

Jubilee Souvenir



1856

Knox Presbyterian Church,
Cincinnati, O.

Knox Presbyterian Church

==== Listowel ====



KNOX CHURCH

"The Church's One Foundation Is Jesus Christ Our Lord"

Historical record in connection with the Jubilee
Services held on September 20th and 21st, 1911

PREFACE

IN presenting this historical sketch of our church to our readers, the committee are deeply conscious of many imperfections and omissions. We have been hampered by the absence of some of the earlier church records, and have had to trust largely to our own memory and to that of others for many of the events and incidents recorded. Especially is this true in regard to exact dates, and the somewhat unsatisfactory word "about" may be too much in evidence. It will be noticed that we have made large use of names, believing that this will not be the least interesting part of our story. Such as it is we present it to the members, adherents and friends of Knox Church, with the hope that it may prove interesting to them, and perhaps, to some who come after, that they may be able to say of us, even as we can say of those who have gone before us, "other men have laboured, and we have entered into their labours."—Committee.

The thanks of the committee is due to the untiring work of Mr. Thomas Hardie under whose supervision the history has been compiled.



REV. ROBERT RENWICK

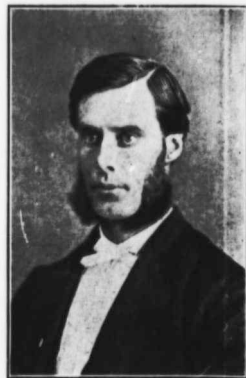
extensive parish until 1868 when a new arrangement of the field was made. Monkton and Elma Centre were formed into a charge, over which Mr. Renwick was placed. He continued to minister to this double charge for some years, when it again was divided, Mr. Renwick remaining in charge of Elma Centre which now came to be known as Atwood. He continued in charge of the Atwood church for a few years, when he retired, going back to his native land where he died about twenty years ago. He was a fine type of the old fashioned Scotch minister, somewhat easy going but always interested in the welfare of his people, by whom he was much beloved.

MOLESWORTH AND LISTOWEL.—These two congregations united in giving a call to Rev. J. W.

EARLY DAYS

THE history of most of our village and country churches is like that of most countries, it goes back beyond the period of written records. Men and women living their lives, doing things, in a word making history before there was anyone with leisure or opportunity to record it, so that we are dependent on local tradition for our knowledge of the events and happenings of those older times. It would appear that, as in other places, as soon as a dozen or more Presbyterian families had made their homes in the new settlement there was a desire for religious services after the order to which they had been accustomed, so we find that ministers from the older parts of the country came in and preached to the little band of Presbyterians, dispensed the communion, baptized their children, gave them instruction and encouragement and endeavoured to keep them together until there would be enough of them to form a congregation. These preaching services were generally held in the houses or barns of the people, sometimes in the open air. As more families were settling in the growing village and in the surrounding country it was felt that the time had come when an attempt should be made to organize themselves into a congregation. In 1863 the four communities of Monkton, Elma Centre, Molesworth and Listowel were united and gave a call to Rev. R. Renwick, a young man lately come to the country, a graduate of one of the Scottish universities.

MR. RENWICK'S MINISTRY.—Mr. Renwick was ordained and inducted into the four-fold charge by the Presbytery of Stratford and continued to minister to his



REV. J. W. BELL, M. A.



MR. JOHN ALEXANDER

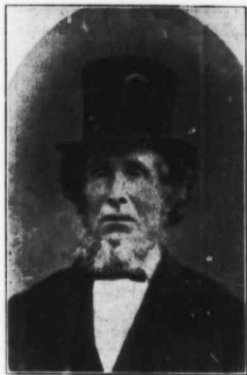
Bell, M. A. a young man fresh from the university. The call was given in May but as we had yet no church building of our own, the Presbyterians having had the use of the Congregational church for some time previous, the induction of the new minister was deferred until the following winter. Meanwhile, steps were taken for the erection of a new church.

The man of the hour in connection with the church building was Mr. John Alexander, whose big frame, genial countenance and broad Abenonian accent, will still be remembered by some of our people. He was architect, building committee, treasurer—everything. The church was a nice, comfortable, well finished frame building, and reflected credit on the good taste and enterprise of the small and comparatively poor congregation who took the task in hand. Thanks largely to Mr. Alexander's activity and management, the building was finished before the close of the year. The church opening, with the ordination and induction, took place on Dec. 28th, 1868. The preacher on the occasion was Dr. Cochrane, of Brantford, one of the most famous preachers in the country 40 or 50 years ago.

