

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.

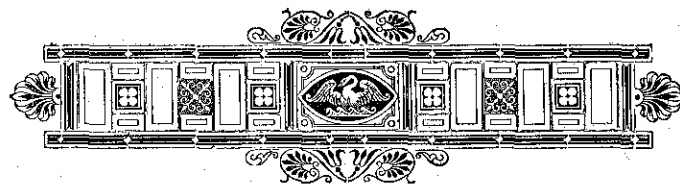
ELDERS' DISTRICTS.

- 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 Attend- ance, 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

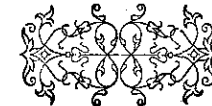
stronger, our love more intense; only let us keep close to the Blessed Master who so loved the children, and success is certain. Remember, it is to those who labour that rest is sweet.

"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.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH REVENUE ACCOUNT.

STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and DISBURSEMENTS for YEAR ending 31st DECEMBER, 1889.

| RECEIPTS. | | | DISBURSEMENTS. | | | |
|---|-----|-------|----------------|-------------|--|-----------|
| | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. | | |
| Collections for year 1889 | 711 | 16 2 | | | Balance at debit, 31st December, 1888 .. | 114 6 7 |
| Seat Rents | 501 | 8 0 | | | Rev. Mr. Paterson's Stipend, 1889 .. | 600 0 0 |
| Rent of House in Willis Street .. | 27 | 0 0 | | | Rev. Mr. Moir's Retiring Allowance, 1889 .. | 100 0 0 |
| Rent of School | 14 | 7 6 | | | Pulpit supply, per Rev. Mr. Finlay .. | 8 0 0 |
| Defaced Coin | 1 | 0 0 | | | Rev. W. Grant's Expenses at Anniversary .. | 6 10 0 |
| Gas Globes | 0 | 10 0 | | | Organist: Salary, 1889 | 50 0 0 |
| Proceeds of Conversazione | 39 | 16 0 | | | Church Officer | 50 0 0 |
| Credit Balance from Building Fund Account, 1888 | 9 | 2 4 | 1,305 | 0 0 | Interest on Mortgage to Nov. 16th, 1889 .. | 240 0 0 |
| | | | | | Gas Accounts | 48 5 8 |
| Principal Rainy's Visit, Local Expenses Fund | | | 9 | 2 7 | Fire Insurance Premia | 55 12 2 |
| Collections for Dorcas and Charitable purposes | | | 46 | 9 0 | Expenses of Annual Business Meeting .. | 7 10 0 |
| Church Extension and Sustentation Fund | | | 29 | 0 3 | Tuning Organ | 5 0 0 |
| Sunday Schools | | | 15 | 0 0 | Plumber's Repairs, per T. Ballinger .. | 5 0 6 |
| Special Collections— | | | | | Engineer's Repairs, per W. Cable & Co. .. | 4 5 0 |
| Assembly Expenses | 10 | 0 0 | | | Builder's Alterations and Repairs, per Jas. Wilson | 5 18 6 |
| Aged and Infirm Ministers | 6 | 0 0 | | | City Rates | 13 6 8 |
| New Hebrides Mission | 17 | 4 9 | | | Water Account | 1 2 4 |
| | | | 33 | 4 9 | Advertising | 10 12 0 |
| Do., per Sunday Schools | 7 | 8 7 | | | Printing and Stationery | 18 6 9 |
| "Dayspring" | 14 | 17 2 | | | Stamps, £2 10s.; Cheque-book, 8s. 4d. .. | 2 18 4 |
| | | | 22 | 5 9 | Law Costs | 2 2 0 |
| Balance | | | 68 | 9 4 | Cutting Grass and Cleaning Grounds .. | 1 1 0 |
| | | | | | Petty Accounts | 7 7 0 |
| | | | | | Interest on Overdraft at Bank | 11 4 10 |
| | | | <u>£1,523</u> | <u>11 8</u> | | |
| | | | | | Treasurer, Principal Rainy's Local Expense Fund .. | 1,368 9 4 |
| | | | | | Ladies' Visiting and Dorcas Society | 9 2 7 |
| | | | | | Church Extension and Sustentation Fund, per Rev. C. S. Ogg | 46 9 0 |
| | | | | | Treasurer, Sunday Schools | 29 0 3 |
| | | | | | Treasurer, General Assembly Funds | 15 0 0 |
| | | | | | Do. do. per Sunday Schools | 33 4 9 |
| | | | | | | 22 5 9 |
| | | | <u>£1,523</u> | <u>11 8</u> | | |

Audited and found correct— T. KENNEDY MACDONALD, } Hon. Auditors.
D. J. McG. McKENZIE, }

JOHN G. W. AITKEN, }
Hon. Treasurer.

