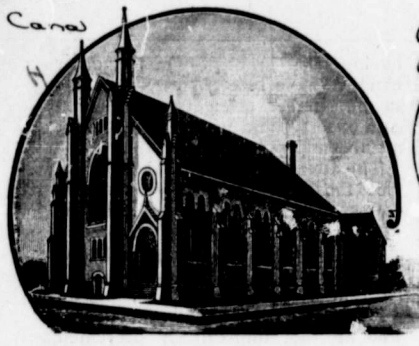


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# Erskine Church

## Echoes

OUR MOTTO:  
"FOR CHRIST AND THE CHURCH."

HAMILTON, ONTARIO, JANUARY 23, 1897.

**Erskine Presbyterian Church'**  
Pearl Street,  
One Block North of King Street.  
**Rev. J. G. Shearer, B.A., Minister,**  
112 George Street.  
**Church Officer: Adam Turnbull,**  
94 Pearl Street North.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

READ carefully every word of the Annual Reports.

OUR total Givings for 1896 amounted to \$7,090. Over \$1,200 of which was for Missionary Educational and Benevolent objects.

HAVE you subscribed for the *Record* for this year? Hand your name and 25 cents to Mr. Broughton or Mr. Keith. Surely no family will be without it.

THE Junior Christian Endeavorers will celebrate their Anniversary on the 18th of February, and the Sunday School probably on the 21st and 22nd of March.

THOUGH we gave so much (\$2,015) for the New School Room, our givings to the support of Ordinances and to Missions are considerably larger than in any preceding year. This shows what we *can* do when we have the will.

LET every one be regular and faithful in their Weekly Envelope Offerings for 1897, or we shall not have as cheering a report next year as we have this. Our expenses are much increased this year. Besides the advance in salaries voted at the Annual Meeting there will be much more coal and gas needed for our New School Room, and about \$235.00 more of interest to pay.

IT is expected that the New Hymnal of the Presbyterian Church will be ready in April. As it is the purpose of the Session to adopt this splendid and inexpensive Hymnal for all services and organizations, we are trying to get along with the meagre supply of

old books now in hand though our singing suffers in consequence especially in the Sunday School.

THE members of Session have decided to visit after each Communion this year those who are not present, unless they know that there is good reason for such absence, to ascertain the cause. Some of the members are not as faithful in keeping this Feast "in memory of Jesus" as they should be. In the past the Session have been visiting absentees only once a year.

THE Sixth Anniversary of our Minister's Induction will be celebrated on the 7th and 8th February. Rev. Dr. Abraham will preach in the morning and Mr. Shearer in the evening. A splendid programme of Music, Elocution, Limelight Views of Scotland by Mr. Moodie, with explanations by Mr. John Moodie, Sen., and an address by Rev. J. S. Conning, is being prepared for Monday night. This will be one of the most attractive programmes we have ever had.

WHILE our pink envelope givings are larger than in any preceding year this was chiefly due to the special offerings made and does not mean much increase in our regular monthly offerings. If we reach the *average* of \$2.00 per member required from all the church for all the missions of the church, we shall have to give *more than half as much again* as last year. This will be easily reached if only *all* would give even a *little* every month. Will not *you* do your share conscientiously for 1897?

### The Annual Meeting.

THE Annual Meeting, which was held on Wednesday evening, January 13th, at 7.30 p. m., was largely attended, orderly, harmonious and in all respects unusually encouraging. Mr. Shearer occupied the chair and Messrs. R. P. Anderson and Thomas Patterson were appointed Secretaries. The reports printed herewith were all received and adopted. Very little discussion

arose over any item of business that came before the meeting.

Messrs. A. M. Souter and John Pringle were re-elected, and Messrs. James Carroll, James Turnbull and Ralph Tiderington elected to the Board of Management.

The appointment of Ushers was left to the Session and Board of Management.

Messrs. James Gill and A. M. Wilson were re-appointed Auditors. The members of Session, with their wives, the officers of the Auxiliary and Mission Band of the W. F. M. S., with Misses Mary Stevenson, Isa Mitchell, Lizzie Martin and Mr. D. A. Souter were appointed the Board of Missions.

It was ordered that in future the *Record* would be supplied only to subscribers, and Messrs. B. Broughton and J. Keith appointed to have charge of receiving subscriptions and distributing the *Records*.

Miss McBean's salary was increased by \$50.

The question of the advisability of increasing Mr. Turnbull's salary was referred to the Board of Management.

Hearty appreciation was expressed and a vote of thanks given to the Ushers, the Choir and all other volunteer workers in the Church.

The Building Committee was thanked for its faithful, satisfactory and arduous labors, and asked to continue its services until the subscriptions are all paid.

