

ZION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,

TORONTO.

ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR THE YEAR 1876,

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CHURCH AND CONGREGATION,

January 17, 1877.



ESTABLISHED NOVEMBER 23RD, 1834.

"Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ."

HUNTER, ROSE, & CO., PRINTERS,
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OFFICE BEARERS.

Pastor.

REV. SAMUEL N. JACKSON, M.D.

Deacons.

JOHN WIGHTMAN,
JOHN WICKSON,
W. C. ASHDOWN,
DAVID HIGGINS,

GEORGE A. HINE,
JAMES SMITH,
J. D. NASMITH,
WILLIAM FREELAND.

Visitor.—Mrs. ADAM LILLIE.

Committee.

The Pastor and Deacons, with

A. CHRISTIE,
GEORGE SNARR,
WILLIAM NICKOLS,
H. N. BAIRD,
SAMUEL DAIVISON,

WILLIAM ELLINGSWORTH,
GEORGE PIM,
THOS. LOWNSBROUGH,
EDWIN POTTS,
GEORGE STRATHERN.

Benevolent Fund.

THOMAS LOWNSBROUGH, *Secy.-Treas.*

Auditors.

ALEXANDER CHRISTIE,

ALEXANDER WYLIE.

Sunday School.

Superintendent.

WILLIAM C. ASHDOWN.

Secretary.

CHARLES WHITE.

Librarians.

W. J. STIBBS,

WILLIAM LOANE.

Committee.

GEORGE PIM,
EDWIN POTTS,

Mrs. J. C. CLAPP,
Mrs. A. LILLIE.

Young People's Association.

President.

WILLIAM J. STIBBS.

Vice-President.

CHARLES J. THORLEY, Jr.

Secy.-Treas.—ERASTUS J. SNARR.

HISTORICAL NOTES.

ORGANIZATION.

Zion Congregational Church was organized on the 23rd of November, 1834, and consisted of seventeen members, nearly all having previously been connected with the Congregational denomination in England. At the close of December the membership was twenty-six.

PASTORS.

The present is the fifth pastoral settlement ; and the office has been successively filled as follows :—namely : By the Rev. Wm. Merrefield, who came from Brampton, in Cumberland, England, under whom the church was organized, and who resigned on September 19th, 1836, and died in England, January 23rd, 1837. The Rev. John Roaf, of Wolverhampton, England, was the next pastor ; he accepted the charge on March 29th, 1838, which he sustained for more than seventeen years. He resigned June 15th, 1855, and died in Toronto, September 2nd, 1862. Mr. Roaf was succeeded on the 29th May, 1856, by the Rev. Thomas Scales Ellerby, formerly pastor of the British and American Congregational Church at St. Petersburg, Russia ; who closed his pastorate of about ten years, on March 28th, 1866, and is now rector of the Episcopal Church at Sarnia, Ont. On the 30th of May, 1866, the Rev. John G. Manly, of Dublin, Ireland, assumed the office which he filled for about four years and a half ; resigning December 1st, 1870, and was succeeded on the first of June 1871, by the Rev. Samuel N. Jackson, M. D., of Montreal, the present pastor.

DEACONS.

The deacons' office, from the formation of the church to the present time, has been filled by thirty-two officers ; fourteen of whom are deceased ; four sustain the same office in a sister church, and eight still retain their official relationship. The first deacons were Robert Wightman, Robert Rowell, and James Wickson, elected February 12th, 1835.

CHURCH EDIFICES.

The first public services of the church were held November 23rd, 1834, in the Masonic Hall, then on Colborne Street. In July, 1837, the church removed to a vacant Methodist church on George Street. In this place they continued to meet for religious purposes until January, 1840, when they removed to their new church on the corner of Adelaide and Bay Street, which edifice was destroyed by fire on the 26th February, 1855. For over a year and a half the Sunday services were held in St. Lawrence Hall, the use of which was granted by the City Council. On the 26th September, 1856, the present church building, occupying the site of that destroyed by fire, was opened for public worship.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL.

The Sunday-school was commenced just after the organization of the church, and has passed through the same changes with regard to location. The infant class was instituted under the care of Miss Vandersmissen in 1842, and was the first formed in Toronto. There have been in all twelve superintendents, most of them, like the present, being deacons of the church.

CHURCH EXTENSION.

On the third of April, 1849, twenty-five members of the church withdrew to organize the second (Bond Street) Congregational Church. On January 3rd, 1868, twenty-eight members were accorded letters of dismission to form the Northern Congregational Church. On November 24th, 1875, thirty members were dismissed to form the Western Congregational Church; and on March 1st, 1876, four received letters to unite with others in forming the Yorkville Congregational Church.

MEMBERSHIP.

The number of members added to the church from the date of its organization up to this time, December 31st, 1876, is 1061, of which number 829 have been removed, many by death, leaving the present membership 232. During the history of the church thirty-five of its members were, or became, ministers of the gospel.

FINANCES.

For several years previous to 1844, the church received pecuniary aid from the Colonial Missionary Society, but from that year became self-sustaining. In 1846 the present system of maintaining the church revenue by Weekly Voluntary Offerings was adopted. Besides its ordinary financial operations, special efforts have been made from time to time with great success. Thus in 1839, the first church edifice was erected; in 1855 the present building was placed on the site of the former destroyed by fire; in 1867 the incumbrance upon the property amounting to \$2,000 was removed; in 1871 \$1,000 was subscribed to improve the interior of the building, and in 1875 a floating debt of \$500 was extinguished.