St John's Presbyterian Church Sabbath Schools.

STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and DISBURSEMENTS for the Year ending 31st December, 1889.

| RECEIPTS. | | | DISBURSEMENTS. | | | |
|---|----|-------|----------------|------------|--|----------|
| | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. | | |
| 1889. | | | | | 1889. | |
| Jan. 1. To Balance | | | 3 | 19 4 | By G. Ross, Caretaker, Mt. Cook School .. | 3 0 0 |
| Collections— | | | | | R. A. Hopkirk, Library Cupboards, &c. .. | 5 15 0 |
| Willis Street School— | | | | | Veitch & Allan's Account | 0 13 1 |
| General | 26 | 12 11 | | | N.Z. Bible, Book, and Tract Society— | |
| Books | 6 | 19 7 | | | Sundries | 13 0 1 |
| "Dayspring" and Missions .. | 15 | 1 0 | 48 | 13 6 | Periodicals and Magazines | 63 10 10 |
| Mount Cook School— | | | | | | 76 10 11 |
| General | 19 | 3 6½ | | | Subscription, Wellington S.S. Union .. | 1 0 0 |
| Books | 15 | 15 8½ | | | Church Treasurer, Special Collections— | |
| "Dayspring" and Missions .. | 7 | 4 9 | 42 | 4 0 | "Dayspring" | 14 17 2 |
| Children's Morning Service, Mt. Cook School Mission-box | | | | | New Hebrides Mission | 7 8 7 |
| Church Collection | | | | | | 22 5 9 |
| Children's Annual Treat— | | | | | Library Books, as per Donation | 5 0 0 |
| Subscriptions | 38 | 5 6 | | | Sundries, per Secretary | 0 15 0 |
| Proceeds Sale of Tickets, &c. .. | 19 | 2 0 | | | Insurance Premium, Organ, Mt. Cook School .. | 0 5 0 |
| Donation Library Fund (£5 worth of Books) | | | 57 | 7 6 | Expenses of Children's Annual Treat .. | 53 0 6 |
| | | | | | Balance in hand | 5 2 0 |
| | | | <u>£173</u> | <u>7 3</u> | | |
| To Balance brought down | | | 5 | 2 0 | By Liabilities— | |
| Accounts for Periodicals unpaid Dec. 31st .. | | | 4 | 4 8 | N.Z. Bible, Book and Tract Society .. | 10 2 3 |
| | | | <u>£9</u> | <u>6 8</u> | Lyon and Blair | 1 5 0 |
| | | | | | | 11 7 3 |

Audited and found correct— T. KENNEDY MACDONALD, } Hon. Auditors.
D. J. McG. McKENZIE, }

WM. HOPKIRK, }
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

ST. JOHN'S BAND OF HOPE.—BALANCE SHEET for Year ending December, 1889.

| RECEIPTS. | | | | DISBURSEMENTS. | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----|----|----|----------------|----|---|--|----|----|-----|----|---|
| | | £ | s. | d. | | £ | s. | d. | | | | |
| To Balance from 1888 | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 3 | 7 | By N. Z. Bible, Tract and Book Society | .. | .. | 1 | 0 | 8 |
| Members' Subscriptions | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 2 | 4 | Godber's Account for Tea Meeting | .. | .. | 7 | 5 | 0 |
| Sale of Tickets for Tea Meeting | .. | .. | .. | 0 | 18 | 0 | Balance in hand | .. | .. | 3 | 14 | 8 |
| Collection at Tea Meeting | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 16 | 5 | | | | | | |
| | | | | £12 | 0 | 4 | | | | £12 | 0 | 4 |

Audited and found correct—

T. KENNEDY MACDONALD, }
D. J. MCG. MCKENZIE, } Hon. Auditors.

F. MASON,
Hon. Treasurer.

ST. JOHN'S BIBLE CLASS.—COLLECTIONS IN AID OF MAORI MISSION FUND.

| | £ | s. | d. | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|---|
| Collections for nine months, to 31st December, 1889 | .. | .. | 3 | 15 | 0 |

E. CHAPPELL, Treasurer. G. A. TROUP, Teacher.

STATEMENT of ASSETS and LIABILITIES of St. John's Church, 31st December, 1889.

