

50

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH,

WILLIS ST., WELLINGTON.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SESSION AND MANAGERS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1903.



Wellington, N.Z. :

PRINTED BY J. B. INNES, PRINTER, BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER,
WILLIS STREET.

1904.

Jan - Dec. 1903
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Office-Bearers of the Church.

Minister:

REV. JAMES GIBB, D.D., The Manse, Woolcombe Street.

Session Clerk:

MR. M. D. MENELAUS, 27 Ellice Avenue.

Clerk of Management Committee:

MR. T. H. GILL, M.A., LL.B., 51 Ellice Street.

General Treasurer:

MR. J. G. W. AITKEN, M.H.R., 2 Levy Street.

Convener Church Extension Committee:

MR. W. T. GLASGOW, 1 Boulcott Terrace.

Convener Seat Letting Committee:

MR. WM. HOPKIRK, 86 Marjoribanks Street.

Organist and Choirmaster:

MR. J. MAUGHAN BARNETT, 110 Wellington Terrace.

Church Officer:

MR. ANDREW MOAR, Willis Street.

ELDERS.

		ORDAINED.
FRASER, Hon. F. H., M.L.C., Abel Smith Street ...	...	1872
HOPKIRK, ALEX., Marjoribanks Street ...	...	1876
McKERROW, JAS., Ghuznee Street ...	...	1881
AITKEN, J. G. W., M.H.R., Levy Street...	...	1884
ALLAN, WM., Willis Street ...	...	1884
SLOAN, JAS., Hawker Street ...	...	1884
GLASGOW, W. T., Boulcott Terrace ...	...	1888
HOPKIRK, WM., Marjoribanks Street ...	...	1888
McKENZIE, T. W., Ghuznee Street ...	...	1888
FERGUSON, J., Taranaki Street ...	...	1895
MENELAUS, M. D., Ellice Avenue ...	...	1895
REITH, J., Buller Street ...	...	1895
TROUP, G. A., Kelburne ...	...	1895
MACKAY, J., Brougham Street...	...	1897
MITCHELL, J., Roxburgh Street ...	...	1897
MOORE, C. S., Karori ...	...	1897
WILSON, J., Ohiro Road ...	...	1897
ATKINSON, JAS., Burnell Avenue ...	...	1902
JOHNSON, CAPT., H., Boulcott Street ...	...	1902
JOHNSON, S. CLARKE, Clifton Terrace ...	...	1902
KERSLEY, H. W., Austin Street ...	...	1902
BOAL, J., Banks Terrace ...	...	1903
CHAPMAN, H. B., Austin Street ...	...	1903
GILL, T. H., M.A., LL.B., Ellice Street ...	...	1903
MAINLAND, H., Aro Street ...	...	1903
WEBSTER, A. P., Cleremont ...	...	1903

ELDERS' DISTRICTS.

No. 1—Boundaries: Kaiwarra, Crofton, Khandallah and Thorndon—bounded by line from Harbour, just north of Glasgow Wharf to Railway Station, across Featherston St. to Sydney St. and Glenbervie Terrace to Karori Place; thence by straight line across Tinakori Road continued across Grant Road to Town Belt.

Elder: Mr. Jas. Sloan.

Collector for Missions: Miss C. Glen.

No. 2—Bounded on northern side by No. 1 district; on the east by Harbour; thence on the south across Customhouse Quay along Waring Taylor St., across Lambton Quay to Woodward St., Wellington Terrace and Aurora Terrace, continued by straight line crossing Botanical Road at Kelburne Tramway and by Tramway line and southern boundry of Botanical Gardens to Town Belt.

Elder: Mr. Jas. Atkinson.

Collector for Missions: Miss Burns.

No. 3—Bounded on north side by No. 2 district; on the east by Harbour; on the south across Jervois Quay, along Willeston St., across Victoria St., along Harbour St. and Lambton Quay, up Plimmer's steps to Boulcott St., across Wellington Terrace; thence by direct line on west of Terrace to Upper Dixon St., and by straight line taking in McKenzie Terrace to No. 2 district, which with Kelburne, forms the western boundary.

Elder: Mr. G. A. Troup.

Collectors for Missions: Mrs. Dick and Miss Gibb.

No. 4—Bounded on the north by No. 3 district; on the east by Jervois Quay and Lower Cuba St., on the south by Dixon St. to Wellington Terrace, there joining No. 3 district, which forms the western boundary.

Elder: Mr. S. Clarke-Johnson.

Collectors for Missions: Miss Dick and Miss Ralston.

No. 5—Kelburne and Karori.

Elder: Mr. C. S. Moore.

Collector for Missions: Miss N. Harris.

No. 6—Bounded on the north by parts of districts 3 and 4; on the east by Willis St.; south by Ingestre St., across Woolcombe St.; thence by direct line to Kelburne boundary.

Elders: Messrs. Jas. McKerrow and A. P. Webster.

Collector for Missions: Mrs. Hustwick.

No. 7—Bounded on the North by Dixon St. ; east by Cuba St. ; South by Ingestre St., and west by Willis Sreet.

Elder : Capt. H. Johnson.

Collectors for Missions : Miss N. Churchill and Miss L. Hay.

No. 8—Bounded on the north by Harbour ; east by Tory St. ; south by Buckle St., across Taranaki St. and along Arthur St. ; on west by Cuba St.

Elder : Mr. Wm. Allan.

Collector for Missions : Miss Stenhouse.

No. 9—Bounded on the north by Ingestre St. ; east by Cuba St. ; south by Webb St. ; West by Willis St.

Elder : Mr. John Mackay.

Collector for Missions : Miss J. Ballingall.

No. 10—Bounded on the north by Kelburne and part of No. 9 district ; on the east by a straight line from Wellington Terrace Prison across Aro St. at junction of Wordsworth Street to City boundary, this including Taitville and Mitchelltown, also the whole of Brooklyn and Vogeltown.

Elder : Mr. H. Mainland.

Collector for Missions : Mrs. J. Wilson.

No. 11—Bounded on the north by a line from Wellington Terrace Prison along Ingestre St. ; east by Willis St. and a line through Town Belt to boundary of Brooklyn and Bell Road, and on the south and west by No. 10 district.

Elder : Mr. H. B. Chapman.

Collectors for Missions : Mrs. and Miss Chapman.

No. 12—Bounded on the north by Webb and Arthur Sts. ; east by Taranaki and Wallace Sts. ; south by Rolleston St. and Town Belt : west by No. 11 district.

Elder : Mr. John Wilson.

Collectors for Missions : Mrs. Allan and Miss Steele.

No. 13—Bounded on the north by Buckle St. : east by line along eastern side of Sussex Square, across Dock, Douglas Wallace and St. John's Sts., thence to nearest points of Vogeltown ; west by districts 10 and 12.

Elder : Mr. John Ferguson.

Collector for Missions : Miss Wallace.

No. 14—Bounded on north by Harbour ; east by Cambridge Terrace ; south by Buckle St. ; West by Tory St.

Elder : Mr. John Mitchell.

Collector for Missions : Miss Myra Scott.

No. 15—Bounded on the north by Harbour ; east by City Boundary ; south by Majoribanks St. ; west by Clyde Quay.

Elder : Mr. Wm. Hopkirk.

Collector for Missions : Mrs. Menelaus.

No. 16—Bounded on the north by Majoribanks St. ; east by City Boundary ; south by Elizabeth St. ; west by Kent Terrace.

Elder : Mr. T. H. Gill.

Collector for Missions : Mrs. H. Drummond.

No. 17—Bounded on the north by Elizabeth St. ; east by City Boundary ; south by Pirie St. ; west by Kent Terrace.

Elders : Messrs. J. G. W. Aitken and J. Boal.

Collector for Missions : Miss McLeod.

No. 18—Bounded on the North by Pirie St. ; east by City Boundary ; south by line from Town Belt to Ellice St ; west by Kent Terrace.

Elder : Mr. W. T. Glasgow.

Collector for Missions : Miss F. Glasgow.

No. 19—All the Newtown district south of No. 18, and bounded on west by parts of districts 10 and 13.

Elder : Mr. H. W. Kersley.

Collectors for Missions : Misses D. and M. Winsett.

MANAGERS—1903.

CAMPBELL, J.	...	...	...	Cleremount
CHAPPLE, W. A., M.D., M.R.C.S.	...	...	...	Dixon Street
HANNAH, RORT.	...	...	...	Boulcott Street
HUSTWICK, T. H.	...	...	...	Woolcombe Street
JONES, D.	...	...	...	Willis Street
JOHNSTON, ALEX.	...	...	...	Kelburne
KIRKCALDIE, J.	...	...	...	Thompson Street
KNOX, J.	...	...	...	Cuba Street
MCBEAN, D.	...	...	...	Scarborough Terrace
PURDIE, A.	...	...	...	Hargreaves Street
WILSON, A. M.	...	...	...	Cambridge Terrace
DRUMMOND, H.	...	...	...	Willis Street
GALLOWAY, B. C.	...	...	...	Northland
SMITH, A. P.	...	...	...	Kent Terrace

COMMITTEES.

Property Committee:

MESSRS. CAMPBELL, CHAPMAN, DR. CHAPPLE,
DRUMMOND, JONES, MAINLAND, MENELAUS,
AND TROUP (Convener).

Seat Letting Committee:

MESSRS. ALLAN, ATKINSON, BOAL, McBEAN, PURDIE,
SMITH, AND HOPKIRK (Convener).

Finance Committee:

MESSRS. AITKEN, HANNAH, JONES, KIRKCALDIE,
KNOX, MACKAY, MAINLAND, RUNCIE,
AND MCKERROW (Convener).

Church Extension Committee:

MESSRS. AITKEN, ALLAN, GILL, HUSTWICK,
JOHNSTON, CAPT. JOHNSON, AND
GLASGOW (Convener).

Choir Committee:

MESSRS. GALLOWAY, A. WILSON, AND
S. CLARKE JOHNSON (Convener.)

ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1904.

PUBLIC WORSHIP every Lord's Day, morning at 11, evening at 6.30.

SACRAMENTS :—(1) Baptism in the Church on the first Sunday of every month
(2) Lord's Supper on the second Sunday of March, June, September and December.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS :—Meet in rooms adjoining Church, and in the Mount Cook School, on Sunday afternoons at 2.30.

BIBLE CLASSES FOR YOUNG MEN meet in the Class room, Willis Street, and in the School room, Mount Cook, on Sunday afternoons at 2.45.

BIBLE CLASSES FOR YOUNG WOMEN meet in the School room adjoining the Church, and in the rooms, Mount Cook, on Sunday afternoons at 2.45.

PRAYER MEETING :— Every Wednesday at 7.30.

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR SOCIETY meets in the Class room every Monday evening at 7.30.

THE JUNIOR CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR SOCIETY meets in the Class-room every Sunday at 10 a.m.

A SERVICE for the young is held in the Mount Cook School room every Sunday at 11 a.m.

A PRAYER MEETING is held on the first Sunday of every month, after the evening service, to ask God's blessing on our Sunday School work.

THE LADIES' DORCAS SOCIETY meets in the School room on the first and third Tuesday of every month.

YOUNG WOMENS' SEWING GUILD meets from March to November.

THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION meets in the Class room on the third Friday of every month, at 2.30 p.m.

TEACHERS' PREPARATORY MEETING in the Manager's room every Friday at 7.30.

THE SESSION meets on the first Wednesday of every alternate month after the Prayer Meeting.

THE MANAGERS meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 8.30 p.m.

BIBLE CLASS ASSOCIATION.

President - - Rev. JAMES GIBB, D.D.

WILLIS STREET YOUNG MEN'S CLASS.

Leaders - Messrs. TROUP and MOORE.

Secretary.

MR. R. G. HUSTWICK
49, Woolcombe Street.

Treasurer.

MR. C. A. REDGRAVE

Editor of Magazine & Organist.

MR. W. E. NICHOLS

Librarian.

MR. W. YOUNG

CONVENERS OF COMMITTEES.

Temperance.

MR. A. SMELLIE

Look-Out.

MR. H. SMITH

Missionary.

MR. L. C. SMITH

MOUNT COOK YOUNG MEN'S CLASS.

Leaders - Messrs. J. G. W. AITKEN & GILBERT.

Secretary.

MR. J. SNELL

Treasurer.

MR. C. ATKINSON

Committee.

MESSRS. MCDOUGALL, MCMORRAN, CULLEN AND RENNIE

DIXON STREET YOUNG WOMEN'S CLASS.

Leader - MR. J. BOAL.

Secretary.

MISS F. GUNN

Editor of Chronicle.

MISS M. PARKER

MOUNT COOK YOUNG WOMEN'S BIBLE CLASS.

Leader - MR. H. W. KERSLEY.

Secretary

MISS D. WINSETT

ST. JOHN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASSES ASSOCIATION.



President - Rev. JAMES GIBB, D.D.

Vice-Presidents.

MESSRS. FRASER, ALLAN, AND HOPKIRK

General Secretary.
Mr. A. PURDIE.

WILLIS STREET SCHOOL.

Hon. Superintendent - Mr. F. H. FRASER.

Superintendent and Treasurer. - Mr. WM. HOPKIRK.

Teachers.

MISS DICK
" EDWARDS
" GLASGOW
" GLEN
" GRANT
" MCINTOSH
" MCLEAY
" F. MCLEAY
" PAUL
" PLIMMER
" RALSTON
" SCOTT
" SIMMONDS
" SMITH
" THORBURN

MR. CAMERON
" DOUGLAS
" DRUMMOND
" DONALDSON
" MAINLAND
" MILNE
" McMILLAN
" MORICE
" PEARSON
" PATRICK
" WEBSTER

Delegate to Sunday School Union.
Mr. A. PURDIE.

