

43rd ANNUAL REPORT

.... OF THE

McNab St. Presbyterian
Church,

HAMILTON, ONTARIO,
CANADA.

For the Year 1897.



ALSO AN ACCOUNT OF THE CELEBRATION

OF THE

25th Anniversary of the Pastorate of

REV. D. H. FLETCHER, D. D.

1

2

43rd ANNUAL REPORT

.... OF THE

McNab St. Presbyterian
Church,

HAMILTON, ONTARIO,
CANADA.

For the Year 1897.



ALSO AN ACCOUNT OF THE CELEBRATION
OF THE

25th Anniversary of the Pastorate of

REV. D. H. FLETCHER, D. D.

PAAP
BX
9003
#2M1
1897



Sweet is the solemn voice that calls
The Christian to the House of Prayer ;
I love to stand within its walls,
For Thou, O Lord, art present there.
I love to tread the hallowed courts,
where two or three for worship meet ;
For thither Christ Himself resorts,
and makes the little band complete.
'Tis sweet to raise the common song,
To join in holy praise and love,
And imitate the blessed throng
That mingle hearts and songs above. #
Within these walls may peace abound ;
May all our hearts in one agree !
Where brethren meet, where Christ is found,
May peace and concord ever be !

me
he
dis
An
ho
Ing
the
Ha
Ch
Co
inc
18
bui

wh
as a
call
acc
In
the
was

kind
of th
the
Stre
have
serv
Han

McNab Street Presbyterian Church.

The Congregation was organized in August, 1854, by former members and adherents of Knox Church, and divine service was held in the Mechanics' Institute—the first communion being dispensed by the Rev. John Scott, D. D., then Pastor of St. Andrew's Church, London. By the end of the year a commodious house of worship was erected, and in May, 1855, the Rev. David Inglis, of St. Gabriel Street Church, Montreal, was inducted as the first Pastor. The Rev. James Black, now the father of the Hamilton Presbytery, and a member of the present Session of the Church, preached the induction sermon. The membership of the Congregation, which at the settlement numbered forty-six, rapidly increased, necessitating more church accommodation, and in April, 1856, the foundation stone of the present edifice was laid, and the building completed in June, 1857.

Dr. Inglis laboured with fidelity in the pastorate until 1871, when he was removed to Knox College, in Toronto. His eminence as a preacher attracted much attention and ere long he received a call to the Dutch Reformed Church in Brooklyn, N. Y., which he accepted and in which he laboured until called to his reward. In February, 1872, the congregation gave a unanimous call to the Rev. D. H. Fletcher, of Scarboro, which he accepted, and was inducted on the first day of May in that year.

The McNab Street Congregation has the reputation of being kind and loyal to its Pastor and generous in supporting the schemes of the Church. Though it has during the present pastorate become the mother of two churches, viz.: St. John's, in the east, and Locke Street, in the west; it is still large, vigorous and liberal. There have been connected with it influential men, who rendered valuable service to the cause of Presbyterianism, not only in the city of Hamilton, but throughout the country.

SKETCH OF REV. DR. FLETCHER'S CAREER.

Rev. Donald Hugh Fletcher, D. D., was born in Islay, Scotland, in 1833. He is the third son of the late Hugh Fletcher, of Kappols, whose Huguenot ancestors emigrated from France to Great Britain about the time of the revocation of the edict of Nantes. His early education was received at the parish school at Kilmeny. He afterward pursued his studies at a private academy and at the high school in Glasgow.

While a mere youth he taught for some time with success in the parliamentary school at Mulindry, in his native land, and he came to Canada when in his 18th year. After teaching school for some time in the County of Peel he attended Toronto University, and took a theological course at Knox College, graduating in April, 1860. In the following September he was licensed by the Hamilton Presbytery to preach the Gospel.

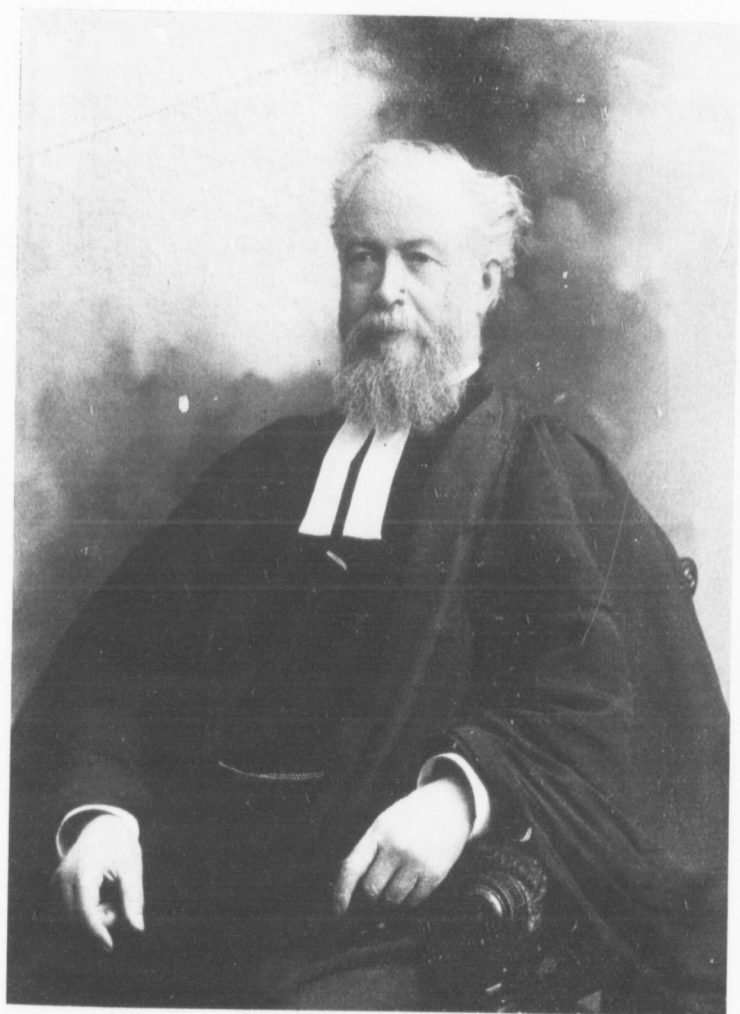
Immediately afterward he received calls from several vacant pastoral charges and he accepted a unanimous call from Knox Church, Scarboro, succeeding Rev. Dr. Laing, now of Dundas, who had gone to Cobourg. He was inducted at Scarboro on November 8, 1860. In addition to his pastoral duties there, Rev. Dr. Fletcher was local superintendent of education, and he took a lively interest in educational matters.

In February, 1872, he accepted a unanimous call to the pastorate of McNab Street Presbyterian Church, succeeding Rev. Dr. David Inglis, who had accepted a professorship in Knox College. He was inducted into his present charge on May 1, 1872.

He took a long trip in Europe and Asia in 1881, and in May, 1882, he was married to Miss Phyllis Eleanor Murray, youngest daughter of the late Peter Murray, of Athol Bank. They have two children.

Dr. Fletcher was elected Moderator of the Synod of Hamilton and London in 1884, and he discharged the duties of the high office with entire satisfaction to the members of the Synod.

That the high regard in which Dr. Fletcher is held is not confined to his own congregation is evidenced by the editorial comments of the city press, which follow:



U
g
m
a
o
n
o
t
v
P
P
P
o

T

h
a
a
e
n
a
st

w
b
sp
p

The "Spectator" May 6:

For a quarter of a century Rev. Dr. Fletcher has been Pastor of the McNab Street Presbyterian Church, and is able to look back upon work well performed followed by deserved success. The relations between Pastor and people have always been of the pleasantest, and the large congregation hopes that the reverend doctor will long be spared to be their spiritual leader.

The "Times" May 6:

REV. D. H. FLETCHER, D. D.