### Officers and Workers for 1897.

#### SESSION.

- Rev. J. G. Shearer, B.A., Moderator.
- James Gill, B.A., Clerk.
- Wm. Brown, Treasurer.
- Robert Allen, Jas. Newlands, Alex. Craig, G. H. Richardstn, J. Keith, T. C. Graham, Robt. Whyte, T. H. Kellar, J. E. Souter, James Brown, Alex. Mitchell.

#### BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

- J. R. Moodie, Chairman.
- P. P. Anderson, Secretary.
- Thos. Patterson, Assistant Secretary.
- A. M. Souter, Treasurer.

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# ANNUAL REPORTS.

## Report of Session.

In presenting this its sixteenth Annual Report the Session would put on record its deep sense of gratitude to God for all the grace He has bestowed on us as a people during the most prosperous and encouraging year in our history as a congregation.

He has raised up among us a band of men and women, who, as officers and workers in the various departments of christian activity, are increasingly faithful and devoted to the interests of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, and of His Church in which we rejoice to be numbered as children of God, and to serve as office-bearers to whom has been given by the Holy Ghost spiritual oversight of this part of the Great Flock of Christ.

He has developed in our hearts the grace of liberality to an unusual degree enabling us to erect the splendid new school-room in which we are assembled, a third of the cost of which has been paid during the past year, while at the same time our givings to the support of ordinances and to missionary and benevolent objects are materially larger than on any preceding year of our history. And yet none of us feel the poorer. "There is that scattereth and yet increaseth." "The liberal soul shall be made fat." "He that soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

The work among the young in all departments of it has received a new impetus through the building of our school room, and an ever increasing number of young people of all ages are coming under our influence and care, so that this is becoming a distinctive feature of our work. The great Shepherd is saying to us "Lovest thou me? Feed my lambs." "He that receiveth one of these little ones in my name receiveth Me, and he that receiveth Me receiveth Him that sent Me."

Six of our members in full communion, viz.: Samuel Burns, Mrs. Hugh Nichol, Robert W. King, Mrs. Henry Eland, William H. McGaw and Donald Campbell have been called away in death to higher fellowship and service, besides six of our baptized members, viz.: Lizzie Tufford, Mary Dobraugh, Keneth Scoulie New, George Franklin Bull, William John Burwall and Thos. Toll, and three adherents, viz.: Mrs. McLroy, who passed away at the great age of 95, John McDonnell and Miss Annie Gentle. We have also suffered to an unusual degree from removals beyond our bonds, thirty-six certificates

having been granted. On the other hand we have received new members to the number of eighty-seven, a net gain of forty, and making our present membership 545.

The attendance at the Sabbath Services too has been steadily on the increase. As a Session we feel that while the attendance at the Wednesday evening service may compare favorably with that at other churches, it is far from what it ought to be, and we would earnestly urge all our people who are not imperatively prevented in the Providence of God, to count it their duty as also their privilege to unite with us every week in prayer and praise and Bible study in the mid-week service.

We would affectionately commend the workers in all departments of the Church's work—and all should be workers—to the grace and power of the Holy Spirit, who alone is able to make all grace abound to and in and by us, and to equip us for the great work to which we have been called, viz.: to witness for Jesus Christ in all the world beginning at home. It is promised "Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you," and we are reminded that "It is not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit saith the Lord."

## Session Statistical Report.

Members on Roll January 7th, 1896.....	505
Added by Certificate during 1896.....	30
Added on Profession of Faith, 1896.....	57
	592
Removed by Certificate.....	36
Removed by Death.....	6
Removed by order of Session.....	5
	47
On Roll January 7th, 1897.....	545
Number of Baptisms.....	17
Number of Families.....	275
Number of Single Persons.....	95

JAMES GILL, Session Clerk.

## Erskine Church Session Fund.

Balance from 1895.....	\$42 05
Preparatory Service Collection.....	33 42
Loan Paid Back.....	15 00
Interest on Back Account.....	1 55
	\$92 02
Total.....	\$92 02
Disbursed during the year.....	25 40
	\$66 63
Balance.....	\$66 63

WILLIAM BROWN, Treasurer.

## Report of Managers.

HAMILTON, Jan. 13, 1897.

To the Congregation of Erskine Church:

We have the honor of laying the sixteenth Annual Report of the Managers before the Congregation. We can congratulate the Congregation for we might say that never before in the history of Erskine Church has such a year of gratifying temporal success been met with. The reports which

W. E. Murray, A. Hay, H. Longhurst, T. Rieger, J. Pringle, J. Carroll, James Turnbull and R. Tiderington.

PEW COMMITTEE.—James Turnbull, Chairman, Thos. Paterson, T. Rieger, R. Tiderington.

ENVELOPE COMMITTEE.—Thomas Paterson, Chairman, T. Rieger, H. Longhurst, Jas. Turnbull, R. P. Anderson.

REPAIR COMMITTEE.—A. M. Souter, Chairman. Alex. Hay, Murray, James Carroll.