The following comparative Table gives a list of annual collections since 1870, for certain objects. That relating to the Sunday School includes only the special annual collection. :-

OBJECTS.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.
Weekly Offering.....	\$1686 67	\$1621 17	\$1824 91	\$2136 29	\$2520 19	\$2542 42	\$2296 70
Sunday School.....	33 56	43 12	41 68	48 60	65 88	150 00	100 00
Fellowship Fund.....	73 23	55 35	66 46	75 95	121 72	134 56	142 65
Young People's Assoc'n.	—	—	—	38 42	89 25	91 78	300 00
Congregational Mis. Soc.	35 70	55 50	174 35	215 85	223 57	280 00	300 00
Congregational College..	37 00	22 00	51 50	102 00	149 25	150 00	100 00
Indian Mission.....	10 00	16 00	25 00	38 50	53 00	41 00	25 00
Congregational Union..	15 00	10 00	30 00	23 33	30 00	30 00	30 00

THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS.

The following were members who have been recommended as Theological Students to the Congregational College :—Thomas Searight, George G. Wickson, Francis H. Marling, Arthur Wickson, LL.D., Charles Hewlett, Robert Burchill, Richard T. Thomas, and Hugh J. Furneaux.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

PUBLIC SERVICES.

Sunday Service—In the morning at 11 o'clock, and in the evening at 7.

Sunday School—From 3 to 4.30 P.M.

Weekly Prayer Meeting—Wednesday evening at 7.30 o'clock.

Young People's Prayer Meeting—Sunday morning at 10 o'clock.

Bible Class—Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

The Lord's Supper—After morning service the first Sunday of each month.

Church Meeting—Wednesday evening preceding first Sunday in each month.

Committee Meeting—Monday evening preceding the church meeting.

Baptisms—In public, when announced ; at the home, by special appointment.

Young People's Association—Every alternate Monday, at 8 P.M.

Ladies' Aid Society—As announced from time to time.

Choir Practice—Friday evening at 7.30 o'clock.

Annual Meeting—Third Wednesday in January at 6.30 P.M.

Evangelical Alliance—Shaftesbury Hall, Monday, 4 P.M.

THE PASTOR.

The Pastor may be found at home every day from 12 M. to 1 P.M., and from 6 to 7 P.M. ; also in the vestry on each Sunday and Wednesday evening, immediately after the usual services. All persons desiring to communicate with him, on religious or other matters, will be gladly welcomed at any time. Those who change their places of residence are kindly requested to inform him. It is also desired that all cases of sickness in the congregation should be made known to him.

THE DEACONS.

The Deacons wish at all times to render any information or assistance within their power to members of the church and congregation ; also to welcome and assist new-comers, in so far as they can. They, with a committee appointed by the church, hold a monthly meeting with the pastor for conference on church work. In order more efficiently to discharge the duties of their office, each department of work is apportioned among the deacons, and the following are the departments and those in charge for 1877 :—

Secretary to the Diaconate—DAVID HIGGINS.

Treasurer to the Church—JOHN WICKSON.

Treasurer to the Fellowship Fund—JOHN WIGHTMAN.

Appropriation of Church Sittings—JAMES SMITH, W. FREELAND.

Charge of the Weekly Offering—JOHN WIGHTMAN, G. A. HINE.

Care of the Communion Table—G. A. HINE, W. FREELAND.

Pulpit Supplies—W. C. ASHDOWN, J. D. NASMITH.

Care of the Church Building—J. WIGHTMAN, J. D. NASMITH, W. FREELAND.

THE CHURCH VISITOR.

The Church Visitor devotes a large portion of her time in visiting among the members of the congregation, paying especial attention to those who are comparative strangers, to the sick, the poor, to Sunday School children, and in tract distribution. This work will be facilitated if members knowing of cases requiring attention will kindly mention the same to the Visitor.

FAITH AND ORDER.

This church has adopted for its basis the "DECLARATION OF FAITH AND ORDER" put forth by the Congregational Union of England and Wales. This is not regarded as a test for communion or a creed for subscription, but simply a summary of what is commonly believed by us as Congregationalists. No term for fellowship is required save a simple faith in Christ as our personal Saviour.

MEMBERSHIP.

Application for admission into the church should be made to the pastor. Members of such other churches as hold conversion to be a condition of membership are received on presenting letters of dismission. Candidates by profession are usually visited by two members appointed for that purpose, who give their recommendation at the next church meeting. Each candidate's application is submitted to the vote of the church.

GOVERNMENT.

This is Congregational; we regard the Scriptures as the only infallible guide in matters of doctrine and church order, and believe that we learn from them that each church is authorized to elect its officers, receive and dismiss its members, and act authoritatively and conclusively upon all appropriate business. We recognise the Lord Jesus Christ as our King and sole ruler in spiritual things, and His Word as our Statute book and only standard.

CHURCH MEETINGS.

Monthly meetings are held for the transaction of all business pertaining to the church. While the church committee seek to facilitate matters by preparing business for the church to take action upon, this does not in the least interfere with the liberty of the members to originate and present other resolutions, neither does it relieve them of their responsibility for the action taken by the church. All measures are decided by a vote of the church.

DISCIPLINE.

This is only exercised by the church itself, and may take the form of reproof, suspension or excommunication. In offences committed against individual brethren the party offended must obey the command in Matthew xviii. 15-17, before bringing the matter before the church. The responsibility for the purity of the church rests upon the entire membership.

CHURCH SITTINGS.

At a Church Meeting held July 31, 1856, the following resolution was passed with regard to church sittings:—"That there be no pew rents, but the regular attendants be expected to contribute to the general fund of the church ac-

ording to their ability, and have allotted to them, for convenience only, such number of sittings as they may ordinarily require." While this dispenses with the sale or rent of pews, and, for the convenience of families and individuals, allots sittings, it practically makes the seats free.

CHURCH FINANCES.

The system adopted to maintain the church revenue is that known as the WEEKLY VOLUNTARY OFFERING, and has been in use since 1846. Each member of the congregation is desired to state the amount he proposes to give per week; printed envelopes are furnished; an account kept of the receipts, and at the end of each quarter a statement is rendered of any arrears that may have accrued. For further particulars see page 24.

BENEVOLENT FUND.