In another column will be found the programme for the celebration of the completion of Rev. Dr. Fletcher's twenty-fifth year in the pastorate of McNab Street Presbyterian Church, and the Times would like to add its congratulations to those of the good doctor's many friends on the occasion. The man who can satisfy the same constituency of critical hearers for a quarter of a century must be a student and a thinker, but Dr. Fletcher is also the friend of his congregation, sharing in the joys and the sorrows of young and old, and not confining his acquaintance and his sympathy to his own church or his own denomination. It may not be to some people the highest recommendation that the Times has generally, if not always, found Dr. Fletcher on the side which it deemed right; but we cannot help believing that his example and precept do more good than the efforts of some of his zealous brethren to compel by law compliance with their ideas of right and wrong. Long may Rev. Dr. Fletcher live to minister to the people of McNab Street Church, and to perform, in the future, as he has done in the past, the duties of a good citizen of Hamilton.

The "Herald" May 6:

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS A PASTOR.

Not often in this country is it given to a pastor and his people to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the beginning of their relations as pastor and people. We are not so conservative and contented in our habits of mind as the people of the old country. We are more restless and volatile, are more easily and sooner dissatisfied, and feel the need of change more than they. But now and again, even in our own country, we hear of the celebration of the anniversary of some minister's pastorate—the tenth, twentieth or thirtieth, and such events always give birth to pleasant reflections.

Excepting domestic ties, there is no bond so strong and sacred as the one which unites a pastor and his people when the pastor is a faithful shepherd and beloved and trusted by the flock. Not only do his people look to him for spiritual instruction and guidance; he is the friend to whom they go for sympathy and advice in time of trouble; he shares their joys and their sorrows;

he knows the needs of each of them, and by his influence and tact he can often remove what seems to be mountains of difficulty in the way of the weak who look to him for help. Frequently he is the trusted family councillor, called in to settle domestic disputes and allay the fever of family strife. In the sick room and in the house of mourning his presence is a benediction. All this describes the relations between a model pastor and a people who love and trust him. When these relations have extended over twenty-five years the personal ties between the shepherd and his flock must be strong indeed, and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the forming of those ties is well worthy of celebration.

The Herald therefore congratulates the venerated pastor of McNab Street Presbyterian Church and his congregation upon the completion of Rev. Dr. Fletcher's twenty-fifth year as pastor, and hopes that the celebration of the anniversary next week will be a cause of fresh inspiration and benefit alike to Dr. Fletcher and his congregation. It is unnecessary to say that the Pastor of McNab Street Church is well pleased with his congregation and that the congregation likes its Pastor; for the Presbyterian polity is essentially democratic, and if the relations between the Minister and the congregation are not pleasant they cannot long exist. And so the fact that Dr. Fletcher has ministered to the McNab Street Presbyterians for twenty-five years is sufficient evidence that their relations are pleasant and profitable. Under his ministry the church has prospered and still prospers; the congregation is united and in many branches of church work, charitable as well as distinctly religious, it is one of the most active congregations in the city—a power for good, whose influence is widely and deeply felt.

As for Dr. Fletcher himself, who has ever heard him spoken of but in a kindly way? Himself a lover of humanity, he is beloved in return by all who know him. A wholesome, hearty Highland Scotchman, he combines a sagacity, tact and shrewdness with a certain naive simplicity and juvenility of spirit—a combination not often found, but less rarely in Scotchmen than in men of other nationalities. A profound scholar (probably the best Hebraist in Hamilton), Dr. Fletcher is not a mere man of books, but takes an active and intelligent interest in the affairs of the busy world. In his pulpit he is earnest and faithful. He aims at a clear and useful exposition of the word of God, and practical application of it, rather than the exploitation of his own gifts as a pulpit orator; therefore his preaching is never sensational, but always instructive and suggestive. Although Dr. Fletcher has remained in continuous charge of one congregation for a longer period than any clergyman in the city, he is by no means stricken in years, and there is no reason to suppose that his active career as a minister of the gospel is near its close. It is easy to predict that when the time comes for him to rest from active ministerial work, he will retire from the pastorate of McNab Street Church at the same time.

The reasons for Dr. Fletcher's success as a Minister and Pastor may be found in the qualities which Chaucer ascribes to his good "Persoun," some of which are these:

He dwelte at hoom, and kepte wel his folde,
 So that the wolf ne made it not myscarye,
 He was a schepperde and no mercenarie ;
 And though he holy were, and vertuous,
 He was to senful man naught dispitous,
 Ne of his speche daungerous ne digne,
 But in his teching discret and benigne,
 To drawe folk to heven by fairnesse,
 By good ensample, was his busynesse,
 He waytud after no pompe ne reverence,
 Ne maked him a spiced conscience ;
 But Cristes lore, and his apostles twelve,
 He taught, and ferst he folwed it himselve.

1872 - 1897.

The Board of Management felt that an occurrence so unusual in Canada as the completion of a pastorate extending over a quarter of a century should be fittingly remembered. They accordingly communicated with each of the organizations of the Church requesting that delegates should be appointed to confer together as to the manner in which the occasion should be honoured. A hearty response was made to the call and after several conferences, at which various suggestions were thoroughly canvassed and discussed, it was decided to present Dr. Fletcher with an illuminated address, accompanied by a cheque for a substantial sum of money, the holding of a sacred concert, and a congregational meeting, followed by a social gathering, at which Dr. and Mrs. Fletcher should receive the members and adherents of the Congregation and their friends. Strong and enthusiastic sub-committees were entrusted with the working out of the details of the various arrangements. So generous was the response to the calls made by the Committee on Contributions that this Committee was enabled to report that a sum of \$600 was available for presentation, after payment of the very handsome illuminated address. Contributions were not limited to the present members and adherents of the Congregation, or to our own city, as some very handsome donations were received from former members and adherents now residing elsewhere.

At the evening service on Sabbath, 2nd May, fitting reference was made by the Pastor to the event about to be celebrated.

Dr. Fletcher chose as his text Philippians 1: 21, "For to me to live is Christ," and exhorted his hearers to take this as a motto and Paul as a guide in the days to come. From the date of Paul's wonderful conversion to his death he preached the unsearchable riches of Christ, and yearned and laboured for the salvation of the wicked, and those who have many opportunities for like work should take advantage of them and copy the great Apostle's example, so that when the close of life approaches the faithful can look up with a glowing hope to be with the Master in glory.

At the close of the sermon the Pastor referred in feeling language to his long service in the church, and thanked God for the many blessings received by himself and the Congregation as a whole in the past twenty-five years. He trusted that he had been in some way helpful to those with whom he had been associated for such a long time, and said that he had always endeavored to preach Christ and Him crucified, and that would be his theme for the future.

He had been with his flock in seasons of sore sorrow, as well as in times of joy, and could say with thankfulness to God that no congregation could have been more kind, considerate and faithful.

Dr. Fletcher also spoke of the progress of the Presbyterian denomination in the city during the term of his pastorate. In 1872 there were three churches, now there are eight; communicants, 1,792, now there are 4,223. To the schemes of the church in the first-named year \$2,500 was the amount contributed, while in 1896 \$8,000 was given, and for all purposes the increase was from \$19,392 to \$46,900.

The programme for the celebration as finally arranged and successfully carried out was as follows:—Sunday morning, May 9th, service conducted by Rev. W. T. Herridge; Sunday afternoon, May 9th, Sunday School service in Church and addresses by present and past Superintendents; Sunday evening, May 9th, Rev. W. T. Herridge; Monday evening, May 10th, sacred concert; Tuesday evening, May 11th, Congregational meeting in Church, followed by social gathering in Sunday School and presentation of addresses.

The newspaper comments appended hereto sufficiently indicate how successfully the above programme was carried out:

The "Spectator" May 10:

ELOQUENT SERMONS BY REV. W. T. HERRIDGE, OF OTTAWA.

At the McNab Street Presbyterian Church—The Proper Attitude of Christians to the World—The twenty-fifth anniversary.

The members of the McNab Street Presbyterian Church are fittingly celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of Rev. Dr. Fletcher's induction. Yesterday the services were continued, Rev. W. T. Herridge, D. D., of St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, preaching in the morning and evening. In the afternoon there was a special Sunday School gathering at which the ex-superintendents of the school were present. The congregations at the church services were very large, chairs having to be placed in the aisles at the evening service. The pulpit was profusely decorated with flowers and foliage plants.

