

REPORT OF CHURCH BOARD.

Inasmuch as no Year-Book containing the Reports in full has been printed for the past two years, and as important events in the history of this Church have occurred during that period, it seems meet, for the sake of historic continuity, that a few facts should be stated, by way of introduction to the following Report of the Board for 1887.

In September, 1886, on his return from a visit to England, the Pastor, Rev. Dr. Stevenson, intimated to the office-bearers of the Church, that he had received a call to the Pastorate of the Brixton Independent Church, in succession to the late Rev. Baldwin Brown; and soon afterwards he tendered his resignation as Pastor of this Church. As this intimation came with startling suddenness upon all, the deacons deemed it due both to the church and to the Pastor, before presenting his resignation to the church, to ascertain from him whether or not it was final and irrevocable. And when, in a very frank and cordial interview with the Pastor, the deacons learned from him—"that whilst the severance of the tie, which so long and "so happily subsisted between him and this church, is a source of "painful emotion to him; yet, after prayerful and anxious consideration, the conviction remains with undiminished strength that he "has an imperative call of duty to accept the invitation of the "Brixton Church;" they felt that no other alternative was left them than to present the resignation, with the recommendation that, with all suitable expressions of regret, it be accepted. This was accordingly done, and on Sunday, October 31st, Dr. Stevenson preached his farewell sermon to a very large congregation; and after demonstrations of much respect and appreciation, on the part of the public, as well as of his own people, he took his departure for England on November 3rd.

Aware of the critical state of affairs which is always caused by a vacant Pastorate, the Church determined to lose no time in taking steps to fill the vacancy, and to this end a large Committee, with the Church Secretary as Convener (who had also been appointed Acting-Pastor), was constituted on Pastorate and Supplies; and comprising, as it did, all the office-bearers of the Church and