This is an application to the support of our denominational institutions and special departments of church work, of the principle recognised in the system of voluntary offerings for the current expenses, so long in use by the church. It takes the place of the former plan of making a special collection for each object separately. It must be remembered that it does not include such societies as have special collecting agencies of their own, as the French Canadian and Indian missions, the city charities, etc. For a description of the plan see page 25.

FELLOWSHIP FUND.

This fund is supported by a collection taken up at the communion service, and, after defraying the expenses of the Lord's table, is devoted to the relief of needy members of the church.

PSALMODY.

The hymn book in use is the "LEEDS SELECTION," and can be purchased at Messrs. Hart & Rawlinson's, No. 5 King Street West. The tune book is "THE CONGREGATIONAL PSALMIST," a supply of which is kept by the church, and may be secured by members of the congregation at reduced rates. It is desired that, as far as possible, the service of song should be congregational. Those desirous of becoming members of the choir will apply to the organist, Mr. Robert Blackburn. Hymn books are provided for strangers.

At a church meeting held May 3, 1860, the following resolution was passed:—That the conduct of the church music be left in future with the Pastor and Deacons.

DIRECTORY.

A Church Directory is published at the beginning of each year, giving the names and residences of all the members. By this means members of the Church will be enabled readily to find the homes of their fellow-members, for the purpose of cultivating and maintaining Christian intercourse.

RESIDENCES.

The Pastor's residence is 72 Gould-street; the Visitor's (Mrs. A. Lillie), 61 Alexander-street; the Secretary's (Mr. W. Freeland), 71 Bay-street; the Treasurer's (Mr. John Wickson), 568 Yonge-street; office of the Treasurer of the Benevolent Fund (Mr. T. Lownsbrough), 30 King-street E.; and the Sexton's residence (Mr. Robert Hart) is 21 Court-street.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Church and Congregation was held on Wednesday evening, January 17th, 1877. As is usual on these occasions, the attendance was large, and among other visitors the Rev. S. T. Gibbs, and the Rev. James Howell, were present. Refreshments were served at seven o'clock, and until the chair was taken at half-past eight o'clock, the evening was pleasantly spent in social intercourse.

Mr. John Wickson was called to the chair, and after the singing of the hymn—

“O happy day, that fixed my choice
On Thee, my Saviour and my God!”

The Pastor read the eighty-fourth psalm, “How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts, &c.,” and the Rev. S. T. Gibbs led in prayer. A collection, amounting to \$24.70, was then made to defray the expenses of the meeting. Mr. Robert Blackburn and the choir again led the assembly in singing the hymn—

“We praise Thee, O God! for the Son of thy love,
For Jesus who died and is now gone above,
Hallelujah! Thine the glory. Hallelujah! Amen,
Hallelujah! Thine the glory. Revive us again.”

The chairman then, in a brief, earnest, and cheerful address, expressed his great pleasure in meeting so many on such an interesting occasion—made allusion to his long and happy connection with Zion Church, which was the church of his father—expressed his conviction that a Congregational Church was one of the pleasantest and best of ecclesiastical organizations, and concluded by expressing the wish that one and all, old and young, would feel thoroughly at home in this their “Father’s House.”

Reports of the past year’s work were then presented by the Pastor, the Deacons, and Treasurer successively. The Treasurer’s statement showed the receipts of the past year, independent of \$853.15 for the “Benevolent Fund,” to have been \$3,117.09, and the disbursements \$3,105.89. In the statement of assets and liabilities it was shown that a debt of \$152.80 was due by the Church, to which should be added

\$80.00 required for repairs on the organ, making in all \$232.80. At the chairman's suggestion this amount was at once guaranteed by voluntary subscriptions ranging from one dollar to thirty, which will leave the Church entirely free from debt in any form. After this the Congregation appropriately joined in singing—

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

The Superintendent of the Sunday-school then read his annual report. Mr. Thomas Lownsbrough, as Secretary-Treasurer, presented the report of the Benevolent Fund, which was followed by the annual report of the Young People's Association, read by the Secretary, Mr. Henry C. Hamilton.

The foregoing business having been disposed of, the following presentations were made through the Pastor:—First, Mrs. Roaf, who has been a member of the Church for nearly forty years, and whose late husband was the honoured Pastor for about twenty years, was presented with a very handsome Bible, in Russia binding, containing full marginal readings, an abbreviation of the commentaries of Henry and Scott, scriptural chronology and harmony, biblical antiquities and cyclopædia, and a metrical version of the Psalms, and illustrated throughout with photographic views. Printed on the cover in gold letters was the following inscription:—"Presented to Mrs. (Rev.) John Roaf, by the members of Zion Congregational Church, Toronto, as an expression of their great affection and esteem for her." Next, Mr. W. C. Ashdown, the Superintendent of the Sunday-school, who has had this department of church work in charge for about ten years, received a valuable watch and chain from the members of the Church and Congregation, as an expression of their high appreciation of his services, and of their deep interest in his work. Finally, Mr. David Higgins had given to him by the members of the Bible Class, an elegant easy chair and footstool, as a manifestation of their affection, and the high value they place upon his services as their instructor. Both Mr. Ashdown and Mr. Higgins acknowledged these gifts in appropriate terms.

After singing the hymn—

"Shall we gather at the river
Where bright angel feet have trod,"

Rev. James Howell offered prayer, when the proceedings of a most happy evening were brought to a close.

W. FREELAND,
Church Secretary.

PASTOR'S REPORT.

In presenting a Report of the past year, which is the sixth of my pastorate, and the forty-second in the history of the Church, I desire to acknowledge the presence and help of God, who has not left us without the witness of his Spirit's presence, and has enabled us to accomplish another year's work in peace and with a fair measure of success.

As usual, we began the New Year with the Morning Prayer Meeting, which was a season well remembered, and throughout the week of universal prayer we gathered nightly to join in concert with the Church throughout all the earth, in thanksgivings and supplications to Almighty God.

