

PASTORATE OF THE REV. JOHN THOMPSON (Continued)

Leys, Miss Lizzie Vidal, Miss Belle Sinclair, Miss Jessie Leys, Miss Mary Morrison, Miss Lizzie Foulds, Mrs. Geo. Williams, Miss Shillinglaw. *Altos*—Miss Maggie Leys, Miss Emma Lawson, Mrs. T. F. Towers, Miss Agnes Hossie. *Tenors*—Messrs. J. D. Stewart, Chas. Ellis, T. F. Towers, S. Osborne. *Bassos*—Messrs. Joseph Laird, J. B. Watson, John Leys, D. N. Morrison, Wm. Morrison, James Watson (Conductor), Wm. Vidal, Alex. McGlashan, T. G. Hodges.

During its existence this choral society gave several concerts, including the Oratorios "The Messiah," (Handel); and "Athalie," (Mendelssohn).

In December, 1877, Mr. F. O. Laird resigned the precentorship of St. Andrew's. A committee of Session appointed to secure a successor reported its inability to secure a suitable person for the position, but stated that it had spoken to Messrs. Watson and Osborne of the P. M. A. regarding the possibility of that organization taking charge of the musical services of the church. The matter was laid before the association, and through its secretary, Mr. John Leys, the P. M. A. agreed to undertake this duty, subject to the following conditions:

(1) That a place be made suitable for the choir in front of the pulpit.

(2) That a set of new Psalm books with words and music be provided; that the question of the introduction of the hymns into the Sabbath service be submitted to the congregation to be voted upon at as early a date as possible, and, if carried, that the choir be supplied with books containing words and music.

(3) That when practicable the Psalms and Hymns to be sung on Sabbaths should be given to the leader of the choir on the Friday preceding.

All of these conditions were agreed to by the Session, and the P. M. A., under the leadership of Mr. James Watson, became the first choir in St. Andrew's Church. This choir was seated immediately in front of the pulpit.

At an annual meeting of the congregation held on the 12th of April, 1883, the use of instrumental music in the church was sanctioned by a vote of the members of the church. Only one dissenting vote was recorded.

A committee was appointed to ascertain the cost of installing an organ, and in June, 1883, this committee was authorized to purchase the organ from Warren & Son. This was done at a total cost of \$1,818, and at the same time a new choir gallery was built behind the pulpit. In September, 1883, the organ was opened, and Mr. A. A. Clappe, bandmaster to the 27th Battalion Band, was appointed organist and choirmaster.

Mr. Clappe resigned his position in November, 1884, and until December, 1885, Mr. T. F. Towers conducted the choir, with Miss Nellie Leys as organist. In February, 1886, Mr. J. D. Martin was