

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
OF ST. GABRIEL CHURCH,
For the year ending 31st December, 1888.

Reviewing the financial position of the Church for the year just closed, if we have not yet conquered all difficulties or made quite as rapid progress as we desire, on the whole, considering the heavy responsibilities we have shouldered, the outlook seems very encouraging and is losing many of its terrors. If the Treasurer's Statement does not balance as we would wish, it is because a large portion of the expenditure charged is for debt previously incurred but settled within the year, and which it is hoped is the end of the expenses encountered at the beginning of the occupancy of the new Church. These cleared away, the management will be in a much better position to deal with the debt on the Church.

The Committee in charge of the Purchase and Interest Fund will present their statement of what has been accomplished in that direction, which so far may be looked upon as very encouraging.

The ordinary revenue though not yet up to the weekly average, estimated as required to meet all the demands upon it for the liberal support of ordinances, has advanced, and the arrears for the year are inconsiderable. Ordinary collections have much improved but the Weekly offerings which are the real support of the church and test of progress, do not seem to keep pace with the filling up of the pews, which is undoubtedly going on, slowly it may appear to our impatient hopes, but steadily, and the average attendance comparing favorably with that observed at other churches with much more powerful organizations.

The Trustees wish to press this matter of the discrepancy between the attendance or occupation of pews, and the offerings, on the notice of the congregation at this their annual business gathering, and trust they will give the subject the consideration which it deserves, and will not separate until they have fully investigated the cause and taken some steps to provide a speedy remedy. It is a matter of interest to every member and adherent that has identified him or herself with the welfare of the Church, to feel assured that all are helping conscientiously in the work of building up a strong congregation in this part of the City.

In this matter members who must surely desire to see the church to which they belong prosper, can lend valuable help to the management by pointing out to friends or acquaintances not attached to any other church, the advantage of our voluntary, but stated contributing, and furnish them with the circular about to be issued which explains the method, and thus possibly persuade many who are careless about such things to cast in their lot with a congregation which in proportion to its numbers probably has a larger number of workers than any other.

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