Though our congregation was considerably decreased through the recent establishment of new Churches of our order in the city, and the removal of a number of families to other places, others have been casting in their lot with us, so that now, at the close of the year, we realize in some measure the fulfilment of the promise, that they who give shall receive.

The attendance at the communion throughout the year has been 1,435 persons, averaging 118 at each service. The smallest number (July) was 81, and the largest (February) was 136. The number of members present at the Church meetings, has, as a general thing, been small, which I believe is not owing to indifference as to the business affairs of the Church, but rather to your thorough confidence in the deacons who manage so wisely and well its temporal interests. Commendable as such confidence is, members should nevertheless give earnest attention to the temporal concerns of their Church, which is a part of the great Kingdom of God.

The week evening services have been maintained about as in former years. Special courses of subjects have been considered, which have proved both interesting and useful. In the early part of the year those selected were Christ's Famous Titles, which were followed by subjects relating to the Christian Family, such as the mutual obligations of husbands and wives, parents and children, masters and servants; also, the conducting of family worship, the relation of the family to the Church, Christian hospitality and amusements. More recently our themes have been in relation to the Christian Church. The Young People's Prayer Meeting has also been sustained throughout the year, and was held as usual on each Sunday morning. The topics of their reflection and study have been the Words of Jesus.

The following are the statistics concerning the membership of the Church :—

Number on the Roll December 31st, 1875.....	232
Received during the year :—	
By letter	4
By profession.....	16
	— 20
Removed during the year :—	
By death	1
By letter to other Churches.....	15
Dropped from the Roll.....	2
Excommunicated	2
	— 20
Present number of members	232
Of this number there are :	
Males	91
Females	141
	— 232
Total number received since the organization of the Church, November 23rd, 1834.....	1,061
Total number removed.....	829
	— 232

The only member who has died during the past year was Mrs. James Strathern, one who was deservedly held in high esteem by those who knew her. Of those who were dismissed by letter, six were added to the thirty who were previously dismissed to form the Western Congregational Church, and four united with others, principally from the Northern Church, to form the Yorkville Congregational Church. Of those received into the Church, eight were connected with the Sunday-school, five in the Bible Class, and three from other classes.

During the year I have been enabled to preach 96 sermons, attend 13 funerals, celebrate 12 marriages, baptise 19 children, attend 180 other meetings, and make 729 pastoral visits, which gives a total of 1,049 engagements, or an average of 20 per week. Mrs. Lillie, as Church Visitor, has also made 1,041 visits, an average of 20 per week, and distributed 4,880 tracts. In addition to the ordinary services rendered by members of the Church, several, especially among the young men, have established a Sunday evening preaching service, as well as a morning Sunday-school, at Don Mount, which they have prosecuted with much energy and enthusiasm.

I have not, on account of the pressure of other duties, given the same attention to the Bible Class on the Sunday afternoon as during the previous year, however Mr. Higgins, who has been one of its most active members since its first establishment, has kindly supplied my place whenever I have been absent, and during the latter half of the year has had almost the sole charge. While I greatly miss the pleasures of these meetings, and set a very high value on the importance of the work, I rejoice that my place is so well filled, and that the interest and attendance is so thoroughly sustained. In this connection I would say that the Church cannot overvalue the self-denying and pains-taking services of the officers and teachers of the Sunday-school, or too generously sustain in every way their efforts in bringing the young generation to Christ and into the Church.

The assistance which this Church has given to our brethren of the Western Church, has done much to crown with success their efforts in establishing a new Congregational Church in the city. I need not say that this is fully appreciated by the members of the Western Church. Their pastor writes :—"Personally I feel deeply grateful for the many kind words, and generous gifts, and hearty encouragement I have received from you and your Church. You have been a strength to me and my Church, and I will ever pray that God will most abundantly bless you, and those with you, with *all* spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus. Your Church has most fully fulfilled Isaiah xli, 6: 'They helped every one his neighbour; and every one said to his brother, Be of good courage.'"

Through the agency of the Benevolent Fund you have been enabled to lend a helping hand to our Missionary Society and other denominational enterprises. It has been a matter of great satisfaction that in several of the missionary fields gracious and wide-spread revivals have arisen, and we are thankful that, through the means of our material aid, we have been partakers in the great work. Though the Church was not enabled to make any grant during the past year, as on the previous year, to Foreign Missions, for the support of aged Ministers, and for the widows and orphans of deceased Ministers, it is to be hoped that with the return of greater prosperity to the country we may not only be able to resume these grants, but also enlarge our gifts to God through these instrumentalities.

On the 2nd November last we united, with the other Congregational Churches in the city, in holding a thanksgiving service in the Northern Church. The collection, which amounted to thirty dollars, was devoted to the work of Superintending Missions. On the 26th of December, the Rev. J. G. Manly, formerly pastor of this Church, delivered a lecture to us on "The Prophetic and Practical Aspects of Romanism," when a collection of \$13.47 was made for the French Canadian Missionary Society.

It is occasion for thankfulness to us all that our dear "mother in Israel," Mrs. (Rev.) John Roaf, is still spared to be one with us, and it

is our earnest prayer that after her long and active services in connection with this Church, the evening of her days may be prolonged and made very happy.

Finally, my brethren, earnestly thanking you for your kind co-operation and prayers, together with the many expressions of affection you have shown to me and mine, I would say, "Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

SAMUEL N. JACKSON,
Pastor.

DEACONS' REPORT.

The Deacons have had little beyond ordinary routine duties to transact during the year 1876. The temporal affairs of the Church have moved on, generally speaking, in a satisfactory manner. Notwithstanding that times have been hard and business dull, the members have most nobly sustained their contributions to the General Finances, as well as to the Benevolent Fund; but although the Deacons have used the utmost economy in their outlay, they regret to say that the expenditure has exceeded the income by about \$230. This is not a large amount, and they trust they may soon, by the increased liberality of the members, be enabled to liquidate it, so that the Church may be free from debt. The reason of the deficiency can be easily understood, when it is taken into account that through the removal of subscribers they have lost \$650 from the proceeds of weekly offerings. As a set-off against this, however, there have been new subscriptions received amounting to \$150.

