

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE DEACONS' COURT OF

The McNab Street Presbyterian Church,

PRESENTED

At the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, held on the 9th May, 1859.

The Deacons of the McNab Street Church, have much pleasure in again meeting with their brethren of the congregation, for the purpose of rendering their annual account of the finances, and of submitting the usual abstract of their proceedings, during the preceding year; and in doing so it well becomes them to acknowledge with gratitude the gracious Hand that has helped us, the kind Eye that has watched over us, and the infinite Love which has manifested itself in bringing us, so mercifully to its close.

The Deacons may be permitted to congratulate the Congregation generally, upon the comfortable circumstances in which we now find ourselves, as compared with our position at our last annual meeting. The improvements referred to in our last report, have all been successfully carried out, and in addition, ornamental shade trees have been procured and planted around our place of worship. Alterations have also been effected in the heating and ventilating of the building, which there is every reason to believe will add much to the comfort of the congregation. The alterations made in the seating of the body of the Church, will, the Deacons believe, still further conduce both to the convenience and comfort of the congregation.

The erection of galleries, authorised by the public meeting held in the month of September last, has also been carried to a successful completion, and with this—the greatest improvement effected in the building since its erection—the labours of the year have been crowned.

The position of the congregation, in other respects, is, on the whole, a favourable one. The membership,—the Deacons are informed by the Session Clerk—has increased fifty one in number, during the past year; and this increase is certainly gratifying, when we consider that not a few families have had, from various circumstances, to leave our communion during that period, for other districts of the country. Our financial condition likewise, in view of our present monetary troubles, and consequent depression in trade; resulting in the loss of employment to so many of our members, is much better than might have been anticipated—the regular revenue of the congregation exceeding, by nearly \$700, that of the previous year. In this connection the Deacons would here notice that while at the date of our last report there were 142 regular contributors to the Sustentation Fund, at present there are but 128. The above increase in the revenue is therefore mainly due to those members of the congregation, who, already contributing liberally, have of their own accord—and contrary to the usual custom in times of depression—increased, for a time, the amount of this contribution to the Fund. To these gentlemen the Deacons feel persuaded no reward or praise of men will be necessary. In the quiet of their own hearts—in the consciousness of having done their duty—in the approving smile of their Heavenly Father, they will doubtless find those rich rewards, which are the satisfying portion of the Christian.

At the last annual meeting, the Deacons were instructed to advertise for candidates for the office of precentor, in the congregation which instructions were duly carried into effect, and five candidates for the office presented themselves before the congregation. Exceptions were however taken to the qualification of several of the parties, and at a meeting of the office bearers, held in the month of September last, it was decided that as there was no indication of unanimity in the choice, the election should be postponed until the next annual meeting. A few of the office bearers, on being requested, agreed to lead the praises of the congregation in the intervening period, which duty they have performed with great efficiency, and the Deacons' trust, to the satisfaction of their fellow-worshippers.

The congregation will now exercise their privilege, and take what further steps they may consider necessary in the matter.

In the Reports of the different Treasurers annexed, will be found a detailed statement of the income and expenditure of the Congregation during the year. The Sustentation Fund shows an amount of contributions in its favour, sufficient to defray the large amount of arrears against it in the last Report, and to pay our Pastor's salary up to the first of August; but on the other hand the Congregation must see with regret, that the General Fund (the proceeds of the Sabbath Collections) is in no better condition than it was this time last year; being in fact totally inadequate to meet the claims upon it. Under these circumstances the Deacons were obliged to transfer the interest account (the amount of which is in itself nearly as large as the whole revenue of the General Fund)