

## SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE DEACONS' COURT OF THE

# McNab Street Presbyterian Church.

THE Deacons of the McNab Street Presbyterian Church herewith present to the congregation their Second Annual Statement, and would preface the same by a few remarks :

First,—they would congratulate the congregation on the near prospect they have in view of meeting in their new and stately house of worship, which by the blessing of God on the active exertion of the building committee, they expect will, in a few weeks, be brought to completion.

By referring to the statement of the finances of the building fund annexed, the congregation will perceive that a very large amount is now due to the treasurer of said fund. This arises in a great measure from the fact that while the new church had to be built within the year, the payment of the subscriptions ran over a period of two years, but still, a great deal of trouble and annoyance might have been saved to the committee, were the subscribers punctual in paying the instalments as they fell due. The estimated cost of the new building was stated in the last annual report to be £4,300 cy., and the amount subscribed, including the sum borrowed £4,100 cy., leaving a deficiency of about £200. Since then the former amount has been increased, owing to several alterations, which the building committee considered were rendered necessary for the comfort and convenience of the congregation—having been made in the construction of the building, while the latter amount has been considerably decreased, owing to several of the subscribers having been obliged from various causes to discontinue paying their several instalments. To this must be added several items not taken into account in the last statement, such as the fitting up of the basement, carpeting the passages and platform, furnishing the pulpit, &c., which will altogether swell the deficiency to about £700 cy. This amount of debt the congregation ought to take immediate steps to wipe off, and thus relieve the treasurer of the Building Fund of an amount of responsibility and outlay to the meeting of which he finds himself very unequal, and which he certainly never expected to incur.

In the Treasurer's Statement, which the Deacons now beg to submit, will be found a summary of the various contributions of the Congregation during the past year. The General Fund, through the exertions made in its behalf by way of private subscription, shows a gratifying balance, while, on the other hand, the Congregation must see, with regret, that the Sustentation Fund is altogether inadequate for the purpose for which it is required. The whole amount of the contributions to this Fund proper, does not, in point of fact, come within ten pounds of the sum necessary for the Stipend of our Pastor. In these circumstances, unless a considerable change for the better is effected, it would be folly to continue our present mode of raising the revenue of this Fund. The Deacons' Court, while expressing their full confidence in the capabilities of the scheme now in force in the Congregation, and while they consider that it is the most Scriptural as well as the most just and equitable manner by which the ordinances of religion can be maintained amongst us, would recommend to the Congregation to consider whether, under the circumstances, it is expedient that it be continued in our new place of worship, with our expenses largely increased, or whether we shall at once revert to the old system of seat-letting.\*

Towards the close of last year the Deacons' Court felt that the revenue of the Fund devoted for the purpose was such that they would be forced, for the present, to discontinue the Missionary work which, by the advice and assistance of the Kirk Session they had commenced in the city, and they, with much regret, parted with their active and intelligent Colporteur, Mr. Armstrong, who, besides his labours as City Missionary, rendered himself very valuable to the Building

\* In accordance with the wish of the Deacons' Court, this subject was fully discussed at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, held on the 5th inst., when, by an almost unanimous vote, it was resolved that the method of contributing to the Sustentation Fund, at present in force in the Congregation, be continued for at least another year.