Librarian
Mr. B. C. CALLOWAY,

Assistant Secretary.
Miss CHAPPLE.

Organist.
Miss RASH.

MOUNT COOK SCHOOL.

Superintendent

Mr. Wm. ALLAN.

Teachers:

Miss ANDERSON
" DUNCAN
" EDWARDS
" GUISE
" HOPKIRK
" M. HOPKIRK
" LANG
" M. LANG
" MCLEOD
" MCKENZIE
" REITH
" ROSS
" SCOTT
" STEEL
" WILSON
" M. WILSON

Mr. AITKEN
(Young Men's Class)
" KERSLEY
(Young Women's Class)
" BARRAS
" BURBIDGE
" GILBERT
" JOHNSTON
" MARSHALL
" WILSON

Secretary:

Mr. W. MCKENZIE

Assistant Secretary:
Mr. A. SMITH

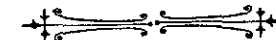
Librarian:

Mr. H. F. WILSON

Assistant Librarian:
Mr. W. STRACHAN

Organist:
Miss REITH

Delegate to Sunday School Union:
Mr. J. BARRAS



CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR SOCIETY.



President - Rev. JAMES GIBB, D.D.

Vice-President:
MR. H. DRUMMOND

Conveners of Committees:
Prayer Meeting—Miss MAUD ANDERSON

Look-out—Miss J. WEBSTER

Social—Miss D. WINSETT

Sunshine—Miss M. SCOTT

Foreign Missionary—Miss A. GUISE

Home Missionary—MR. A. MARSHALL

Secretary:
MR. L. C. SMITH, c/o D. Benjamin & Co.

Treasurer:
MR. J. E. BOYD

Musical Director:
MR. JOHN BOAL

Superintendent of Junior Endeavour Society:
Miss AMY EDWARDS

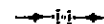
YOUNG MEN'S LITERARY & DEBATING SOCIETY.

President:
MR. J. G. W. AITKEN

Vice-Presidents:
DR. CHAPPLE, MESSRS. T. H. GILL, M.A., LL.B., AND
S. CLARKE JOHNSON

Joint Secretaries:
MESSRS. A. MCKENZIE AND J. B. REID

MOUNT COOK MORNING CLASS.

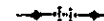


Conductors:
MESSRS. J. BOAL AND A. PURDIE

Secretary:
MR. D. DOUGLAS

Organist:
Miss DICK

LADIES' DORCAS & VISITING SOCIETY.



President:
MRS. JAMES GIBB

Vice-President:
MRS. J. REITH

Secretary:
MRS. WEBSTER

Treasurer:
MRS. MOORE

YOUNG WOMEN'S SEWING GUILD.



President:
Miss STEEL

Secretary and Treasurer:
Miss REITH

ST. JOHN'S WOMEN'S MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.

President:
MRS. DICK

Treasurer:
MRS. HUSTWICK

Secretary:
Miss A. PAUL

CHOIR.

Organist and Choirmaster.

MR. J. MAUGHAN BARNETT,
110 Wellington Terrace.

Secretary.

MR. W. HUGHES,
3 Moeller Street.

Sopranos.

MISS BAGLEY	MISS McLEOD
" CHIRNSIDE	" MORRIS
" DUNLOP	" MOTLEY
" AMY EDWARDS	" STEELE
" GARNHAM	" TAYLOR
" HALLEY	" THORBURN
" J. J. HARDIE	" WEDDE
" HARDIE	" A. WHITEFORD
MRS W. HUGHES	

Altos.

MRS. R. H. BURKE	MISS PATTERSON
MISS ANNIE EDWARDS	" RASH
" KING	" STENHOUSE
" MAY DONOVAN	" WILSON

Tenors.

MR. ANDERSON
" J. M. BARR
" BORROWS
" GALLOWAY
" MARSHALL
" PATRICK
" JAS. WILSON

Bass.

MR. BRODIE
" R. H. BURKE
" FINDLAYSON
" W. HUGHES
" S. CLARKE-JOHNSON
" H. McFARLANE
" W. MCKENZIE
" W. STRACHAN
" H. F. WILSON

MEMORANDA.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS.

THE ordinary Sunday collections together with the seat rents, etc., provide the funds for defraying the annual expenses, the chief of which are Minister's stipend, retiring allowance to the late Minister, salary of Church officials, etc.

Special collections appointed by the General Assembly are made from time to time, including Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, Assessment for Assembly expenses, Maori Mission, etc.

Church Extension Fund is taken up by the envelope system. Special collections are made for the Sunday Schools, relief of the poor, and such other objects as may be appointed by the Session.

The Congregation's contributions to the Church's Missions in the New Hebrides, China, India, and to the Chinese of New Zealand, are collected quarterly by the Women's Missionary Association.

The Seat Letting Committee is in attendance at the Church at the close of the Prayer Meeting on Wednesday evenings to let sittings.

REPORT

OF THE

KIRK SESSION AND COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1903.

THE year which has just concluded marks an epoch in the history of our church, as it was 50 years ago that the little band of pioneers which formed the nucleus of the present church first met for divine worship. What a marvellous change the half century has wrought! Very few of those who constituted that first company of worshippers are now alive, and yet God has so worked in the hearts and lives of the successors of that noble, undaunted, little band that the existing church takes rank as one of the strongest and most prosperous in this Britain of the South. In all this we recognise the hand of Him in whom we live and move and have our being, and whilst we are glad at the prosperity which has marked the career of our Church we say "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory, for Thy mercy, and for Thy truth's sake." The jubilee was celebrated in a very fitting manner on December 6th and 8th. Services were held on Sunday, at 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m., the preacher on both occasions being the Rev. Dr. Gibb. At the morning service the communion was dispensed, and in the evening an eloquent historic account of the founding and subsequent life of the Church was given by Dr. Gibb. A conversazione, to further celebrate the jubilee, was held in the School room, Dixon street, and was in every way a successful function. A handsome souvenir programme was issued to commemorate this important event.

RESIGNATION OF THE REV. JAMES PATERSON.

The year now under review will be remembered by the congregation, chiefly as that during which they bade farewell to one minister, and extended the hand of welcome to another.

In July the Rev. James Paterson, who, for nearly thirty-five years had served St. John's with conspicuous fidelity, resigned the pastorate. His long association with the congregation, his kindly ways with the people, his devoted ministrations to the sick, the aged and the sorrow laden, had earned for him the love of his own people, and the respect of the community. It was no light matter for him to face the parting with a congregation to whom he had so long ministered, and the severance of the pastoral tie was keenly felt by those whom he had baptised, and who had grown up under his ministry, and to whom he had been a kind and trusted friend.

On his resignation he was granted a retiring allowance of £300 a year. Before his departure for the Old Country, whither he has gone on a trip, he was presented with a purse of 350 sovereigns, and a piece of plate suitably inscribed was presented to Mrs. Paterson.

We trust that the ending of his days may be calm and bright.

INDUCTION OF REV. DR. GIBB.

The Rev. Dr. Gibb, the present pastor of St. John's, was inducted on August 12th, and a social to welcome him was held on August 13th. Despite the wet night, a large number of the congregation and representatives of the Presbyterian and sister churches gathered in the school room to greet him. The meeting was marked by the utmost cordiality and enthusiasm. Dr. Gibb delivered a stirring address, and his first public utterance was one befitting the occasion, and created a most favorable impression. As you are no doubt aware, Dr. Gibb was Minister of First Church, Dunedin, for upwards of 17 years, which position he had filled in an eminently satisfactory manner. He was not only a prominent minister of Dunedin, but took rank as one of its leading citizens. Since his arrival there has been a marked improvement in attendance at the Church. To such an extent have the numbers increased that the sitting capacity is usually taxed to the utmost at the evening service. We look forward with the greatest confidence to the life and work of the Church during the coming years.

KIRK SESSION.

At the end of 1903 the Court numbered 21. Mr. A. D. Thomson, who was made a magistrate, and stationed at Palmerston North, resigned his eldership. In his removal the Session, Choir, and Sunday School sustained a great loss. As the number of elders was found to be inadequate, the Session asked the congregation to elect six additional elders, thus bringing the number to 26. The following were elected and inducted:—Messrs. J. Boal, H. B. Chapman, T. H. Gill, H. Mainland and A. P. Webster.

COMMUNION ROLL.

On the 31st December, 1903, there were 638 members on the Communion Roll. During the year there were 112 additions—53 by examination, and 59 by certificate. At the first communion under the new pastorate 49 names were added to the roll, and thirty at the second. The removals were 17—by certificate 11, by death 6. The net increase is therefore 95. At the December Communion there were 430 communicants—a number far in excess of that at any previous sacramental occasion.

BURSARY.

The St. John's Bursary, subscribed by a number of the congregation, is at present held by Mr. H. Davies, who is a student

in the Divinity Hall, Dunedin. He is doing very satisfactory work.

ATTENDANCE AT PUBLIC WORSHIP.

The attendance at the Church services show a marked increase. This is a matter which is gratifying both to the office-bearers and to the Minister. Nothing is so helpful to a preacher as pews full of sympathetic listeners, and nothing is so dull and depressing as having to conduct service to a congregation scattered here and there in a large church. A satisfactory service is the joint result of an attentive responsive congregation and a reverent thoughtful sermon of a capable preacher. We hope that the coming year will see a well-filled church, so that our Minister may receive all the assistance which such a condition of affairs will render. In this connection we would also state that the attendance at the week-night service has shown very great improvement, and we commend this too to the earnest consideration of the members and adherents.

SERVICE OF PRAISE.

One of the most helpful aids to worship is the praise portion of the service. Music appeals to the highest emotion of the human soul, and while we would in no sense speak disparagingly of the value of prayer, and of a reverent reading and exposition of the Scripture, we think the assistance given by the instrumental and vocal part of the service can scarcely be overrated. That worship of God which finds expression in music gives utterance to the truest and most heartfelt experience of which the human soul is capable. When, as Milton has expressed it,—“Music is married to immortal verse,” there is produced the most elevating and refining influence possible—an influence too, which is in no sense evanescent. Our organist and his choir have done much during the year to aid in producing this result, and we express our sincere thanks for their ungrudging assistance.

CHURCH EXTENSION AND MISSIONS.

One of the truest signs of a live church is the interest it takes in extending Christ's kingdom. A church which takes no interest—or very little interest—in bringing the Gospel to those who, as pioneers of civilization, have gone into the bush to make a home for themselves, or to those who sit in darkness in heathen lands, is a decadent church. Judged by this standard, we think that St. John's is in a fairly healthy condition. For Church Extension £95 was raised; for Foreign Missions, £215; for Maori Missions, £25; for the Maori Girls' Training Home, £93; of which latter amount the sum of £87 was collected by the Young Women's Missionary Guild.

FINANCE.

An inspection of the balance-sheet, which is incorporated with the Treasurer's statement, shows that the total amount from all

sources amounted to £2,151, as against £1,985 raised last year: of this total £925 was received from ordinary collections, being an increase of £192. In addition to the usual contributions, the sum of £549 was subscribed for the additions to the Sunday School. The year commenced with a debit balance of £26 11s. 8d., and ended with a debit balance of £84 7s. 10d. The increase of the debit balance was due to extraordinary expenditure, incurred by the change in the pastorate, an expenditure which is not recurring. The generous response made by the congregation in years past has been excelled this year, and is a matter for congratulation, and your office-bearers look forward with hopefulness to the future, notwithstanding the increase in our expenditure, necessitated by the liberal retiring allowance granted to our late pastor. St. John's has always responded to every appeal, and your office-bearers are confident that the present year will be in every sense an eminently satisfactory one.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASSES.

From the reports of these organizations it will be seen that they are in a flourishing condition. The numbers are high, the aggregate being 777. The average attendance is not good, being 538, exclusive of wet Sundays. To put this plainly it means that on an average between one-fifth and one-sixth of the scholars are away every Sunday. As the present education system is secular, the only place in which Bible teaching is carried on is the Sunday school, *i.e.*, omitting the home, which, unfortunately, has not that distinguishing characteristic in many cases. Intermittent attendance at Sunday school deprives the children of that systematic study which is necessary if progress is to be made, and discourages teachers in their efforts—efforts entirely voluntary, and thus highly praiseworthy—to instil into the minds of their scholars the highest standard of conduct which this world has seen. Will parents please give every encouragement to our teachers by sending their children to school regularly? Your office-bearers congratulate the church on the recent additions made to the school-room adjoining the church. For many years Sunday school work was carried on under very great difficulties. These have now been obviated, and the teachers and scholars are working under favourable conditions. The Mount Cook portion of the Sunday school is still unfortunately working under great disadvantages—disadvantages which cannot at present be remedied.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR.

It will be seen from appended reports that both the Senior and Junior Societies are in a prosperous state. The various committees are active, and report great interest on the part of members. No doubt the visit of the founder of the movement,

the Rev. Dr. Clark, of America, will stir members to even greater interest, if that were possible.

THE ST. JOHN'S WOMEN'S MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.

From the report of this society it will be seen that a more systematic canvass of the members of the congregation will be made this year as a large number of collectors are available. These collectors will call upon every member, and your office-bearers hope that every one will contribute something to this important department of Christian work.

THE LADIES' DORCAS SOCIETY.

