

me notice of this before the balance was closed, I would have tried and got a portion of it in, for our people are neither unable nor unwilling to pay. In May last I wrote to him to the same effect, and pleading for justice to the sitters, by his putting to the credit of last year what properly belonged to it, although not actually collected till the balance was struck.

In the end of March this year, with Mr. Leask's concurrence, I drew up the following notice, which was read from the pulpit on March 28 :

"The Trustees beg respectfully to inform the congregation that by a prospective calculation made for the current year, there will be a deficiency of about £60 in the income necessary to defray current expenses, and they would earnestly desire such an increase in the ordinary collections as would meet this deficiency. The average ordinary collection for last year is about £5, and four or five dollars more (not a large sum when spread over a large congregation) would cover the amount required. A very little exertion will do this ; and I would earnestly recommend to all the members and sitters, to make conscience of the duty of their voluntarily contributing of their means to uphold the ordinances of God."

The result has been what it always is in matters of this nature, a prompt attention to the recommendations of the pastor ; and from that day to this the average of weekly collections has been rather above than below £6.

Of the gross amount of yearly collections, the following table may afford proof that there has been no falling off :

1851.....	£315	2	5½		1854.....	£367	19	2½
1852.....	296	4	0		1855.....	*444	5	8
1853.....	344	11	3					

The trustees, indeed, have told the Presbytery that the last six Sabbaths shew a falling off in all of rather more than £5. Three of these Sabbaths have been very wet days ; and the weather always affects our collections. Moreover, there are *moral* causes in operation as well as physical—and more powerful they are certainly—and Mr. Alexander Henderson may not be the only sitter who triumphantly exclaimed in my hearing—obviously to prevent me from entertaining a higher

* It is but fair to notice that this last sum is above the amount that might have been expected in ordinary circumstances. The afternoon service in which Dr. Duff officiated brought us £80, and of that sum £30, or perhaps £40, may have been contributed by strangers.