

In the coming year we enter on the work of liquidating the long standing debt of the Church.

As the congregation are aware, arrangements were made for this purpose three years ago. Contemporaneously with the adjustment of the ground-rent income from the Parliament-street property your Churchwardens of that year effected a rearrangement of the old standing debenture debt of \$75,000; it had formerly borne six per cent. interest, it now bears four and a-half per cent. At the same time it was arranged that the principal of the debt should be payable by instalments spread over twelve years. The landed income as it comes in half-yearly is appropriated to meet the instalments of principal and interest, which are also made payable half-yearly. The ground-rents produce within \$500 of the annual sum required to meet these payments. \$500 will require to be provided by this Vestry from year to year to carry out this scheme; by which, at the end of twelve years, the Cathedral Church of St. James, for the first time since its erection in 1849, will stand entirely free from debt. We ask the help of the congregation to accomplish this satisfactory result, by increasing their contributions to the required extent. We must make another demand on the liberality of the congregation. The past year, for the first time since 1885, in obedience to repeated requests from members of the congregation, the long vacant post of Assistant Minister was filled, in addition to that of Curate. This addition to the staff involves an addition to our expenditure of \$1,500. If the service of the Church is to be maintained in its present efficiency, the congregation will require to provide this sum by an addition to their present contributions. Altogether \$2,000 more income requires to be raised. Part of this is of the nature of payments in discharge of an encumbrance upon the Church--the land, building, income and pews. We therefore propose at an early moment to call the attention of the owners of freehold pews to the subject. Many of these are now absentee landlords. We do not think they will expect their tenants to discharge the debt upon their property.

Now that we must contemplate increased charges, partly occasioned by the repayment of the funded debt, if it were proposed to provide this by an increase of pew rents, it would seem to be the natural and equitable course to charge the freehold pews with their share of the increase. They constitute fully one-half of the occupied pews of the Church. We propose to ask their owners to contribute

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