This society, though numerically small, is of very great benefit. Its object is to assist the poor of the church. It is practical Christianity without ostentation. Quietly and unobtrusively the members assist those connected with our church. No doubt many of the poor have reason to be thankful to the members of the society. The funds are provided almost entirely from the offering at the quarterly communion.

THE YOUNG LADIES' SEWING GUILD.

This small organization—as will be seen from the excellent summary of the year's work—is another example of the philanthropic movements, based on the paradox of our Lord, that “He that loseth his life for My sake shall find it.” This exceedingly practical society is engaged in teaching girls how to be skilful with the needle. The garments thus given may be regarded as the recipient's own, for they are the recipient's work. It is thus assistance of the best sort, it assists and uplifts at the same time—a not too common concomitance.

THE CHURCH DEBT.

As members will no doubt remember it was stated at the meeting on December 8th, in further commemoration of the jubilee of our church, that the total debt was £2,600, and that the Management Committee was desirous of wiping out the debt in five years. The Church Treasurer reported that £700 had been promised by four people on whom he had waited. This matter will receive the earnest consideration of your Managers during this year, and we hope to be able to report that a satisfactory scheme has been devised and carried into effect by which this object may be attained.

OBITUARIES.

Some of our members during this last year, as the case in every twelve months, have been called from the work and labour of earth to the enjoyment and communion of Heaven. During the year one of our elders, Mr. James Bruce, who had been a long and patient sufferer, was summoned in to the presence of his

Saviour. Mr. Bruce was a diligent and faithful office-bearer, doing his work quietly and unostentatiously.

Some of the oldest communicants in connection with our church, connected with it from its inception, are amongst those whose loss we mourn at this time. Amongst these may be named Mrs. Logan and Mrs. Macdonald, who in the early days, bore the heat and burden of the times, and were faithful and true to the Church, and in the later days, when no longer themselves able to engage in active work, were still useful in encouraging those younger in years to continue what they themselves had carried on, and continued to be so much interested in. The others removed from the membership of the church are Miss Jessie Morris, Mrs. Lang, and Captain Campbell, who gave testimony of their fitness, for the great change. With the friends and relations of the deceased we sympathize, as also with the friends and relations of the adherents in the congregation, who were removed by death.



ST. JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN SABBATH SCHOOLS.

A GAIN "the ceaseless turning of the mill of Time" has ground out the presentation of our Annual Report on the work of the two branches of our Sabbath Schools, and again we record the same mingled feelings of gratitude to God for his unceasing care and bounty, and of sorrow for our many sins and imperfections.

Attendance.—A comparison of the figures appended with those of the previous year shows slight increase in the number on our roll. This is very gratifying, especially as in both the senior and intermediate divisions the increase is substantial. For some years previously the intermediates have been gradually diminishing, and it is very encouraging, therefore, to be able to report that this division, which occupies the attention of the bulk of our teachers, is on the increase. The juniors, unfortunately, are still in the decrease, but we trust that they too will soon reach their turning point. Coming to our teaching staff it will be observed that it is not so strong numerically as last year, but there is a decided improvement in the average attendance, which may reasonably be termed good.

Details of the attendance are as follows:—

SCHOLARS.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Average Attendance.	Average Attendance, excluding wet Sundays.
Willis Street	240	257	497	321	332
Mount Cook	122	158	280	198	206
Totals	362	415	777	519	538

	Senior Division.	Intermediate Division.	Junior Division.	Totals.	Scholars Over 15 Yrs.
Willis Street	188	212	97	497	225
Mount Cook	51	116	113	280	76
Total	239	328	210	777	301

TEACHERS AND OFFICE-BEARERS.

	Gentlemen.	Ladies.	Totals.	Average Roll.	Average Attendance.
Willis Street	16	15	31	35	31½
Mount Cook	13	12	25	26	23½
Total	29	27	56	58	55

The highest attendance of Scholars on one Sunday was:—

Willis Street	...	...	...	...	397
Mount Cook	...	...	...	...	233

Children's Morning Class.—The Sabbath Morning Service for children is still continued at Mount Cook, with an average attendance of 35. On Christmas morning a number of the children, under the conductorship of Mr. J. Boal, rendered carols to the inmates of the Hospital.

The Annual Treat held at Day's Bay was not so largely attended as formerly, but those present spent an enjoyable day.

Library.—We are pleased to report that we have added well chosen books to the value of £10 to the library of each school. The scholars avail themselves very largely of the opportunity offered them of attaining good reading, and we trust that during the coming year the liberality of the congregation may enable us to spend twice the amount.

Anniversary Services.—Our Anniversary Services were held on Sunday, the 3rd May. The pulpit was filled morning and evening by the Rev. Jas. McKenzie, M.A., of Christchurch, whose ministrations were greatly appreciated. He also addressed the children at the Church in the afternoon. On the Tuesday following the Tea was held, followed by the Cantata, "The New Jerusalem," which was excellently rendered by a strong choir of children and their friends, under the conductorship of Mr. Wm. Hopkirk. Mr. Maughan Barnett presided at the organ. At the conclusion of the programme, Mr. Allan, on behalf of the Cantata Choir, presented Mr. Wm. Hopkirk with a handsome revolving book-stand as a slight testimonial of the interest he displayed in Sunday School music over a long period of years.

The Bible Classes continues to do excellent work. The Young Women's Classes continue to take great interest in Missionary work. For this object the Willis Street class has raised during the year no less than £67 10s. It also edits and controls the "Girls' Chronicle," a magazine designed to stimulate interest in the Young Women's Bible Class movement throughout the Colony.

Examinations.—Those scholars—a comparatively small number—who sat for the Sunday School Union Examinations did fairly well. The special prize for the highest work in the district was gained by Percy Burbidge, of Mount Cook. Willis Street again did well in the General Assembly Examinations. Three teachers passed the Teacher's examinations.

New Building.—The extra accommodation so much needed for years has at length been provided at Willis Street. The new building, which contains a good sized gymnasium room, Young Men's and Young Women's parlours, a large infant room and 11 class rooms was opened in August with a conversazione extending over two evenings. On both occasions the scholars, their parents and friends attended in large numbers, and the proceedings

were enthusiastic, over £45 being raised in aid of the Building Fund. The increase in the attendance of our intermediate scholars is no doubt due to the extra advantages the new building affords. It only remains for us to heartily thank the Church Management and those friends who have so liberally subscribed to this worthy object. We trust that ere long the great disadvantage under which our Mount Cook divisions is still compelled to labour, may be similarly remedied.

Treasurer's Statement.—Receipts total much the same as for the previous year, and our expenses have been normal. We began the year with a debit balance of £25, and at its close £22 still appears on the wrong side. There is a decrease in receipts for the New Hebrides' Mission, but this may not be real, as the Bible Classes controlled their own funds. Our Anniversary Tea Meeting was not a financial success, as very few donations were received towards the cost. On the other hand the treat resulted in a surplus of over £9, which, being added to the General Fund, enabled us to make a substantial grant to the libraries.

In conclusion, we beg to thank those friends who by their means and sympathy have so materially aided us in this branch of the Master's service. To effectually carry on the work we need more teachers, more money, more prayer, more co-operation of parents and teachers. We commend our needs—rather the children's needs—to the serious consideration of Christian parents and friends. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

ST. JOHN'S YOUNG MEN'S BIBLE CLASS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1903.

THE year just closed has been one of progress for the Class. The attendances have been good, and there has been a decided improvement in the discussions at the Sunday afternoon meetings.

We commenced the year with a membership of 108, and have now 107 names on the roll. The average attendance for Sunday was 68. During the year 54 new members have joined us, and 55 have left, most of the latter having removed to other districts.

The following having taken up Sunday School work:—Messrs. Patrick, MacMillan, Socker and Turnbull.

The Anti-Gambling and Temperance Committee has done good work. Literature has been distributed, and petitions praying for the abolition of the totalisator, and for the introduction of the Bible into the State Schools, have been circulated. The

petitions bore 2,280 and 2,342 signatures respectively; a large increase on previous years.

Our Library is one of our most valued possessions. During the year 100 books were added, and 837 books were issued to members.

The "Young Man's Magazine" is still being conducted. The circulation now stands 3,000 per quarter. Mr. J. U. Macdonald has been appointed publisher, and special efforts are being made to double the circulation during the coming year.

We again return thanks to all who have assisted in its publication.

We are pleased to be able to report that we have met with most success in our evangelistic work. Services have been conducted at Mount Cook, Wadestown and the Boys' Institute.

The services at the Institute have been most successful, and many of the boys have decided for Christ. Several have joined the class, and two have been admitted into the membership of the Church.

We are also pleased to report that during the year the following members have joined the Church:—Messrs. Smellie, McWhay, Wickens, More, Jones, Nichols, Mackay, Smith, Redgrave, Macdonald, Wray.

We have to express our thanks to the Church for providing us with two excellent rooms, to be used as gymnasium and parlour respectively. Both rooms have been well furnished and are greatly appreciated by our members.

We are pleased to report that our Senior Football team has again carried off the Senior Championship, and also secured the Charity Cup in addition.

Our annual meeting was held on the 9th November.

During the year we had a farewell visit from our old Pastor, Rev. Jas. Paterson, and also had the pleasure of welcoming Dr. Gibb.

MOUNT COOK YOUNG MEN'S BIBLE CLASS.

"The year's work has been, on the whole, encouraging, though certain adverse circumstances have militated against the unqualified success we should like to have recorded. Chief amongst these is the want of a suitable room in which to hold our meetings. There is a growing library in connection with the class, the number of volumes on the shelves being at present about 200, while extensive additions are contemplated.

The class now numbers 30 members. We hope to largely augment this number during the present year and to effect an

improvement in the attendance, which has, for some time past, been somewhat unsatisfactory.

The class sustained a loss during the year owing to the removal of Mr. A. D. Thomson to Palmerston North, on his elevation to the Magistracy. Mr. Thomson was one who did a great deal for us individually and collectively, and he has been greatly missed.

Addresses were delivered to the class by Dr. Gibb and Mr. G. A. Troup during the last quarter, and one has been promised by the Rev. Newman Hall early this month.

ST. JOHN'S YOUNG MEN'S LITERARY & DEBATING SOCIETY.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 1903.

THE Society opened its session with a social on 8th May. The meetings were held on Friday evenings and were fairly well attended. On several occasions the members of the Church were invited to attend, but the opportunity was not largely availed of.

Mr. J. G. W. Aitken was elected President, the Vice-Presidents being Dr. Chapple, Messrs. S. Clarke Johnson and T. H. Gill.

A series of lectures was arranged, to which Mr. J. W. Poynton contributed a most interesting account of the "Spectroscope." Mr. W. Ross gave a beautifully illustrated account of a trip to the Islands. Col. Bell, the American orator, gave a most interesting sketch of the life of Abraham Lincoln.

One of the most successful items on the syllabus was a recital by Mr. Jas. Clarke and Miss Hardy. Two "journal nights" and an evening with Dickens provided a most enjoyable entertainment.

The debates were followed with great interest, and the discussions were well supported. One of the most interesting was on the subject of Church Union; Kent Terrace opposed and St. John's supported the proposal. The honours lay with our Society by a substantial margin.

The session concluded with an enjoyable banquet, at which we had the pleasure of the company of Dr. Gibb, in the chair, Messrs. Aitken, Taylor, and Laurensen, M.'s H.R.; Mr. J. Liddell Kelly, Editor of the "N.Z. Times;" Mr. R. C. Harding, of the "Post," and others. Some excellent speeches were made, and together with a good musical programme, formed a most fitting termination of the session.

ST. JOHN'S YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR.

The past year has been one of much activity, and, by the blessing of God, of no small success. Our membership has been well maintained, and the attendance at the ordinary and special meetings has been as a rule gratifyingly large—about 100. The themes that have occupied our attention have proved profitable, and both from the study of these and their contact with one another at the meetings, members have been strengthened to confess Christ and fight the good fight of faith. We should like to see a larger associate membership, and trust that the present year will bring a great increase to the ranks of those from whom ultimately the full membership of the Society must be recruited. The various committees have all striven to accomplish the tasks they have been called upon to perform, and through them not only has the Society itself been strengthened, but a great deal has been done to promote the comfort and well-being of others. Especially have the poor and the sick and infirm benefited by the activities of the Society, and steady, strenuous efforts have been made to win men and women for Christ through the evangelistic services. Special reference ought to be made to the loss the society has sustained in the removal of the late Vice-president, Mr. M'Conachie, and the Secretary, Mr. George Hutcheson. The former has left Wellington, and the latter had to sever his connection, at least for a time, through illness. Thanks are due to the honorary members and many other friends for the help they are at all times ready to give, and much gratification ought to be expressed for the success which has attended the efforts of the society to promote Endeavour work among the young. The junior society has had a very prosperous session. The prayer of the society is that during the coming year the members may be enabled to witness a good confession, and to endure hardness as Christ's good soldiers.

REPORT OF ST. JOHN'S JUNIOR C.E. SOCIETY.

THE work in our Junior Society throughout the year has been very encouraging. Our membership stands as follows:—Active members, 27; Associate members, 12. We have three Committees—Look-out, Missionary, and Sunshine. During the year the collections from each Sunday, and Missionary boxes, have amounted to £3 17s. 10d., of this, £2 has been sent to Mr. Fletcher, our Missionary at Taupo.

Our Juniors also take an interest in the sailors, and during

the year 681 buttonholes of flowers, with tickets attached, have been sent down to the home boats. Literature has also been distributed among the sailors.

At the Christmas season boxes of dolls, toys and books were taken to the Hospital by our members.

