniversary Services in 1875.....	122 11
Proceeds of Soiree, 1875.....	123 74

Total ordinary Receipts..... \$3,176 33

EXPENDITURE.

Rev. Mr. Macpherson—Stipend.....	\$1,200 00
Int. on Mortgage, \$600; Cost of transmission, \$1.50...	601 50
Precentor's Salary.....	200 00
Sexton's ".....	190 00
Coal.....	78 75
Work and improvements on Church Grounds.....	54 39
Coal oil and lamp glasses.....	55 03
Coal oil (balance for 1874).....	30 86
C. B. Johns, for repairs and sundries.....	30 62
" " (for 1874).....	4 53
Paid Clergymen conducting anniversary services of 1875 and Festival.....	35 00
Printing (1875), \$33.50; (1874), \$20.55.....	54 05
Paid Clergymen supplying Pulpit during the year.....	29 93
Insurance.....	30 00
Expenses attending Assembly.....	22 00
A. Macnair, (balance for matting in 1873).....	23 62
Cushions in choir pews.....	19 27
Wood, \$15.25; Cleaning church, \$10.....	25 25
Repairs on gates, \$3.50; Sundries, \$11.77.....	15 27
Total Expenditure.....	\$2,700 07
Deduct payments for 1873 and 1874.....	79 56
Expenditure in 1875.....	\$2,620 51

RECAPITULATION.

Total ordinary receipts.....	\$3,176 33
“ “ expenditure for the year.....	2,620 51
Excess of receipts over expenditure.....	\$ 555 82
Deficit at beginning of the year, \$243.47 ; payments on old accounts, \$79.56.....	323 03
Balance on hand.....	232 79
To the ordinary receipts.....	\$3,176 33
Add collections for the schemes of the church.....	261 50
Receipts of Ladies' Association.....	180 05
Collections at Sabbath School.....	134 32
Total receipts for all purposes.....	\$3,752 20

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT

Of ordinary yearly receipts including proceeds of Anniversary Services and Festivals and of ordinary contributions for the past five years :

YEAR.	RECEIPTS.	EXPENDITURE.
1871.....	\$1,381 48.....	\$1,451 80
1872.....	1,455 07.....	1,205 07
1873.....	2,843 76.....	2,309 31
1874.....	2,798 67.....	2,701 37
1875.....	3,176 33.....	2,620 51

N. B.—The increase in the receipts after the year 1872, marks the period of entry into the new church, while the increase of the Minister's Stipend from \$800 to \$1,200, and the payment of interest on the church debt, account for the increase in the expenditure after that year.

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REPORT OF THE SESSION.

On behalf of the Session I beg to report that numerically little change took place in the membership during the year—twenty-five new names being entered on the roll, while fifteen were removed by change of residence, and five by death, two of the latter being elders, thus leaving an increase of only five. The total number of members now on the roll is two hundred and seventy, to which we expect a considerable addition from the recent accessions to the congregation. The number of families is about 125. The death of two elders and the removal of a third, made it necessary that some effort should be made to add to the Session. Accordingly steps were taken in the usual way last November, with that view, and seven gentlemen were elected by the congregation to that office. These gentlemen, however, have so far declined to accept office. It is hoped that some of them, if not all, may yet see their way clear to respond favorably to the call of their fellow christians. It is impossible for the Minister, now advanced in years, with the assistance of only three elders, to take the spiritual oversight of so large a congregation, spread over a country to the extent of twenty miles. The weekly prayer meeting has been regularly held, as also the Bible class, but neither of them has been attended as fully as it should be. On the whole there is much cause for thankfulness to the Head of the church for the uninterrupted peace and gradual prosperity of the congregation.

THOMAS MACPHERSON,

Moderator of Session, Knox Church, Stratford.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sabbath School in connection with Knox Church.

In submitting the Report of the Sabbath School in connection with Knox Church for the past year, we feel that we have much reason to express our gratitude to God for the measure of prosperity and the encouraging success which has attended our school.

We are pleased to be able to assert that there has been a marked progress in regard to the interest taken in the school both on the part of Teachers and Pupils.

Of the former we have now a most efficient staff—23 in number—who attend regularly, and labor zealously in imparting religious instruction.

The number of children on the Teacher's class books is 207—the average attendance of which is about 150.

From this it will be seen that a large number are absent from the school each Sabbath, and we would earnestly request parents to see that their children attend with more regularity, so as to disturb the arrangement of the classes as little as possible, and also that the pupils may have the benefit of the regular course of Scripture lessons which are now used.

We would also most respectfully urge upon parents and others connected with the church, the desirability of showing their sympathy and co-operation with so important a work by visiting the school and otherwise aiding in its advancement and efficiency.

The Library in connection with the school now contains about 500 volumes, 100 of which were added during the past year.

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The books are well circulated and eagerly sought after by the children, and were a small sum of money expended upon new books each year it would be a means of keeping alive the interest which the scholars now feel in their library.

If spared to see the close of the year upon which we have now entered, we hope to be able to present a still more encouraging report of the condition of our school in every respect—and we trust that the Divine blessing will rest upon our labors and encourage our hearts in our efforts to lead the little ones to know Him whom to know is life eternal.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN OWEN,

Superintendent.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

1875.—RECEIPTS.

To balance on hand from 1874.....	\$116 17
Receipts of Soiree.....	28 00
S. S. Collections.....	106 32

\$250 49

1875.—EXPENDITURE.