In the morning Rev. Mr. Herridge preached from the text, "Cast thy bread upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days."—(Ecclesiastes XI. : 1). In the course of the sermon he referred to the anniversary occasion, and said it was unusual in these days of change and general restlessness and caprice to find a Minister and congregation between whom the ties of mutual regard and affection were so strong that they continued not only unimpaired, but to knit, more closely as the years rolled on.

In the evening the text was: "Come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord."—II. Corinthians VI. : 17). The subject of the discourse was the proper interpretation to be placed on this command in the light of modern times. When the gospel was written Corinth was one of the most shamelessly licentious cities of the age and, as one writer has put it, it was indeed a great and joyful paradox that the Church of God could have found a home in the midst of this mass of corruption. If the members of that church were to remain faithful there could be no halfway measures in the regulation of their own conduct. "In these modern days," said the preacher, "our surroundings are in many respects not at all the same. This land is not given over to heathen idolatry. We have passed away from anything like technical heathenism, at least from the frank heathenism of early days. Nevertheless the time may not have changed so much as we suppose, and Christian duty has changed not at all. In what way are we to read this injunction to-day? The proper attitude of Christians towards others has often been greatly misunderstood. Men have taken strange ways of emphasizing the exclusiveness to which religion called us all—some by the color of their dress, a somber cast of countenance, a rolling of the eyes heavenward, by monastic zeal or self-inflicted bodily tortures; these things marked an honest attempt to separate themselves from the world. The nun's veiling or the monastic cowl might be excellent things even in these days for some undoubted Protestants, but they are, nevertheless, not the ideal way of fulfilling the injunction. Another type of separation might be found in the Jewish pharisees; their descendants survive even to our own days, and they are as ready as of yore to thank God they are not as other people. We are sometimes inclined to thank God we are not like them. When a man is very certain of his own salvation and very doubtful of that of a great many other people, he should go to school to learn true humanity. To put on airs because we are

'respectable'—to mount a little pedestal, from which to survey the vulgar throng, is a spectacle to make angels weep—perhaps even to smile behind their tears! Then there is a good deal of separation along the lines of doctrinal exclusiveness. The Jews thought they monopolised Jehovah's care and no one else had any right to it. Even in these enlightened days you occasionally find members of one church who will hardly admit that the members of another church are Christians at all. Some successors of the apostles are bursting with intolerance. However, charity is growing among us. The best men will not endanger their reputation for intelligence by unchurching everybody who does not think as they do. Creed is an excellent thing in its place, but it cannot be used as a final test of the Christian.

"This is the best possible world for the development of character, for the strengthening of the fibres of manhood. We cannot suspend ourselves in mid-air or become Robinson Crusoes; but because men have sometimes misinterpreted the injunction contained in the text is no reason why it should be regarded as utterly meaningless. There may be a dividing line, just as we are separated in many ways from our fellows by differences in temperament, pursuits, by widely diverse aims and ideals—we cannot be equally en rapport with all. Modern life tends more toward specialisms and consequent separation of individuals, but none put it down to moroseness, for it is unavoidable. Israel was set apart to be the moral educator of the world. The true separation is not to be found in mere changes of dress, it is not a badge for the buttonhole, but a power to rule the inmost heart. It will manifest itself in the inmost springs of action and enthroned in our breast the grand ideal of the coming of the Kingdom. The greater the elevation, the greater the leverage. So by maintaining its position Christianity endeavors to raise man to its level. One of the perils of the time is the belief that the struggle between the flesh and the spirit is less keen than in the olden days. 'Conversion' is out of fashion and a sort of spiritual evolution is believed by some to have taken its place, but we will never reach the millenium without the reform of human souls. We are all more or less under the tyranny of custom and conventionality, and we cannot tell just what we would be like if we were left to ourselves. With some the tribunal of public opinion has more force than the tribunal of God. Surface refinement makes it harder for the grace of God to enter into men's hearts than if they were untutored savages. The world cannot be saved by æstheticism or conventional goodness—we must beware lest our Christianity become a mummified thing. It is still the Christian's duty to come out from the world—from its fraud and deceit and lust—and to show the power of the divine spirit in our daily conduct, raising humanity out of the bondage of evil into the glorious freedom of the children of God. Surely there is nothing morbid or irrational in a separation of this sort. Paul would be the last man to counsel an owl-like stolidity of attitude towards the world. Separation of that sort might do for a mummy—never for a man."

During the offertory Mrs. Macklean sang "I Love to Tell the Story," and the choir sang the anthem, "Let People Praise Thee."

The "Times," May 10th :

McNAB STREET S. S. SERVICES.

Yesterday afternoon an interesting Sunday school service was held in McNab Street Presbyterian Church. Addresses were delivered by Messrs. A. I. Mackenzie, J. C. McKeand J. M. Dingwall, Dr. Macdonald and A. W. Leitch, all of whom have held office as Superintendents of the school during the past thirty-five years.

The "Herald" May 11th :

A DELIGHTFUL SACRED CONCERT

In Celebration of Rev. Dr. Fletcher's Twenty-fifth Anniversary.

In connection with the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the induction of Rev. Dr. Fletcher to the pastorate of McNab Street Presbyterian Church, one of the most delightful sacred concerts held in the city for some time took place in this place of worship last evening. The body of the Church was completely filled with an intelligent audience, and the gallery was by no means deserted. The worthy Pastor, in whose honor the concert was given, occupied a seat near the platform, and there were not a few clergymen scattered through the large audience. This was the programme :

Batiste—Communion in G	Organ Solo
C. L. M. Harris.	
Handel—Rest in the Lord, from Semelie	Solo
Harold Jarvis.	
Millard—O Salutaris	Duet
Mrs. Bruse-Wikstrom and Mrs. MacKelcan.	
Adams—Galilee	Solo
Fred. Warrington.	
Gounod—Jersulem	Solo
Mrs. Bruce-Wikstrom.	
Lane—The Star of Eternity	Solo
Harold Jarvis.	
Costa—I Sought the Lord	Duet
Mrs. Bruse-Wikstrom and Mr. Warrington.	
Van de Water—Nights of Nights	Solo
Mrs. Frank MacKelcan.	
Mendelssohn—It is Enough, from Elijah	Solo
Mr. Warrington.	
Holder—O Holy Saviour, Friend Unseen	Duet
Mrs. MacKelcan and Mr. Jarvis.	
Wely—Offertoire in E Flat	Organ Solo
C. L. M. Harris.	

For the occasion it would have been difficult to have selected a better quintette. Mr. Harris' organ solos were cleverly rendered, and the work of each of the vocalists—Mrs. Bruse-Wikstrom, soprano; Mrs. F. MacKelcan, contralto; Harold Jarvis (Detroit), tenor, and Fred. Warrington (Toronto), baritone—was of a high order. A very pleasing feature of the programme was the duet by Mrs. Bruse-Wikstrom and Mrs. MacKelcan, the charming manner in which their voices blended captivating the audience. Each of the five artists was warmly received, and in response to encores contributed the following numbers: Mrs. Bruse-Wikstrom, *The Pilgrims*, (Adams); Harold Jarvis, *Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep*, (Arthur Walridge); Mrs. MacKelcan, *Guard While I Sleep*, (Fred. Warrington); and Fred. Warrington, *Jesus, Saviour, Pilot Me*, (Gould). Mrs. MacKelcan and Mr. Jarvis were obliged to repeat the duet sung by them, and the brilliant manner in which C. L. M. Harris, Mus. Bac., played the Wely offertoire elicited a storm of applause. All the accompaniments were skilfully played by Mr. Harris, and the concert closed with the entire audience joining in singing *God Save the Queen*.

Mrs. MacKelcan's encore solo, *Guard While I Sleep*, by Fred. Warrington, of Toronto, was one of the many gems of the evening.