ARREARS COMMITTEE.—Thos. Patterson, J. Pringle.

CHURCH CARE COMMITTEE.—J. R. Moodie, Chairman, A. M. Souter R. Tiderington.

USHERS.—A. B. Davidson, A. Mathieson, S. Kennedy, F. McKerlie, A. F. McBean, W. G. Jackman, J. W. Gordon, S. L. Hunter, R. Donbrough, M. Rymal, A. Barnhardt, J. A. Funk, F. C. Overend, Hugh Nicol, John Turnbull and G. Sidders.

### CHOIR.

Miss Anna M. Edgar, Leader.

Miss M. McBean, Organist.

Soprano: Mrs. Woodruff, Miss M. Lawson, Miss Hyndman, Miss S. E. Reid, Miss Cudmore, Miss Lizzie Turnbull, Miss Allen, Miss Towers, Miss Mitchell, Miss Brown, Miss J. Hutchison

Alto: Miss L. Lawson, Miss Chapman, Miss Glass.

Tenor: R. E. Woodruff, R. Cusiter, J. T. Hall, B. Broughton.

Bass: J. McDermot, R. Whyte, C. Maver, D. Souter, J. J. Cavers, Jas. Johnstone.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Rev. J. G. Shearer, Honorary Superintendent.

J. E. Souter, Superintendent.

John W. Gordon, Secretary.

John Keith, Treasurer.

A. M. Souter, Librarian.

Teachers: Rev. J. G. Shearer, J. Newlands, Bible Class.

Messrs. W. Brown, J. Keith, J. Carroll, Thos. Graham, R. Whyte C. McLeod, F. C. Overand, T. Patterson, C. H. Richardson, D. A. Souter.

Mesdames Shearer, W. Brown, Allardice, A. Turnbull, Martin, Edgar, Clunas, Allen.

Misses H. Lawson, A. Turnbull, J. McColl, A. Rennie, J. Souter, R. Jamieson, J. Hare, J. Mitchell, M. Hall, A. Horsburgh, Munroe, A. Gibson, J. Hutchison, B. Davidson, M. Milne, M. Chapman, L. George, A. Thomson, L. Pyle, K. Wilson, Isa Mitchell.

### BOARD OF MISSIONS.

Rev. J. G. Shearer, Chairman.

J. Gill, Secretary.

W. Brown, Treasurer.

Mesdames Shearer, Gill, Newlands, Craig, Allen, Whyte, Kellar, Souter, W. Brown, Keith, Richardson, Graham, Clunas, McAllister, and Misses Annie Munroe, Louise Lawson, Mary Stevenson, Isa Mitchell and L. Martin.

Messrs. Newlands, Craig, Allen, Whyte, Kellar, J. E. Souter, W. Brown, D. A. Souter Keith, Richardson, Graham, James Brown, and A. Mitchell.

### BOYS' BRIGADE.

Captain, T. D. Lawrason.

1st Lieut. and Sec. Treas., D. A. Souter.

2nd Lieut., James Turnbull.

3rd Lieut., James McCulloch.

4th Lieut., R. Brown.

Chaplain, Rev. J. G. Shearer.

The officers of other organizations will be found in their respective reports.

ERSKINE CHURCH ECHOES.

have been presented to you this evening will bear us out in this. And may a prayer of thanks be offered to God from each member of this Congregation for His goodness to us as a Congregation during the past year, and may our prayers and works be meted the same blessing in the future years as it has been in the past one.

The Managers would ask the members and adherents to consider personally the matter of giving by the envelope system. We are not by any means behind this year but the Managers believe there are a number who have not taken up the system of giving by the envelope. Any who have not done so will be conferring a favor on the Managers and on the Church by speaking to anyone of the Managers and informing them of the amount they wish to contribute and they shall receive envelopes in due course. The Managers have appointed a committee to attend to the arrears which may take place from time to time, and have statements sent out of same on the 1st of every month. Now these statements are not meant by any means as duns, but as some through an oversight may have skipped a Sunday or two we believe they wish to be informed of it, and that as early as possible. Should any feel that they are not able to meet the arrears all they have to do is to notify one of the Managers and their arrearage will be written off, but we know that no one will take advantage of this unless they find there is no possibility of keeping them up. Now we hope that none will take offence from these arrearage slips, and should they not be correct speak or notify the Managers to that effect and they will be only too willing to correct should any mistake occur, and should any wish to increase their givings the Managers will be only too pleased to receive communications to that effect. The past year has been a busy one for the Managers and all other organizations of the Church, and an amount of work has been done, such as building the new Sunday School, repainting the outside of the Church, stone work repointed, ventilating gallery windows and repairing the furnaces, etc.

Our Pew Committee has had great trouble in locating new members and adherents requiring sittings as the body of the Church is well filled and the gallery does not seem to be in favor it requiring to be lowered. It is perhaps a little early to mention to the congregation this new departure of lowering the gallery, but we would ask you to keep this in mind as the Congregation is increasing and in the near future it will be an absolute necessity.