In the month of April last, a project for the purchase of a portion of the property on Grosvenor Street formerly occupied by Knox College, with a view to ultimately erecting a Church building thereon, was brought before the Church. After a full discussion, it was decided that for various reasons it would not be advisable to take such a step. Under these circumstances, the Deacons suggest the consideration of the expediency of making certain repairs and improvements to the present edifice, in order to render it more convenient than it is at present, especially with respect to accommodation for the Sunday School, and for the week evening services.

The Deacons were much pleased at the liberal assistance given by the members towards the Building Fund of the Western Congregational Church, amounting to about \$650, and also at the presentation to them, principally by the young people, of a handsome organ, worth \$210. Of course the members of Zion Church are warmly interested in the prosperity of their western brethren, of whom so many were formerly united with them in Church fellowship.

The Deacons express their great satisfaction at the establishment of a Congregational Church in Yorkville, although by the event, Zion Church

lost some highly esteemed members, who, in consequence of their living in the northern locality, were transferred from them to the Yorkville Church. They are, however, highly gratified to find that, although several of the members reside in distant parts of the City, yet they prefer to continue their old Church relations, thus evincing their strong attachment to Zion Church, with which most of them have been in connection for many years.

The Deacons desire to state that during the year they received valuable assistance from the Finance Committee appointed by the Church to assist them in pecuniary matters.

The Organist lately called the attention of the Deacons to the fact that the organ required to have some repairs done to it. They have made enquiries as to the probable cost of these repairs, and find they will amount to about \$80. They have included this item in the Statement as to the \$230 debt of the Church.

The Deacons are devoutly thankful to God for all the blessings vouchsafed by Him to the Church during the past year, and for all He has enabled the members to accomplish in His service.

DAVID HIGGINS,

Secretary to the Diaconate.

REPORT OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Another year of our Sunday School life has passed away, and in reviewing its labours and opportunities we desire to remember with gratitude the many mercies extended to its teachers and scholars by Him in whose service they have been engaged. Though the outward manifestations of His presence have not been seen as in some former years, which has caused at times a measure of depression, yet we may not doubt that where God's word has been taught in humility and faith, it shall not return unto Him void.

Our Sunday afternoon sessions have been held without interruption, and the quarter's lessons have been reviewed either by the teachers in their classes or by the Superintendent from the desk. In addition to these, there has been held a Teachers' Prayer Meeting on the last Sunday of each month, which has been well attended by the teachers, some scholars frequently remaining. At one of these our esteemed friend Mrs. Clapp, the teacher of our Infant Class, and Mr. Geo. Pim, teacher of the Young Men's Class, gave us some deeply interesting accounts of Schools which they had visited in the neighbouring States (the former during a trip to the Centennial).

Several of our teachers have united to form a Missionary Sunday School, which they hold on Sunday morning at Don Mount; concerning it they report six teachers and forty-five scholars on the roll, with an average

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attendance of thirty-five. The Sunday School teachers during the first half of the year inaugurated a movement for the purchase of an organ to be presented to the new Church and School established in the western part of the city, the members of the Young People's Association agreeing to meet one-half of the cost. The result is that an organ has been bought, the catalogue price of which was \$210.00, and is now in use by the Western Church. The teachers and scholars have already paid their proportion of the expense.

During the past year fifty dollars have been expended on the Library, which has given us an addition of two hundred volumes. During Mrs. Clapp's absence in the summer, Miss Ashdown took charge of the Infant Class, and several members of the Bible Class have given assistance in teaching during the year as occasion has required.

The annual festival of the School was held on the 13th of last January, when the lecture room was crowded with the children, their parents and friends; as usual, the prizes were distributed among the scholars. On the 22nd of August the annual Pic-nic was observed, on which occasion the teachers and scholars belonging to the morning school held at the Don Mount were invited to join us; a steamboat was secured, and all proceeded to pleasant grounds near the Humber Bay, where a day of great enjoyment was spent. The annual sermons usually preached during the month of December, owing to unforeseen circumstances, were deferred until the beginning of the new year, and arrangements have been made to hold these services on January 21st, the pulpit to be occupied in the morning by the Rev. J. B. Silcox, and in the evening by the Rev. David Mitchell.

Our course of lessons, we need scarcely observe, has been, as heretofore, the International Series. Those of the first quarter embraced II Samuel chapters xv-xxii. Those of the second and the fourth quarters, the Book of Acts, chapters i-xii; and the third quarter, portions of Chronicles, Kings, Proverbs and Esther. These lessons have been studied with diligence by both teachers and scholars. In addition to the usual exercises, four essays were written on the Lives of Solomon and David, by Annie Lownsbrough, Jessie C. Ashdown, John Dawkins, and Geo. R. Copping; for which prizes will be awarded at our next annual festival.

There are at present in our School nineteen classes, eight boys' classes and nine girls' classes, with the Pastor's Bible Class and the Infant Class; these show two hundred and six on the roll, with an average attendance during the year of one hundred and twenty. Among our teachers there have been some changes, Mrs. Elliot and Miss Hamilton have relinquished their classes, which are now taught by Miss Alderdice and Miss E. J. Richardson. Miss Smith having joined the Western Church, is now a teacher in its Sabbath School. Messrs. J. Pim, C. A. Kelly, and George Strathern have also relinquished teaching for the present.

The officers for the past year were—President, the Pastor; Superintendent, W. C. Ashdown; Secretary, Mr. White; Treasurer, Mr. J. Lownsbrough; Librarian, Mr. Stibbs; Assistant Librarian, Mr. Loane; and

Chorister and Organist, Mr. Snell. Our Treasurer's account will exhibit the state of our finances.