The "Times" May 12th:

HANDSOME RECOGNITION.

Rev. Dr. Fletcher and Mrs. Fletcher Presented with Addresses also a Cheque for \$600—
Continuation of the Anniversary Celebration at McNab Street Presbyterian Church—
Many congratulations for the completion of Dr. Fletcher's 25th Year as a Pastor of
the Church.

Celebrations of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the pastorate of one minister are a rare occurrence in most churches, and the good people of McNab Street Presbyterian Church are making the most of their present opportunity to do honor to Rev. Dr. Fletcher. Last evening there was a goodly turn-out of the congregation at the public meeting held in the Church. The representation from among the aged members was especially large. Dr. Macdonald presided, and with him were Rev. Dr. Burns, Rev. Dr. Laing, of Dundas; Rev. Mr. MacWilliams, Rev. Mr. Black, Rev. Mr. Gourlay, Rev. Neil McPherson, Rev. T. G. Thomson and Mr. J. M. Dingwall. After a few opening remarks by the Chairman, Rev. Dr. Fletcher delivered an address, in which he briefly reviewed his pastorate, and expressed his appreciation of the many kind references made to his work by fellow clergymen, the press and his own people. Rev. Dr. Burns, Rev. Mr. McPherson, Rev. Dr. Laing and J. M. Dingwall, the last named one of the oldest elders in the church, also spoke, congratulating the good doctor and Mrs. Fletcher and also the members of the church on the anniversary celebration, all uniting in the hope that both Dr. and Mrs. Fletcher would long be spared to the church. Mr. Dingwall devoted some little time to retrospect of the Presbyterian Church in Hamilton. When he first knew it there were three branches of the church

in this city, "and," he added, with a twinkle in his eye, "without meaning any disrespect to the present clergymen of Hamilton, I may say that there were giants in the church of the early days, beside whom the present ministers would be as grasshoppers." (Laughter.)

At 9.30 the audience adjourned to the schoolroom, where Dr. and Mrs. Fletcher held an informal reception. The room was handsomely decorated with flags and banners, and throughout were scattered little tables, upon which light refreshments were served by the young ladies of the church.

It was here that the most important event of the evening took place. Mr. D. McPhie was master of ceremonies, and after a few words of congratulation to Dr. Fletcher he called on Mr. Davidson to read an illuminated address, which was accompanied by a cheque for \$600. The address was as follows:

To Rev. D. H. Fletcher, D. D., 1872-1897.

The lapse of years having brought the Congregation of McNab Street Presbyterian Church to a most interesting period in its history, we, the members and adherents, have resolved to mark the occasion in a manner befitting its importance and joyful character. With thankfulness to God in our hearts for His continued goodness to us, exhibited in many and various ways, we congratulate you, our Pastor, on being spared for the long period of twenty-five years to minister to us—to preside over our spiritual interests, and to be identified with the various events of our several lives. To us all the memory of these years is precious—to none more so than to those who witnessed your advent amongst us and bade you welcome.

In these days of restlessness and change such an occasion as this is of rare occurrence, and one worthy to be celebrated in a befitting manner. In attempting to do this we are not unmindful of the high esteem in which you are held by your fellow citizens and by the church at large, nor of the fact that you have in the past received from them expressions of good will and appreciation of your worth. Your life amongst us for five and twenty years has shown us that we occupy a large space in your heart. This has been manifested by the kindly interest displayed in all that has befallen us in the course of these many years—in the joy evinced at our joy and prosperity—in the swift and tender sympathy with us in sorrow and adversity—and in the presentation of truth from the pulpit which has helped to mould our characters and guide our lives, not in the strength which is but weakness, but through faith in Him to whom you have ever faithfully directed us.

To yourself at such a time as this there must come thoughts of what has been and of those who are not; memories of mingled joy and sorrow, recollections of the steadfast and the true who have "crossed the bar." You have witnessed growth in family life, expansion in the Church and improvement in civic and national affairs. The years that are gone have borne ample testimony to your ministry, the present is richer in opportunities than the past

and the future beckons you on by faithful effort to still greater things. Turning from our pleasant past to that which lies before us, we would assure you of the continuance of our love and esteem, and of our loyalty to this now historic church, believing that a still grander work may be accomplished in the name of Christ our Saviour, whose servants we are. In further evidence of these expressions of our affection for you, and as a remembrance of this auspicious occasion, we ask your acceptance of this accompanying cheque, trusting that you will find amid your many responsibilities an appropriate object for its use.

We cannot conclude without referring to the many excellent qualities of your beloved partner in life which have secured for her the deep and lasting affection of the whole congregation, and we wish you, Mrs. Fletcher and your children many years of health and usefulness.

Dated at Hamilton the first day of May, A. D., 1897.

Signed on behalf of the Congregation.

[Signed] ALEX. DAVIDSON,
Session Clerk.

[Signed] D. McPHIE,
Chairman Board of Managers.

Mr. McPhie, after suitable introductory remarks, read the following address to Mrs. Fletcher, accompanying it with a handsome basket of flowers:—

Mrs. Fletcher:—The members of this Congregation cannot permit the present occasion to pass without giving you some assurance of the high place you occupy in their esteem. We recognize the fact that your excellent husband's labors have been more effective by your co-operation than they could have been without it. As Adam could not properly labor in Eden until he found an help-meet for him, so we must confess that Mr. Fletcher did not reach the limit of his usefulness until he was equally blessed.

Your own labors have earned for you a high place in the hearts of the whole Congregation, a place which I am quite sure you will never lose; your unflinching kindness, your steady devotion of duty and your exemplary Christian character have won for you the admiration of all whose happiness it is to know you. As a slight token of their admiration, I am requested to present to you this basket of flowers. Their hues borrowed from the sunshine and their perfume lent by the breezes which fanned their opening petals are emblems of your graces and your virtues. Accept these flowers with the heartfelt affection of those who give them.

In acknowledgment of these expressions of the good will of his people, Rev. Dr. Fletcher spoke very feelingly.

Lieut.-Col. Moore, Rev. Mr. MacWilliams and others joined in expressions of congratulation, and letters of regret were received from Mr. Alex. Turner, Hon. J. M. Gibson, and Mr. J. T. Middleton, M. P. P.

During the evening Miss Davies sang "Fear Ye Not, O Israel" (Dudley Buck) very acceptably.

g
e
c
e
e
s
at
e.
s
g
r

e.

s.

g
of

e
ce
's
e
d
ne

ne
ir
n
w
ou
ir
of
on

e,

in
r.

ey

Office-Bearers, 1898.

MEMBERS OF SESSION.

REV. D. H. FLETCHER, D. D., *Moderator.*

Dr. J. D. Macdonald.	Mr. John Taylor.
Mr. J. M. Dingwall.	" A. W. Leitch.
" Geo. H. Milne.	Rev. John Gauld.
Rev. Jas. Black.	Mr. James Paterson.

Mr. J. G. McIlwraith, *Session Clerk.*

BOARD OF MANAGERS.

Mr. D. McPhie, <i>Chairman.</i>	Mr. Chas. S. Murray.
" A. Sutherland, <i>Secretary.</i>	" C. Ferrie.
" James Chisholm, <i>Treasurer.</i>	" C. D. Hossack.
" A. Ballentine.	" Alex. Leith.
" C. W. Graham.	" W. Symington.

Mr. James Strous.

TRUSTEES.

Mr. W. R. Macdonald.	Mr. Alex. Harvey.
" Alex. Turner.	" John Y. Osborne.
" D. McPhie.	" Robt. Thomson.

AUDITORS.

Mr. A. H. Hope.	Mr. D. Macgillivray.
-----------------	----------------------

CHOIR.

Miss A. Stuart, *Organist.*

Miss S. Fraser.	Miss A. Sutherland.
" L. Renner.	" G. Johnson.
" McLaughlin.	" L. Ballantine.
" B. Dingwall.	Mr. A. Ballantine.
" Paterson.	" A. H. Lyle.
" Sellar.	" Rolings.
" Quarrier.	" Marks.
" McLean.	" C. McLean.
" G. Barr.	" Thos. Cook.
" A. L. Milne.	" F. W. Lemessurier.
" M. McNab.	" Johnson.

