

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
KIRK SESSION,
AND
COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT
OF
ST. JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
WILLIS STREET, WELLINGTON,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1889.



Wellington:
LYON AND BLAIR, PRINTERS, LAMBTON QUAY.
—
1890.

Witch Session.

Moderator :

Rev. JAMES PATERSON.

Elders :

J. G. W. AITKEN
WILLIAM ALLAN
A. BARRON
FRANCIS H. FRASER
W. T. GLASGOW
ALEXANDER HOPKIRK
ROBERT HOPKIRK
WILLIAM HOPKIRK
W. LITTLEJOHN

J. R. MACDONALD
T. W. MCKENZIE
JAMES MCKERROW
WILLIAM SIMM
JAMES SLOAN
JAMES SMITH
WILLIAM WADDELL
JAMES WILSON
JOHN YOUNG.

Members of Committee of Management for 1890 :

J. R. BLAIR
JOHN BROWN
WILLIAM CABLE
T. M. GRANT
D. S. GRAY
ROBERT HANNAH
J. KIRKCALDIE
JOSEPH MACKAY

ALEX. MACDOUGALL
F. MASON
ALEXANDER MURRAY
J. H. POPE
D. PRYDE
GEORGE TROUP
GEORGE WILSON.

J. G. W. AITKEN,
TREASURER.

T. M. GRANT,
SECRETARY.

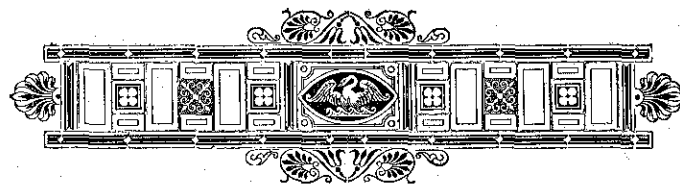
ELDERS' DISTRICTS.

- No. 1.—Kaiwarra, Crofton, and Wadestown.
Mr. W. LITTLEJOHN, Elder.
- 2.—Vogeltown, Karori, Tinakori Road (South West end).
Mr. ROBERT HOPKIRK, Elder.
- 3.—Thorndon, from Town Belt to Hill Street.
Mr. A. BARRON, Elder.
- 4.—From Sydney Street to Woodward Street, and Harbour to Town Belt.
Mr. W. WADDELL, Elder.
- 5.—From Woodward Street to Boulcott Street, and Harbour to Town Belt.
Mr. JAMES SMITH, Elder.
- 6.—From Boulcott Street to Ghuznee Street (North side), and Willis Street to Town Belt.
Mr. JAMES MCKERROW, Elder.
- 7.—From Ghuznee Street (South side) to Abel Smith Street, and Willis Street (West side) to Town Belt.
Mr. W. T. GLASGOW, Elder.
- 8.—From Abel Smith Street to top of Thomson Street, and Polhill Gully to Cuba Street.
Mr. JAMES SLOAN, Elder.
- 9.—Manners Street, Dixon Street, West of Willis Street, and Taranaki Place.
Mr. F. H. FRASER, Elder.
- 10.—From Ghuznee Street to Ingestre Street, and Willis Street to Cuba Street.
Mr. JOHN YOUNG, Elder.
- 11.—Ghuznee Street (East of Cuba Street,) and Cuba Street (East side), and Taranaki Street (West side) to Webb Street.
Mr. T. MCKENZIE, Elder.
- 12.—Hopper Street (and streets off) to Bidwell Street, and Wright Street and Taranaki Street to Webb Street; Barracks Street, Banks Terrace, and Tasman Street.
Mr. WILLIAM SIMM, Elder.
- 13.—Tory Street and Taranaki Street, from Barracks Street to Courtenay Place.
Mr. WILLIAM ALLAN, Elder.
- 14.—Courtenay Place to Newtown, Tory Street (East side) to Cambridge Terrace.
Mr. JAMES WILSON, Elder.
- 15.—Oriental Bay to Majoribanks Street (North Side).
Mr. WILLIAM HOPKIRK, Elder.
- 16.—Majoribanks Street (South side) to Elizabeth Street, and Kent Terrace to Town Belt.
Mr. J. R. MACDONALD, Elder.
- 17.—Elizabeth Street to College Street, and Kent Terrace to Town Belt
Mr. J. G. W. AITKEN, Elder.