In submitting the foregoing report, we may observe that among the improvements necessary to a more effective prosecution of our work, is a teachers' training class, an improved school-room and a better method of conducting the general business of our School. To meet the latter want, it has been thought that a small managing committee would be well suited, which plan is now before our teachers for their consideration, and if adopted will leave the usual monthly business meeting open for the more effective supervision of the attendance of both teachers and scholars, and the consideration of subjects relating exclusively to the work of teaching.

On behalf of the Officers and Teachers,

W. C. ASHDOWN,

Superintendent.

THE BENEVOLENT FUND.

In presenting his Second Annual Report, it is gratifying to your Treasurer to state that, notwithstanding the great depression in trade that has prevailed during the year, and which has been felt more or less by all classes, the subscriptions to this fund, while affected by this and also by removals and continued withdrawals to join the Western Church, amount in the aggregate to a very handsome sum,—as will be shown by the financial statement. The sum of \$717.40 has been received from regular and occasional subscribers, \$17 from anonymous sources, and \$42.50 from the Young People's Association, being net proceeds of an entertainment given in aid of this fund, which with the balance from last year of \$79.25 gave a total of \$853.15 for distribution this year. Appropriations have been made and paid amounting to \$841, leaving a balance of \$12.15 at the credit of the fund.

Believing it is made more manifest, by the working of the scheme through a second year, that this is the correct system for raising funds, your Treasurer would, therefore, urge its more general adoption by all who are desirous of contributing to the support of our denominational institutions and Church objects. The list now comprises 72 subscribers, in sums varying from 10 cents per month or \$1.20 per year, to \$6.25 per month or \$75 per year. It is to be hoped that not only the present subscribers will continue in well-doing, but that many who have not as yet contributed, will see their way clearly so to do.

It may not be out of place to repeat what was stated at the time of the adoption of the scheme, viz., that subscribers may, if they choose, designate the objects to which they desire their subscriptions should

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be applied, otherwise they are apportioned by vote of the Church. It should not be lost sight of that this is the only means of assisting any of these objects, unless there be personal application or direct subscription to the different societies.

Respectfully submitted,

THOS. LOWNSBROUGH,

Secretary-Treasurer.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION REPORT.

In presenting the Annual Report of Zion Church Young People's Association, the Secretary does so with feelings of pride that it has arisen to and now stands in such a flourishing condition. The year just passed has been in every respect the most successful, entertaining, and instructive of any since its organization.

During the year the membership has increased from fifty-four to one hundred and fifteen, being an increase of sixty-one. There have been seventeen public and eight business meetings, two socials, and four lectures which, with one exception, have been decided successes. This gives a total of twenty-seven meetings. The average attendance at the fortnightly public meetings has been about one hundred.

In its financial affairs the Association has during the year just passed been very successful, the receipts amounting to \$300.00 of which \$57.50 were devoted to direct Church objects. The members of the Association have also pledged one-half the cost of a new Organ which they, with the teachers and scholars of the Sunday School have presented to the Western Congregational Church.

Altogether the Association has been very prosperous, which is principally owing to the untiring perseverance and energy of the officers. It is becoming of more and more benefit to the Church, and should have the utmost confidence and support of the members of the Church and Congregation. The members of the Association should not only feel grateful for the past but also more encouragement for the future.

Respectfully submitted,

H. C. HAMILTON,

Secretary.

FINANCIAL REPORTS.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

To Balance in hand, 1st January, 1876		\$ 3 69
" Collections, March Quarter	602 33	
" " June Quarter	544 73	
" " September Quarter	508 44	
" " December Quarter	641 20	
	<hr/>	2,296 70
" Return of Delegates' Expenses	10 85	
" Donation from Young People's Association	15 00	
" Subscriptions to Clifford Congregational Church	10 00	
" " Welland Canal Mission	16 35	
" " Superintendent of Missions, Rev. J. Wood	30 00	
" " Western Congregational Church	531 50	
" " Stock Congregational Publishing Company	120 00	
" Special Collections and Sales of Tune Books in aid of Singing Class	14 80	
" " for Hymn Books for Visitors	8 20	
" " at Social Meetings	60 00	
		<hr/>
		\$3,117 09

Cr.

By paid Pastor during the year	\$1,600 00	
" Pulpit supplies	20 00	
" Organist	185 00	
" Sexton	156 00	
" Music Expenses	31 00	
" Fuel	18 50	
" Fire Insurance	40 00	
" Repairs	19 98	
" Singing Class	40 00	
" Printing	64 00	
" Sundries	39 11	
" Gas	116 25	
" Subscription to Clifford Congregational Church	10 00	
" " Welland Canal Mission	16 35	
" " Supt. Missions—Rev. J. Wood	30 00	
" " Western Congregational Church	531 50	
" " Stock Congregational Publishing Co.	120 00	
" for Hymn Books for Visitors	8 20	
" for Expenses at Social Meetings	60 00	
	<hr/>	\$3,105 89
To Balance in Treasurer's Hands, 31st December, 1876.		\$11 20

JOHN WICKSON,
Treasurer.

Audited and found correct.

GEORGE PIM,
Auditor.

STATEMENT OF LIABILITIES AND ASSETS ON THE

31ST DECEMBER, 1876.

To Gas	-\$30 00
" Covering porch	30 00
" Organist	100 00
" Coal	52 00
" Advertisements	25 00
" Sundries	52 00
" Repairs for Organ—say	80 00
	<u>\$369 00</u>

Cr.

By Balance in Treasurer's hands, 31st December, 1876	11 20
" Arrears of Subscriptions	125 00
	<u>136 20</u>
To amount due by Zion Church, 31st December, 1876*	\$232 80

JOHN WICKSON,
Treasurer.

FELLOWSHIP FUND.

To Balance from 31st December, 1875	4 25
" Sundry Collections during the year	142 65
	<u>\$146 90</u>

Cr.

