

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF ST. GABRIEL CHURCH.

The Trustees have again to lay before the Congregation their Annual Report and Financial Statement for the past year.

As the new system adopted at last Annual Meeting for the collection of pew rents could only come into force after the acceptance of the proposal of the Trustees by the Congregation, the financial year had to be arranged to close at the end of January, to complete the twelve months under the envelope system. The success or failure of the experiment has naturally been of the greatest interest to the Congregation, and although, as the Financial Statement to be submitted will show, the method is no patent remedy for the ills that the temporalities of churches may be afflicted with, still as far as St. Gabriel Church is concerned, it is apparent from the result of even the first year that the Congregation did a very wise thing in making trial of the principle.

The plan appears to be well liked so far, and the members and adherents generally seem to consider it a convenient method for contributing to the support of the Church.

The increase of work it gives to the Treasurer is no doubt a serious drawback, only to be lightened by the weekly payments being kept up punctually, it being evident that arrears in such payments must lead to great confusion.

The Trustees respectfully submit, that in this respect the Congregation has a duty to perform towards the Treasurer, to whom they are under a deep obligation for the time expended during the past year and the necessary additional labour required in establishing and putting in working order an entire new system of keeping his accounts with them.

While congratulating the Congregation on the very general recognition of the principle of weekly offerings, the Trustees regret to be obliged to report that though the receipts from all sources have about met the current expenses of the year, this has only been done by again employing the interest accruing from the balance due on the sale of the Manse property, which it was hoped might have been used to extinguish the debt on the Building Fund, the weekly offerings and ordinary collections proving insufficient without it. These amount to \$2,080.61, that part under envelope being \$1,778.94, about \$34 for each Sabbath offering, which may be considered a low average. On these weekly contributions nearly \$100 of arrears have accumulated for the past year.

The receipts from all sources up to the 31st January are \$3,130.66, and disbursements, \$2,854.07, leaving a balance of \$276.59.