St. John's Church.

STATED MEETINGS.

- 1.—Divine Service on Sabbath Morning at 11 a.m.; Evening at 6.30. On Wednesday Evenings at 7.30.
 - 2.—Communion on second Sunday of January, and on first Sunday of each quarter following.
 - 3.—Fellowship Meeting in Class-room, on Sabbath Morning, from 10 to 10.45 a.m.
 - 4.—Choir Practice on Wednesday Evenings, after Divine Service.
 - 5.—Children's Music Class on Wednesday Evenings, in School-room, from 6.30 to 7.30.
 - 6.—Literary Society, Tuesday Evenings at 7.30 p.m. Resuming in March.
 - 7.—Ladies' Visiting and Dorcas Society, first and third Tuesdays of each month.
 - 8.—Minister's Bible Class, Thursday Evenings at 7.30 p.m. Resuming in April.
 - 9.—Band of Hope, Friday Evenings, from 7 to 8.
 - 10.—Teachers' Meeting for Study of Lesson, and Business, Friday Evenings at 8 o'clock.
 - 11.—Monthly Prayer Meeting of Teachers and others, after Evening Service, first Sunday of each month.
 - 12.—Sabbath Morning Children's Service, Mount Cook School, at 11 a.m.
- Sabbath Schools meet in Willis Street and Mount Cook at 2.30 p.m.



THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Kirk Session and Committee of Management

TO THE

MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS

OF

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Wellington,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1889.

THE Office-bearers and Committee of Management have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report. There is nothing of an exceptional character on which they have specially to remark. The numbers and resources of the Congregation are about the same as last year. There have been the usual changes: some leaving, some joining; the numbers about equal. At the end of the year there were on the Communion Roll 416. Number disjoined during 1889: By death, 4; by certificate and otherwise, 41; total disjunctions, 45. Numbers added: By examination, 14; by certificate, 44; total, 58. Of the four removed by death, one, Mr. John Young, was a member of the Committee of Management; a man of great intelligence and worth, and very loyal to the Church. His death at the end of the year threw a gloom upon us all, and evoked deep sympathy for his bereaved widow and family. It is to be regretted that the number of those joining the Church for the first time is so small. This is a regret felt and expressed in other Churches besides our own. It would be cheering to all true lovers of Christ to see more coming forward to confess His name and to enter into the fellowship of His Church.

The Congregation suffered loss during the year by the removal of several esteemed and attached families to other parts of the Colony, and of one who went to reside in Melbourne.

We refer to the family of Mr. Dawson, who had for the past fourteen years been connected with us. Before leaving, Mr. Dawson presented to the Church a handsome clock, and had it put up in the front of the gallery. This has met a felt want in the equipment of the Church, and it forms a pleasant memento of our esteemed friends, who for so many years were associated with us in Church fellowship.

It would be encouraging to the Minister and Office-bearers, and to all who seek the prosperity of the Church, to see a larger attendance on all occasions at the services of Divine worship. The attendance is good, but it might be better. It is wonderfully cheering to see a full church; and in the interest of the worshippers themselves it is of the utmost importance that they be regular in their attendance. Regularity of attendance forms the habit and deepens the interest in the services of the Church. What we have said applies to the Week Evening Services as well as to the Sunday Services.

Under the leadership of Mr. England, the Choir have been very helpful in sustaining the service of praise in the sanctuary. It is most desirable that this department of our worship should be as beautiful and hearty and in every way efficient as it is possible to make it. No pains should be spared on the part of the Congregation to accomplish this end, and it should be felt to be the duty and privilege of all who can assist, to come forward and do so. The praise of the sanctuary should, above all things, be hearty and sincere; but it should also be tasteful and beautiful. He who has given to all in more or less degree the gift of music, requires that we cultivate it, and consecrate it to Him. We are to "worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."

The Church is much indebted to Mr. Wm. Hopkirk for the great service he has rendered in training the young people in sacred music. He had a very successful class again this year, and wound up the session with a Carol Service at Christmas, held in the Church, and which was very highly appreciated by a large audience. Mr. Hopkirk's labours in this, as in other departments of our Church work, deserves the hearty thanks of the Congregation.

