

so much has been done in the first year by this system, combined with the usual plate collections for those who do not see their way to adopt it, the Trustees are encouraged to ask every member of the congregation to give this matter careful thought, and to contribute as each may think right, so that at the end of this year, the amount given may again show a large increase.

During the year, the caretaker's house has been completed, and its cost, \$4897.20, charged in the current accounts. To provide for this the Trustees have mortgaged the house and the ground it is built on for \$5,000. at five per cent. interest per annum. They hope that the congregation will before long subscribe this amount, and pay the mortgage off. Meantime there was no other course for the Trustees to pursue. The building of this house was a necessity, and had been already long enough delayed, as the congregation decided at the special meeting held in May, 1886.

To make the revenue meet the expenditure, the treasurer has had to draw from the Guarantee Fund \$3,500. It will be noticed that a large item of the expenditure, \$2,447.83, does not come under the head of ordinary expenses. This sum was spent in fitting up the basement, making a new vestry and class-room for the pastor, putting in a new drain, and other repairs and improvements. These have been very much needed, but could not be done until the house for the caretaker was completed. It is very satisfactory that these changes have been made, and that the accommodation so much needed, has been obtained.

The balance carried over this year is \$430.24 against \$197.75 last year, a difference of \$232.49, deducting this and the amount spent in improvements, \$2,447.83, together \$2,680.32, from the amount drawn from the Guarantee Fund, \$3500, and the small amount borrowed in excess of the actual cost of the caretaker's house, \$103.20, in all, \$3,603.20, leaves \$922.88, the exact amount required this year to make the ordinary revenue sufficient for the ordinary expenditure.

The Trustees in accordance with the by-laws have elected Mr. James Burnett to the vacant seat at the Board.

The two Trustees who retire by rotation this year are Messrs. John Hope and Alex. Ewan. They are both eligible for re-election.

MONTREAL, 9 *January*, 1888.

ANDREW ALLAN,

Chairman.