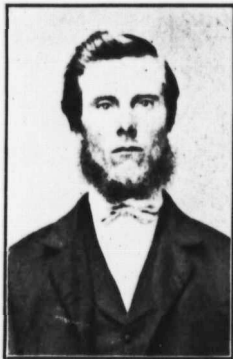
The joint pastorate of Molesworth and Listowel continued until 1876 when they parted company to form two separate congregations, Mr. Bell remaining in charge of Listowel. At the formation of the congregation under Mr. Renwick two elders were appointed, Mr. Samuel Davidson and Mr. D. M. Gordon, who with the minister constituted the session for about 8 years, or until Knox church separated from Molesworth. Among those who were active in the temporal affairs of the church in the early days, two names are prominent, Mr. Alexander, already mentioned, and Mr. John Binning. These were followed by Dr. Nichol, D. D. Campbell, B. F. Brooke, W. E. Binning, J. H. McDonald and many others, whose names might be mentioned did space permit.

At this time the minister's stipend was \$700. There were 132 names on the roll. The church was then, and for a few years afterwards, on the augmented list, becoming self supporting about 1888.

As may be supposed not many of those who were in the church in those early days are yet alive, however, we are able to count upwards of a dozen of those who were members of Knox church, or in the active work of the church over 40 years ago, who still survive. Rev. J. W. Bell, now living retired in Toronto; Mr. and Mrs. A. Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. C. Brown, Mrs. John Thompson and Mrs. Alex. Rae, in Listowel; Mr. A. B. Gordon, in Elma; Mrs. Wm. Anderson, in Grey



MR. SAMUEL DAVIDSON



MR. D. M. GORDON

the evening with great gusto and applause.

The lighting of the church was done with coal oil lamps, a row of single lights on the sides and two or three chandeliers suspended from the ceiling with four lamps apiece. The caretaker, Mr. John Kirkwood, showing great dexterity, standing on the backs of two pews and lighting the four lamps with one match.

REV. ISAAC CAMPBELL'S PASTORATE.—In January, 1884, Rev. Isaac Campbell was inducted and continued as pastor until April, 1892. In this pastorate the new hymnal was introduced which was

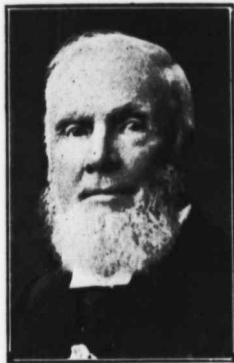
Tp.: Mr. and Mrs. Welch, in Mornington Mrs. Joseph Lockhart, in Stratford, and Mr. and Mrs. James Armstrong, in Vancouver.

In the first year, after the separation from Molesworth, the congregation was asked for three additional elders. This resulted in the selection of Messrs. Wm. Haddow, Wm. Somerville and Jas. Crozier, who were ordained and inducted on Nov. 3rd, 1876. In October, 1878, two more names were added to the session, Mr. D. Hamilton and Mr. J. J. Hamilton. In 1880 the membership had increased to 298. In 1882 Mr. Bell gave in his resignation and the church was without a pastor for over a year, Rev. John Kay, of Milverton, acting as moderator.

The services in those days were somewhat simpler and more primitive than we are accustomed to now, especially was this so in the service of praise. There were no hymns sung, only the psalms and paraphrases, no choir, no instrument, only the precentor leading the singing, the people sitting while singing and standing at the prayer. The first precentor, the writer of this sketch remembers, was Mr. Jas. Green who officiated for a good many years. As may be supposed his remuneration was not very great. His small salary was sometimes increased by a present given at what was known as a surprize party. The writer well remembers being at one of these gatherings when Mr. Alexander called two or three friends round him and read a few verses which he had composed for the occasion. He asked Mr. And. McIlwraith to add a verse, which, after a few minutes thought, he did. The song was sung during



MR. JAMES ARMSTRONG

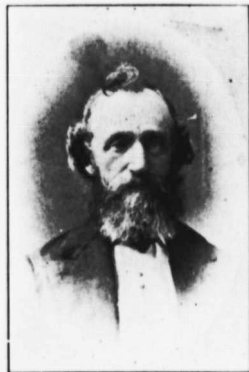


MR. JOHN BINNING

found to add much to the interest of the praise service, the first selection sung being that well known marching hymn, "Onward Christian Soldiers, Marching as to War." In February, 1885, three new elders were elected, Messrs. John Thompson, John Livingston, sr. and Andrew Little.