The Minister's Bible Class, conducted on Thursday evenings from April to December, was well attended, there being 41 on the roll, and an average attendance of about 30. In addition to this class, Senior Bible Classes are taught on Sundays by Mr. Aitken at the Mount Cook School, and by Mr. Troup and Mrs. Lennox at the Willis Street School. The great object of these classes is to get hold of the young people of more advanced age, to keep them under Bible instruction, and under the influences of the Church; and to train them up to become future workers in the service of the Church.

It was felt that something more should be done to get hold of the young men connected with the Church, to bring them together for Christian fellowship, and to give them facilities for mutual help and stimulus in the study of the Bible, and in moral and religious culture. With this view, invitations were issued to a Social Gathering in the School-room, which was largely attended; and the result was the formation of the St. John's Christian Fellowship Association, which meets on Sabbath mornings in the Class-room adjoining the Church, from 10 to 10.45 a.m. On Sabbath morning the 14th July, the Association held its first meeting. It has since continued meeting regularly, with an average attendance of 26 members, there being 50 on the roll. The subject of study has been the life of Christ, as given in the Gospel of Mark.

The Literary Society, which holds its meetings on Tuesday evenings, has had a more or less vigorous existence during its session from March to November, and some spirited debates were held and essays read and criticised by the members. It is hoped that when the Society resumes its meetings it will be with large accession of numbers and with renewed vitality.

The Ladies' Visiting and Dorcas Society has been in full operation during the year, and has been the means of doing much good in a quiet and unostentatious way, and of helping needy and deserving ones who, unless sought out by Christian kindness and sympathy, would not be forward to make their own wants known.

On Sabbath evenings, in the Mount Cook School-room, an important Mission is conducted by Messrs. Aitken, Allan, and others, called the Lads' Mission School. Although this Mission is not formally connected with St. John's, yet it is mainly carried on by those who are members and Office-bearers of this Church, and it is but due to them that the importance of this work and their zealous labours in it should be recognised and appreciated. The object of the Mission is to gather in and place under religious instruction, and the best Christian influences, those who otherwise in regard to their higher interests would be utterly neglected. This truly Christian work deserves hearty sympathy and support.

The Sabbath School Report is so detailed and so complete that little need here be stated in regard to that important department of our Church work. Suffice it to say that the Congregation cannot but rejoice in the extent of that work, and the activity and success with which it is being carried on. To care for the religious instruction and training of the young is a duty laid upon the Church; and on the wise and faithful discharge of that duty is involved the real welfare of the Church. It is gratifying to find that there is a considerable increase both

in the numbers on the roll and the average attendance. Including the two Schools—Mount Cook and Willis Street—the number on the roll is 839, as against 797 for 1888; and the total average shews an advance of 89. The teachers number 65, with an average attendance of 55. In this good work the teachers desire and expect, and will no doubt receive, the sympathy, the prayers, and the generous support of the Congregation.

The Band of Hope should also not be forgotten; it is one of the largest, if not the largest, and most efficient in our Church, and it is certainly one of the most important organisations connected with the Church; its special object being to train the young in the principles of Temperance, and to form within them tastes and habits for what is pure, and righteous, and good.

The Anniversary Services were held on the third Sabbath of December, and were conducted by the Rev. William Grant, of New Plymouth. All were delighted to see and hear him again, and many, it is hoped, were impressed and edified by his earnest and effective ministrations. The collections amounted to over £50. A very successful Social Meeting, kindly promoted by the ladies, was held on the Tuesday evening following.

It is pleasing to find that the finances of the Church are on the whole in a satisfactory state, and will compare favourably with former years, and this despite removals and other drawbacks. The total amount raised for all purposes is £1,523 11s. 8d., or for ordinary revenue, and exclusive of special collections, £1,305. The two main sources of revenue are the Sunday collections and the seat rents, and on these there is a slight increase over last year; and the debit balance has been reduced by £50. There is still, however, the large debt of £4,000 on our Church property, and on which we are paying an annual interest of £240. This burden is too heavy. The drain upon our annual resources is too severe. It is hoped that this year an earnest effort will be made to reduce the debt. If the Congregation set themselves to do it, and all unite and work together in a hearty, earnest, generous spirit—with God's blessing on our efforts the object will be accomplished.

