

pew accommodation, points clearly to this, and your Committee would fail in their duty were they not to urge upon you the necessity of keeping this matter steadily in view, and asking every one to give it their most earnest and conscientious consideration.

Your Committee cannot close this Report without adverting to the position and circumstances of the congregation at the present time, in comparison with those of the corresponding period last year. Then we were like a flock without a shepherd. We had but recently been deprived of the services of an old and much esteemed pastor, Mr. Wardrope, and were without any immediate prospect of having his place supplied. Our congregation was becoming unsettled—our church attendance was decreasing, and we knew not in what direction to look for one as his successor. In the course of Divine Providence we were at last directed where to look, and in the month of July last, in response to a most unanimous call, the Rev. Mr. McLaren took his place amongst us. For this happy termination to our trials, as a congregation, we have much reason to feel deeply thankful. Since the advent here of Mr. McLaren, the attendance at public worship has increased in a striking manner. Where before were empty pews, there are now full ones, and it is not too much to say that never at any time was there less spare accommodation in the church than now. For this we feel that under God we are indebted to the services of our pastor, and we most sincerely trust that in his labor of love amongst us, he may continue to carry with him the blessing of our Heavenly Father—aiding and encouraging him in the work of building up and strengthening our Zion, and in the end that he may have many souls for his hire.

In conclusion, your Committee would pray that the Divine blessing may continue to rest and abide upon us as a congregation, in the future as in the past, and that the hands of their successors in office may be strengthened for the performance of the important work allotted them.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN HENDERSON,
Secretary.

H. McCORMICK,
Chairman.

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