

Dr. Jenkins, being absent on account of illness, transmitted a communication, which was read, in the following terms :

"Not to be present this evening at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation is a very great disappointment to Dr. Jenkins, whose physician absolutely forbids his leaving the house.

This illness has been in many other ways disappointing to your pastor. He naturally desired to be with his people on the first Sabbath of the new year; and scarcely less yesterday, when he completed his sixteenth year as minister of St. Paul's. Especially does he regret the interruption which has thus necessarily occurred in his pastoral visits, and, most of all, in those visits which are demanded by the sick and dying.

Dr. Jenkins was intending to refer, this evening, to the question of pew rents, and to ask the meeting to consider whether the present system might not be wisely and beneficially abolished, as has been done with so great success in many of the leading Congregations of the Church.

Another matter to which he proposed to refer was the comparatively small proportion of communicants in the Congregation who contribute to the missionary work of the Church. It is almost past belief that a large number of those who sit at the Lord's Table among us should hold back from this apostolically enjoined Christian duty.

Dr. Jenkins congratulates the Congregation, and rejoices with them at the Report which is to be this evening submitted. He recognizes the good hand of God in these three cheering facts :

First: That the ordinary income has more than met the ordinary expenditure, even though the Treasurer has had to pay an item of \$140 for interest (which will not recur), and has also paid in advance insurance on the property for two years to come.

Second: That the Congregation is absolutely free from debt both as to "floating debt" and property.

Third: That, owing to the liberality and exertions of Messrs. Hope, Green-shields and Mitchell, seconded by the generous contributions of other members of the Congregation, there is placed before the meeting, this evening, the early prospect of a completed Church all paid for.

Dr. Jenkins trusts that the Head of the Church will be in and with the Annual Meeting, guiding it in its deliberations, and leading it on to wise conclusions, that so this new year may be the most successful and prosperous of all our years."

Mr. J. C. Watson, as one of the Trustees, requested that a minute of their Board passed on 29th November, 1880, relative to the services of Dr. Jenkins in regard to the payment of the debt should be read. Whereupon it was read as follows :

That this Board, in recording the extinguishment of the debt on the Church, does so with grateful thanks to the Revd. Dr. Jenkins, to whose energy and personal exertions the attainment of this long desired end is due. For the first time since the Congregation of St. Paul's was formed, many years ago, is the Church entirely free from either mortgage or floating debt. To this end the Trustees drew special attention in their last annual report. They did not expect that the full benefit of freedom from debt would within one year be attained. They thankfully yield to Dr. Jenkins the honour of the successful and rapid consummation.

Mr. Watson then moved, seconded by Mr. Alexander Ewan, and it was resolved,

That the Congregation has heard, with grateful thanks to Dr. Jenkins, of the success which has attended his efforts to accomplish the removal of the debts which existed at last annual meeting. The Congregation, having heard read the resolution of the Trustees on this matter, hereby cordially approves of the same. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Dr. Jenkins.