With deep thankfulness to God for all his goodness to us in the past; for all the mercy and blessing we have enjoyed; and looking up to Him, and trusting in Him for a continuance of His grace and kindness, let us go forward with brave heart and earnest spirit to whatever work or duty lies before us. "And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish Thou the work of our hands upon us: yea, the work of our hands establish Thou it."



ANNUAL REPORT OF ST. JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SABBATH SCHOOLS.

THE time has again come round, when in God's providence we are permitted to review another year's work, this being the twenty-second Report of Willis Street School and the eighteenth of Mount Cook School.

It becomes us, with heartfelt gratitude, to acknowledge the goodness of our Heavenly Father to us throughout the year which has gone, and with a deep sense of our weakness and unworthiness, anew to seek from Him, who is the fountain of mercy and the source of all strength, grace to enable us to continue faithful in His blessed service.

Attendance.—There has been a considerable increase in numbers this year, and we are glad to report a more than corresponding increase in the attendances: the number now on the rolls being 839, as against 797 for 1888, and the total average shewing an advance of 89 on last report. The present year, however, has had particularly few very wet days, but this will account only in a slight degree for the larger averages, for excluding those days in both cases we find the result still to the credit of this year. Our present totals are: Willis Street, 400; Mount Cook, 439; giving a grand total of 839, with a working average of 571. The highest attendance on any one Sabbath was: Willis Street, 276; and Mount Cook, 353. Following is a detailed statement:—

	SCHOLARS.			Average Attendance.	Average Attendance, excluding Wet Sundays.
	Girls.	Boys.	Total.		
Willis Street School ..	251	149	400	252	257
Mount Cook School ..	219	220	439	306	314
Totals ..	470	369	839	558	571

TEACHERS AND OFFICE-BEARERS.

	Ladies.	Gentlemen.	Monitresses.	Total.	Average Attendance.
Willis Street School ..	19	12	2	33	28
Mount Cook School ..	13	16	3	32	27
Totals ..	32	28	5	65	55

The numbers in both Senior and Infant Classes are higher than last year, and are as follows :—

SENIOR CLASSES.

	Girls.	Boys.	Total.
Willis Street School ..	18	24	42
Mount Cook School ..	9	17	26
Totals ..	27	41	68

INFANT CLASSES.

	Girls.	Boys.	Total.
Willis Street School ..	91	62	153
Mount Cook School ..	110	102	212
Totals ..	201	186	387

From a perusal of the foregoing figures we judge that our Schools are still centres of attraction, and we hope our teachers will more and more see to it that they continue such; and parents, too, can help us thus far, in insisting that their children are regular and punctual in their attendance.

Our teaching staff remains nearly the same as far as numbers, but it is a matter of much regret that there should be so many changes. Some classes hardly get settled to work with one teacher before a change is necessary, through the absence or removal of teachers. In order to lessen the effect of this on classes, we would impress on teachers the necessity of at once ascertaining the cause of absence of any scholar, and thus keeping a stricter oversight and at the same time showing their interest in them. We need not say that this can only be accomplished by visitation.

Children's Service.—The Children's Service in Mount Cook School has been continued throughout the year with much success; the average attendance being 103, as against 88 for 1888. The highest attendance was 135. We are much indebted to Mr. F. H. Fraser and Miss Jessie Hutchen for their work here; and we also wish to thank Miss McKerrow and Miss Lily Drummond for presiding so regularly and efficiently at the organ. The sum of £1 2s. 11d. was subscribed for the "Dayspring," and Missions, and will be duly applied to those objects.

Singing Class.—The Children's Singing Class was held as usual, under the leadership of Mr. William Hopkirk. The attendance was for the most part very good, and the behaviour

excellent. The work for the greater part of the session was the learning and practice of hymns from the School Hymnbook. The usual Carol Service was also held at Christmas, and attracted a large audience. The children fairly surpassed themselves, and everyone was delighted with their singing. A collection was taken, which realised £8 17s. 6d., but the expenses of music, printing, &c., totalled £10 9s., leaving a balance, £1 11s. 6d., to come from the School Funds.