You will notice by the Treasurer's Statement that the total receipts of Sabbath collections are nearly \$300.00 over last year, being an average of

\$67.00 a Sunday against last year's of \$61.37; but we must keep in mind that the enlarged Sunday School brings enlarged expenditure and therefore let our givings be accordingly.

We regret the resignation of Mr. Sutherland and Mr. McBean from our Board during the past year, both of whom have left our midst.

The Managers retiring this year are Messrs. A. M. Souter, Kellar and Pringle. Messrs. A. M. Souter and Pringle are eligible for re-election, therefore it will require a nomination and election of five to complete the Board for this year.

Regarding subscriptions for reducing the debt fund the Managers think it best to make no special appeal to the Congregation this year on account of the second and last instalment on the new Sunday School building, maturing 1st September next, still should any feel able to subscribe to the debt fund the Managers will receive it with thanks.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

R. P. ANDERSON, *Secretary.*

**Treasurer's Report Board of Management.**

*Report for the year ending December 31, 1896.*

RECEIPTS.

To Balance from 1895.....	\$ 4 97
To Balance from Organ Fund.....	3 85
To Sabbath Collections.....	873 50
To Sabbath Collections per Envelope	2,611 46
	<b>\$3,493 78</b>

EXPENDITURE.

Rev. J. G. Shearer, salary.....	\$1500 00
A. Turnbull, caretaker salary.....	250 00
Miss Edgar, choir leader, salary.....	250 00
Miss McBean, organist, salary.....	100 00
Wm. Hilder, salary.....	25 00
Pulpit Supply.....	48 00
Choir Music.....	10 06
Water Rates.....	6 00
Wood and Coal account.....	239 71
Hamilton Gas Co.....	98 75
Hamilton Presbytery.....	36 64
Interest account.....	394 75
Communion Expenses.....	7 60
Insurances.....	56 00
Church Repairs.....	233 45
Printing.....	75 00
Sundry Accounts.....	81 72
Balance Carried Forward.....	131 07
	<b>\$3,493 78</b>

LIABILITIES.

Confederation Life Assurance Co....	\$6500 00
A. M. SOUTER, <i>Treasurer.</i>	

**Mission Band.**

Another year has come and gone, and with feelings of our unworthiness of the privilege of being co-workers with Christ, we present this the eighth Annual Report of our Mission Band.

During the past year we have been taking up the study of Dr. McKay's life and work in Formosa. We have followed him from his birth in 1844, in

Zorra, Ontario, through his education, his journey to and his work in North Formosa; we have been with him in success and failure, in joy and sorrow, and we pray that he may long be spared in his good work and we in the study of it.

We also hope and pray that our interest may stop here but may in the near future lead some of the members of this Mission Band, remembering the marching orders, "Go ye into all the world," to say "Here am I, send me," and to consecrate saved lives to saving work in the mission fields.

Members 51; Average attendance 30; Total contributions for 1896, \$26.

OFFICERS FOR 1897:

- Hon. President, Mrs. Shearer.
- President, Miss Louise Lawson.
- 1st Vice-President, Mrs. Clucas.
- 2nd Vice-President, Miss N. Allen.
- Secretary, Miss Nellie Wright.
- Treasurer, Master Robt. Russell.
- Asst. Treasurer, Master Ed. Montgomery.
- Organist, Miss Irene Housego.
- Convener of Lookout Committee, Miss Sarah Craig.
- Convener of Music Committee, Miss Lena Woodruff.

Respectfully submitted,  
MAGGIE MONTGOMERY, *Secretary.*

**Treasurer's Statement.**

RECEIPTS.

Fees.....	\$ 4 45
Scattered Helpers Offering.....	2 30
Birthday Money.....	43
Talent Money.....	31
Self Denial Money.....	90
Carried over from last year.....	2 55
Mite Box Offering.....	15 06
Interest on money in bank.....	25
	<b>\$26 25</b>

DISBURSEMENTS.

For Mite Boxes.....	25
Handed over to Miss Shaw, Treasurer of W. F. M. S.....	26 00
	<b>\$26 25</b>

Total Disbursements.....  
ED. MONTGOMERY, *Treasurer.*

**Report of Ladies' Aid Society, 1896.**

With thankfulness for the past and renewed hope for the future, we present this 9th Annual Report of this Society.

Our active membership is not quite so large as in 1897, but this deficiency has been more than counter balanced by increased zeal and activity on the part of the few. The names of 30 active members have been enrolled during the past year, most of them the old stand-by's of '96, with a few fresh additions. Our Honorary Membership shows an increase of 40 it now numbering 120. Average attendance of Active and Honorary Members 18.

Financially this has been the banner year of the Society, contributions to

Building Fund showing an increase of \$29.75 over any former year.

