

## KINGSTON CONGREGATION.

EXTRACTS from Minutes of Congregational meeting of St. Andrew's Church, Kingston, held 29th March, 1854.

The Rev. Dr. Machar in the Chair.

Meeting opened with devotional exercises and prayer.

Treasurer read statement showing the Church free from debt.

The following REPORT from the Ladies was also read—:

The Ladies of St. Andrew's Church feel much pleasure in submitting to the Congregation a Report of what has been done by them during the last three years and a half in aid of the liquidation of the debt then on the Manse; and they cannot do so without acknowledging with thankfulness that the blessing of the Almighty has followed their exertions, without which their efforts would have been poor indeed.

Four years ago there was a debt of £1000, bearing interest, on the Manse (built in 1844), and not an effort made towards paying it off, when a few Ladies joined together to do what they could by the sale of their work to make a beginning. They adopted the simple plan of monthly sales, not, be it remembered, with an idea of being able to pay the whole debt, but merely assisting, and thereby inciting others to do likewise; and it would be unjust as well as ungenerous to withhold from the congregation what it will give them as much pleasure to hear as to us to make known,—that one great cause of success and of gratification attending it was the generous liberality of our beloved minister. From the time our exertions commenced, it will be remembered, Dr. Machar relinquished one-half of the interest due to him on the £1000 and (also for the time) half the sacramental allowance, thereby in fact giving £12 10s. annually to the Church by way of encouraging the congregation to pay off the debt. In the course of three years £400 were funded, and the Ladies were then encouraged to further exertions by learning that the Commissioners for the Clergy Reserves would aid in building Manses provided congregations would subscribe £50 for a like purpose. This was done, and the aid received from the Clergy Reserves Fund was £150; thus £200 were added to the former four. It then suggested itself to the Ladies that by making a united effort they would complete the work begun, and induce those, hitherto not interested in the scheme, to aid in getting-up a Bazaar, of which they need not be ashamed. The end was fully answered, and it is gratifying to record with what hearty good-will and good feeling towards each other they warded an amicable strife to outdo each other in the variety and beauty of their work; nor can we omit giving a due meed of praise to those gentlemen who kindly undertook to assist in the arrangements. Their cordial co-operation, their ready and

useful advice, and devotion of their valuable time, merit the warmest thanks of the Ladies, for without these they neither would have made the appearance, nor carried out their plans as effectually as they were enabled to do. Thanks are also due to those both in and out of the congregation who bestowed so large a share of patronage on the work. The Bazaar took place in October, and realized £505 after paying all expenses; and the debt would then have been paid immediately, but that Dr. Machar with his usual liberality requested the Ladies to retain it until January, when they would receive the dividend on the stock in the Bank, thus relinquishing £21 more. It was however paid on the 4th of January of the present year, and the remaining £105 is reserved, as originally intended, should any balance remain after paying the debt, for putting a suitable fence in place of the unsightly one now enclosing the Manse; and it is matter of regret that their means will not admit of putting up one to correspond with that in front of the Church.

The Ladies also desire at this time to lay before the Congregation a Statement of the Missionary Association.

Two years ago it was urged by many that the Missionary Fund should be given up to pay the debts then on the Church. The Ladies objected that this Fund should be diverted from its original object; first, because it would not meet the debts, and the Missionary Scheme would be deprived of its means; and, secondly, it could not be done without the consent of the individual subscribers. Since then nearly £200 have been subscribed towards the debt, but there was still a balance of £83 14s. 5d. to pay; and, being requested by many individuals to appropriate the sums opposite their names to pay this debt, the Ladies consented to sell 2 shares of Bank stock out of 9 they hold of the Missionary Fund; and, to satisfy all parties, a list of names can be shown, which by their united subscriptions for one year shows a sum of upwards of £60, which may assure those opposed to the plan that their money is reserved for its original purpose; but at the same time it is urged by the Ladies that no further drafts on this Fund may be made hereafter, as many are not satisfied at its being touched. These 2 shares with judicious management, and a balance of £7 10s., remaining from the subscriptions raised for the debt, leave us now in possession of a Church and Manse without a debt upon them; and it is most earnestly hoped that those, who may hereafter have the management of the finances, will continue to keep them so, for a great and long-continued struggle has been made to set them free.

It was thought advisable that the monthly collections for the support of a Missionary should cease for the present, until a permanent Missionary be obtained, many friends to the Mission pledging them-

selves to renew their subscriptions when called upon, as there was sufficient on hand to meet the demand for this winter. It is therefore hoped that after a respite from calls on their liberality, and the present prosperous state of the Church, the Missionary collections may be resumed, when necessary, with zeal and renewed interest.

Signed W. HARPER,  
Treasurer.

Moved by the Rev. Professor Williamson, seconded by James Boyd and Resolved.

“That this meeting acknowledges to the utmost extent the obligations under which the congregation lies to the Trustees of the Church for the honourable and economical administration of its financial affairs, and desires to express the gratitude so generally felt at the exertions and sacrifices made by them during trials and difficulties of a financial nature, now passed away, it is hoped, never to return.”

Moved by John Craigton, seconded by John Duff:

“That, conscious of the great services rendered by the Ladies of the Congregation for their untiring zeal in endeavouring to wipe off its pecuniary liabilities, and more particularly those incurred in building the Manse, this meeting desires to record its conviction that, under God, it is to their exertions and sacrifices, more than to any other cause, that this congregation occupies the gratifying position it now does of being for the first time since its organisation free from debt, and under the circumstances, while a simple vote of thanks is a very inadequate return for the services rendered, yet, as it is the only method by which the congregation can express its gratitude,—it is hereby resolved, that the cordial thanks of this Congregation are due and are hereby expressed to the Ladies for their very efficient services.”

Moved by M. W. Strange, seconded by Rev. Professor Smith, and Resolved:

“That the name of Mrs. Harper is deserving of particular mention in the above Resolution in consideration of her special services, while assisted by the other Ladies, in the establishment and maintenance of the Monthly sales, which have been productive of such beneficial results to the temporal affairs of this Congregation.”

Moved by Rev. Professor Smith, seconded by Andrew Drummond, and Resolved:

“That the Congregation cannot allow the present opportunity to pass without anew recording their deep sense of obligation to the Missionary Association for their zealous and untiring exertions all along in carrying on the Mission; and, while they approve of the conduct of the Ladies in suspending under the existing circumstan-