We feel that the year has been one of blessing, both to our boys and girls and members of our Senior Committee who work among them, and we trust that the blessing of God will rest upon us in the coming year.

ST. JOHN'S LADIES' DORCAS AND VISITING SOCIETY.

It will be seen from the statement of the Hon. Treasurer, that the amount distributed for the year is in excess of the amount for last year, which in turn was larger than that of any previous year. It is, however, encouraging to find that the increasing demands have been met by increased liberality on the part of the congregation, and the society desires to acknowledge the generous response to the needs of this department of the church's work, though it should be noted that owing to a change in the date of the Communion Services there are five collections in this year's accounts.

The Sewing meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of every month, and it is hoped yet more ladies of the congregation may find it possible to devote themselves to the special work which comes within the scope of the Society.

ST. JOHN'S WOMEN'S MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.

This Society has held its prayer meeting regularly on the third Friday of each month. Missionary intelligence has been read and discussed, and earnest prayer offered for those labouring on the Mission field. As a branch of the P.W.M.U. recently formed in the Wellington district, our Society undertook to fill a third of the three Christmas boxes which the P.W.M.U. was sending to Dr. Bowie, Miss Henderson, and Prendita Ramabai. During the last quarter the members held extra meetings for sewing, and much interest was taken in the filling of the boxes. The response made by the congregation to the Society's appeal for help towards the Mission boxes was so liberal that it greatly helped the P.W.M.U. to achieve the happy result of being able to send away four instead of three boxes. Two of the boxes were sent to the New Hebrides. The Society would take this oppor-

tunity of thanking all who helped in this matter. As our Treasurer's report shows we are still able to rejoice that our efforts are helping to increase the contributions of the congregation towards Mission work.

Strengthened by a large number of new collectors, and helped by a careful revision of the names on the collectors' books, we hope to do still better during this year. We wish more women in the congregation would join our Society. To meet for one hour a month to hear Missionary news, and to pray for the devoted workers on the distant harvest fields, is surely not too much time to give!

As a branch of the P.W.M.U., our Society would like to testify to the good that the Union is doing in increasing the interest in Missionary work among our churches.

ST. JOHN'S CHILDREN'S SEWING CLASS.

SOME six years ago the Young Women's Dorcas and Literary Society decided to add a new feature to their work. They formed a sewing class for poorer children. Each child was provided with material and taught how to make some garment, which, when neatly finished, becomes the child's property.

When the Dorcas Society discontinued its meetings Miss Steele, with the help of some friends, continued the class most successfully, many of the girls coming year after year, while some remained to be helpers.

Material was generously provided by various friends. This year, however, the members of the late Dorcas Society kindly collected among their friends with a gratifying result, and our best thanks are given to those friends who have always helped this class with money, material and prizes.

The number of girls on the roll for 1903 was 40. The number of garments made was 55, while 34 articles were distributed, making 89 in all.

We earnestly hope that this part of Christ's work, the motive of which is to give the girls some connection with the Church, will continue to receive generous support.

CHOIR REPORT.

IN reviewing the past year there is nothing of special interest to report. The membership of the Choir has kept well up to the standard, but the average attendance of members has not, perhaps, been as good as could be desired. During the year a number of new anthems have been practised, and the singing has

The Christmas season was marked by an evening in the church, when the Choir rendered a number of carols in conjunction with an organ recital given by Mr. Maughan Barnett. There are vacancies for several good sopranos.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1908.

Audited and found correct—JOHN PAUL and WILLIAM SIMM, Hon. Auditors.

JOHN G. W. AITKEN, Hon. Treasurer.

St. John's Presbyterian Church Sunday Schools.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1903.

RECEIPTS.				DISBURSEMENTS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Credit Balance, 31st December, 1902			1 5 5	N.Z. Bible Tract and Book Society—			
Collections—				Periodicals, 1902, Balance	26	0	0
Willis Street School—				1903	29	13	0
General	30	5	8½	Lantern Slides	1	1	0
Books and Periodicals	5	17	8	Music	5	17	0
"Dayspring" and New Hebrides Mission	11	16	0½	Sundries and School Requisites	18	7	11
Missions per Y.W. Bible Class	9	0	0	Examination Prizes, etc.	2	1	11
			56 19 3	Library Books	15	8	6
Mount Cook School—							93 9 4
General	18	11	0	Re-binding Library Books			4 1 8
Books and Periodicals	6	3	10	Expenses Annual Picnic			30 16 2
"Dayspring" and New Hebrides' Mission	5	13	2	Printing, Advertising and Stationery			4 18 0
			30 8 9	Insurance Premium, Mount Cook Organ			0 5 3
Annual Picnic—				Subscription Wellington Sunday School Union			1 0 0
Subscriptions	25	8	6	General Assembly Examination Certificates			0 14 5
Proceeds Sale of Tickets	14	13	0	Expenses "Morning Service" Social			1 13 0
			40 1 6	Caretaker Mt. Cook School			6 0 0
Sunday School Anniversary—				R. & E. Tingey, Lettering New Class-rooms			0 10 0
Sunday Collections	36	19	11	W. Burbidge, O/a Tea Meeting			0 14 5
Collection at "Cantata"	5	19	0	Sundries and Stamps			0 8 9
Proceeds Tea Meeting	7	7	0	Expenses, Tea Meeting			7 7 0
			50 5 11	Church Treasurer—			
				"Dayspring" Fund	11	12	10
			£179 0 10	New Hebrides' Mission	5	16	5
Balance brought down	£3	11	0	Cot Maintenance, per Junior Girls' Class	3	0	0
				Maori Girls' Home	6	0	0
							26 9 3
				Bank Commission			0 10 0
				Balance in Bank			0 3 11
							£179 0 10
				Liabilities—			
				N.Z. Bible Tract and Book Society	£22	0	0

Audited and found correct—WILLIAM SIMM, JR., } Hon. Auditors.
JNO. PAUL,

WM. HOPKIRK, }
Hon. Treasurer.

St. John's Presbyterian Church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BUILDING EXTENSION FUND.

RECEIPTS.				DISBURSEMENTS.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward			138 8 0	By Contractors, J. & A. Wilson			1,497 17 0
Subscriptions, 1903			548 10 7	Architects' Fees, Turnbull & Son			76 9 0
Borrowed from Public Trustee			600 6 0	Furniture and Furnishings			56 9 8
Dr. Balance			343 17 1				£1,630 15 8
			£1,630 15 8	By Balance	£343	17	1

Audited and found correct—JNO. PAUL, } Auditors.
WILLIAM SIMM, JR.,

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

St. John's Ladies' Bazaar and Visiting Society.

BALANCE-SHEET FOR YEAR 1903.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance in hand			7 19 1	Drapery			5 16 2
January Collection for poor			14 16 0	Invalid			1 3 6
April Collection			12 10 0	Coal			2 6 0
Extra			1 5 0	Funeral Expenses			6 10 0
July Collection			11 13 6	Distributed to poor			57 0 0
October			17 15 6	Balance in Hand			11 0 11
Money returned			0 16 6				
December Collection			17 1 0				
			£83 16 7				£83 16 7

C. W. MOORE, }
Hon. Treasurer.

St. John's Young Men's Bible Class.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1903.

RECEIPTS.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	PAYMENTS.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Cash at Bank, January 1st, 1903	..	..	41 8 9	By Donations—	..	..	..	..
Donations and Subscriptions—	..	..	..	Maori Mission	..	..	9 5 1	..
Home Mission	..	8 6 9	..	New Hebrides Mission	..	..	1 15 10	..
Maori	..	4 5 1	..	Mukti Mission	..	..	3 6 8	..
New Hebrides' Mission	..	1 15 10	..	Travelling Secretary Fund	..	..	27 5 6	..
Mukti Mission	..	3 9 5	..	Boys' Institute—	..	..	..	..
Travelling Secretary Fund	..	27 5 6	..	Social	..	1 3 6	..	..
Boys' Institute—	£ s. d.	..	..	Hire of Lantern Slides	..	2 2 0	..	..
On Account of Social	..	2 2 6	..	Rent of Foresters' Hall	..	0 15 0	..	..
" " of Purchase of Bibles, 0 10 0	..	0 10 0	..	Sundries	..	1 6 9	..	..
	..	..	2 12 6	Young Man's Magazine, part donation,	..	..	8 7 3	..
Library	..	1 1 0	..	Mr. Bullen	..	2 0 0	..	..
Gymnasium Subscriptions	..	11 8 0	..	Library	..	..	..	52 0 4
Parlor Furnishings	..	31 7 9	..	Gymnasium Apparatus	..	..	..	12 6 2
Donation, Mr. Bullen	..	5 0 0	..	Parlour Furnishings	..	..	..	33 0 0
	..	..	96 11 10	Membership Cards	..	..	..	29 15 0
Social Club—Nett proceeds of Lectures, etc., on	..	..	..	Advertisements	..	..	..	1 12 6
a/c of Books for Library	..	..	12 0 0	Insurance	..	..	..	1 3 0
Class Collections	..	..	34 16 9	Stationery, etc.	..	..	..	0 16 3
	..	..	..	Subscription—Bible Class Union to June '04	..	..	..	1 0 0
	..	..	..	Bank Charge	..	..	..	0 10 0
	..	..	..	Sundries	..	..	..	4 3 11
	..	..	..	Deposit Account—Home Mission Fund	..	..	..	20 0 0
	..	..	..	Cash in Bank	..	..	..	21 14 2
	..	..	£184 17 4		..	..	..	£184 17 4

BALANCE-SHEET.

LIABILITIES.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	ASSETS.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
J. A. Wilson	..	..	20 0 0	Cash at Bank	..	..	21 14 2
Home Mission Fund	..	141 6 10	..	Fixed Deposit Home Mission Fund—	..	..	..
Mukti	..	0 2 9	..	Wellington Building and Investment Co., Ltd.	..	125 0 0	..
Gymnasium Trophy A/c	..	1 0 0	..	Accrued Interest to 31st Dec., 1903	..	1 1 0	..
Subscription A/c	..	1 8 0	..		..	..	126 1 0
Boys' Institute, for Purchase of Bibles	..	0 10 0	..	Lantern Slides	..	1 2 6	..
Parlour Furnishing A/c	..	1 12 9	..	Depreciation	..	0 7 6	..
Library Donation A/c	..	1 14 9	..		..	..	0 15 0
General A/c	..	..	147 15 2	Printing Plant	..	14 10 0	..
	..	..	172 16 3	Depreciation	..	4 10 0	..
	..	..	..		..	..	10 0 0
	..	..	..	Library	..	..	99 6 3
	..	..	..	Gymnasium Apparatus	..	33 0 0	..
	..	..	..	Room	..	20 0 0	..
	..	..	..		..	..	53 0 0
	..	..	..	Furnishing Parlour	..	..	29 15 0
	..	..	£340 11 5		..	..	£340 11 5

Audited and found correct—JNO. PAUL,
WILLIAM SIMM JR., } Hon. Auditors.

W. E. NICHOLS, Hon. Treas.

11/10/10



St. John's Church

Wellington.



Report

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED

31st December,
1904.

Wellington, N.Z. :

PRINTED BY J. B. INNES, PRINTER, BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER,
WILLIS STREET.

1905.



St. John's Church,

WELLINGTON.



REPORT

OF THE

KIRK SESSION AND MANAGERS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER,

1904.



Wellington, N.Z. :

**PRINTED BY J. B. INNES, PRINTER, BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER,
WILLIS STREET.**

1905.

Office-Bearers.

Minister:

REV. JAMES GIBB, D.D., The Manse, Woolcombe Street.
Telephone, No. 716.

Session Clerk:

Mr. M. D. MENELAUS, 27 Ellice Avenue.

Clerk of Management Committee:

Mr. T. H. GILL, M.A., LL.B., 51 Ellice Street.

General Treasurer:

Mr. J. G. W. AITKEN, M.H.R., 2 Levy Street.

Convener Church Extension Committee:

Mr. W. T. GLASGOW, 1 Boulcott Terrace.

Convener Seat-Letting Committee:

Mr. W. M. HOPKIRK, 86 Majoribanks Street.

Organist and Choirmaster:

Mr. J. MAUGHAN BARNETT, 110 Wellington Terrace.

Church Officer:

Mr. ANDREW MOAR, Willis Street.

ELDERS.

ORDAINED.			
AITKEN, J. G. W., M.H.R., Levy Street	...	...	1884
ALLAN, WM., Willis Street	...	...	1884
ATKINSON, JAS., Burnell Avenue	...	...	1902
BOAL, J., Banks Terrace	...	...	1903
CHAPMAN, H. B., Austin Street	...	...	1903
FERGUSON, J., Taranaki Street	...	...	1895
FRASER, Hon. F. H., M.L.C., Abel Smith Street	...	...	1872
GILL, T. H., M.A., LL.B., Ellice Street	...	...	1903
GLASGOW, W. T., Boulcott Terrace	...	...	1888
HOPKIRK, ALEX., Majoribanks Street	...	...	1876
HOPKIRK, WM., Majoribanks Street	...	...	1888
JOHNSON, CAPT., H., Boulcott Street	...	...	1902
JOHNSON, S. CLARKE, Clifton Terrace	...	...	1902
KERSLEY, H. W., Austin Street	...	...	1902
MACKAY, J., Brougham Street	...	...	1897
McKENZIE, T. W., Ghuznee Street	...	...	1888
McKERROW, JAS., Ghuznee Street	...	...	1881
MAINLAND, H., Aro Street	...	...	1903
MENELAUS, M. D., Ellice Avenue	...	...	1895
MITCHELL, J., Roxburgh Street...	...	...	1897
MOORE, C. S., Karori	...	...	1897
REITH, J., Buller Street	...	...	1895
SLOAN, JAS., Hawker Street	...	...	1884
TROUP, G. A., Kelburne	...	...	1895
WEBSTER, A. P., Cleremont	...	...	1903
WILSON, J., Ohiro Road	...	...	1897

MANAGERS—1904.