We began the year with a balance from 1895 of \$45.00; to this has been added the contributions of 1896, viz., \$172.70, with interest, making a total of \$219.35. Out of this fund \$218.35 has been handed over to the Manager's Treasurer leaving a small balance of \$1.00.

Our General Fund (which is made up entirely from extra contributions by the Active Members) carried over a balance from 1895 of \$14.28. Contributions for this year \$14.72, making a total of \$29.00. Disbursements out of this fund \$25.74, leaving a balance of \$3.26.

The Active Members of this Society also furnished the Church Parlor with necessary blinds and curtains. They have also made over 100 purely social visits apart from their regular monthly calls.

In March we held our 2nd annual "At Home," which was largely attended and much enjoyed. At that meeting it was unanimously resolved that, Whereas we have heretofore been appropriating our monthly contributions from Honorary Members exclusively towards reducing debt on Church, that it be now applied towards the S. S. extension and Building Fund in compliance with request contained in communication from Managers.

During the year we were sorry to lose the service of Mrs. Wm. Hyndman, who removed to Michigan, as she had been our faithful Treasurer for several years. And while along with her we have lost by removal and other causes some of our active workers yet we feel thankful that so far death has caused no vacancy.

The Active Members of this Society again thank the Honorary Members for their kind receptions and cheerful givings, also our Pastor for encouragement and help.

The following Officers have been elected for 1897:

- President, Mrs. McBean.
- 1st Vice-President, Mrs. Shearer.
- 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. Whyte.
- Secretary, Mrs. A. Turnbull.
- Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Glass.
- Treasurer of Building Fund, Mrs. Baines.
- Treasurer of General Fund, Mrs. Wm. Brown.

Organists, { Mrs. Phillips.  
                  { Miss Binkley.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

MRS. A. TURNBULL, Secretary.

**Report of the Sunday School Building Committee.**

To the Members and Adherents of Erskine Church:

Your Committee in presenting their report do so with a deep sense of gratitude to God, by whose grace we have been able to complete our work, and it is with feelings of confidence it has been appreciated and that the building in our possession will always remain a credit to the Congregation and of great service to all who have occasion to use it.

As regards the interior of the building we feel assured that all are pleased with its design and appearance. The auditorium is large and commodious, the acoustics are perfect and the sight lines are all that can be desired. As a school it has many advantages which are a great benefit in efficiently carrying on the work of a well organized school. There are twenty-five class rooms, including two for the infant classes, all of which open into the auditorium by folding doors, two Bible class rooms, Library, Ladies' Parlor, Vestry, Manager's Room, Boys' Brigade Armoury, Kitchen, besides lavatories, etc. The building is well lighted, ventilated, and heated by two large furnaces.

Your Committee were greatly encouraged with the manner in which the Congregation so liberally responded towards the amount required before they could allow the work to commence. Subscriptions to the amount of \$3,000 were subscribed, \$1,515 of the same has been paid during the past year.

The corner stone was laid on July 14th, 1896, by Mrs. Shearer, and witnessed by a large number both of our own and other congregations. The services were presided over by our Pastor, and consisted of prayer, singing and addresses by the following: Rev. Dr. Fletcher, Dr. Brethour, Dr. Beavis, Rev. A. McWilliams and Mr. D. McGandier, also Messrs. John Knox, John Crearer and A. I. McKenzie. The corner stone was the gift of the Secretary, the work on it being done by Mr. John Keith. The trowel used was presented by Mr. Thomas Lees, the handle being of carved wood, the gift of our Treasurer.

The opening services were held on November 8th to the 16th, and were well attended by a large number who were loud in their praises of our fine school and of the wonderful progress of our church. Each evening had a different programme, all of which were enjoyable and beneficial.

The Committee cannot close their report without special reference being made to our worthy and esteemed Treasurer, who was untiring in his efforts to produce a building in all its parts at the least possible cost, and

who spent so much of his time in carefully overseeing the construction of the building. We feel there are few who really know how much he has done for us, as day after day he watched the progress of the building, and there are many ideas and suggestions which are due to his skill and ability, that were carried out greatly adding to the design, finish and appearance of our model school. The thanks of the Congregation are also due the following for their kind gifts, namely: Mr. Thos. Lees for the handsome clock, Mr. Malcolm for the blackboard, Mr. R. S. Collins for the two panels with the ten commandments, Mr. R. E. Gallagher for the Lord's Prayer beautifully illumined and framed, and to the Treasurer and Secretary for the decorations and texts on the freize.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAS. GILL, B.A., J. R. MOODIE,  
Chairman. Secretary.

