

REPORT OF THE CHURCHWARDENS.

The congregation will be interested to learn that a desire has been expressed on behalf of the Executive Committee of Synod to find accommodation for diocesan purposes in connection with the offices of this Vestry on St. James' Cathedral premises. Preliminary estimates and designs of the necessary alterations and additions are being obtained in order that the subject may be laid before the Finance and Consulting Committee during the coming year.

Another matter, which seems to us to be of more than congregational interest, is also commended to the consideration of that committee and of the vestry. The Legislature has empowered the Provincial Government to take steps towards the due commemoration of this year as the centenary of Parliamentary institutions in Canada, and it may be said, in the British Colonial Empire. It is not generally known, and therefore it is all the more desirable to note in some public manner, that there is no spot in this capital city of the province so intimately connected with its early history and institutions as St. James' church. The present St. James' cathedral square was set apart by Governor Simcoe in 1797, in the plan of the town of York for the site of a church and churchyard for the inhabitants of the town of York, and was granted for those purposes. In that plot, accordingly, the dust of many of the earliest inhabitants of all denominations reposes to this day. But an even more important and interesting historical circumstance is that the church built on this site in 1807 became at once intimately connected with the municipal system of the province, as it was established by the first Parliament at its second session of 1793. It was in the vestry of this church that the inhabitants met annually for thirty years to elect churchwardens and townwardens for the town of York. The list of those townwardens for the thirty years between 1807 and 1833, and the official record of their election exist only in the vestry book of St. James' church. Whether the city authorities may feel disposed to join in erecting some permanent record of this primary stage of our local history remains to be seen. We think that the subject might properly be presented for their consideration. We also think that the Finance Committee might very well take up at the same time the question of beautifying the church by a window or other monument commemorating the thirty or more churches which have arisen within the ancient boundaries of St. James' parish since the foundation of the original church in 1807.

The accounts of the past year are presented herewith.

O. A. HOWLAND,
H. J. GRASETT.

Moved by O. A. Howland, seconded by H. J. Grasett,—That in celebration of this centenary year in the history of our province and of Canada, the Finance Committee is desired and empowered to consider a scheme for commemorating the early history of this church by the erection of windows or other suitable monument, to obtain

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