CAMPBELL, J.	...	...	...	Cleremont
CHAPPLE, W. A., M.D., M.R.C.S.	...	...	...	Dixon Street
DRUMMOND, H.	...	...	...	Willis Street
GALLOWAY, B. C.	...	...	...	Northland
GLEN, G. FORREST	...	...	...	Botanical Gardens
HANNAH, ROBT.	...	...	...	Boulcott Street
HUSTWICK, T. H.	...	...	...	Woolcombe Street
JOHNSTON, ALEX.	...	...	...	Kelburne
JONES, D.	...	...	...	Willis Street
KIRKCALDIE, J.	...	...	...	Thompson Street
KNOX, J.	...	...	...	Cuba Street
McBEAN, D.	...	...	...	Scarborough Terrace
MORICE, J. M.	...	...	...	Thorndon Quay
PEARSON, J.	...	...	...	Percival Street
PURDIE, A.	...	...	...	Hargreave Street
RUNCIE, W. G.	...	...	...	Kelburne
SCOTT, G. H.	...	...	...	Oriental Bay
SMITH, A. P.	...	...	...	Ellice Street
STRAUCHON, J.	...	...	...	Brougham Street
WILSON, A. M.,	...	...	...	Cambridge Terrace

MANAGERS' COMMITTEES.

Property Committee:

MESSRS. CAMPBELL, CHAPMAN, DR. CHAPPLE,
DRUMMOND, GLEN, JONES, MAINLAND, MENELAUS,
McKERRROW, AND TROUP (Joint Conveners).

Seat Letting Committee:

MESSRS. ALLAN, ATKINSON, BOAL, GILL, MENELAUS,
MORICE, McBEAN, PEARSON, PURDIE, SCOTT,
SMITH, AND HOPKIRK, (Convener).

Finance Committee:

MESSRS. AITKEN, FERGUSON, HANNAH, JONES, KNOX,
KIRKCALDIE, MACKAY, RUNCIE, SLOAN, STRAUCHON,
WEBSTER, AND McKERRROW (Convener).

Church Extension Committee:

MESSRS. AITKEN, ALLAN, GILL, HUSTWICK, JOHNSTON,
CAPT. JOHNSON, AND GLASGOW (Convener).

Choir Committee:

MESSRS. GALLOWAY, GLASGOW, JOHNSON,
WILSON, AND JONES (Convener).

ELDERS' DISTRICTS.



No. 1—Boundaries: Kaiwarra, Crofton, Khandallah and Thorndon —bounded by line from Harbour, just north of Glasgow Wharf to Railway Station, across Featherston Street to Sydney Street and Glenbervie Terrace to Karori Place; thence by straight line across Tinakori Road continued across Grant Road to Town Belt.

Elder: Jas. Sloan.

Collector for Missions: Miss. C. Glen.

No. 2—Bounded on northern side by No. 1 district; on the east by Harbour; thence on the south across Customhouse Quay along Waring Taylor Street, across Lambton Quay to Woodward Street, Wellington Terrace and Aurora Terrace, continue by straight line crossing Botanical Road at Kelburne Tramway and by Tramway line and southern boundary of Botanical Gardens to Town Belt.

Elder: Mr. Jas. Atkinson.

Collectors for Missions: Miss Burns and Miss Ross.

No. 3—Bounded on north side by No. 2 district; on the east by Harbour; on the south across Jervois Quay; along Willeston Street, across Victoria Street, along Harbour Street and Lambton Quay, up Plimmer's steps to Boulcott Street, across Wellington Terrace; thence by direct line on west of Terrace to Upper Dixon Street, and by straight line taking in McKenzie Terrace to No. 2 district, which with Kelburne, forms the western boundary.

Elder: Mr. G. A. Troup.

Collectors for Missions: Mrs. Dick and Miss Gibb.

No. 4.—Bounded on the north by No. 3 district; on the east by Jervois Quay and Lower Cuba Street, on the south by Dixon Street to Wellington Terrace, there joining No. 3 district, which forms the western boundary.

Elder: Mr. S. Clarke-Johnson.

Collectors for Missions: Miss Dick and Miss Ralston.

No. 5—Kelburne and Karori.

Elder: Mr. C. S. Moore.

Collector for Missions: Miss N. Harris.

No. 6—Bounded on the north by parts of districts 3 and 4; on the east by Willis Street, south by Ingestre Street, across Woolcombe Street; thence by direct line to Kelburne boundary,

Elders: Messrs. Jas. McKerrrow and A. P. Webster.

Collector for Missions: Mrs. Hustwick.

No. 7—Bounded on the north by Dixon Street; east by Cuba Street; south by Ingestre Street, and west by Willis Street.

Elder: Capt. H. Johnson.

Collectors for Missions: Miss N. Churchill and Miss L. Hay.

No. 8—Bounded on the north by Harbour; east by Tory Street; south by Buckle Street, across Taranaki Street, along Arthur Street; on west by Cuba Street.

Elder: Mr. Wm. Allan.

Collector for Missions: Miss Stenhouse.

No. 9—Bounded on the north by Ingestre Street; east by Cuba Street; south by Webb Street; West by Willis Street.

Elder: Mr. John Mackay.

Collector for Missions: Miss J. Ballingall.

No. 10—Bounded on the north by Kelburne and part of No. 9 district; on the east by a straight line from Wellington Terrace Prison across Aro Street at junction of Wordsworth Street to City boundary, this including Taitville and Mitchelltown, also the whole of Brooklyn and Vogeltown.

Elder: Mr. H. Mainland.

Collector for Missions: Mrs. J. Wilson.

No. 11—Bounded on the north by a line from Wellington Terrace Prison along Ingestre Street; east by Willis Street and a line through Town Belt to boundary of Brooklyn and Bell Road, and on the south and west by No. 10 district.

Elder: Mr. H. B. Chapman.

Collectors for Missions: Mrs. and Miss Chapman.

No. 12—Bounded on the north by Webb and Arthur Streets; east by Taranaki and Wallace Streets; south by Rolleston Street and Town Belt; west by No. 11 district.

Elder: Mr. John Wilson.

Collectors for Missions: Mrs. Allan and Miss Steele.

No. 13—Bounded on the north by Buckle Street; east by line along eastern side of Sussex Square, across Dock, Douglas Wallace and St. John's Streets, thence to nearest points of Vogeltown; west by district 10 and 11.

Elder: Mr. John Ferguson.

Collector for Missions: Miss Wallace.

No. 14—Bounded on north by Harbour; east by Cambridge Terrace; south by Buckle Street; west by Tory Street.

Elder: Mr. John Mitchell.

Collector for Missions: Miss Myra Scott.

No. 15—Bounded on the north by Harbour; east by City Boundary; south by Majoribanks Street; west by Clyde Quay.

Elder: Mr. Wm. Hopkirk.

Collector for Missions: Mrs. Menelaus.

No. 16—Bounded on the north by Majoribanks Street; east by City Boundary; south by Elizabeth Street; west by Kent Terrace.

Elder: Mr. T. H. Gill.

Collector for Missions: Miss McLeod

No. 17—Bounded on the north by Elizabeth Street; east by City Boundary; south by Pirie Street; west by Kent Terrace.

Elders: Messrs. J. G. W. Aitken and J. Boal.

Collector for Missions: Mrs. H. Drummond.

No. 18—Bounded on the North by Pirie Street; east by City Boundary; south by line from Town Belt to Ellice Street; west by Kent Terrace.

Elder: Mr. W. T. Glasgow.

Collector for Missions: Miss F. Glasgow.

No. 19—All the Newtown district south of No. 18, and bounded on west by parts of districts 10 and 13.

Elder: Mr. H. W. Kersley.

Collectors for Missions: Misses D. and M. Winsett.



ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1905.

PUBLIC WORSHIP every Lord's Day, morning at 11, evening at 6.30.

SACRAMENTS:—(1) Baptism in the Church on the first Sunday of every month, (2) Lord's Supper on the second Sunday of March, June, September and December.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS meet in rooms adjoining Church, and in the Mount Cook School, on Sunday afternoon at 2.30.

BIBLE CLASSES FOR YOUNG MEN meet in the Class room, Willis Street, and in the School room, Mount Cook, on Sunday afternoons at 2.45.

BIBLE CLASSES FOR YOUNG WOMEN meet in the School room adjoining the Church, and in the rooms, Mount Cook, on Sunday afternoons at 2.45.

PRAYER MEETING:—Every Wednesday at 7.30.

MINISTER'S CLASS for study of religious questions after Prayer Meetings during winter months.

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR SOCIETY meets in the Class room every Monday evening at 7.45 p.m.

THE JUNIOR CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR SOCIETY meets in the Classroom every Sunday at 10 a.m.

A SERVICE for the young is held in the Mount Cook School room every Sunday at 11 a.m.

A PRAYER MEETING is held on the first Sunday of every month, after the evening service, for the Sunday School.

THE LADIES' DORCAS SOCIETY meets in the School room on the first and third Tuesday of every month, at 2.30 p.m.

YOUNG WOMEN'S MISSIONARY GUILD meets from March to November, in Girls' Parlour.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION meets in the Manager's room on the third Friday of every month, at 3 p.m.

TEACHERS' PREPARATORY MEETING in the Manager's room every Friday at 7.30.

THE SESSION meets on the first Wednesday of every alternate month after the Prayer Meeting.

THE MANAGERS meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 8.30 p.m.

THE BOYS' INSTITUTE meets in the Mount Cook School on Sunday evenings at 7 p.m.

THE CHILDREN'S SEWING CLASS meets in the School room every alternate Tuesday from March to November at 7 p.m.

GYMNASTIC CLASSES meet in the Gymnasium during Winter months.

ST. JOHN'S SUNDAY SCHOOLS' ASSOCIATION.



President:

REV. JAMES GIBB, D.D.

Vice-Presidents.

MESSRS. FRASER, ALLAN, AND HOPKIRK

General Secretary.

MR. A. PURDIE

WILLIS STREET SCHOOL.

Meets every Sabbath at 2.30 p.m.

Hon. Superintendent - Mr. F. H. FRASER

Superintendent and Treasurer - MR. WM. HOPKIRK

Teachers.

MISS BROWN	MR. DOUGLAS
" DICK	" DRUMMOND
" GIBB	" B. C. GALLOWAY
" GLASGOW	" MAINLAND
" GLEN	" MARSHALL
" GRANT	" MILNE
" MCINTOSH	" McMILLAN
" MCLEAY	" MORICE
" F. MCLEAY	" PEARSON
" PAUL	" PATRICK
MRS. PEARSON	" WILSON
MISS SCOTT	
" SIMMONDS	
" SMITH	
" THORBURN	

Delegate to Sunday School Union.

MR. R. PEARSON

Librarian.

MR. A. GALLOWAY

Assistant Secretary.

MISS CHAPPLE

Organist.

MISS RASH

MOUNT COOK SCHOOL.*Meets every Sabbath at 2.30 p.m.***Superintendent****MR. WM. ALLAN****Teachers.****MISS ANDERSON**" **DUNCAN**" **EDWARDS**" **GUISE**" **HOPKIRK**" **M. HOPKIRK**" **MCLEOD**" **REITH**" **SCOTT**" **STEEL (Infant Class)**" **WILSON**" **WEBSTER****MR. GILBERT**

(Young Men's Class)

" **KERSLEY**

(Young Women's Class)

" **BURBIDGE**" **JOHNSTON**" **MARSHALL**" **WILSON****Secretary.****MR. W. MCKENZIE****Librarian.****MR. A. SMITH****Assistant Librarian.****MR. R. MCMORRAN****Organist.****MISS REITH****Delegate to Sunday School Union.****MR. MARSHALL****ST. JOHN'S BIBLE CLASS ASSOCIATION.****President****Rev. JAMES GIBB, D.D.****WILLIS STREET YOUNG MEN'S CLASS.***Meets in the Willis Street Class-room every Sabbath at 2.45 p.m.***Leaders - Messrs. G. A. TROUP and C. S. MOORE.****Secretary.****MR. A. BALL**
c/o A.M.P. Society**Treasurer.****MR. C. A. REDGRAVE****Committee.****MESSRS. W. MITCHELL, W. YOUNG, R. HULL, R. ESDAILE,
A. HUNTER, F. ANDERSON****MOUNT COOK YOUNG MEN'S CLASS.***Meets in Mount Cook School every Sabbath at 2.45 p.m.***Leader****Mr. Gilbert.****Secretary and Treasurer.****MR. J. MCMORRAN.****Committee.****MESSRS. MCDUGALL, MCMORRAN, CULLEN AND RENNIE****WILLIS STREET YOUNG WOMEN'S CLASS.***Meets in the Girls' Parlour every Sabbath at 2.45 p.m.***Leader****Mr. J. Boal.****Secretary.****MISS F. GUNN****Editor of Chronicle.****MISS M. PARKER****MOUNT COOK YOUNG WOMEN'S CLASS.***Meets in the Mount Cook School every Sabbath at 2.45 p.m.***Leader****Mr. H. W. KERSLEY.****Secretary****MISS D. WIMSETT**

MOUNT COOK MORNING CLASS.