We have again to tender to Miss Kirker our best thanks for her valuable services at the harmonium, both for Singing Class and Band of Hope Meetings.

Libraries.—The only addition to School Libraries this year was some 100 volumes, being the proceeds of donation mentioned in last Report, so generously given by Mr. R. T. Turnbull. As the scholars appreciate very highly their Library privileges, it remains with us to keep the shelves well filled, and an effort should therefore be made at an early date to secure further supplies for this important object.

Children's Treat.—The annual Treat was held at Petone, and, as the weather was favourable, a most enjoyable day was spent. We are glad to say that our large party reached home without the slightest mishap, all thoroughly satisfied with the pleasant outing.

Anniversary Services.—The Church Anniversary was celebrated on the 15th December, and, as usual, both Schools met in the Church, when an interesting and instructive address was given by the Rev. Wm. Grant, of New Plymouth. Special hymns were sung by the scholars, but for lack of united practice were not so successful as they might have been. They, however, lent an additional interest to the service, and we trust will be repeated on future occasions.

Teachers' Meetings.—The usual meetings of teachers have been held during the year. We regret to say that the attendance at the Friday evening meeting is still comparatively poor, and we also think many more of the teachers, as well as friends, might remain for the short time after Church service for the *Monthly Prayer Meeting*. Those who have attended can testify to the benefits received at these meetings, and we hope many more will seek to share in them.

Two *Social Meetings* were held, and proved very enjoyable, giving opportunity for social intercourse, the more necessary in our case where we have two Schools, the teachers of which do not as a rule meet together on the Sabbath.

The *Annual Picnic* turned out more successful than at first anticipated. Boxing Day morning opened wet and miserable,

but clearing a little, a start was made for Belmont, where after a few showers the day opened fine and sunny. The threatening morning no doubt prevented some of our number being present, but those who did go had a most enjoyable time. It was unanimously declared that a better place under the circumstances could not have been chosen.

Treasurer's Statement.—The Statement of Receipts and Disbursements shows the balance on the right side, but there are liabilities as shown which more than counterbalance. We have a few items, including an account for library cupboards, £5 15s., which will not recur; and we may therefore conclude that our usual income, with economy, will meet our expenses. We offered congratulations last year that the amount subscribed for "Dayspring" and Missions had been largely increased, and we have much pleasure in recording a further increase by over £6 for the present year. Willis Street School especially having contributed largely to these objects.

Band of Hope.—The membership of the Band of Hope, after purging the roll, remains the same as last year, for although we have added several girls we have lost as many boys, and the Register shows now,—

Girls.	Boys.	Total.
115	65	180

The average attendance has been slightly better, being 114 for the year. The highest attendance was 196.

We appeal to teachers and parents to help us in this work. We must not only hold our own, but make progress in the cause of Total Abstinence, if we are to succeed; and we must, we shall succeed. We have no right to be lukewarm where our children's interests are concerned, and we hope that one and all will see to it that a substantial increase to the membership is made in the coming year.

The Treasurer's Statement shows a balance in hand of £3 14s. 8d., after meeting all liability, and this without any outside aid. We would be glad, however, of a few voluntary donations to our funds, as our work is often cramped for lack of the needful.

Conclusion.—In closing our Report, we would encourage teachers to persevere, and cast into this work their whole strength and energy. No half-hearted efforts will do; yet we can also say no faithful work was ever lost. Work done for God cannot die; and though we see no fruit of our labours, for "one may sow and another reap," yet we shall all rejoice together in the grand "Harvest Home."

We feel our own weakness, but He whose servants we are can sanctify the humblest instruments: only let our faith be

stronger, our love more intense; only let us keep close to the Blessed Master who so loved the children, and success is certain. Remember, it is to those who labour that rest is sweet.

"And they that be wise [the teachers] shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

FRANCIS H. FRASER,
Superintendent, Willis Street School.

WM. ALLAN,
Superintendent, Mount Cook School.

WM. HOPKINS,
Hon. Secretary.
31st December, 1889.

