

As this was the first official notification your Committee had received that the building had been completed, and no information whatever was given as to whether the terms of the agreement made with the contractor for the settlement of all disputes had been fulfilled, or whether a certificate to that effect from a competent person had been received; and feeling that they were entitled to receive three months notice before being called upon to pay any money—as agreed upon, the secretary was directed to call the attention of the Building Committee to these points, and to request to be furnished with the required information, which he did on the 30th January last.

No answer was received until the 7th March, when the secretary received a letter from the secretary of the Building Committee, which did not furnish the information sought for, but contained a peremptory demand for the immediate payment of the sum of £82 to the contractor, and the further sum of £200 to a member of that Committee, who, it was stated, had advanced the same to Mr. Lang.

It would seem that by the collection of a few outstanding subscriptions, the debt had been reduced from £405 to £282, since the last financial statement had been handed in.

As your Committee felt that they had no right to be thus suddenly called upon to meet heavy liabilities without having received the notice which had been distinctly agreed upon, and in the absence of any authentic certificate from a competent professional person that the work had been properly finished, the secretary was again directed to seek information upon the points mentioned in his first letter, and to remind the Building Committee that the Executive Committee expected to receive the proper notice of the building having been handed over by the contractor, which he did by letter dated 13th March last.

On the 3rd April another letter was received from Rev. Mr. Hill, which did not reply in any way to the queries contained in the secretary's two letters, but threatened that unless the balance alleged to be due the contractor was immediately paid, the matter would be placed in the hands of Mr. Ritchie.