| LIABILITIES. | | | | ASSETS. | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|----|----|---------|----|---|--|----|----|---------|---|---|
| | | £ | s. | d. | | £ | s. | d. | | | | |
| Amount of Mortgage on Property | .. | .. | .. | 4,000 | 0 | 0 | Estimated value of Church, School-room, Manse, and Grounds | .. | .. | 13,230 | 0 | 0 |
| Balance, Revenue Account | .. | .. | .. | 63 | 9 | 4 | Unpaid Seat Rents, estimated to yield | .. | .. | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| Balance | .. | .. | .. | 9,216 | 10 | 8 | | | | £13,280 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | £13,280 | 0 | 0 | | | | £13,280 | 0 | 0 |

JOHN G. W. AITKEN,
Hon. Treasurer.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

KIRK SESSION

AND

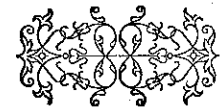
COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

OF

St. John's Presbyterian Church,

WILLIS STREET, WELLINGTON,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1890.



Wellington :

LYON AND BLAIR, PRINTERS, LAMBTON QUAY.

1890.

Rich Session.

Moderator :

REV. JAMES PATERSON.

Elders :

J. G. W. AITKEN
W. ALLAN
A. BARRON
F. H. FRASER
W. T. GLASGOW
A. HOPKIRK
R. HOPKIRK
W. HOPKIRK
W. LITTLEJOHN

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

Members of Committee of Management for 1891 :

J. R. BLAIR
J. BROWN
T. M. GRANT
D. S. GRAY
R. HANNAH
J. KIRKCALDIE
J. MACKAY
ALEX. MACDOUGALL

F. MASON
A. MURRAY
J. H. POPE
D. PRYDE
W. S. REID
G. TROUP
G. 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 Mornings at 11; Evenings 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.—CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP ASSOCIATION meets in Church School Room on Sabbath Mornings from 10 to 10.45. Secretary Mr. A. Johnston.
- 4.—SABBATH MORNING CHILDREN'S SERVICE, Mt. Cook School at 11 a.m. President, Mr. F. H. Fraser.
- 5.—SABBATH SCHOOLS meet in Willis Street and Mt. Cook at 2.30 p.m. Secretary, Mr. W. Hopkirk.
- 6.—CHOIR meets for practice on Wednesday Evenings after Divine Service. Secretary, Mr. A. D. Thomson.
- 7.—LADIES VISITING AND DORCAS SOCIETY meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. Secretary, Miss Troup.
- 8.—YOUNG LADIES LITERARY AND DORCAS SOCIETY meets on alternate Tuesday Evenings at 7.30. Resuming in March. Secretary, Miss Agnes Paul.
- 9.—ST. JOHN'S LITERARY SOCIETY meets on Tuesday Evenings at 7.30. Resuming in March. Secretary Mr. W. Miller.
- 10.—CHILDREN'S MUSIC CLASS meets on Wednesday Evenings in School Room from 6.30 to 7.30. Conductor, Mr. W. Hopkirk.
- 11.—MINISTER'S BIBLE CLASS meets on Thursday Evenings at 7.30. Resuming in April.
- 12.—BAND OF HOPE meets on Friday Evenings from 7 to 8.
- 13.—TEACHERS' MEETINGS for study of Lesson and Business, Friday Evenings at 8 o'clock.
- 14.—MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING OF TEACHERS and others after Evening Service, 1st Sunday of each month.



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, 1890.

IN reviewing our Church life and work during the past year, we find much to make us truly thankful to God: much to make us deeply humble before Him: and much to stimulate and encourage us to greater earnestness and devotedness in His service. The continuance of our Christian privileges: the means and ordinances of Divine grace: the enjoyment and refreshment we have had in them: the opportunities of receiving good and of doing good: the peace and harmony existing amongst us: the brotherly fellowship and the tokens of the Divine presence and blessing: for these we should be truly thankful. And yet when we think of our many shortcomings: of the misimprovement of many opportunities: of lack of fervour in devotion and of zeal in service, we may well feel deeply humble. But all this should only stimulate us to renewed effort, to increased zeal in Christian work: to more diligent and prayerful use of the means of grace and to a more entire consecration of ourselves to the service of our Blessed Lord.

As stated in last year's Report, the number then on the Communion Roll was 416. Admissions since, 49; disjunctions 25; leaving an increase of 24. Number on the Roll on 31st December, 440. Of the additions only 9 were for the first time by examination, the others were by certificate. This is a very small proportion of young communicants. It is a matter of deep concern that it should be so small. It is not a healthy sign of spiritual life in the Church when so comparatively few come forward to enter into the full communion of the Church.