Meets in Mount Cook School Sunday morning at 11.

Conductors.

MESSRS. J. BOAL AND A. PURDIE

Secretary.

MR. D. DOUGLAS

Organist.

MISS DICK

LADIES' DORCAS & VISITING SOCIETY.

Meets in Dixon Street Hall on first and third Tuesday of the month at 2.30 p.m.

President.

MRS. JAMES GIBB

Vice-President.

MRS. J. REITH

Secretary.

MRS. WEBSTER

Treasurer.

MRS. MOORE

GIRLS' SEWING CLASS.

President.

MISS STEEL

Secretary and Treasurer.

MISS REITH

ST. JOHN'S WOMEN'S MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.

Meets in the Managers' room on third Friday of the month at 3 p.m.

President.

MRS. DICK

Secretary.

MISS A. PAUL

Treasurer.

MRS. HUSTWICK.

BOYS' INSTITUTE.

Meets in Mount Cook School on Sundays at 7 p.m.

Leader

- - - MR. H. DRUMMOND.

GYMNASTIC CLASSES.

Conductor for Young Men - - -

MR. A. WALLACE

Conductor for Young Women -

MR. B. C. GALLOWAY

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR SOCIETY.

Meets in the Willis Street Class-room on Mondays, at 7.45.



President - - -

Rev. JAMES GIBB, D.D.

Vice-Presidents.

MESSRS. J. BOAL AND J. G. MARSHALL

Conveners of Committees.

Prayer Meeting—MISS D. WIMSETT

Look-out—MISS HOPKIRK

Social—MISS E. WEBSTER

Sunshine—MISS M. SCOTT

Foreign Mission—MISS BURNS

Home Mission—MR. A. MARSHALL

Secretary.

MISS J. MCKENZIE

Treasurer.

MISS M. CHAPPLE

Corresponding Secretary.

MISS GUISE

JUNIOR CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR SOCIETY.

Meets on Sunday morning in the Class-room at 10 o'clock.



Leader.

MISS A. EDWARDS

CHOIR.

Meets for practice in Willis Street Class room on Thursday evenings, at 8 p.m.

Organist and Choirmaster.

MR. J. MAUGHAN BARNETT
110 Wellington Terrace.

Sopranos.

MISS ANDERSON
" BAGLEY
" EDWARDS
" GARNHAM
" GENDALL
" GOODER
" MCLEOD

MISS McBEAN
" MENARD
" ROSS
" SHELDON
" THORBURN
" WEDDE

Altos.

MISS ADAMS
" KING
" PATTERSON

MISS RASH
" STENHOUSE
" M. WILSON

Tenors.

MR. ANDERSON
" J. M. BARR
" BORROWS
" BENNETT

MR. MARSHALL
" MCLEOD
" PATRICK

Bass.

MR. BRODIE
" BISHOP
" DOUGLAS
" HUNTER
" S. CLARKE-JOHNSON

MR. H. McFARLANE
" W. McKENZIE
" McTAGGART
" FRANK POPE
" H. F. WILSON

MEMORANDA.

COLLECTIONS, SEAT-LETTING, ETC.

THE ORDINARY SUNDAY COLLECTIONS, together with the Seat Rents, etc., provide the funds for defraying the congregational expenses, the chief of which are the Minister's Stipend and retiring allowance to the late Minister; salaries of Church officials, etc.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS—(1) As appointed by the General Assembly are made from time to time, including Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, Assessment for Assembly Expenses, Maori Mission, etc.

(2) As appointed by the Office-bearers for Sunday School, relief of poor (once a quarter), and such other objects as it may be deemed, necessary to help.

The Church Extension Fund, which is wholly devoted to help in planting new charges and assisting weak ones throughout the bounds of the Church, is taken up by the envelope system. The envelopes are placed in the pews once a quarter.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.—The regular contributions of the congregation to Missions are collected quarterly by the Women's Missionary Association.

The Seat Letting Committee is in attendance at the Church at the close of the Prayer Meeting on Wednesday evening to let sittings to new applicants.

Annual Report



For 1904.

ANOTHER year of our existence as a congregation of Christ's Church has passed away, and once more we would express our thankfulness and gratitude to the Father in Heaven for the mercies He has been graciously pleased to vouchsafe us. Standing now, as it were, between the old year and the new, and looking back upon the experiences through which we have passed, we can see that the hand of God has been upon us for good. This is perhaps more manifest in the hour of retrospect than while we were from day to day engaged in fighting the Lord's battle, and strenuously attempting our divinely appointed task. May we not soberly affirm that the toil and effort of these last twelve months have added not a little to our knowledge of the will of God, and strengthened our faith in the loving-kindness of Him who makes all things work together for good to His people? We earnestly trust that the spiritual experience of the congregation as a whole warrants us in saying so much. But, however this may be, we have assuredly to thank God for a large measure of prosperity in outward things. Too great reliance is no doubt often placed by the Church in merely external success. "Statistics," it has been said, "are unknown in the Gospels; as the Church coarsens she estimates salvation by quantity—Jesus was concerned with quality." Yet we surely do not err in praising the Giver of all good things for the lesser blessings as well as the greater. Let us find in both a strong encouragement to prosecute our calling with a deep and prayerful purpose to make our congregation a power for God and righteousness in this community. Neither to the right hand nor to the left, but straight onward in the path of God's appointing—in this spirit let us confront the new year, and at its close we shall doubtless be able to say, "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof."

THE MINISTER.

With the termination of the Church year Dr. Gibb has completed his first full year, he having been inducted into the

pastorate of St. John's in August, 1903. It is a matter of supreme gratification to know that his pulpit utterances continue to attract very large congregations; in fact, almost without exception, the building is taxed to its utmost capacity to accommodate the worshippers on Sunday evenings. The morning congregations are also large, and your Session looks forward confidently to the time when the Church will be quite full at both diets of worship. The sermons have reached a high standard of literary merit, but at the same time this has been subordinated to the cultivation of deep religious life in the congregation. We feel certain that we are voicing the opinion of the people when we state that the discourses have proved exceedingly helpful to all worshippers in stimulating thoughtful meditation, setting up a high ideal of life and conduct, and last but by no means least, in cultivating the religious nature, and showing how it can find its highest and truest expression.

During the year four special courses of sermons have been delivered, one in the morning and the others in the evening. The former entitled, "An Inventory of the Christian's Possessions," was a detailed exposition of the words, "All things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come, all are yours. And ye are Christ's and Christ is God's" (1 Corinthians, 3, 21-23). The titles of the evening courses were, "Some Popular Mistakes about Religion"; "The Seven Deadly Sins"; and "Christianity and its Critics." Besides these, special sermons have from time to time been delivered to young men, and children's services have been occasionally conducted in the forenoon. It is Dr. Gibb's intention to make the latter a regular feature of next year's programme—the first Sunday morning of the month will be set apart for this work.

In addition to the visitation of the sick and infirm, the members and adherents in 18 of the 19 districts into which the congregation is divided, have been visited in the course of the year.

It is not only in St. John's, however, that our Minister has set up a high standard of Christian life, but he has seized every opportunity of furthering the interests of Christ's kingdom in the Empire City. Every organization which has been set on foot to promote civic righteousness has received his unwavering support. During the year the utmost cordiality has existed between Minister and congregation, and there is every reason to believe that this most desirable condition of things will continue.

THE KIRK SESSION.

According to the constitution of the Presbyterian Church the Kirk Session, consisting of the minister and ruling elders, is the congregational court which exercises supervision of all the affairs

of the congregation, save only those which relate to finance, the care of the properties of the Church and the like. All that follows in this report concerning our Sabbath Schools, Bible Classes, and manifold other organisations might, therefore, be brought under the above heading. But for the sake of clearness we bring under it only those matters with which the Session is more immediately concerned—business which it has itself directly transacted, or upon which it is especially its province to report.

The Court has twenty-six members and happily there have been no changes during the year. The Session was represented at the Presbytery by Mr. J. McKerrow. For the next twelve months this duty will be discharged by Mr. W. T. Glasgow. The Session voted unanimously in favour of the General Assembly's continuing negotiations with the Methodist and Congregational Churches with a view to union on a basis of doctrine and polity. The Session having unanimously approved of the introduction of the individual communion cups into the sacramental service, a vote of the congregation was taken on the question at the annual meeting in February, when the proposal was adopted with practical unanimity. The cups were used for the first time at the June communion, and the new method of dispensing the element has given much satisfaction to all concerned. The Session having resolved that it was desirable that the Lord's Prayer should be repeated at the close of the Intercessions at the Sunday services, the custom was shortly thereafter introduced.

In order to bring the work among the youth of the congregation more directly under the supervision of the Session the following resolutions were adopted:—

1. "That from time to time a copy of the syllabus of Bible Classes be sent to the Session for approval or otherwise."
2. "That when a leader is required for any Bible Class connected with the congregation the class may nominate such leader, but the appointment shall rest with the Session."
3. "That a delegate be sent by the Session to each of the classes periodically."
4. "That when the classes contemplate any new departure in policy the same shall be referred to the Session for their approval."

The Communion Roll.—The additions to the membership in full communion were 101, viz., 36 by examination and 65 by certificate. The removals were 44, viz., 31 by certificate, 10 by death, 3 by purging of the roll. The net increase is therefore 57,

and the roll now contains the names of 687 members. During the sixteen months of the present pastorate 183 names in all have been added to the roll.

The Quarterly Communions.—The attendances were—March, 410; June, 420; September, 440; December, 420.

Twenty-four infants have received the sacrament of baptism.

The members in full communion who have during the year entered into rest are—Mr. G. W. Dutton, Mrs. Keir, Mrs. Christie, Mr. Glover, Mrs. Fulton, Mrs. Thomson, Mr. Wallace, Mrs. Carmichael, Mr. Miller, and Mrs. Wilson. Several well-known adherents of the congregation have also gone from us. In the passing hence of these friends the congregation has lost the services of loyal-hearted men and women to whom the Church stood for one of the great things of life, and whose character adorned their religious profession. To their bereaved relatives we extend our heartfelt sympathy, and pray that God may make the darkness to be light about them.

Attendance at Public Worship.—The attendance at the evening service has been already referred to. Frequent complaints having been made by seat-holders of their failing to secure their own sittings, the office-bearers had under consideration the question of keeping the pews of seat-holders open till five minutes before the commencement of the service. No definite resolution was come to, save that as far as possible the sittings of pew-holders known to be in the habit of attending the evening service, should be kept open till near the beginning of the service. It is probable that the matter will again engage the attention of the office-bearers early in the new year.

The morning congregation, while not so large as the evening, has steadily grown, and on a fine day now comfortably fills the Church. Notwithstanding the pressure on our space in the evening, and the large morning congregation, there are not a few of our members and adherents to whom the public worship of God unhappily does not present itself in the light of a serious obligation. Inclination is always a poor substitute for a sense of duty; in this case it is of next to no use at all.

PRAYER MEETING.

This meeting, or as it might perhaps more accurately be termed the Week-night Service, has been largely attended—usually the class-room has been quite full—and has proved helpful and stimulating, especially to those who have been regularly present. Apart altogether from the instructive and inspiring addresses delivered by our Minister, it is a source of pleasure and profit to take part in the devotions of a meeting at which the needs not only of those present are poured out before the Lord,

but supplication is continually made to Him for the work in which the congregation is engaged, and for the cause and kingdom of Christ in all the world. Dr. Gibb's addresses were a consecutive study of the 14th, 15th and 16th chapters of the Gospel according to St. John, the general title being, "The Evening of our Lord's Ministry." Next year it is purposed giving greater variety to the meeting by regular missionary evenings, and other new features. It is hoped that in this way a larger number of our people may be led to take an interest in the meeting. For though the attendance has been good, it might have been better. It has filled the class-room, but a hundred people crowd that room to the door. Why should not the large school-hall be necessary to accommodate those who desire to spend an hour in spiritual fellowship during the week? We commend the matter to the serious consideration of all our members.

Week-night Talks on Theology.—With a view to supplying a lack in the equipment of the congregation, and imparting to the younger people definite instruction in religious truth, Dr. Gibb instituted a series of conversational lectures, which he delivered during three or four of the winter months at the close of the prayer meeting. Most of those who had been present at the prayer meeting remained for the lectures, and others also took advantage of the course, but not many, and it must be frankly confessed that for the most part those for whose benefit the series had been devised were conspicuous by their absence. In more ways than one this was a pity, for by common consent the lectures were enjoyable and instructive. The theme handled was the Doctrine of God, and the discussions proceeded along the lines of Dr. Clark's celebrated book, "Outlines of Theology." Another effort will probably be made next winter to popularise this scheme of instruction, and the subject will in due course be intimated.

Week of Special Prayer.—In accordance with the suggestions of the General Assembly, a week of special prayer was duly held. The attendance at several of the meetings was good, and the series proved stimulating to all who took part in them.

Monthly Prayer Meeting for Sunday Schools.—This was held on the first Sunday of each month at the close of the evening service. The meetings have been fairly well attended, and earnest supplications have been offered on behalf of the Sunday Schools—these institutions so vital to the well-being and prosperity of the Church.

ANNIVERSARY SERVICES AND SOCIAL.

The fifty-first anniversary of the congregation was commemorated on the last Sunday of November, when the Rev. J.