By cash for Library.....	\$ 50 00
“ Donation to Prov. S. S. Convention.....	10 00
“ Papers and Lesson Schemes.....	86 02
Printing, &c.....	5 50
Balance on hand.....	98 97

\$250 49

REPORT

OF THE

LADIES' AID SOCIETY.

A Ladies' Aid Society in connection with the church was organized at a meeting held in the basement, on Thursday, 23rd April, 1874.

The following ladies were chosen office-bearers :

MRS. MACPHERSON,.....President.

MRS. SHILLINGTON,.....Treasurer.

MRS. JEFFREY,.....Secretary.

The object aimed at by this Society was the furnishing of the basement with all the requisites for Soirees, Socials, &c. They also carpeted the platform and pulpit in the church, and supplied new table linen for the Communion. The money for these objects was raised by socials given by the ladies, two or three ladies of the congregation joining to get up each social.

At a meeting of the congregation held in November last, it was decided to have the church lit with gas. The estimated cost of introducing it was \$300, and the Ladies' Aid Society having some funds on hand volunteered to raise the amount, so that it might not require to be taken out of the ordinary church funds.

With the view of providing the requisite funds for the above purpose, it is intended to continue the social entertainments, and ladies who are willing to assist in giving socials are requested to give in their names to Mrs. Macpherson, or Mrs. Henry Gibson.

I. M. JEFFREY,

Secretary.

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The following is the statement of receipts and payments by the Society since its formation, no report having been presented at the end of 1874 :

Receipts.

1874.	Feb. 4,	Proceeds Social.....	\$29 65
	Mar. 3,	" "	28 55
	Apr. 7,	" "	17 20
	May 5,	" "	31 04
	June 4,	" "	23 13
	July 8,	" "	42 57
	Oct. 7,	" "	18 10
	Oct. 27,	" "	21 00
1875.	April,	" "	20 00
	May,	" "	16 50
	"	" "	20 00
	July,	" " for Mrs. Frier.....	68 35
	Nov.,	" "	35 20
		Proceeds sale of Carpet.....	20 00

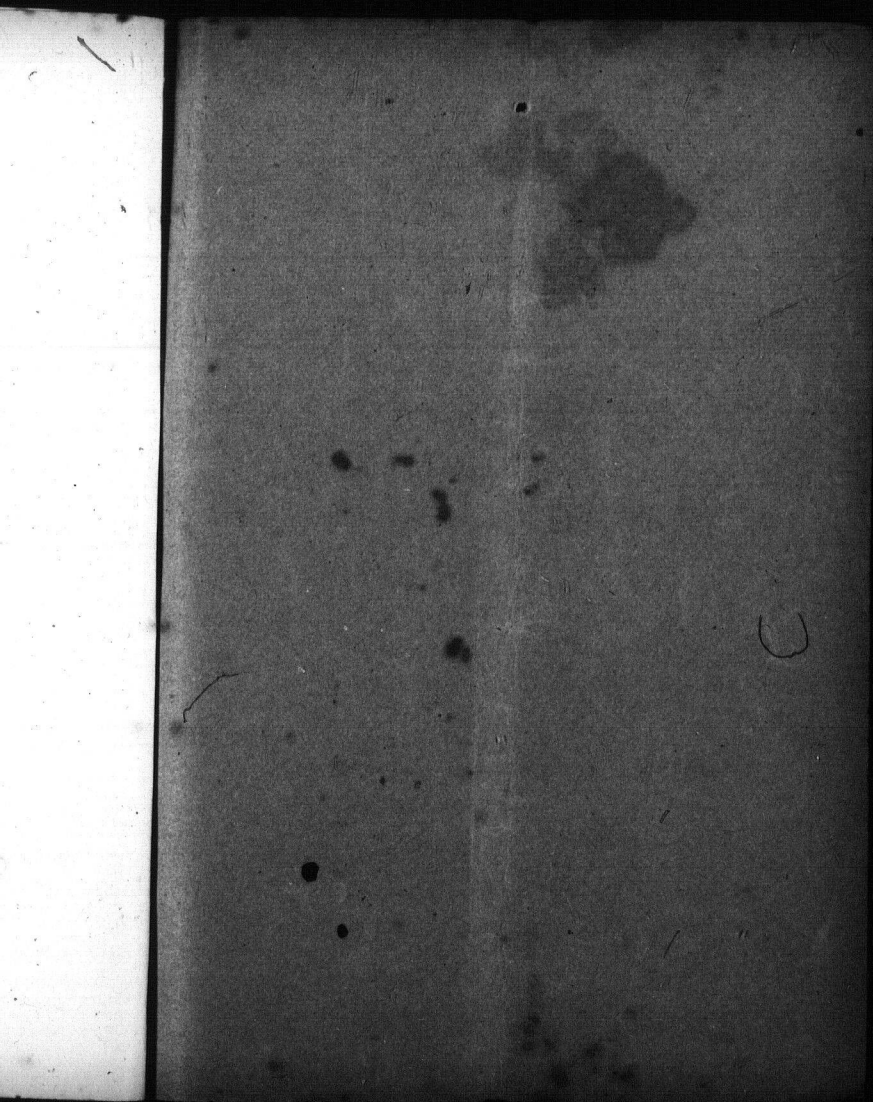
\$391 29

Expenditure.

Paid C. B. Johns, for Stove and Furnishings.....	\$ 33 05
" Crockery	35 40
" Hymn Books for Sunday School.....	10 00
" Table Linen	20 20
" Carpet	101 93
" Sundries.....	3 90
" Mrs. Frier.....	68 35
Balance on hand.....	118 46

\$391 29





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