Parents should lay this to heart; minister and office-bearers should lay it to heart. The young people themselves should lay it to heart, it is so important that in early life they should come to a true decision for Christ, and to a thorough consecration of themselves to His service, and in token and pledge of this to enter into the fellowship of the Church.

During the year sickness was very prevalent in the congregation, and five of our membership were removed by death. Of these, three were advanced in life—Mr. Henry Schultze, Mr. James Mitchell, and Mr. John Sutherland. They were old and esteemed members of the Church, whose familiar faces we greatly miss. Two were comparatively young, Mr. Alfred Parkinson, and Mr. J. R. Riley junior. The former joined the Church only in April last, and he died on the 25th June, thus only once was he privileged to join in the Communion on Earth before he was removed as we trust to the higher Communion in Heaven. Mr. Riley was called to his rest after long weary months of suffering borne in most patient and Christian spirit. We have also to mourn the removal by death of Mrs. Andrew Lang, who was long connected with the Church, and greatly esteemed by all who knew her. According to her wish, and *in memoriam*, a sum of £5 is given by Mr. Lang and their daughter Mrs. Steel to the New Hebrides Mission Fund. It is comforting to know that all those whom we have mentioned gave clear testimony both in life and in death to their faith and hope in Christ. Those who sorrow for them, sorrow not as those who have no hope.

In the early part of the year, first by reason of the holidays and absence of many from town, and then by a long succession of wet Sundays, the attendance at Church was smaller than usual. A reduced attendance has always a more or less discouraging effect, and it tells materially on the finances of the Church. As a consequence of this, the collections are somewhat less than they were last year. Those who are occasionally absent from Church should remember that the Church by their absence suffers in its finances, as in other ways; but this they could remedy by making up in their contributions when present for what was lacking to the Church when they were absent. In this way it would be seen that the giving was felt to be a Christian duty which should not be omitted. It is gratifying to find that during the latter part of the year the attendance has resumed its normal condition, and indeed in the evening has somewhat exceeded. The large number of young people, and especially of young men, who attend in the evenings is most encouraging. It is hoped they will receive permanent good from their regular attendance at Church, and that they will receive a blessing which will enrich their lives. It is encouraging to the minister; it is cheering to everyone to see a well-filled Church; it gives heart and life to the services.

To our Organist, Mr. England, and to the Choir, the Congregation is greatly indebted for their zealous and efficient services in connection with the Psalmody of the Church. This is an important part of our worship; and in that, as in everything else, we should serve God with our best. The Congregation is also indebted to Mr. Wm. Hopkirk, and those who assist him, for continued efforts to train up the young people in the knowledge and practice of sacred music. This certainly is one most effective way to improve the Psalmody of the Church. A Sacred Concert was given by the Children, assisted by the Choir, and also a Carol Service at Christmas; both were excellent, and were highly appreciated by large audiences.

The Weekly Service has been held regularly on Wednesday evenings, with the usual number in attendance, about fifty. By those who do attend from week to week, we believe the service is highly appreciated, and felt to be very helpful to the Christian life; but surely a much larger number might attend. If once the habit of attending were formed, it would not lightly be discontinued.

It is gratifying to know that the Sabbath morning Fellowship Meeting has proved a great success. A large number of young men attend, and take a deep interest in the work of the Association. They find it very helpful to them in the study of God's Word, and the culture of the spiritual life.

The Literary Society also continued its meetings on Tuesday evenings, carrying on its work with life and vigour, and produced some excellent essays and spirited debates; while the younger members had their special innings at readings and recitations. The meetings of the Society will be resumed in March or April.

Good work was done by the St. John's Ladies' Visiting and Dorcas Society in ministering kindness and help to the needy and deserving in connection with the Church. Their work is carried on in a quiet unobtrusive way; but those who are observant of it can testify to the great benefits resulting from it. Many a case of real hardship and suffering is relieved by it; and but for the thoughtful kindness of the ladies, these cases in all likelihood would be unnoticed and unhelped.

A younger Society of a similar character was also formed by the young ladies of the Church, to promote their own culture by the study of literature; and to aid by their handywork needy cases outside the Church. This Society, under the presidency of Miss Hamilton, has begun well, and it is hoped that it has before it a long and successful career. As special reports will be given of these Dorcas Societies, we do not dwell further on their work, but commend them to the sympathy and support of the Congregation. We say *support*, because the funds with which the ladies carry on their benevolent work are mainly those contributed at the Quarterly Communion.