THE NEW CHURCH.—Another event belonging to Mr. Campbell's pastorate requires more than passing notice. From about the year 1883 it began to be felt that a church building more in keeping with the increase of the congregation and more up to date in its equipment would have to be considered, but there were many who opposed. After many delays and much discussion it was resolved to proceed with the work. A building committee was appointed, its members were: Dr. Nichol, chairman; B. F. Brook, secretary; P. Lillico, treasurer; D. D. Campbell and Wm. E. Binning. Plans and specifications were drawn up and a subscription list started. The contractors were Messrs. Smith and Bamford, of Listowel. The contract price was \$18,000 but with extras and the placing of a pipe organ, a debt of over \$20,000 was incurred. The old church was moved back to become part of the new edifice. While the building was in progress the congregation worshipped in the Lillico Hall, a building which stood on the present site of the Arlington hotel.

The corner stone of the new church was laid by Dr. Nichol with all the usual ceremonies and much speech making in the presence of a large crowd of friends and well wishers of the church in June, 1887. The church was opened for worship some time in the next year.



DR. JOHN NICHOL

Mr. Campbell's pastorate came to a close by his resignation in April, 1892, Rev. A. Henderson, M. A., of Atwood, acting as moderator during the vacancy.

MR. MORRISON'S PASTORATE.—Our next pastor was Rev. J. A. Morrison, of Montreal. He received a unanimous call and was inducted in January, 1893. His pastorate was short, coming to a close in June of the following year by his acceptance of a call to East church, Toronto. Mr. Henderson, of Atwood, again acting as moderator during the vacancy.

MR. COOPER'S PASTORATE.—Rev. Wm. Cooper, B. A., received and accepted a call, and was

inducted in January, 1865. During all these years, although many names had been added to the membership of the church, between deaths and removals the increase was not very great, the roll giving about 300 names in 1877. Early in Mr. Cooper's pastorate a large addition was made to the session. The following were appointed: Messrs. T. L. Hamilton, Reid, Moore, Henry Moore and George Masberry. Mr. Cooper resigned in November, 1878. The communion roll then showed 398 names.

REV. J. S. HARDIE'S PASTORATE.—After a vacancy of a few months Rev. J. S. Hardie, of Avon, received and accepted a call and was inducted in June, 1879. Shortly after this a fresh addition was made to the session by the election of five new members: Reid, Curtis, R. J. Gray, A. Gunn, Geo. Strath and Robt. Spaldart. To these were added in June, 1904, Messrs. A. Mandell, J. Boyd, J. Griffith and T. Hardie. Also in May, 1909, Messrs. R. Ross and E. G. McDonald.

Early in Mr. Hardie's pastorate the system of individual communion cups was introduced and has proven satisfactory, and is generally approved.

The use of envelopes for missionary offerings was introduced about this time also, and was found to be a great improvement on the old system. The duplex envelope was not introduced until some years afterwards.

Mr. Hardie remained in charge of Knox church for about ten years, resigning in February, 1909. Rev. N. D. McKinnon acted as moderator during the vacancy which lasted for three months.

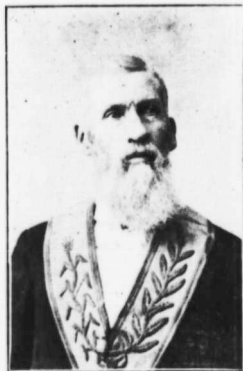
During Mr. Tringhart's ministry the important question of church union came before the people.

MR. TRINGHART'S PASTORATE.—Rev. D. W. S. Tringhart, B. A., of Kippen, received and accepted a call and was inducted in the following June. His pastorate lasted nearly four years, when it was closed by his accepting a call to Collingwood. Mr. Tringhart's pastorate was a most successful one. Many names were added to the membership. Owing to deaths and removals, the session lost a number of its members, and the congregation was asked to fill the vacancies. This led to the selection of Messrs. James Gray and Messrs. A. J. Henderson, W. R. Logan, A. Yule and Geo. Methose. Again in December of 1913 four more were appointed. Just before Mr. Hardie who were ordained July 10th, 1910.