Edwin Skedden, *Choir Master.*

Church Officer, Mr. Robert Murray, 23 Augusta Street.

SABBATH SCHOOL.

OFFICE BEARERS.

<i>President,</i>	-	-	-	Rev. D. H. Fletcher, D. D.
<i>Superintendent,</i>	-	-	-	Mr. A. W. Leitch.
<i>Secretary,</i>	-	-	-	" T. Cook.
<i>Treasurer,</i>	-	-	-	" Wm. Miller.
<i>Librarians,</i>	-	-	-	{ " R. A. Robertson.
				{ " John N. McDougall.

TEACHERS.

MALE.		MISS HENDERSON.
Dr. Macdonald.		" Holmes.
Mr. G. H. Milne.		" James.
" J. C. McKeand.		" Milne.
" D. Macgillivray.		" Macdonald.
" John Taylor.		" McLean.
		" J. McLaughlin.
		" McMillan.
		" McNab.
		" Moncur.
		" Quarrier.
		" Sellar.
		" A. Stewart.
		" Waters.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

<i>Hon. President,</i>	-	-	-	Rev. D. H. Fletcher, D. D.
<i>President,</i>	-	-	-	Mr. W. Lyle Reid.
<i>1st Vice-President,</i>	-	-	-	" A. W. Leitch.
<i>2nd</i>	-	-	-	Miss Jean Black.
<i>Corresponding Secretary,</i>	-	-	-	" M. Milne.
<i>Recording</i>	-	-	-	" M. McNab.
<i>Treasurer,</i>	-	-	-	" B. Waters.

MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.

Rev. D. H. Fletcher, D. D.	Mr. D. Macgillivray.
Mr. J. G. McIlwraith.	" Wm. Murray.
" A. W. Leitch.	" W. Lyle Reid.
" C. W. Graham.	

COLLECTORS.

Mrs. Symington.	Miss Helen Macdonald.
Miss Turner.	" McLaughlin.
" Gillies.	" Murphy.
" Buchanan.	" Thomson.
" McKay.	" Harvey.
" Smith.	" James.

Mrs. McLellan-Scott, *Treasurer.*

AUXILIARY IN CONNECTION WITH THE WOMEN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

<i>Hon. Presidents,</i>	-	-	-	-	{ Mrs. Osborne.
<i>President,</i>	-	-	-	-	{ " Ewing.
<i>Vice-Presidents,</i>	-	-	-	-	{ " McQuesten.
<i>Secretary,</i>	-	-	-	-	{ " Fletcher.
<i>Treasurer,</i>	-	-	-	-	{ " McLellan-Scott.
<i>Leaflet Secretary,</i>	-	-	-	-	{ " McKean.
					Miss Shaw.
					Mrs. McLean.

SENIOR MISSION BAND.

<i>President,</i>	-	-	-	-	Miss Mary Cook.
<i>1st Vice-President,</i>	-	-	-	-	" McQuesten.
<i>2nd</i>	"	-	-	-	" Murphy.
<i>Secretary,</i>	-	-	-	-	" H. R. Macdonald.
<i>Treasurer,</i>	-	-	-	-	" Dingwall.

JUVENILE MISSION BAND.

<i>President,</i>	-	-	-	-	Miss McKay.
<i>Vice-Presidents,</i>	-	-	-	-	{ Mrs. McCullough.
					{ Miss Davidson.
<i>Secretary,</i>	-	-	-	-	" Effie McFarlane.
<i>Treasurer,</i>	-	-	-	-	" W. McKeand.

LADIES' AID SOCIETY.

<i>President,</i>	-	-	-	-	Mrs. Charles Robertson.
<i>Secretary,</i>	-	-	-	-	" C. W. Graham.
<i>Treasurer,</i>	-	-	-	-	Miss McPhie.

CALENDAR OF Church Services and Stated Meetings.

-
- PUBLIC WORSHIP—Sabbath at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m.
ELDERS' PRAYER MEETING—Sabbath at 10.30 a. m.
SABBATH SCHOOL—Sabbath at 3 p. m.
CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER MEETING—Wednesday at 8 p. m.
ORDINANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER—First Sabbaths of March, June, September and December.
SESSION MEETING—Second Tuesday of each month.
OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONVERSATION WITH PASTOR—At the Manse, every Friday afternoon and evening, and in the Vestry every Sabbath after the evening service.
ANNIVERSARY OF CHURCH—First Sabbath in May.
S. S. ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING—In January.
S. S. ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING—First Thursday of each month at 8 p. m.
SABBATH SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY—In January.
MANAGERS' MEETING—Second Monday of each month at 8 p. m.
PEWS AND SITTINGS—May be secured from the Pew Committee after morning service, or at 7.30 p. m. on evening of Managers' Meetings.
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION—Third Wednesday in January.
AUXILIARY OF W. F. M. SOCIETY—First Tuesday of each month at 3.30 p. m.
SENIOR MISSION BAND—Meets in the Manse every Tuesday at 8 p. m.
JUVENILE MISSION BAND—Meets every Monday at 4.30 p. m.
Y. P. S. CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR—Meets every Monday at 8 p. m.
LADIES' AID SOCIETY—Second Thursday of each month at 3 p. m.

ELDERS' DISTRICTS.

- No. 1—North of King and west of Caroline—MR. J. M. DINGWALL.
“ 2—North of King and from Caroline to Catharine—MR. JOHN TAYLOR.
“ 3—North of King and east of Catharine—MR. G. H. MILNE.
“ 4—South of King and east of Ferguson Ave.—MR. JAMES PATERSON.
“ 5—South of King and from Ferguson Ave. to John—MR. A. W. LEITCH.
“ 6—South of King and from John to Park—DR. J. D. MACDONALD.
“ 7—South of King and from Park to Caroline—REV. JAMES BLACK.
“ 8—South of King and from Caroline to Queen—MR. J. G. McILWRAITH.
“ 9—South of King and west of Queen.—REV. JOHN GAULD.

Cases of sickness, change of residence, &c., to be reported to the Elder of the District or to the Pastor.

Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting of McNab Street Presbyterian Church congregation was held in the Sunday School, on Wednesday evening, 19th January, 1898, at eight o'clock, having been duly summoned from the pulpit.

Rev. Dr. Fletcher opened the meeting with devotional exercises and requested that a chairman, other than himself, should be appointed, likewise a Secretary.

On motion of Mr. Alex. Leith, seconded by Mr. J. M. Dingwall, Mr. Donald McPhie was unanimously elected Chairman, and on motion duly made and seconded Mr. James Chisholm was elected Secretary.

The minutes of the last Annual Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Chairman then called for reports from the various organizations which were presented as follows :

The Session report by Mr. J. G. McIlwraith, Session Clerk, who moved, seconded by Rev. Jas. Black, its adoption.—Carried.

The report of the Board of Management by Mr. D. McPhie, which was on motion duly made and seconded, adopted.

The Treasurer's report by Mr. James Chisholm, which was likewise adopted.

The report of the Superintendent of the Sunday School and the financial statement by Mr. A. W. Leitch, who moved, seconded by Mr. Geo. H. Milne, their adoption.—Carried.

The report of the Y. P. S. C. E. by Miss Mary McNab, who moved, seconded by Mr. John N. McDougall, its adoption.—Carried.

Mr. Thos. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. A. W. Leitch, that C. S. Murray, Adam Ballentine and Alex. Leith, the three retiring Managers, be re-elected.—Carried.

Mr. Angus Sutherland moved, seconded by Mr. A. W. Leitch, that Mr. Jas. Strous be elected a Manager to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Peter Folster.—Carried.

The following were appointed Ushers for the ensuing year, on motion of Mr. J. N. McDougall, seconded by Mr. W. Symington, viz: S. T. McPhie, Wm. Miller, Jas. M. Stuart, Wallace Murphy, Wm. Graham, Jno. Y. Taylor, Norman McPhie, James Black, Jr., George James and W. Lyle Reid.