By paid expenses at Communion Table	\$ 12 00
" Donations to sundry persons	135 86
	<u>\$147 86</u>
To amount due Treasurer 31st December, 1876	\$0 96

JOHN WIGHTMAN,
Treasurer.

BENEVOLENT FUND.

Dr.

To Balance from December 31st, 1875	\$ 79 25
" amount from Miss Smith, Collector District No. 3†	4 65
" do Mrs. Lewis do do No. 4	78 50
" do Miss Cox do do No. 5	22 50
" do Miss Elliot do do No. 6	113 00
" do Mrs. Bolton do do No. 8†	2 50
" do Mrs. Higgins do do No. 9	131 90
" do Mrs. Nasmith do do No. 10	76 00
" do Miss Howell do do No. 11	18 60
" do Young People's Association	42 50
" do received by Treasurer from Subscribers	269 75
" do do do anonymous sources	14 00
	<u>\$853 15</u>

* This amount was subscribed at the Annual Meeting, leaving the Church free from debt in any form.

† The bulk of the subscriptions in these Districts was paid direct to the Treasurer.

Cr.

By paid Donation	Can. Congregational Missionary Society.....	\$300 00	
" do	Congregational Union.....	30 00	
" do	Western Congregational Church.....	100 00	
" do	Congregational College.....	101 00	
" do	Sunday School.....	100 00	
" do	for Year Books.....	10 00	
" do	Church Visitor.....	200 00	
			\$841 00
"	Balance in Treasurer's hands December 31st, 1876.....		\$12 15

THOS. LOWNSBROUGH.

Secy.-Treas.

Audited and found Correct.

GEORGE PIM,
Auditor.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

To Balance from December 31st, 1875	\$135 98	
" Interest on Balance	3 15	
" Sunday Collections	80 51	
" Cash for pic-nic tickets.....	3 67	
" Grant from Benevolent Fund.....	100 00	
		\$323 31

Cr.

By Expenses of Festival	\$ 38 06	
" Grant to Don Mount Mission School	25 00	
" Expenses of Pic-nic	83 00	
" Grant to Sunday School Association	10 00	
" Balance on Strawberry Festival	2 12	
" Scholars Grant towards Organ for Western Church	20 00	
" Delegate's Expenses to Sunday School Association	5 00	
" Grant to a destitute Boy.....	5 00	
" Printing Anniversary Hymns	5 00	
" Books and Papers.....	69 02	
		\$262 20
Balance in hand, December 31st, 1876.....		\$61 11

THOS. LOWNSBROUGH.

Treasurer.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION.

To balance in hand January 1st, 1876	\$ 0 14	
" Musical and literary entertainment	50 10	
" Lecture on "Cardinal Wolsey," by T. W. Handford	43 35	
" Lecture on "Social Talkers," by Rev. J. Smith	15 90	
" Social and musical and literary entertainment	43 25	
" Lecture on "Martin Luther," by T. W. Handford.....	45 30	
" Lecture by Rev. J. F. Stevenson, LL. B., on "Spiritualism."	16 75	
" Christmas Reading, by T. W. Handford.....	30 25	
" Sundry subscriptions	18 25	
" Collections at meetings	6 85	
" Members' fees	30 00	
		\$300 14

Cr.

By musical and literary entertainment	\$7 60	
" Treasurer of Benevolent Fund	42 50	
" Expenses of lecture on "Cardinal Wolsey," by T. W. Handford.	18 07	
" T. W. Handford, per vote for lecture	20 00	
" Expenses of lecture by Rev. J. Smith	5 82	
" Expenses of social and musical and literary entertainment ..	29 10	
" Expenses of entertainments of members	4 14	
" Expenses of lecture by T. W. Handford (Martin Luther)....	11 95	
" Fee to T. W. Handford for lecture, do	15 00	
" Treasurer of Zion Church	15 00	
" Mechanics' Institute tickets	9 00	
" Hire of piano	39 84	
" Stationery and postage	4 30	
" Printing and advertising	13 85	
" Sexton	5 50	
" Grant to Mr. R. J. Smith (Coloured Student)	3 25	
" Expenses of lecture on "Spiritualism," by Rev. J. F. Stevenson, L.L.B.	13 20	
" Rev. J. F. Stevenson, L.L.B., fee for lecture	10 00	
" Expenses of Christmas Reading	21 10	
" Fee to T. W. H. for do	4 50	
" Balance in hand 31st December, 1876	6 42	
		\$300 14

ETTIE A. ASHDOWN,
Treasurer.

GENERAL STATEMENT OF MONEYS COLLECTED FOR THE YEAR.

CHURCH OBJECTS :

Weekly Contributions	\$2,296 70	
Fellowship Fund	142 65	
Sunday School	187 33	
Church Visitor	200 00	
Young People's Association	300 00	
Year Book and sundry objects	152 85	
Presentations	100 00	
		\$3,379 53

DENOMINATIONAL OBJECTS :

Canada Congregational Missionary Society	\$300 00	
Congregational College	101 00	
Western Congregational Church	831 60	
Congregational Publishing Company	120 00	
Congregational Union	30 00	
General Missionary Agent	30 00	
Congregational Indian Missionary Society	25 00	
Clifford Congregational Church	10 00	
		\$1,447 60

CATHOLIC OBJECTS :

French Canadian Missionary Society	\$ 25 00	
Welland Canal Mission	16 35	
Toronto W. C. A. Bazaar	100 00	
Other Religious Societies	150 00	
General Charities	250 00	
		\$541 35

\$5,368 48

W. FREELAND,
Church Secretary.

CHURCH SITTINGS AND FINANCES.

I.

The seats are free, not sold or rented, but are allotted for family convenience and to preserve order. Sittings can be obtained by applying to the deacons.

II.

All the revenues of the Church are derived from the weekly voluntary offerings of the members of the Church and congregation.