Gibson Smith preached in the morning and Dr. Gibb at night. The services were largely attended, the Church in the evening being unequal to the accommodation of all who desired to worship with us. Mr. Smith's sermon was highly appreciated. Dr. Gibb preached on the service rendered by the Church to the community—a vindication of the Church's claim upon the gratitude of all men who recognise that only righteousness exalts the nation. Special music was rendered by the choir and altogether the services adequately commemorated an important event in the history of the congregation. A conversation was held on the following Tuesday, when, after a suggestive address from Mr. Gibson Smith, a pleasant social evening was spent.

The collections—including contributions for the social—amounted to upwards of £83.

THE SERVICE OF PRAISE.

The thanks of the office-bearers and congregation are due to the leader and the members of the choir for the excellent assistance rendered by them in the service of praise during the last twelve months. At the beginning of the period under review the membership of the choir had fallen off somewhat, and the attendance, especially at the morning service, was not satisfactory. But happily this state of matters speedily passed away, and though an addition of sopranos is still to be desired, the choir seats have been well filled both morning and evening, and the practices largely attended. The singing of the congregation is tuneful and hearty, and the anthems rendered by the choir on Sunday evenings have been a much valued feature of that service. The choir has also been in evidence at all the special congregational functions of the year. Mr. Barnett's Organ Recitals, of which there have been several, have proved a source of genuine pleasure to the audiences, not infrequently numerous, that have listened to his skilful handling of the fine instrument he commands. As a mark of the appreciation in which their work is held, a social meeting was tendered to the choir by the office-bearers. The function was in every way enjoyable. The approach of Christmas was appropriately commemorated by a combined Carol Service and Organ Recital.

The membership of the choir in its respective parts is as follows:—Sopranos, 13; contraltos, 6; tenors, 7; basses, 10.

MISSIONS—FOREIGN AND HOME.

The Women's Missionary Association.—This organisation, which is affiliated with the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union, does good work in the congregation by providing an opportunity for united prayer on behalf of Missions to the heathen, disseminating information about, and collecting the

contributions of the people for, the mission schemes of our own church. The work of collection is undertaken quarterly, and we are glad to observe that in this laborious but surely blessed task the ladies have been this year very successful. The amount obtained is £118 4s., an increase of over £18 on the preceding year, which in its turn marked a considerable increase on the year before that. The monthly meetings have not been largely attended, but they have been uniformly profitable to those who were present. The sympathy of the women of the congregation is earnestly besought for this Association, which easily might have received a much larger measure of support than has hitherto been accorded to it.

The Young Women's Missionary Guild.—The membership of this guild is 45, and the meetings, held every second Tuesday evening, have been well attended. The object of the guild is to raise money for missionary purposes, and the mission for which the members have been working throughout the past year has been the Maori Girls' Training Home at Turakina. The work has taken the form of preparation for a sale of goods, which will be held in the month of March next. The success of the last sale, some fourteen months ago, when a sum of one hundred pounds was realised, is, we trust, an omen of happy augury for the success of the coming sale, which we commend to the sympathetic liberality of the congregation.

Besides these two distinctively missionary organisations, there is a department of missions in most of the societies connected with the Church. Details are set forth under the headings of the respective societies, but it will be well in this place to tabulate the total missionary contributions of the congregation. They are as follows:—Ladies' Missionary Association, £118 4s.; Young Men's Class, Willis Street, £29 5s. 11d.; Young Women's Class, Willis Street, £52 8s.; Christian Endeavour Society, £16 17s. 9d.; Sunday Schools (including the Mount Cook Young Men's and Women's Bible Classes), £21; Junior Endeavour Society, £3; special collections at various missionary meetings, £13 9s. 7d. The total contribution to missions therefore has been £254 5s. 3d. This sum has been allocated among the following missions:—New Hebrides, Dayspring, Canton Villages, Maori, and Mukhti.

Home Missions.—Quarterly collections are made on behalf of the General Assembly's home mission operations by means of envelopes placed in the pews. The amount obtained this year has been £121 10s. 6d., an increase of over £25 on last year. We welcome this increase very gladly, for the object to which the fund is devoted is one that ought to lie close to all our hearts. Out of it grants are made to congregations that but for this assistance could not have a settled ministry, and by means of it new

churches are planted in regions that would be destitute, as far as Presbyterianism is concerned, of the means of grace. We trust to see the congregation's contributions to this fund grow year by year.

Two other sums ought to be mentioned in this connection—one of £1 10s. from the Mount Cook Young Women's Class, and one from the Willis Street Young Men's Class of £20, on behalf of the Assembly's Evangelist Fund, making our total Home Missions' contributions £143 0s. 6d.

The total contribution to Missions, Home and Foreign, for the year is thus, £397 5s. 9d. Certain other donations may be referred to here. The British and Foreign Bible Society received £21; the Salvation Army, £7; the General Assembly Local Expenses' Fund, £22 8s. 5d.; the Aged and Infirm Minister's Fund, £5; the Poor, £65 14s. 10d. These, with other donations that need not be specified in detail, bring the congregation's giving for objects other than the maintenance of ordinance to considerably over £500.

THE LADIES' DORCAS VISITING SOCIETY.

This Society has met regularly twice a month during the year. The attendance has usually been good, though it is often a wonder that a larger number of the ladies of the congregation do not see it to be their duty to support this very valuable institution. To it falls the task of administering the Poor Fund collected on communion Sundays, and amounting last year to £65 14s. 10d. Part of this sum was employed in the purchase of materials, out of which the members prepared apparel for destitute women and children, a large number of whom were in this way materially benefitted. Donations in cash were also made in a number of cases. The Society further does good work in collecting funds for the Anniversary Social and such like functions. Through its visiting committee the Society has called upon most of the households that have, during the year, become connected with the congregation.

SABBATH SCHOOLS, BIBLE CLASSES, AND OTHER SOCIETIES'

SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The prosperity of the Sabbath Schools must ever be a source of anxious thought to the Church, for not only is it her bounden duty to care for the spiritual well-being of the young, but it is from the schools that the ranks of her membership and her staff of workers must presently be replenished. It is therefore with great thankfulness that we record the success of last year's operations, and express our indebtedness to the devoted band of superintendents, teachers, and other officers who have contributed

to the goodly result. We have ever felt that no better apologia exists to-day for the religion of Christ than the tireless services rendered to the children of the Church by the Sabbath School workers.

The Sabbath School Association.—From the statistics compiled by this association, which supervises all matters common to both schools, we learn that the number of scholars on the roll was—Boys, 248; girls, 323; total, 571. The average attendance was 392. These figures show a considerable decrease when compared with those of the preceding year, when the roll number of scholars was 777. The explanation of the decrease is that hitherto the young men and women attending the Willis Street Bible Classes were included in the Sunday School statistics; if these (193) were added the total roll would be 764, so that in point of numbers we have just about held our own. Of the figures specified the Willis Street School accounts for 301 scholars, with an average attendance of 206; the Mount Cook School accounts for 270 scholars, with an average attendance of 186. The highest attendance on one Sunday was Willis Street, 230; Mount Cook, 215. The Bible Classes for young men and women, meeting in the Mount Cook school-rooms, do not present separate statistics. The teachers, including librarians, number 52; men, 24; women, 28. The average attendance was 48. 30 teachers belong to Willis Street, average attendance, 28; 22 to Mount Cook, average attendance, 20.

Finance.—The revenue of the schools is in the main derived from two sources: the amount of the Sunday School anniversary collections (amounting this year to £37 13s. 4d.) and the sums contributed by the children on Sundays. It is a pity that the former is not equal to covering all the expenses of the schools, for it is desirable that all the collections obtained from the children should be devoted to missions. We trust that ere long this will be effected. At present only every fourth Sunday's collections are allocated to missions. Other sources of revenue are the contributions of friends towards the annual treat, contributions for socials, etc. The total revenue last year was £186 8s. 6d., towards which sum Willis Street contributed £47 17s. 1d. and Mount Cook, £36 2s. 1d.

Towards Foreign Missions the schools contributed £22 14s. 7d. £20 was spent in the purchase of books for the Libraries, which now number about 1,500 volumes. The debit balance, caused through abnormal expenditure a year or two ago, has been reduced by a sum of £14.

The Annual Picnic was held at Upper Hutt, and a large number of young folk spent a very enjoyable day.

The Children's Morning Class at Mount Cook has been regularly conducted, the roll numbering forty names. On Christmas morning a number of the children, in conjunction with members of the Endeavour Society, rendered a carol service at the Hospital.

Anniversary Services.—These were held on Sunday, the 24th April. Our Minister preached in the morning on the value of the Sunday School to the Church, and in the evening delivered an address to young men. In the afternoon he spoke to the children. There were large attendances at all the services. A tea meeting, with concert and lantern entertainment, completed the anniversary on the Tuesday evening following.

Examinations.—The schools were fairly well represented at the Sunday School Union and General Assembly's examinations. Strange to say, although both examinations were on the same quarter's lessons, the scholars did poorly in the former, but acquitted themselves well in the latter.

Teachers' Preparation Class.—This class met once a week on Friday evenings for the study of the next Sunday's lessons. The minister, the superintendents, and a number of the teachers, shared in the task of conducting the class. It is a pity that a larger number of teachers did not avail themselves of this opportunity of preparation for their Sunday task.

The Sunday School report, from which we gather these particulars, concludes with an earnest request for the co-operation of parents in sending their children regularly to school; and calls upon the teachers to make more strenuous efforts both to obtain and to retain scholars. We re-echo the request, and express the hope that the coming year may be one of notable success in the great business of winning the children for Christ.

BIBLE CLASSES.

WILLIS STREET YOUNG MEN'S CLASS.

This class has had a year of very successful work. Every department of its varied activities has been instinct with life. To all of its members it has been an occasion of receiving good; to very many of them it has been equally an occasion of their doing good to others. There have been many changes in the personnel of the class, for in addition to the loss of members through removal from Wellington—never a small number—the class this year gladly parted with a contingent to help in the formation of a class in the sister congregation of St. Andrew's. The roll contains 104 names as against 107 at this

time last year. The average attendance has been 75. The subjects discussed have been varied, but it has been the steady aim of the conductors and senior members to lead all discussions up to the question of personal character, and the soul's relationship to Jesus Christ. In this we are glad to know that they have been largely successful, and with equal satisfaction we observe that no small space has been given in the consideration of directly Scriptural and theological themes. The papers read by the members have been not infrequently of a high order of merit, and the ensuing conversations have generally been luminous and helpful. Our Minister has, since his arrival in Wellington, closely identified himself with the work of the Young Men's Bible Class, and has become personally known practically to all the members, who look forward to his visits, and highly appreciate his helpful and inspiring utterances.

The income for the year was upwards of £130, of which £29 5s. 11d. was devoted to Missions, £20 to the Assembly's Evangelist Fund, and £36 added to the fund for the erection of a Boy's Institute, to which further reference will be found below.

Social Parlour.—The value of an institution like this is in no small measure due to the opportunities of friendly intercourse it provides for its members, and it is pleasing to, in this connection, to learn that the Social Parlour provided by the congregation a year or two ago has proved an invaluable asset. The room is commodious, handsomely furnished, well lit and warmed, and in addition to a good consulting library, it contains a large supply of magazine literature.

The circulating library is situated in Willis Street Class Room, and has on the shelves upwards of 1,000 volumes. Of these 120 were added during the year, and 1,600 volumes were issued to members. Fifteen members of the class have, during the period under review, joined the membership in full communion with the Church, some by certificate, others for the first time, and four have passed into the ranks of the Sunday School teachers.

OTHER ADJUNCTS OF THE CLASS.

The Gymnasium is fitted with a complete gymnastic apparatus, and is open to all members of the class, on the payment of a small fee. A gymnastic class, under the instructorship of Mr. Alex. Wallace, met twice a week over a period of six months, and at the close of the session gave, in co-operation with the Ladies' Class, a very creditable display. At this gathering a presentation was, in the name of the class, made to Mr. and Mrs. Wallace, in token of the appreciation in which the services of Mr. Wallace were held by the members.

The Football Club.—Forty members of the class are connected with the Club, in which there are three elevens. While unsuccessful in their strenuous efforts to retain the senior Championship shield, which they held for the two previous years, they nevertheless were successful in securing the Charity Cup, beating in this contest the holders of the shield.

The Young Man's Magazine.—This journal, begun in the interests of the class 10 years ago, has for some time past served a much wider constituency. As is well known, the Young Men's Bible Classes connected with the Presbyterian Church are now federated in a Union, and the Young Man's Magazine, which circulates freely among the members of the Union, is one of its strongest bonds. The high literary and ethical quality of the Magazine has been well maintained. The circulation was 2,500 per quarter. The Magazine has recently entered upon a new phase of its existence. Henceforth it will appear as a monthly, and judging from the standing of many of the writers who have promised to contribute articles, and the large number of new readers who have been secured, the success of the venture is assured. The subscribers now number 4,000, an increase of 1,500. It has our sincerest wishes for a career of increasing usefulness.

The Boys' Institute.—In its earlier stages this was an inter-denominational association, but it has for some time past been exclusively Presbyterian and St. John's. As a matter of fact it is carried on by members of the Young Men's Class, with occasional assistance from other members of the congregation, and is one of the brightest and most hopeful features of their work. The meetings are now held in the Mount Cook School—all expenses being defrayed by the class. Meetings are held every Sunday evening, and are attended by 100 boys, most of whom are outside all other religious influence. A clamant need of the Institute is a suitable building. The hall in which the boys used to meet has been requisitioned by the City Council for tramway purposes, and the Mount Cook School is not a satisfactory place, even for the Sunday work, and without a home of their own week-night work is next to impossible. The members of the Bible Class have shown how deeply they have the cause of the boys at heart by contributing and promising to contribute the sum (large in circumstances) of £305 towards a new structure. We trust that ere long their wishes will be fully realised. No new building can well be faced by the congregation as a whole at the present moment, but will not some good Samaritan, who has the means, supply the balance, say, £800, required to erect this building for the good of the neglected lads of Wellington, and the honour of Jesus Christ our Lord?