Messrs. A. H. Hope and D. Macgillivray were re-appointed Auditors for 1898.

Rev. D. H. Fletcher made a verbal report of the amounts collected by the Missionary Association and other agencies in the Congregation, shewing that the Congregation still maintained the high standard of giving for these purposes characteristic of it in the past.

Votes of thanks were moved, carried and tendered to the Lady Collectors of the Missionary Association; also to the Organist, Choir Leader and Choir, the Ushers and S. S. teachers and workers.

It was moved by Rev. Dr. Fletcher, seconded by Mr. A. W. Leitch, that the following persons along with the Lady Collectors constitute the Missionary Association, viz: the Moderator and Session Clerk, and Messrs. A. W. Leitch, C. W. Graham, D. Macgillivray, Wm. Murray and W. Lyle Reid, with power to add to their number.—Carried.

The Chairman then on motion vacated the chair, which was resumed by Rev. Dr. Fletcher.

Mr. G. H. Milne moved, seconded by Rev. John Gauld, a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman for his admirable conduct in the chair.

The vote having been unanimously carried, was presented by Dr. Fletcher, and suitably acknowledged by the recipient.

The meeting was then closed with praise and prayer.

JAS. CHISHOLM,
Secretary.

Report of Session.

The Session in presenting its Annual Statement, would express unfeigned thankfulness to God for His continued goodness to the congregation and for all the tokens of divine favor which the various organizations connected with the church enjoyed during the year.

On Sabbath the 30th day of May, 1897, the Rev. John Gauld was inducted, and Mr. James Paterson was ordained and inducted as Elders in this congregation.

Mr. Davidson pressed on the Session, early in the year, his desire to be relieved of the duties of the Eldership. His resignation was reluctantly accepted recently, and the following minute put on record :

The members of Session in accepting the resignation of Mr. Alexander Davidson, who has rendered faithful service as Session Clerk for many years, desire to put upon record their sense of the high place, which by his uniform Christian conduct and brotherly courtesy, he obtained for himself and held with increasing strength in the estimation of the brethren. They would gratefully express their appreciation of the valuable and willing services which he has rendered during his connection with the Session by his wise counsel and regular attendance at its meetings. They desire also to express their earnest hope that their beloved brother may yet be spared for years to come to serve faithfully and diligently their common Lord and Master, and that he may enjoy abundant peace and spiritual comfort in the evening of his days. They would also assure their brother of their earnest prayers for the spiritual and temporal welfare of himself and family.

The Session, deeply sensible of the importance of instructing the young in religious knowledge, would recognize with thankfulness the faithful and efficient labours of the Sabbath School teachers and would affectionately urge the members of the congregation,

especially parents, to encourage these teachers by their sympathy and also by assisting the children in the study of the lesson at home.

While commending the Sabbath School to the warm sympathy and generous support of all, it would at the same time impress upon the heads of families, the duty and importance of systematic home training in the Holy Scriptures, and in that excellent summary of divine truth, the "Shorter Catechism."

The young men in the congregation are affectionately urged either to share in the work of the Sabbath School, or become members of the Young Men's Class, which meets in the church every Sabbath at 3 p. m.

The Society of Christian Endeavor met weekly during the year. It is believed that this weekly meeting, which has been well attended, has resulted in spiritual good to the young.

The service of divine worship on the Lord's Day was conducted without interruption, and was well attended, especially in the morning. There has recently been an improvement in the attendance at the evening diet of worship.

The Session would recognize with thankfulness the efficient services of the organist and choir, in leading the services of praise, and commend the members of the choir for their faithful and regular attendance.

The schemes of the church are commended to the warm and generous support of the congregation. The needs and claims of the ever-expanding work in the great North-West are very urgent. It is desirable that our annual contributions to missions should be remitted before the end of the year.

We cannot omit taking notice of the fact, that during the past year our pastor completed the quarter-century of his pastorate of this congregation, and of the happy celebration of that event, by which the year was distinguished. We hereby renew our expression of gratitude to the King and Head of the Church for the pleasant relations which have so long subsisted between the members of Session and their Moderator, and between the congregation and its minister; and we pray that these happy relations may long continue, and that, in time to come, an abundant blessing may be vouchsafed alike to pastor and people.

There were sixteen meetings of Session during the year, and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed four times.

The following members were removed by death :

MISS NELLIE ANDERSON, died January 16th ; aged 20.
MISS CHRISTINA GRACIE, died February 3rd ; aged 75.
DR. THOMAS MILLER, died June 15th ; aged 60.
MISS CHRISTINA J. FORSYTHE, died June 16th ; aged 49.
PETER FOLSTER, died August 8th ; aged 42.
MRS. JANE DUFFIELD, died September 11th ; aged 78.
MISS MARGARET JANE SMITH, died October 29th ; aged 25.
MISS GRACE T. McFARLANE, (N. C.) died October 31st ; aged 12.

The death of these beloved friends is a solemn call to us, to be faithful in the Master's service, "While it is yet day, for the night cometh when no man can work."

There were 33 names added to the communion roll during the year ; 14 by certificate and 19 on profession of faith. There were 23 removals, 12 by certificate, 7 by death and 4 were dropped on account of prolonged absence ; leaving 479 members on the roll.

With thankfulness to God for all past blessings, the Session would affectionately impress on all the members and adherents, the duty of earnest prayer and work in securing the Divine favor and in promoting spiritual prosperity.

J. G. McILWRAITH,
Session Clerk.

Managers' Report.

Once more the Board of Managers presents its annual report to the congregation, being the forty-third in its history. The year just passed will always be memorable in the annals of the congregation, inasmuch as our beloved Pastor, Dr. Fletcher, in May, 1897, celebrated the semi-jubilee of his advent amongst us. Your Board desires to place on record its hearty appreciation of the affectionate enthusiasm exhibited by the congregation in appropriately marking so unusual an occasion. May the tie which has so well stood the test of a quarter of a century be yet long spared to unite in its gentle bonds the beloved Pastor and his people.

Turning to the financial position of the congregation your Board is pleased to be able to inform them that it closes the year with a balance, howbeit a small one, on the right side. The receipts and disbursements are nearly the same as in 1896. The Ladies' Aid Society have during the year completed the payment of the Sunday School furnace. Interest on our mortgage indebtedness has been reduced from six to five per cent. and your Board has refrained from engaging in expenditure to secure the better lighting of the church, much as that is to be desired. Your Board recognizes the fact that our receipts and disbursements are so nicely balanced that unusual expenditures are sure to cause a deficit.

The year 1897 was also signalized by arbitration proceedings between the trustees of the church property and the T. H. & B. Railway to recover compensation for damages caused by the construction of that railway on Hunter Street. An award of \$5,000 in favor of the trustees was made in June, 1897, but the Railway Company having appealed from the award the outcome is still uncertain. The award was taken up by the trustees, the funds to pay the arbitrators' fees, \$1,192, having been provided by discount of a note for \$1,200 which is being carried by your Board. During the year your Board suffered a heavy loss in the removal by death of a most faithful member, Mr. Peter Folster, and you are asked to fill the vacancy thus created.

The Managers who retire by rotation are Messrs. C. S. Murray, A. Ballentine and Alexander Leith who are eligible for re-election.

Respectfully submitted,

ANGUS SUTHERLAND,

Secretary.

D. McPHIE,

Chairman.

Treasurer's Statement, 1897.

RECEIPTS.