III.

The scriptural principle that every one should give as the Lord has prospered him, we seek to inculcate and practise, believing it to be the best in every way; and we are confident that if this duty and privilege were generally adopted there would be no deficiency in the treasury of the Lord.

IV.

It being necessary that the officers of the Church should know the approximate amount of the annual income, and have some guarantee therefor in order that they may intelligently and safely prosecute their work, they request those occupying seats to state definitely the amount they desire to give per week throughout the year.

V.

To facilitate this system, blank forms are sent to all to be filled up, printed envelopes are furnished for the weekly contribution, a correct account of the receipts is kept, and when, through absence or otherwise, the amount pledged falls in arrear, a quarterly statement is furnished to the subscriber by the treasurer.

VI.

It may be stated for the information of new subscribers, that the amounts promised by nearly all those who are now on the list vary from two dollars to twenty-five cents per week.

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."—I. Cor. xvi. 2.

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver."—II. Cor. ix. 6, 7.

"Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive."—Acts xx. 35.

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THE BENEVOLENT FUND.

I.

Monthly subscriptions are made by the Church and Congregation for the support of the following objects : The Canada Congregational Missionary Society ; the Congregational College ; the Provident Fund Society ; the Congregational Union ; Foreign Missions ; the Church Visitor's Fund ; the Sunday School, and the Ladies' Aid Society.

II.

The monthly subscriptions go into a general fund entrusted to a Secretary-Treasurer, out of which fund annual appropriations are made for the above objects in proportion to their claims and our resources.

III.

As this scheme embraces the above objects, which list may be altered from time to time, as revision requires, no other collections are made for the same purposes.

IV.

The Secretary-Treasurer of the Fund presents a report to the Church, from time to time as required, and a general report at the annual meeting of the Church and congregation.

V.

This scheme does not include such Societies as have special collecting agencies of their own, as the French Canadian and Indian Missions, the City Charities, &c. ; neither does it prevent the Church from entering upon any other financial enterprise, either by special collections or subscriptions, save with regard to the objects mentioned in section I.

VI.

In order to secure the efficient working of this plan, the following arrangements are adopted :—

1. The City is divided into ten or more districts, according to the places of business or residence of the members of the congregation.
2. A gentleman is appointed to canvass in, and take charge of each district, and his duty is to see the members of the congregation therein residing, and ascertain what each will subscribe monthly for these objects, such visit to be renewed at least once a year.
3. A lady is appointed to each district to act as collector therein, who calls upon the subscribers every month for the amounts promised.
4. The sums collected are paid in by the collectors to the Secretary-Treasurer on the Wednesday evening preceding the first Sunday of every month, he being present in the vestry to receive the same.
5. The members of the Church Committee have a general oversight of this department of Church work.

HISTORICAL DATES.

- 1834, Nov. 23 Church organized by Rev. Wm. Merrefield.
 " " — Sunday School organized.
 1836, Sept. 19 Rev. Wm. Merrefield resigned the pastorate.
 1837, Jan. 23 Rev. Wm. Merrefield died in England.
 " July 23 Removed from the Masonic Hall to George Street.
 " Oct. — Rev. John Roaf began to supply the pulpit.
 1838, March 29 Rev. John Roaf accepted the pastorate.
 1839, Aug. 8 Corner Stone of the first Congregational Church laid.
 1840, Jan. 1 Church removed from George Street to its present site.
 1842, ——— Infant class organized in the Sunday School.
 1843, ——— Year of Revival ; 104 members added to the Church.
 1844, Jan. 1 Ceased to receive aid from the Col. Mis. Soc.
 1846, ——— Adopted system of weekly voluntary contributions.
 1849, April 3 Twenty-five members formed the Bond Street Church.
 1855, Jan. 1 The first organ purchased and put up.
 " June 25 Rev. John Roaf resigned the pastorate.
 " Feb. 26 The first church building destroyed by fire.
 " Aug. 1 The Corner Stone of the present building laid.
 " Dec. — Rev. T. S. Ellerby began to supply the pulpit.
 1856, May 29 Rev. T. S. Ellerby accepted the pastorate.
 " Sept. 26 The present Church building dedicated.
 1857, May 12 Mr. W. C. Ashdown elected deacon.
 1862, Sept. 2 Rev. John Roaf died.
 1863, Dec. 2 Mr. John Wightman elected deacon.
 1865, April 12 The spire of the Church blown down.
 1866, March 28 Rev. T. S. Ellerby resigned the pastorate.
 " May 30 Rev. J. G. Manly succeeded to the pastorate.
 " Oct. 3 Mr. John Wickson elected deacon.
 " " 31 Mr. William Freeland appointed Secretary.
 1867, ——— The Church debt of \$2,000 liquidated.
 1868, Jan. 3 Twenty-eight members formed the Northern Church.
 " July 22 Mr. W. C. Ashdown appointed S. S. Superintendent.
 " Dec. 21 Zion Literary Society organized.
 1869, Dec. 29 Messrs. Higgins, Smith and Hine elected deacons.
 1870, Dec. 1 Rev. J. G. Manly resigned the pastorate.
 1871, June 1 Rev. S. N. Jackson, M.D., became the pastor.
 " Dec. — Church repainted and refurnished.
 1872, Oct. 29 Zion Literary Society reorganized as the Z. C. Y. P. A.
 " ——— Instituted the Annual Meeting of church and congregation.
 " ——— Began the publication of the Church Reports.
 1873, Oct. 1 Mrs. Lillie appointed Church Visitor.
 1875, March 3 Messrs. Nasmith and Freeland elected deacons.
 " March 31 Benevolent Fund inaugurated.
 " Nov. 24 Thirty members dismissed to form the Western Church.
 " ——— Floating debt of \$500 extinguished.
 1876, March 1 Four members dismissed to help form the Yorkville Church.
 " ——— Subscribed for the Western Church \$834 60.