Bible Classes.—Of these, it is gratifying to know there are a considerable number in connection with the Church Sunday School. The Minister's Bible Class met on Thursday evenings, from 1st May till the end of October, and numbered 84. Senior Bible Classes are also taught by Mr. Aitken and Miss Hamilton at the Mount Cook Sunday School, and by Mr. Troup and Mrs. Lennox at the Willis Street School. The importance of these Senior Classes cannot be over-estimated. They train up our youths in a more thorough knowledge of Divine truth, and keep them under the influences of the Church just at a time when they are apt to drift away from these influences.

Special Reports will be given of our Sunday Schools. From these it will be seen that that important department of our Church work is being efficiently carried on. Our two Sunday Schools are in a prosperous condition. The numbers on the roll of the Willis Street School are 435; on the Mount Cook roll 490, or a total of 925. This large number of children is being taught by 75 teachers. Of course this number of teachers would be quite inadequate if all the scholars were able to read and were arranged in classes; but there is a large infant class attached to each school, where the children are taught simultaneously. But, notwithstanding, there is certainly a lack of teachers, and it is earnestly hoped that others of the Congregation whose heart would lie to this good work will come and help in it.

A Children's Sabbath Morning Service, presided over by Mr. F. H. Fraser, assisted by some of the teachers in turn, is held in Mount Cook Schoolroom, and is well attended. The object of this service is to give opportunity for worship and religious instruction to those young people who otherwise might be uncared for, and to train them up to Church-going habits.

On Sunday evenings (also in the Mount Cook Schoolroom) an important mission for young lads is conducted by Messrs. Aitken and Allan, assisted by some of the teachers of St. John's. This is known as the lads' mission. Good work has been done by it. Through the care and kindness of those conducting it, many young lads have been brought out from the worst influences and placed under the best; they have been trained up in good habits; and provided with situations where they have done credit to themselves and to those who take an interest in them. Everything is done to help and encourage the lads to a life of well-doing: the Ladies' Society assist with clothing, and an annual treat is given to the lads. Through the generous kindness of the late Capt. Williams, the steamer *Mama* was placed at disposal for an Excursion to Soames' Island, and there the lads had a day's thorough enjoyment. This good work—this truly Christian work—deserves recognition and support.

In connection with what is done for the young by the

Church, mention must also be made of the Band of Hope, which must be regarded as an important institution for the instruction in Christian morality, and especially in Christian temperance, of those who are hereafter to take their place in the Church and in society. The importance of this work cannot be over-estimated. It would well repay any of the members of the Church to pay a visit to the meetings on Friday evenings and witness the heartiness with which the work is carried on, and the interest which the children take in the instruction given, and in their own readings and recitations. The Band of Hope is under the superintendence of Mr. Wm. Hopkirk, and he is assisted by a number of the teachers. Over 180 names are on the roll.

Anniversary Services were held on the second Sabbath of December, and were conducted by the Rev. J. G. Paterson of Napier, who preached with his usual earnestness and power, and addressed a large gathering of the children in the Church in the afternoon. The collection amounted to £41. Under the good auspices of the ladies a most pleasant re-union of the Congregation was held on the Tuesday evening following.

The Revenue of the Church shows a slight deficiency from last year. The long succession of wet Sundays accounts for a decrease in the amount of the collections, and the circumstance that some £30 of Pew Rents belonging to last year were not received till after the books were closed for the year, accounts for a reduction in the amount for Seat Rents. But for this the Revenue would have been quite equal to any former year, and we should not have had so large a debit balance.

The Income of the Church from all sources amounted to £1,433 18s. 4d.; or deducting special collection for special objects, £1,244 3s. 9d., the sum wherewith to meet ordinary expenditure.

As the Congregation are aware an appeal was made to reduce the mortgage debt of £4,000 on the Church property. This appeal was liberally responded to, and the result was a reduction of the debt by £650, and there is also a sum of £35 in hand. It is hoped that those in the Congregation who did not see their way to subscribe last year will do so this year; so that the reduction of the debt may reach £1,000. The burden is still too heavy. The drain upon the revenue for interest too great. Each member and adherent of the Church should seriously consider his duty in connection with this matter.

For the Assembly's Church Extension Fund there is reported a sum of £59, the result of the quarterly contributions by the envelope system. Certainly this is one of the most important, if not the most important scheme in the Church, and it deserves the hearty and liberal support of all the members of the Church. By means of this fund the Church is enabled to plant and to