MR. WM. HADDOW



REV. ISAAC CAMPBELL



MR D. D. CAMPBELL

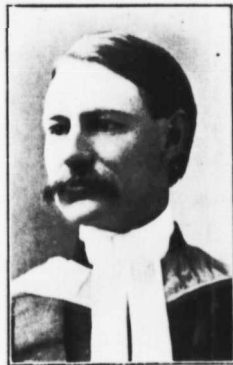
which fall to the lot of a hard working minister. Although differing in many respects even as other men differ, we think it can be truthfully said of them all that they were well equipped for their life work by ability and training, and earnestly and faithfully, both in the pulpit and in the ordinary affairs of life, endeavored to point the way to Heaven, saying, both by voice and life, "This is the Way, Walk Ye In It". It is worthy of remark, that with the exception of Mr. Kenwick, all are still alive. Mr. Bell has retired, but the others are yet in the active work of the ministry. On the occasion of a visit to friends in Linstead, forty years after Mr. Bell's induction here, the opportunity was taken to invite him to a meeting in the church, when he was presented with a complimentary address and a purse of gold.

which led to much discussion. On coming to a vote it was found that session members and adherents were strongly in favour of the measure. About this time it was decided to take some steps towards painting and otherwise renovating and improving the church which had now seen over twenty years of service. This work, with the purchase of a manse and the erection of cement sheds, entailed an outlay of about \$5000, but it is felt that this outlay was justified by the increased beauty, comfort and convenience of our church buildings.

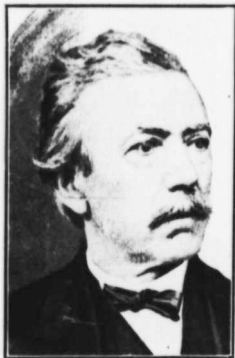
On Mr. Erquhart's leaving, his popularity was attested by a large farewell meeting, when he was made the recipient of a congratulatory address and a handsome purse of gold. He left for his new field of labor in May, 1915.

MR. NICOL'S PASTORATE.—After a vacancy of about four months, during which Rev. Wm. Amos, of Atwood, filled the office of moderator, Rev. J. M. Nicol, B. D., M. A., of Warton, received and accepted a call to this church being inducted into the charge early in September of the same year. He has now completed his first year of ministry in Linstead.

RETROSPECT.—Thus briefly we have tried to show something of the life and work of the seven different men who have ministered to us in spiritual things during the past fifty years of our church history. We would gratefully acknowledge the value of their services to the church and to the community, whether in the public services, in the pulpit or in our homes, and in all the various activities



REV. J. A. MORRISON



MR. JOHN LIVINGSTONE, SR.

McClellan, treasurer.

THE GUILD—Rev. J. M. Nicol, hon. president; Miss E. Binning, president; Miss E. Graham, secretary; Mr. Will McDonald, treasurer.

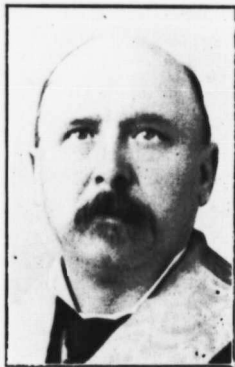
The Ladies' Aid has done, and is doing, much useful and self-sacrificing work financially and otherwise. The society has given very material assistance to the managers in the matter of finances. At present it has assumed the responsibility of the mortgage on the manse and quite recently the first payment

INCREASED LIBERALITY.—Within the last eight or ten years an improved spirit of liberality is apparent among our people, partly due to more stirring appeals from the pulpit, partly owing to personal canvassing and some stimulus from the Layman's Missionary Movement, but we believe, more than anything else, from the use of the duplex envelope. The canvass for the use of the duplex envelope was made five years ago, during the vacancy previous to Mr. Urquhart's induction.

WOMEN'S WORK IN THE CHURCH.—It may here be gratefully acknowledged the important part taken in many lines of Christian service by the women of our church, both as individuals and in the different missionary and benevolent societies. Our ministers' wives have generally taken a leading part in all church work, and they have been ably seconded by many of our own women. Mrs. T. I. Hamilton has been very active in organizing and enrolling on mission classes among the children and young people as well as in other lines of work. The two societies, the W. F. M. S. and W. H. M. S. are now united and known as the Women's Missionary Society. The officers of this society are: President, Mrs. Jas. Cleland; secretary, Mrs. J. J. Foster; treasurer, Mrs. T. I. McCauley. Mrs. Cleland also conducts a mission study class at her home in the country.

HAMILTON MISSION BAND—Mrs. T. I. Hamilton, president; Margaret Logie, secretary; Grace Kidd, treasurer.