Balance, 1896.....	\$	4 83	
Envelopes and open collections.....		3,869 80	
Anniversary collections.....		52 69	
Special contributions.....		192 55	
			\$4,119 87
Augmentation Fund.....	\$	101 00	
Sabbath School.....		54 45	
Foreign Mission Fund.....		105 00	
Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.....		113 80	
			374 25
Pew rent.....	\$	126 85	
Rent, L. T. Mewburn.....		3 00	
Rent of S. S.....		15 00	
Ladies' Aid Society.....		67 10	
Discount note re arbitration.....		1,200 00	
Rebate insurance, Manse.....		1 50	
			1,413 45
			<u>\$5,907 57</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

Minister's stipend.....			\$2,400 00
Special Collections:			
S. S. Collection.....	\$	54 45	
Augmentation Fund.....		101 00	
Foreign Mission Fund.....		105 00	
Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.....		113 80	
Musical Service:			374 25
Organist.....	\$	250 00	
Miss Davies.....		75 00	
E. Skedden.....		25 00	
S. W. Grant.....		100 00	
Water power for organ.....		56 25	
			506 25

GENERAL EXPENSES.

Taxes on Manse, C. & S. rate.....	\$	76 50	
Water rates.....		6 75	
			83 25
Interest, Manse mortgage.....	\$	100 75	
" S. S. ".....		180 00	
" Arbitration note.....		25 15	
			305 90
Insurance.....		19 50	
Fuel.....		100 00	
Gas.....		113 35	
Printing and Stationery.....		148 83	
Incidentals.....		86 90	
Caretaker's Salary.....		368 00	
Assembly Fund.....		37 76	
Communion Elements.....		3 00	
Improvements.....		75 10	
Pulpit Supply.....		60 00	
Anniversary celebration.....		31 50	
Arbitration fees, C. G. Snider.....		1,192 00	
Balance on hand.....		1 98	
			<u>\$5,907 57</u>

LIABILITIES.

Mortgage on Manse.....	\$2,500 00
Mortgage on Sunday School.....	3,000 00
	—————\$5,500 00

Respectfully submitted,

JAS. CHISHOLM,

Treasurer.

We, the undersigned Auditors have examined the Treasurer's accounts and vouchers and find that they correspond with the items specified in this statement.

Hamilton, January 18th, 1898.

A. H. HOPE,
D. MACGILLIVRAY, } *Auditors.*



Sabbath School Report.

The year just ended has been eventful in some respects and has brought with it changes not anticipated. The results of the year's labours are encouraging and stimulating. The attendance of teachers and scholars has been good. Interest in the school service has manifestly improved. Ten scholars became members of the church during the year. In the matter of contributions an excellent shewing has been made, as will be seen by the Treasurer's report. All these evidences bid us "Go forward."

The Sabbath School was privileged to share in the services of the Pastor's 25th Anniversary, and at their gathering on that eventful Sabbath afternoon, were addressed by four of the ex-superintendents who held office at and since the induction of the minister. These were Messrs. A. I. McKenzie, J. C. McKeand, J. M. Dingwall and Dr. Macdonald.

Three of our members, Miss Bella Dingwall, Mrs. Davidson and Miss Ainslie, for good and sufficient reasons, resigned their positions as teachers, much to our regret and somewhat to our apprehension. We miss them all and it is no discourtesy to the others to make special mention of Mrs. Davidson who was for so long connected with the school and so helpful in the general conduct of its affairs. Successors to these teachers have been found in Miss Moncur and Miss Holmes, and early in the coming year we expect another teacher to take hold of the third vacancy.

The social events of the school, (the anniversary and picnic) were duly held and proved very pleasant occasions; also the special service of Children's Day, conducted by Rev. Mr. McEachren of Waterdown, proved most interesting and profitable.

The Association has again to thank the congregation for their Annual Collection and to acknowledge the excellent arrangements made by the managers for the musical portion of our services. We anticipate great improvement in this respect. We would have been glad could our report have been ended here, but with sorrow we have to add that the hand of death on two occasions was laid upon our members.

Early in the year, Nellie Anderson, a bright member of the Women's Bible Class, was called away to the larger sphere, in her early youth; and just at the close of the autumn season, one of the lambs of the flock, Grace McFarlane, was gathered into the upper fold. These sorrows point their own lessons. We know it is "well" with them—we pray it shall be so with us, when our call comes.

The whole respectfully submitted,

A. W. LEITCH,
Superintendent.

Treasurer's Statement, Sabbath School.

RECEIPTS.

Balance from last year.....	\$ 3 95
Collections, 1897.....	200 99
	<u>\$204 94</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

Sunday School Convention.....	\$ 5 00
Bursary, French Students, 1897.....	40 00
Sabbath School Convention Fund.....	10 00
Home Missions.....	50 00
Foreign ".....	25 00
Bursary, French Students, 1898.....	40 00
Poor Fund.....	9 94
Balance on hand.....	25 00
	<u>\$204 94</u>

EXPENSE ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.

Balance from last year.....	\$65 22
Received from Managers.....	54 45
	<u>\$119 67</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

Supplies, R. Duncan & Co.....	\$63 81
Printing, Cook & Reid.....	17 40
Balance on hand.....	38 46
	<u>\$119 67</u>

Balance, Pic-nic, 1896.....	\$ 4 16
" " 1897.....	1 55
Transferred to Library Fund.....	<u>\$ 5 71</u>
	5 71
Balance due on Sunday School improvements.....	\$ 30 00
Amount collected to pay same.....	<u>30 00</u>

W. MILLAR,
Treasurer.

REPORT OF THE Auxiliary Women's Foreign Missionary Society.

We are glad to be able to report an increase during the past year, both in attendance and contributions. Several new members have been added to the roll. Ten meetings were held with an average attendance of 20. The sum of \$201.00 was contributed, and clothing valued at \$62.75, was forwarded to the North-West.

We desire again to acknowledge the assistance rendered by the Scattered Helpers, many of whom, though unable to attend the meetings, take a deep interest in the Society, and give regularly of their means to carry on the work.

It is with feelings of deep gratitude that we mention the recovery from serious illness, of several of our members. We would commend the suffering of one of our members, who is still laid aside, to the gracious care of our Heavenly Father, assuring her of our deepest sympathy.

The Thank-offering Meeting was largely attended, a pleasing feature being the presentation of a life-membership certificate to our much esteemed president, Mrs. McQuesten; after which Mrs. Wall of Guelph gave an earnest address. In January we had the pleasure of hearing an address from Mrs. McCrae of Guelph.

While we as a Society feel grateful for what we have been enabled, through His grace, to accomplish during the past year, yet, there remains so much to be done. Will not many more of the women of our congregation, to whom has been given so many blessings and privileges, come and help us?

J. S. VINCENT,
Secretary.

Report of the Ladies' Aid Society.

The Society has met as usual during the year 1897, the average attendance being eight, or one less than last year. The total membership of the Society is twenty-six, which number might be considerably increased.

The ladies of the congregation have responded most liberally to all the calls made upon them during the year. The sum of \$128.18 has been raised during the year by mite boxes and voluntary contributions, of which \$67.10 has been handed to the Board of Management, to complete payment of the Sunday School furnace, and \$61.08 remains in the Bank.

BELLE GRAHAM,
Secretary.

REPORT OF THE Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor.

In presenting the annual report of this Society we feel that the year's work has not been in vain.

During the past year we have taken up the Sabbath School Lessons, instead of the regular Christian Endeavor Topics, in the hope of helping those who are interested in Sabbath School work, and trust that much good has resulted from this line of study.

Our total membership is seventy. The active list having increased five over that of last year, and we hope to have a still further increase, both active and associate, during the present year.

We have been trying to do what we can along the lines of city missionary work, in helping the poor and needy around us, and for this purpose we have collected this year \$43.80, which has been expended in relieving thirty families. Clothing was also distributed. Of the above amount \$7.00 was a special donation for the North-West work, and was sent to relieve a family, of whom we heard through a missionary to whom we had sent Sunday School papers and hymnals. We have also supplied some lumber camps with good reading matter for the winter, and would be glad

if any members of the congregation having magazines or papers of a suitable character would please send same to the Society any Monday evening.

We continue to provide flowers for pulpit decoration, which are afterwards distributed among the sick of the congregation, and are we believe, much appreciated by them.

We must not omit some mention of our Pastor's Twenty-fifth Anniversary, which we felt to be a most important event in our church's history, and in which we as young people took a most keen interest, feeling that such an event occurs very seldom in the history of any congregation.

