

may determine. Details of the method, the amount raised, and the appropriations, will be found in the Benevolent Fund Report, which will in due course be submitted to the Church.

At the close of 1874 the Church debt was about \$500. It was felt to be highly desirable that this amount should be paid off, and that an effort should be made for that purpose. The ladies entered heartily into the project, and gave their valuable assistance. They organized a bazaar which was held in April, and produced about \$350. This amount, with other contributions, enabled the Deacons to liquidate the debt, and they have the great satisfaction of stating, that on the 31st December, 1875, the Church was free from any financial encumbrance. This is the first time for many years that such an announcement could have been made.

With respect to the Church building. It is substantially in good repair. The Deacons have not expended much on it during the year; just enough to keep it in order. They find the desire to remove to a more northern site, to which they referred in last year's report, is increasing among the congregation. The growth of trade is rapidly bringing stores and factories round Bay street, and causing people to choose other parts of the city in which to reside. An additional reason for a removal has also been advanced, namely, that since the establishment of the Western Church, the great majority of the remaining members live northwards. The Western movement has naturally drawn away those persons who dwell in that locality, and there is consequently not the necessity now for the continuance of Zion Church in its present position that there was when it was attended by its Western members. The subject of removal is a very important one, involving, as it does, so many considerations, but the Deacons believe, that from the causes named, and from the fact that one member after another still keeps moving northwards, it must come in course of time before the Church for deliberation.

The finances of the Church during the past year have been well sustained, although business matters have been so dull in Toronto, as well as in the rest of the Province. This is all the more satisfactory when it is considered that the Church, by the Western organization, lost not only the attendance and services of so many beloved members, but also their contributions to the Church finances and the Benevolent Fund. The departure of those friends was a great loss to the Church, but they went out with the hearty concurrence and best wishes of their fellow members, who felt they were about to commence a good work in the West, and, in connection with others also residing in that neighbourhood, found a Church of our Faith and Order, to the great comfort of many persons holding our denominational principles, but who, on account of distance, were precluded from regular attendance at any of the Congregational Churches already established. As a practical evidence of sympathy with the Western movement, the Church made the brethren a grant of \$150 towards the purchase of a site for a Church building. In various monetary operations during the year the Deacons obtained much help from the Finance Committee appointed by the Church to assist them in this department of labour.

As the houses on the north and east of the Church grounds have windows overlooking the latter, the Deacons obtained documents from the