CAMPBELL MISSION BAND.—Miss Minnie Stevenson, president; Reva Foster, secretary; Jean



MR. B. F. BROOKE



REV. D. W. S. UPQUHART, B. A.

anxious to have such a building erected. May their wish soon be realized. Knox Church is proud of its Sabbath School. Every branch of Sabbath School work is represented from the Home Department and Cradle Roll to Adult Bible Classes. Recruits are drawn from our school for the Mission Bands, Young Peoples' Society and the active work of the church. It has a very live interest in missions and is proud to claim three out of our four missionaries in the foreign field as former active Sunday School workers.

THE ELDERS—Of the 32 men who have been members of Session in the past 50 years, the following have died, Messrs. S. Davidson, D. M. Gordon, Wm. Somerville, Wm. Hallow, D. Hamilton, A. Little, J. Livingstone, sr., J. Thompson, R. Curtis, A. Quinn and G. Mayberry, with an equal number who have

of \$200 was made to the church treasurer. At the time of church renovation \$275 was their gift to the managers. This with other donations from time to time, brings the total of their contributions up to about \$1500. The ladies have a splendid equipment for holding social gatherings. The officers are: Mrs. Wm. Kennedy, president; Mrs. Jas. Burgess, secy.-treas.

THE SABBATH SCHOOL.—Almost from the foundation of the church a S. S. has been in existence, and a succession of efficient and hard working superintendents, teachers and officers have done their best for the moral and spiritual welfare and training of the children and young people of the church. The first superintendent whose name the writer can recall was Mr. Jas. Lowkie. He was followed by Mr. Adam Henderson and on the latter's retirement, by the versatile John Alexander. On Mr. Alexander's removal from the town Mr. J. J. Hamilton filled the position for a short time. For a brief space the ministers occupied this position, until the appointment of Mr. T. L. Hamilton in Jan. 1883. Mr. Hamilton faithfully performed the duties of the office until the time of his resignation in February, 1903. Mr. E. G. McDonald was then asked to accept the position, which he has filled up to the present time, with Mr. A. Yule as assistant supt., T. L. McCauley, sec.-treas. and W. R. Logie, librarian.

At present the S. S. has a membership of over 200 with a good average attendance in young people's and adult Bible Classes. There is a good staff of teachers, a good library, but the work is much handicapped for want of a suitable school building. The supt. and teachers are



REV. WM. COOPER, B. A.



MISS M. SUTHERLAND

SPECIAL SERVICES.—Although our church has generally carried on its work in the usual way, without ostentation, or seeking to attract by other than the ordinary means of grace, however, special services have sometimes been taken advantage of with good results, leading to individual conversions and to the spiritual uplift of the congregation.

ANNIVERSARY SERVICES.—Our church has made much of its anniversary occasions and these have afforded our own people, as well as others in the community, the opportunity of listening to many of the most famous and eloquent preachers of the Presbyterian church in Canada.

removed from the bounds of the congregation and are now serving the church in other parts of the country. The following are the names of those who have served as Session Clerks: Messrs. D. M. Gordon, Jas. Crozier, J. J. Hamilton, D. Hamilton, K. Moore, T. L. Hamilton and E. G. McDonald.

THE PRESENT SESSION.—Rev. J. M. Nicol, B.A., B.D., moderator; E. G. McDonald, session clerk; Henry Moore, T. L. Hamilton, R. J. Gray, T. Hardie, Jas. Griffith, Jas. Gray, J. O. Hardie, W. R. Logie, A. J. Henderson, G. Melrose and A. Yule.

THE PRESENT BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.—Messrs. A. Yule, chairman; J. C. Hamilton, treasurer; N. A. Gowdy, secretary, W. R. Logie, Jas. Mayberry, Jas. Gray, G. Melrose, Jas. McRae, Harvey Ellis, D. Menzies, Jas. Cleland.

THE CHOIR.—We have a large and efficient choir, under the able management of Miss L. Thomson, soloist and leader, with Miss Margaret Sutherland, as organist. Miss Sutherland has been connected with the service of praise, as organist, continuously since the days of the introduction of the organ and choir leader. She began in her earliest teens when her feet would scarcely reach the pedals or her fingers the octaves and since then she has worked in harmony with every choir leader down to the present time. Miss Sutherland has been a tower of strength to the congregation in the service of praise and has few equals as an organist.



