

poration, enabling them legally to hold property to a limited annual value.

The property thus bought then formed two shops, both in occupation of tenants; and the Societies got possession of one half of the premises in 1853, but were not in full possession until the year following. The building itself cost £750, but alterations and repairs cost £505 11s. 2d. additional, making a total of £1255 11s. 2d., or say \$5022.24, jointly borne by the two Societies. At the Annual Meeting of the Bible Society, held 2nd May, 1855, the Treasurer reported contributions received to date on Building Fund account as £303.8.11, or not quite half of the Bible Society's proportion of the expense; but in three more years the indebtedness was entirely met by special donations or otherwise.

Mr. Ketchum gave the Societies a perpetual lease of the ground at a very moderate rent, to be paid in Bibles and books to be distributed in the public schools of the city.

In the Annual Report for the year ending March 31st, 1869, appears the following:—"The growing business of the Societies having rendered it necessary to extend the premises, the work was executed last summer, under the direction of a joint committee of the Bible and Tract Societies." In the Treasurer's statement for the same year \$1278.82 is charged as the proportion paid by the Bible Society for these improvements. The Societies were enabled to meet this expenditure by the handsome bequest of \$1,000 to each Society received shortly before from the executors of the late Mr. George Michie.

For some years back the Joint Committee on the care of the premises have from time to time reported to the Boards of the two Societies the serious need the building was in of considerable repairs. But as the Directors of both Societies felt the pressing need of all the funds at their disposal for the immediate wants of their respective work in the field committed to them, the Committee on Premises have had to be satisfied with the smallest possible amount of repairs being done. At last about two years ago this Committee submitted a report suggesting that an appeal should be made to the public for special funds to erect a new building. We do not know what kind of reception it got at the Tract Society Board; but at our Board certain ministerial brethren exclaimed "the churches are all in debt," and imagining that such an appeal from these Societies would help to keep the churches in debt, they managed to table the report in a very short time. Even if it should have this dreaded effect, we do not think it ought to be regarded as a valid reason for Christian men to withhold means so much needed by a Society to which all Protestant Churches are so much indebted, and upon which all their missionaries are so dependent. But we do not believe the erection of this building will delay the liquidation of one church debt for a single year or even a month. A few months later one of these gentlemen, coming in to the Secretary's office, found the water streaming down the sides, and learning something more of the real state of the building, wheeled around handsomely and promised to support the report of the Committee if it was brought before the Board again. The report was again brought up for reconsideration,