**Treasurer's Statement.**

Contract.	Class of Work.	Extras.	Total.
Wm Hancock.....	Mason work.....	\$3 50	\$125 50
Fred Taylor.....	Carpenter Work.....	140 00	270 00
Hannah Biles.....	Plastering.....	375 00	380 00
W. D. Riddell.....	Thumbing.....	5 00	310 00
A. Smith.....	Plumbing and Gas.....	219 00	206 00
D. McKenzie.....	Painting.....	193 00	225 75
C. Newlands.....	Sewer Work.....	144 00	144 00
C. O. Spryng.....	Decor Hangings.....	41 40	41 40
Malcolm & Souter.....	Folding Doors.....	95 80	95 80
Gurney-Hilden Co.....	Furnaces.....	430 00	430 00
Ross Bros.....	Class, (obscure).....	42 00	42 00
Chas. Mills.....	Sketches.....	50 00	50 00
W. F. Writton.....	Architect.....	175 00	175 00
	Cost of Building.....	\$5779 03	\$5740 53
	Malcolm & Souter.....	123 00	
	Carpets, &c.....	74 57	
	J. T. Hall.....	14 00	
	F. Reiger.....	6 75	
	Total cost of Building and Furnishings.....		\$6158 85

RECEIPTS:

Cash from Sunday School.....	\$ 103 37
Subscriptions to Building.....	1525 11
Opening collections.....	197 04
Ladies' Aid Society.....	218 35
Mortgage, J. Moodie, Jr.....	3000 00
Private Loan, Sprucedale Estate.....	1000 00
Bank of Hamilton.....	250 00
	\$6283 87

EXPENDITURE:

Contracts and Furnishings.....	\$6158 85
Insurance.....	21 00
Legal expenses.....	13 90
Opening expenses and interest.....	88 20
Balance on hand.....	1 92
	\$6283 87

A. M. SOUTER, Treasurer.

**Christian Endeavor Society.**

In presenting our report for the past year, we desire to acknowledge God's goodness to us as a society, and thank Him for the growing interest and evidences of the awakening and deepening of spiritual life among our members.

Our numbers have considerably increased since last year, having on our roll at the present time 61 Active Members, 9 Associate and 3 Honorary Members, making in all a total of 73, which is almost double that of last year.

The Mission Committee deemed it advisable to close the Mission S. S., which was held in their rooms on King Street, and it is with pleasure we notice that quite a number of the scholars have now joined our own Sunday School. We take this opportunity for thanking the Superintendent, J. E. Souter, and all the other officers for their earnest work in that section and their untiring efforts in behalf of the children under their care.

We are pleased to be able to state that our society has started a series of Cottage Prayer meetings chiefly for the benefit of those who do not, for various reasons, attend public service. These meetings are held every Thursday evening, and are conducted by the young people who appear to realize their personal responsibilities, and who have taken up the work in an earnest and faithful manner.

Good work has been done by all the other committees, and a new committee—the Junior Endeavor Committee has been formed, composed of the J. E. Superintendents. We observe with satisfaction the work among the Juniors, which has been specially encouraging this past year.

The Missionary Committee during the year has collected the sum of \$38.71, \$25 of which has gone in response to an appeal from Rev. Dr. Robertson to help in the erection of a church in a Mormon settlement in the North West; \$5.00 to the Mission and the balance is to be given to the Foreign Mission Fund.

The Monthly Collections for General Expenses.....	\$21 13
Expenditure .....	18 18
Balance.....	\$ 2 95

**LIST OF OFFICERS FOR ENSUING TERM:**

- Honorary President, Rev. J. G. Shearer.
- President, J. J. Cavers.
- Vice-President, J. E. Souter.
- Recording Secretary, R. Brown.
- Corresponding Secretary, Miss A. Turnbull.
- Treasurer, C. New.
- Lookout Committee, Miss Chapman.
- Prayer Meeting, D. A. Souter.
- Cottage Prayer Meeting, C. McLeod.
- Missionary, (Conv. and Treas). Miss Martin.
- Social, John W. Gordon.
- Music, Miss L. Lawson.
- Flower, Miss M. Montgomery.
- Temp. and Good Citizen, R. Doubrough.
- Junior Endeavor Committee.

**REPRESENTATIVES TO UNION:**

M. Shearer, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Cavers, Mr. Doubrough, Mr. Funk, Maggie Montgomery, L. Martin, L. Gordon.

Respectfully submitted,

MAKIE B. JAMISON, *Secretary.*

**Junior Christian Endeavor.**

The past year has been one of marked success with the Junior Society. We do not report a large increase in numbers, but we do report an increase in interest in all our committee work. We have now 117 members, an increase of 13 over last year. Our membership has been much larger, but, at the beginning of the year our Superintendent thought it would be wise to stick closely to our constitution, which says, "any member absent from three consecration meetings, without excuse, should be dropped from the roll." During the past year we have been called upon to part with three of our members, who, having finished their work here, were called to higher service. We have nine committees, who are trying more earnestly each month to do the work given them. During the past year we have raised \$35.23 for Missions, and had on hand at the beginning of the year \$7.30, making a total of \$42.53. \$20 of this amount has been voted for Foreign Missions, \$10 for Home Missions, \$5 for Augmentation, and \$5 to Knox College Students, leaving a balance of \$2.53.