MISS L. THOMSON



REV. JOHN GRIFFITH

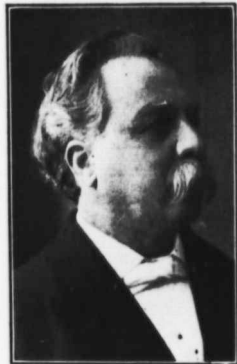
BEQUESTS—Some of our people who have been blessed with wealth have remembered the church by way of contribution. The late William Garroch gave \$100 to the Sunday School library; Mr. Alex. Garroch left \$500 to the building fund of the church and the late Mr. James Garroch \$250 to the church for current expenses, \$1,000 for home missions and \$1,000 for foreign missions. Mr. Brook also remembered the Sunday School with a gift of \$100 to its library, and in memory of her late husband Mrs. Brook presented to the church a Geneva gown for the use of the minister. The Misses Livingstone also donated a beautiful window in memory of their mother.

MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES FROM OUR CHURCH—There are at least a few who have gone out from this church as preachers of the gospel at home or as missionaries abroad, among them Rev. W. M. Kay, M. A., B. D., of Eberts, Ont., and Miss Agnes McAllister who died while returning to this country on furlough after years of faithful service in West Africa. She has left a very interesting book giving details of her labors in that trying field.

Rev. John Griffith, B. A., who is at present home on furlough after seventeen years of arduous and successful service in North Homan, is also a representative of Knox church. Mr. Griffith went to China in 1892 as the representative of a group of private individuals and young people's societies, among which latter was that of Knox church, Listowel.

Having narrowly escaped death during the Boxer uprising of 1900, Mr. Griffith has seen great changes of an encouraging nature take place in China. Politically, says Mr. Griffith, she has overthrown an effete and reactionary ruling dynasty and has begun to take her place in the great family of modern nations. Educationally, he adds, a considerable beginning has been made upon a system of national and thoroughly modern schools. Religiously, the thought of the nation has been turned in approval towards Christianity in a way which even the most optimistic missionaries could not have anticipated fifteen years ago. Accomplishment is almost outrunning faith during the recent years in China.

Miss Mamie Quinn is another missionary who went out from Knox church, doing faithful and successful work at Tsing-Yang station, Central China. Miss Quinn is working under the auspices of the



REV. J. S. HARDIE



REV. J. M. NICOL, B. A., B. D.

Christian and Missionary Alliance of America. She was recently in receipt of \$50 from Dr. James Moore of Listowel with which to purchase a church bell which will prove of much assistance in her work. Knox church congregation purposes presenting her with a purse of money shortly.

Mr. H. A. Boyd, M. A., B. D., is another representative of Knox church who, with his wife, formerly Miss Barnett, of North Mornington, is doing a promising work at Honan, China. He was ordained in this church in September, 1912.

Still another member of Knox church in the foreign field is Mrs. Ira Pierce, formerly Miss G. origin Ross, who with her husband, Rev. Ira Pierce, is now engaged in missionary work under the auspices of the Congregational church at Harpaot, Asia Minor. Mrs. Pierce was formerly one of the most enthusiastic workers in our Sabbath School and church societies.

OUR OLDEST MAN—The person in connection with this church who lived to the most advanced age was Mr. Robert Moor, who died about thirty years ago in his next year. Mr. Moor was present at the famous battle of Waterloo, and could tell many interesting incidents in his career as a soldier. He loved his church and was regularly in his place until nearly the last year of his life. Three generations of his descendants are now in connection with the church.

CARING FOR OUR POOR—It is to the credit of our congregation that the poor and the afflicted among us have always been cared for, and none have lacked for sympathy and practical help when such was needed.

CLOSING WORDS—Thus we have traced, step by step, the progress of this church from very small beginnings and through many difficulties and discouragements to a flourishing and influential congregation. Her leaders have seen many anxious and trying hours, but they were men who had vision and courage, and the results are apparent today. We believe she has justified her existence and is fulfilling her mission. Her ministers have been able and faithful to their trust, and many people have had reason to bless the teachings and influences of Knox church.



MR. JOHN THOMFSON

SESSION OF KNOX CHURCH



Top Row (left to right)—James Hardie, James Gray, George Melrose, W. R. Logic, A. J. Henderson, Andrew Yale.
Second Row—T. L. Hamilton, Rev. J. M. Nicol, B.A., B.D., Moderator of Session; Thos. Hardie, Henry Moore, F. G. McDonald, Clerk of Session.
Third Row—James Griffith, R. J. Gray.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



Top Row (left to right)—James McCrae, N. A. Gowdy, Sec.; J. C. Hamilton, Treas.; Hugh Halliday, Harvey Ellis, Andrew Yule, Chairman.
Second Row—M. Moore, V. S.; George Melrose, James Mayburry, James Gray, W. R. Logie.
Third Row—James Cleland, Donald Menzies.

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