WILLIS STREET YOUNG WOMEN'S CLASS.

This class has had a very prosperous session. The number on the roll was 89, the average attendance 65. No fewer than 43 members of the class are members in full communion with the Church, and of these 10 joined during the year. Two members have joined the Sunday School staff. The girls show their interest in the work, not only by their presence at the meetings, but also by the papers they have contributed, and the part they have taken in the ensuing discussions. We are glad to observe that the consecutive study of portions of the Word of God has occupied a large space in the syllabus. As in the case of the Young Men's Class, the advantages of this institution are not limited to the meetings on Sunday afternoon, the class affords opportunities of social intercourse, invaluable to its members; many of whom are strangers in Wellington, and exposed to all the temptations incident to a lonely life in a crowded city. The class has benefitted by the help given from time to time by friends who have been present and delivered addresses. Mr. Moore, Mr. T. H. Gill, M.A., the Minister, and others have in this way rendered valuable assistance.

Largely through the influence of this class a Union of the Presbyterian Young Women's Bible Classes of the colony has been recently formed, the objects aimed at being very much the same as those of the Young Men's Union, namely, the promotion of Bible Class work among the young women of the Church.

Since its inception the class has taken a great interest in missions, and this year the contributions to this cause have amounted to the gratifying sum of £52 8s. The allocation of this sum was as follows:—Mukhti mission, India, £25 13s.; Maori Girls' College, £20; Presbyterian Deaconess' Institute, £3; New Hebride's mission, £3; British and Foreign Bible Society, 15s.

In addition to the sum directly raised for missions the class has disposed of Indian goods to the value of fifty pounds on behalf of the Mukhti mission, and has sent parcels of gifts both to India and China. All this constitutes a missionary record for a class of girls, of which we do well to be not a little proud. For the general purposes of the class the members contributed a sum of over six pounds, and a reading given by the Minister placed several pounds more at their disposal for the library. The latter now contains 212 volumes. Members of the congregation who are in a position to make a gift of a book or books to the library are hereby informed that their contributions will be thankfully received.

Gymnastic Class.—The consent of the Office-bearers having been given to the use, under due chaperonage, of the gymnasium

one evening a week during the winter months, a class was duly formed. A considerable number of the girls joined the class, which was conducted by Mr. Galloway, who, at a combined entertainment given by the Young Men's and Young Women's Classes, received a substantial token of appreciation in which his services were held.

The Girls' Chronicle.—This magazine, which started very humbly some time since, the copies being produced by mimeograph process, attained to the dignity of print a little over a year ago, and launched out on a new venture. At first it was merely a class chronicle, now it aims at doing for the Young Women's movement what the Young Man's Magazine has done so well for the men's movement. And it is going to do it. Already the circulation amounts to 1,000, and the quality of the contents improves with every succeeding issue.

There are two other Bible Classes—one for young men, one for young women—connected with the congregation. They are held in the Mount Cook school on Sunday afternoons. They do not present separate reports, because they regard themselves, and desire to be regarded, as an integral part of the Sunday school meeting in that building. We learn, however, that they have had a successful year's work.

The work which is being carried on in these four classes is of the greatest value to the Church, and of incalculable benefit to the young people connected with them. To the conductors and other officers, we express, in the name of the congregation, our very great appreciation of the work they have done, and pray that God may yet more abundantly crown their labours with success.

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR SOCIETY.

This Society stands alone among the organizations of the congregation in having to record a shrinkage in the numbers on the roll, and in the average attendance. The year began with a membership of 76 actives, 3 associates, and 70 honorary. The associates still stand at 3, the honoraries have increased to 70, but the actives, upon whom the work of the society really depends, have decreased to 55, a loss of 21 members. A similar decrease has been recorded in the Endeavour Societies connected with many other churches, and fears have been expressed that this movement is showing signs of being a spent force. In our own congregation a good many of the features of the Endeavour Society are now in evidence in the Young Men's and Young Women's Bible Classes. Of these we have four, and it is not perhaps to be wondered at that it is proving difficult to run five associations of a similar character in one congregation. Happily, however, of late the attendance has been improving, and happily too the

united testimony of those who have attended the meetings regularly is that they have never been more profitable. A large part of the syllabus was occupied with the parables of our Lord, and as the year ran on the benefits accruing from a consecutive and sustained study of the Word of God became clearly manifest. It is gratifying to record that in the matter of Christian activities on behalf of others this society has excelled itself during its first year.

The Sunshine Committee paid 239 visits to the homes of the poor, and goods presented to the society on gift nights enabled the committee to render their friends service of a material kind. A Christmas dinner was also provided for a large number of persons. In addition to these gifts the committee has spent in direct cash contributions upwards of seven pounds.

Home Mission Work has also been diligently attended to. Services have been regularly held by members of the society at the Ohio Home, open air services have been held during a great part of the year at the Boulcott street corner, and on Christmas Day a carol service was held at the Hospital. The inmates of this institution, and of the other hospitals and benevolent homes of the city, have been regularly visited. Towards the cost of a portable organ for the Society's mission and open air work a sum of over nine pounds was collected.

Much attention has been devoted to the cause of foreign missions. At stated intervals missionary meetings have been held, at which letters from missionaries have been read, and letters have also been sent to missionaries. Of the Prayer Cycles, prepared by the Assembly's Mission Committee, 120 copies have been sold, and a large supply of Chinese tracts was purchased and distributed among the local Chinese. By means of ordinary and special collections, mission boxes, and the like, a sum of £16 17s. 9d. was collected for missions, of which £10 was donated to the New Hebride's Mission, and the balance to the Canton Village Mission, China. The missionary collections show a considerable advance on the sum raised in the preceding year.

From these jottings of the Society's work for the past year it will be seen that although there has been a decrease in the membership and attendance, there has been no lack of vitality—indeed in the matter of those fruits which, according to our Lord are the only true criterion of worth, the Society has been very much alive during the last twelve months. We wish it God speed and all prosperity during the coming year.

Junior Christian Endeavour Society.—This Society meets in the Willis Street Class-room on Sunday mornings, at 10 o'clock.

The roll contains 40 names, and the attendance has been very satisfactory. The syllabus has been varied and suited to the needs of the children. The class contributed £3 to Maori Missions.

GIRLS' SEWING CLASS.

This class is conducted by a small number of ladies, on behalf of the children of poor people. The object is to teach the children habits of useful industry, and to benefit their parents by the gift of the goods which are put together by the class. The number of children girls attending was 49, the number of garments made 108. The revenue of the class was over £5, obtained by subscriptions from a few friends. The Session ended with a social meeting given to the girls. The conductors desire to thank those who helped on the little work either in money or in kind.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.

Early in the year the Committee was strengthened by the addition of five new members, viz., Messrs G. F. Glen, J. M. Morice, J. Pearson, G. H. Scott and J. Strauchon; the number on the roll is now 20. Monthly meetings have been held regularly, and the business of the Church has been diligently attended to. A good deal of attention was given to the question of repairs and improvements in the ecclesiastical properties, and special mention may be made of the alterations to the Church necessitated by the City Council's regulations to permit of easy egress from public buildings in case of fire or panic. The work was completed within the period under review, though the cost, upwards of two hundred pounds, has yet to be met.

FINANCE.

The debt-reduction scheme, initiated over twelve months ago, is now well forward. No general canvass of the congregation has yet been made, but already upwards of sixteen hundred pounds have been promised, and of this sum four hundred pounds have been paid up. In the course of the next week or two the members of the Management Committee will wait upon the congregation, when it is hoped that a sum sufficient to clear away every penny of debt on the properties of St. John's will be speedily forthcoming. The contributions of the congregation for all purposes (including the paid-up subscriptions to the debt-reduction scheme, but excluding the revenue of its separate organisations) has been £2,610. The Sunday collections amounted to £1,237 2s 2d, including special collections. These figures mark an increase of two hundred and twenty pounds on the previous year, and of four hundred pounds on the year before that. Seat rents also show a large increase. On the year's working there is a debit balance of twenty-six pounds, but a glance at the balance-sheet will show that the Assembly's rates (£15)

We would desire to end this report as it began, with an expression of our great thankfulness to God for the way by which He has led us, and the mercies which He has vouchsafed to us. His hand has indeed been upon us for good.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1904.

[illegible]

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, 31st DECEMBER, 1904.

LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.			
		£	s. d.			£	s. d.
Amount of Mortgage on Property		1,900	0 0	Estimated Value of Church, School-rooms, Manse, Land, etc.		15,423	0 0
Amount Owing to Bank		247	10 7	Unpaid Seat Rents—estimated		20	0 0
Balance to Debtor, Revenue Account		110	13 11				
Balance		13,183	15 6				
		<u>£15,442</u>	<u>0 0</u>			<u>£15,442</u>	<u>0 0</u>

JOHN G. W. AITKEN,
Hon. Treasurer.

St. John's Presbyterian Church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BUILDING EXTENSION FUND.

RECEIPTS.						DISBURSEMENTS.					
					£ s. d.						£ s. d.
To Subscriptions, 1904					15 5 6	By Balance from last year					343 17 1
" Balance					650 0 7	" Section of Land, Messrs. Hunter					250 0 0
						" Contractors, J. & A. Wilson					71 9 0
					<u>£865 6 1</u>						<u>£865 6 1</u>

31st December, 1904.

JOHN G. W. AITKEN,
Hon. Treasurer.

St. John's Presbyterian Church Sunday Schools.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1904.

[illegible]

Audited and found correct--JOHN PAUL, *Hon. Auditor.*

WM. HOPKIRK,
Hon. Treasurer.

St. John's Women's Missionary Association.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1904.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.			
No. of District.	Collector.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	
1	Miss C. Glen	8 13 6		Stationery, Stamps, etc.		0 8 0	
2	Miss Burns and Miss Ross	3 11 6		Balance paid to Church Treasurer		118 4 0	
3	Mrs Dick and Miss Gibb	7 5 0					
4	Miss Dick and Miss Balston	7 14 0					
5	Miss Harris (3 quarters)	4 2 6					
6	Mrs Hustwick	22 19 0					
7	Miss Churchill and Miss Hay	3 17 0					
8	Miss Stenhouse	6 3 0					
9	Miss Ballingall	4 15 0					
10	Mrs. J. Wilson	2 7 6					
11	Mrs. and Miss Chapman	5 7 6					
12	Mrs. Allen and Miss Steele	6 5 0					
13	Miss Wallace	2 15 6					
14	Miss Scott	2 13 0					
15	Mrs. Menelaus	5 8 0					
16	Miss McLeod	5 7 0					
17	Mrs Drummond	6 15 6					
18	Miss Glasgow	7 5 0					
19	Misses D. and M. Wimsett	3 14 6					
	Members' Subscriptions		116 19 0				
			1 13 0				
			<u>£118 12 0</u>				<u>£118 12 0</u>

E. HUSTWICK, Treasurer.

St. John's Young Men's Bible Class.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1904.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Cash at Bank, 1st January, 1904			21 14 2	By Donations—			
Donations and Subscriptions—December 31st—				Travelling Secretary's Fund		20 0 6	
Home Mission		9 8 10		Maori Mission		8 11 3	
Maori		3 11 3		New Hebrides' Mission		2 15 0	
New Hebrides' Mission		2 15 0		Canton Mission		0 3 11	
Mukti Mission		6 13 4		Mukti		6 16 1	
Canton Mission		0 8 11		Hospital Sunday Fund		1 5 4	
Travelling Secretary's Fund		20 0 6					39 17 1
Library (Proceeds Lecture, etc.)			42 17 10	Deposit Account added to Home Mission Deposit			
Gymnasium Subscriptions			8 0 0	Account		20 0 0	
Collection			21 15 9	Library—Purchase of New Books		9 14 10	
Sundries			26 14 3	Furnishings for Parlour		2 7 0	
			0 5 0	J. and A. Wilson—Account for Gymnasium Fittings		23 3 9	
				Boys' Institute, Sunday Services		7 2 0	
				Printing Syllabuses		5 5 0	
				Insurance		0 16 3	
				Bank Charge		0 10 0	
				Sundries		8 9 3	
				Cash at Bank		14 1 10	
			<u>£131 7 0</u>				<u>£131 7 0</u>

Audited and found correct—JNO. PAUL, Hon. Auditor.

C. A. REDGRAVE, Treasurer.

Jubilee Fund.

To Subscriptions, 1904	£	s.	d.	By Mortgage, Public Trustee	£	s.	d.
" Balance	402	19	0	" Balance, Sunday School Building Extension A/c	1,900	0	0
	2,147	10	7		650	0	7
	<u>£2,550</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>		<u>£2,550</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7</u>

31st December, 1904.

JOHN G. W. AITKEN,
Hon. Treasurer.

St. John's Ladies' Visiting and Doctas Society.

BALANCE-SHEET, 1904.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Cash Balance in hand	11	9	11	Funeral Expenses	4	15	0
Received from Church Treasurer.. .. .	65	14	10	Coal	2	6	0
				Material for Sewing	8	8	10
				Relieving the Sick and Needy	37	10	9
				Cash Balance in Hand	24	4	2
	<u>£77</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>		<u>£77</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9</u>

G. W. MOORE, Hon. Treasurer.