We have adopted the plan of giving regularly to Missions, and have now 100 members who are giving, and hope soon to have the whole Society. The collections amounted to \$7.54, expenses \$7.50, balance 4c.

We have great reason for thankfulness to our heavenly Father for guiding us safely through another year, and trust that we may be more faithful in His work during the coming year, ever keeping in mind the first clause of our pledge, "trusting in Jesus for strength."

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIE McCULLOCH, *Secretary.*

**Sunday School.**

During the past year the average attendance of the Sunday School has been greatly increased, the average for the year being 357, as against 313 for the year previous. And since the opening of our beautiful new Sunday School the average has been 462.

The collections for the year have also correspondingly increased, the average being \$6.74, as against \$4.91 for 1895. The total collected in Sunday School is about \$380.00.

As a Sunday School we feel deeply grateful to God for His goodness to us in the past and pray that His Blessing may continue to rest on us. It was with deep-

est regret that the Sunday School Association received the resignation of Mr. Gill who has been with us building up our school for so long. A meeting will be held Thursday evening to consider the matter.

With the beginning of the year the Sunday School Library, which has had a large number of books added to it, was opened thus providing interesting reading for our scholars.

We look forward with pleasure to the bright prospects before us and hope the efforts of our Teachers will meet with abundant success under the blessings of God.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. GORDON, *Secretary.*

**Treasurer's Statement.**

**RECEIPTS.**

Weekly Offerings .....	\$307 38
Special Offerings.....	78 37
Total Receipts.....	\$385 75

**DISBURSEMENTS.**

Sunday School Supplies.....	\$63 14
To Treasurer of Building Committee	93 37
Assembly's Com. and Prov. S. S. Asso.	23 88
Boys' and Girls' Homes, \$5 each....	10 00
Knox and Manitoba College, \$5 each	10 00
Knox College Students' Miss. Society	20 00
Sundries .....	10 00
Augmentation Fund.....	5 00
To Pt. Aux. Tremble's School.....	50 00
Home Missions.....	50 00
Foreign Missions.....	50 00
Balance .....	36

Total ..... \$385 75

JOHN KEITH, *Treasurer.*

**The Mission.**

Since presenting our report at the last annual meeting the Mission has been closed. As the time drew near for the opening of the new Sunday School building the question arose among the teachers whether it would not be well to invite those scholars of the Mission, not attending other schools, to come to Erskine, and do away altogether with the expense of maintaining the Mission School. This matter was brought before the C. E. Society and the Session, and upon the advice of both the change was made, our last service being held on November 1st. As a result several classes have been added to the Sunday School. We believe, as we pray, that the Mission has not been conducted in vain, but that through its instrumentality many have been pointed to the Saviour, and that it will lead ultimately to their salvation.

Receipts .....	\$ 122 38
Expenses.....	122 38

Respectfully submitted,

BEN. BROUGHTON, *Sec'y-Treas.*

ERSKINE CHURCH ECHOES.

**Board of Missions.**

The old officers of the Board were re-appointed to carry on the work during the year 1897. It was agreed at a meeting to hold Missionary meetings on the first Wednesday in June, September and December. The first of these was taken charge of by the Pastor, and a splendid paper on India read by Miss Louise Lawson. The Rev. R. P. MacKay, B.A., Foreign Missionary Secretary, addressed the congregation on Missions on the 20th of December. During the year the Pastor preached several times on Missions.

The Board has much cause for gratitude to God for putting it into the hearts of His people to give so liberally to the cause of Missions during 1896. Never before has so large an amount been contributed. The contributions for 1896 are over one hundred dollars in excess of those for 1895. The special Christmas offering for Foreign Missions amounted to the large sum of \$70. The Board hopes that the congregation will continue the good work of christian giving for the coming year, and would urge upon all members to set aside a special part of their income for Missions. Let everyone who is at all able contribute something each month by pink envelope.

Respectfully submitted,

JAS. GILL, *Secretary.*

**Financial Statement.**

Amount collected during the year....\$ 506 82  
Balance from 1895..... 4 97  
Interest on Bank Account..... 4 48

Making a total of.....\$ 516 27

Which has been allocated as follows:

Foreign Missions.....\$ 187 55  
Home Missions..... 133 00  
Augmentation..... 22 00  
French Evangelization..... 25 00  
Knox College..... 12 00  
Manitoba College..... 12 00  
Montreal College..... 6 00  
Knox College Students Missionary Society..... 15 00  
Minister's, Widows and Orphans.... 10 00  
Aged and Infirm Ministers..... 20 00  
Jewish Mission..... 4 00  
Lepers Mission..... 5 00  
Goforth Fund..... 10 00  
Armenian Relief..... 28 00  
Rescue Home S. A..... 13 50  
Mr. Bone..... 11 00  
Mr. Yoseph..... 1 52

