

The existing congregation in the meantime will experience relief to the extent to which the voluntary revenue has hitherto been called on for payment of the interest of the debt, that is to the amount of about \$4,000.

We are now free to take up other important questions. A hearty extension of the envelope system may be hoped for to provide for filling the place which has been so long vacant, of Assistant Minister.

Another object, which appears to us to be of even more urgent importance, is the formation of a fund and the consideration of plans for the immediate repair and for the permanent improvement of the church building. In view of the great advantages that have been handed down to us, something more will be expected of us than merely necessary repairs and ordinary renovation. We believe it will be generally felt that the time has come for carrying forward another stage the work of completing and beautifying the Church. The edifice, already containing so many precious memorials, ought to be rendered more nearly fire proof. The substitution of stone for wood in some parts of the interior will serve in this direction and will tend to fulfil the dignity of the original design. A still more important effect would be produced by the removal of the great mass of wood-work in the east and west galleries. The space lost can be in a great measure compensated by re-seating the floor.

There is everything to encourage us to take up the work in a generous spirit.

The future of the Church seems to be now assured; it stands in no danger of sale and demolition. On the contrary, we may look forward to its becoming a venerable and venerated landmark in the heart of this city. Its destruction, an event at one time so busily threatened, would have been a calamity to be regretted not by this congregation alone. The sentiment of veneration in this new community has few objects to help its cultivation. With the fall of this Church and the building up of the site, something would have been lost to the people of this city that could never have been replaced. Beyond those dear associations it has for many of us, St. James's Church as an institution has historic associations with the past. Not many, perhaps, are aware that on this spot the predecessors of the Mayors of the City of Toronto used to be elected by the predecessors of the present Vestry. During the early part of this century, under the constitution which then obtained, the Town wardens of the Town of York joined to their civil office that of Churchwardens of this Church. In a small faded volume in our vault, the minutes of the first election (in 1807) to the joint office are preserved; thus constituting an official record of the Town of York, as well as of the proceedings of this Vestry.

The founders of the city and the public men who served the Province through its first fifty years—that formative period of its history, are nearly all personally associated with this spot. General Brock probably knelt here on his way to his last campaign in defence of our independence. Governor Simcoe,—the pioneer Governor who planned our first highways,—Lord Elgin, the friend of our constitutional liberties, a long series of good and useful men—have had their seats in one or other of the buildings that have succeeded each other on this site.