Another important event in our year's history was the reception tendered to the students of the Normal College, which we are assured was much appreciated and enjoyed by them, as well as by the young people of our own church.

Our collections during this year amounted to \$100.67. Expenditures \$87.88, leaving a balance of \$12.79.

In closing we feel that we must express our gratitude to our Heavenly Father for His kindness to us during the past year, and pray for His continued blessing upon our work during the year upon which we have entered.

MARY McNAB,
Rec. Secretary.

Mission Band Report.

Our meetings during the past year have not been as largely attended as we should like them to be. However some of the members are unable to come at all, and these help us by contributions.

Seven (both members and "Scattered Helpers") have subscribed this year to the "Foreign Missionary Tidings."

At the November business meeting a Thank-offering Collection was taken up.

The annual sale of work took place on December 10th.

We regret exceedingly that our annual contribution to the W. F. M. S. should be less than last year's, and we hope to do more in the coming year financially and also shew increasing interest in and sympathy with mission work.

H. R. MACDONALD,

Secretary.

Report of the Juvenile Mission Band.

Our Band met weekly during five months to work for the Annual Sale under Miss Mackay. Some of the younger children pasted scrap-books which were sent to the North-West; others sewed, while the older ones superintended and alternately read aloud. Out of a membership of 25 the average attendance was 14.

The sale of the Band was held in December, and the amount received was \$41.22. Contributions including fees and mite boxes, which were distributed early in the year, amounted to \$8.99. As some of this had to be spent so as to enable us to continue our work for the sale, we found that the total amount made by our Band this year was \$45.34. Our yearly contribution to the W. F. M. S. being \$50.00, we drew \$4.66 from our surplus fund in the Bank.

CONSTANCE JAMES,

Secretary.

Schemes of the Church.

RECEIPTS.

Contributed through Missionary Association.....	\$532 20
“ by Sabbath School.....	165 00
“ W. F. M. Auxiliary.....	210 00
“ Senior Mission Band	101 00
“ Juvenile Mission Band.....	50 00
Special Collection for Foreign Missions (congregation)....	101 00
	<u>\$1,153 20</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

Knox College	\$55 00
Manitoba College.....	20 00
	<u>\$ 75 00</u>
Home Mission (congregation).....	\$210 00
“ (Sabbath School).....	50 00
	<u>260 00</u>
Foreign Missions (congregation).....	\$100 00
Special collection,	105 00
“ (Sunday School).....	25 00
	<u>230 00</u>
W. F. M. Auxiliary and Mission Bands.....	351 00
French Evangelization ...	80 00
Bursary for French Students for 1897 and 1898.....	80 00
Widows' and Orphans' Fund.....	30 00
Higher Religious Instruction, Sunday School.....	10 00
120 copies Presbyterian Record for 1898.....	30 00
Balance in hand, Missionary Association.....	7 20
	<u>\$1,153 20</u>
Contributed to Schemes of the Church.....	\$1,153 20
“ Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.....	114 00
“ Augmentation Fund.....	101 00
“ Sundry Missionary Objects.....	135 00
	<u>\$1,503 20</u>

Collected by the

Missionary Association.

District 1.

MISS McLAUGHLIN.

Miss Bayne.....	\$ 1 00.
Mrs. Gaston	25
J. M. Dingwall.....	3 00
Miss B. Dingwall.....	2 00
Mrs. Currie.....	25
Miss Fell.....	25
	\$ 6 75

District 2.

MISS JAMES.

John Taylor.....	\$ 2 00
A. Taylor.....	50
P. Taylor.....	50
R. B. Ballentine	1 00
Mrs. Fyles.....	25
Mrs. Geo. Henderson.....	2 00
John Smellie.....	2 00
	\$ 8 25

District 3.

MISS SMITH.

Miss McKay.....	\$ 2 00
Miss B. Quarrier.....	75
Gilbert Quarrier.....	50
G. H. Milne.....	3 00
Mrs. Milne.....	2 00
Miss Milne.....	1 00
Alex. Milne.....	50
James Milne.....	50
Annie Milne.....	50
Jennie Milne.....	50
William Fairley.....	1 00
Thomas Smith.....	2 00
K. McKenzie.....	1 00
Mrs. Wakeley.....	1 00
	\$16 25

District 4.

MRS. McLELLAN SCOTT.

Mr. A. Finlayson.....	\$ 5 00
Mr. Wm. Addison.....	50
Miss Warrack.....	25
Mrs. Paterson.....	3 00
Mrs. J. Stewart.....	1 00
Mr. A. Davidson.....	5 00
Alex. Davidson, Jr.....	25
Elizabeth Still.....	75
Mrs. McKenzie.....	1 00
Miss McKennon.....	1 00
Mrs. McL. Scott.....	28 00
A friend, for North West...	50 00
	\$95 75

District 5.

MISS TURNER AND MISS GILLIES.

Alex. Turner	\$25 00
Mrs. A. Turner	25 00
Mrs. John McKean.....	2 00
Mrs. Vincent.....	2 00
Duncan Lavrock.....	3 00
Mrs. Malcolm.....	2 00
Mrs. R. Thomson.....	20 00
Miss A. Harvey.....	1 00
Mrs. Babcock.....	25
D. Macgillivray.....	5 00
Peter Johnstone.....	50
	\$85 75

District 6.

MISS HELEN MACDONALD.

Rev. D. H. Fletcher.....	\$ 40 00
Dr. Macdonald	25 00
Mrs. McQuesten.....	15 00
Miss Buchanan.....	10 00
Mrs. Osborne.....	10 00
Mrs. W. R. Macdonald..	10 00
Mrs. Leitch.....	6 00
A. W. Leitch.....	3 00
Miss Holmes.....	1 00
Robert Murray.....	50
Mrs. James Stuart.....	50
	\$121 00

District 7.

MISS MCKAY.

Mrs. J. Brown.....	\$ 1 50
J. C. McKeand	50
W. Murray.....	20 00
James Paterson.....	1 50
Miss Dow	3 00
Mrs. McLean.....	50
Miss McKay.....	2 00
Mrs. Nicholson.....	2 75
Norman Nicholson.....	50
C. W. Graham.....	5 00
R. A. Robertson.....	2 00
Mrs. Duffield	1 00
Mrs. Ferrie.....	2 00
Campbell Ferrie.....	2 00
Miss McIlwraith	2 00
Rev. J. Black.....	5 00
Miss Isa Black.....	3 00
Miss Jean Black.....	3 00
Mrs. Foulis.....	1 50
James Martin.....	1 00
Mrs. D. Macdonald	25
Charles Hossack.....	1 00
J. V. Osborne.....	6 00
Mrs. A. H. Hope.....	1 00
Mrs. McNab.....	1 50
Mrs. McFarlane.....	3 00
	\$72 50

District 8.

MRS. SYMINGTON.

Mrs. Ewing.....	\$12 00
Mrs. Hunter.....	20 00
Edwin Tinsley.....	2 00

Mrs. Gillies.....	5 00
Mrs. Henderson.....	1 00
Mrs. Kennedy.....	6 00
Mrs. R. Davidson.....	6 00
Mrs. Castell.....	2 00
Rev. J. Gauld.....	1 00
David Graham.....	5 00
	\$60 00

District 9.

MISS THOMSON AND MISS HARVEY.

Wm. Harvey.....	\$ 4 00
John Thomson.....	1 00
James Thomson.....	1 00
Mrs. C. Robertson.....	6 00
Mrs. John Cook.....	50
Henry Dow.....	1 00
Wm. Dow.....	1 00
W. T. Miller	25
	\$14 75

District 10.

MISS MURPHY.

Mrs. Proctor.....	\$ 2 00
Mrs. Will	25
Mrs. Waters.....	1 00
Mrs. McCullough.....	2 00
James Chisholm.....	5 00
Miss McPhie.....	1 00
Mrs. Shaw.....	50
Robert Stewart.....	25
Alex. Leith.....	2 00
Miss Leith.....	1 00
	\$15 00