Total.....\$ 515 57  
Balance..... 70

\$ 516 27

WILLIAM BROWN, *Treasurer.*

**Boys' Brigade.**

The Company numbers 9 Non-Commissioned Officers and 22 Privates, with an average attendance of 25. During the year several of the Boys have become members of the Church, and several members of the Christian Endeavor, some stating that the Rules of the Company have been a source of strength to them in resisting the temptations placed before

them by other boys. This year, in addition to the regular drill and amusements, there has been a half-hour devotod to the study of the Life of Christ, whose example it is hoped the boys will be led to copy, and for whose ideal life their admiration will be stimulated.

The Officers would again ask the hearty co-operation of the parents in helping the boys to carry out their duty to the Company, particularly encouraging them in the use of the Bible and the exercise of prayer. There has been such revelations made of the temptations to which the boys are subjected, and the baited evil traps into which they so easily fall, that it is absolutely necessary that some special effort be made for the saving of these boys from the evil one.

RECEIPTS:

Forward from 1895.....\$ 4 27  
Fees,..... 11 50  
Subscriptions,..... 2 00  
Collection from Lecture..... 7 58  
Missionary Collection..... 92

\$26 27

EXPENDITURE:

Paid for Supplies.....\$ 5 71  
Paid Missionary Committee..... 7 92  
Grossman's Sons, for Cord..... 1 00  
Rev. Dr. Hunter's Expenses, ... 2 00  
Headquarters Fund..... 5 00  
Car Fare to St. John's..... 1 10  
Balance on Hand..... 3 54

\$26 27

Respectfully submitted,

D. A. SOUTER, *Sec'y-Treas.*

**Auxiliary, W. F. M. S.**

As we meet to record the work of another year, we do so with gratitude and thankfulness to the Giver of all good, who has owned and blessed our weak efforts to enlarge and help forward the work He left for His children to accomplish.

We have 42 members enrolled with an average attendance of 28. The meetings during the year have proved very interesting as well as instructive, and it is most encouraging to find so many ready and willing to take some part in the meeting. The Programme Committee has proved very helpful in assisting the President in her duties. We have lost some members by removal but have gained others so that our membership is as large as any previous year. We are pleased to report that our offerings are larger than in any previous year. The total amount contributed being \$135.53, in addition to which a parcel of clothing valued at \$16.10 and \$5 cash were sent to the Indians in the North West.

It is with renewed zeal and energy that we enter upon the work of another year, hoping and trusting that in it we will be able to do greater things than ever before. Let us consecrate anew our time, money and opportunities to the blessed work of extending the Maker's Kingdom.

The officers for 1897 are:

President, Mrs. Shearer.

Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Clunas, Mrs. McAllister, and Mrs. T. Patterson.

Secretary, Mrs. Wm. Brown.

Treasurer, Miss Annie Munroe.

Programme Committee, Mrs. Gill, Misses Souter, Lily Lawson, Mrs. Woodruff, Miss McBean and the Officers.

JENNIE GILL, *Secretary.*

**Treasurer's Statement.**

RECEIPTS.

Monthly Offerings.....\$114 21  
Yearly Fees..... 14 50  
Leaflets..... 4 92  
Bookmarks..... 2 50  
By a member (*et alii*) for the new Hospital at Dhar..... 15 00

\$151 13

EXPENDITURE.

Paid for envelopes..... 50  
Paid for Bookmarks..... 2 00  
Paid Regina Industrial School... 5 00  
Paid Thank Offering Envelopes 60  
Paid Leaflets... 6 00  
Paid Miss Shaw Presbyterial Expenses..... 1 50  
Balance to Miss Shaw (W.F.M.S.) 135 53

\$151 13

A. MUNROE, *Treasurer.*

**Auditors' Report.**

We have examined the books of the Treasurer of the Church, Sunday School, Mission, Mission Band, Y. P. S. C. E., (Junior and Senior), Board of Missions, Session Fund, Ladies' Aid, W. F. M. S., Boys' Brigade, and Sunday School Building Fund, and have found them carefully and correctly kept.

JAMES GILL, } Auditors.  
A. M. WILSON, }

**In Affectionate Memory of**

COMMUNICANTS:

Samuel Burns,  
Mrs. Hugh Nichol,  
Robert W. King,  
Mrs. Henry Eland,  
Wm. H. McGaw,  
Donald Campbell.

ADHERENTS:

Mrs. McIlroy,  
J. McDonnell,  
Miss Annie Gentle.

BAPTISED CHILDREN:

Lizzie Tufford,  
Mary Doubrough,  
Kenneth Sconlie New,  
George Franklin Bull  
Wm. John Burwall,  
Thomas Toll.