

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE DEACONS' COURT OF

The McNab Street Presbyterian Church,

PRESENTED

At the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, held on the 9th May, 1859.

The Deacons of the McNab Street Church, have much pleasure in again meeting with their brethren of the congregation, for the purpose of rendering their annual account of the finances, and of submitting the usual abstract of their proceedings, during the preceding year; and in doing so it well becomes them to acknowledge with gratitude the gracious Hand that has helped us, the kind Eye that has watched over us, and the infinite Love which has manifested itself in bringing us, so mercifully to its close.

The Deacons may be permitted to congratulate the Congregation generally, upon the comfortable circumstances in which we now find ourselves, as compared with our position at our last annual meeting. The improvements referred to in our last report, have all been successfully carried out, and in addition, ornamental shade trees have been procured and planted around our place of worship. Alterations have also been effected in the heating and ventilating of the building, which there is every reason to believe will add much to the comfort of the congregation. The alterations made in the seating of the body of the Church, will, the Deacons believe, still further conduce both to the convenience and comfort of the congregation.

The erection of galleries, authorised by the public meeting held in the month of September last, has also been carried to a successful completion, and with this—the greatest improvement effected in the building since its erection—the labours of the year have been crowned.

The position of the congregation, in other respects, is, on the whole, a favourable one. The membership,—the Deacons are informed by the Session Clerk—has increased fifty one in number, during the past year; and this increase is certainly gratifying, when we consider that not a few families have had, from various circumstances, to leave our communion during that period, for other districts of the country. Our financial condition likewise, in view of our present monetary troubles, and consequent depression in trade; resulting in the loss of employment to so many of our members, is much better than might have been anticipated—the regular revenue of the congregation exceeding, by nearly \$700, that of the previous year. In this connection the Deacons would here notice that while at the date of our last report there were 142 regular contributors to the Sustentation Fund, at present there are but 128. The above increase in the revenue is therefore mainly due to those members of the congregation, who, already contributing liberally, have of their own accord—and contrary to the usual custom in times of depression—increased, for a time, the amount of this contribution to the Fund. To these gentlemen the Deacons feel persuaded no reward or praise of men will be necessary. In the quiet of their own hearts—in the consciousness of having done their duty—in the approving smile of their Heavenly Father, they will doubtless find those rich rewards, which are the satisfying portion of the Christian.

At the last annual meeting, the Deacons were instructed to advertise for candidates for the office of precentor, in the congregation which instructions were duly carried into effect, and five candidates for the office presented themselves before the congregation. Exceptions were however taken to the qualification of several of the parties, and at a meeting of the office bearers, held in the month of September last, it was decided that as there was no indication of unanimity in the choice, the election should be postponed until the next annual meeting. A few of the office bearers, on being requested, agreed to lead the praises of the congregation in the intervening period, which duty they have performed with great efficiency, and the Deacons' trust, to the satisfaction of their fellow-worshippers.

The congregation will now exercise their privilege, and take what further steps they may consider necessary in the matter.

In the Reports of the different Treasurers annexed, will be found a detailed statement of the income and expenditure of the Congregation during the year. The Sustentation Fund shows an amount of contributions in its favour, sufficient to defray the large amount of arrears against it in the last Report, and to pay our Pastor's salary up to the first of August; but on the other hand the Congregation must see with regret, that the General Fund (the proceeds of the Sabbath Collections) is in no better condition than it was this time last year; being in fact totally inadequate to meet the claims upon it. Under these circumstances the Deacons were obliged to transfer the interest account (the amount of which is in itself nearly as large as the whole revenue of the General Fund)

from it, to the Sustentation Fund. They have had therefore to encroach so much upon the latter that they are unable to pay their Pastor's salary a quarter in advance, as they ought to have done, as the congregation have always undertaken to do; and which their feelings of self-respect, as well as their knowledge of what is right, should stimulate them to carry into effect. In their last Report the Deacons referred plainly, and at some length, to the short comings of the General Fund, and they feel humbled at the thought of having again to recur to the subject. In present circumstances they desire to say but little, and would therefore merely express the hope that the congregation will at once devise some method of increasing the revenue of this Fund, so that the current expenses may be promptly met, and the necessity for all such begging appeals as the present, avoided in future Reports. The indebtedness of the congregation past due and unpaid, is now as follows:—

Quarter's Stipend, up to 1st August.....	\$350 00
Balance due Treasurer, on both Funds.....	92 70
	\$442 70

In addition to this, provision must be made, for payment of a bill of carpeting, for galleries, and side aisles, amounting to \$63 55.

The sums collected since last Report, on account of the old building Fund, amounts to \$774; after paying all the demands against the Committee, the Treasurer was enabled to hand a surplus of \$262 12 to the Treasurer of the Committee appointed for the erection of galleries.

The various synodical collections have been attended to in their order, as well as the contribution for Knox's College. The collections for the Presbytery's Home Mission, a scheme with great claims upon our support, has been neglected; but the Deacons trust that the Congregation will make up for this omission, by a liberal contribution to its funds at an early date.

The expenditure of the poor's Fund has exceeded by a small sum the amount of the collections in its behalf. In this connection the Deacons would notice with pleasure the praiseworthy efforts of the Ladies' Association, who they believe, have (by donations of clothing and other things) been the means of alleviating no little amount of suffering, during the past trying winter.

The Treasurer of the new building Fund has handed to the Deacons, an abstract of his receipts and expenditures to this date. While reserving details until the next annual statement, when the account can be presented in a completed form, the congregation is furnished with the present state of the Funds as follows:—

RECEIPTS.	EXPENDITURE.
Amount received on account of Subscription.....	Amount paid Contractor to date.....
“ “ from Treasurer of old B. Fund.....	“ “ Architect in full.....
\$ 770.75	\$1122.50
262.12	51.00
\$1032.87	\$1173.50

The total amount subscribed, including the sum received from late Treasurer, is \$1728—the cost of the erection of galleries, &c., being \$1787, leaves a deficiency of \$59 still to be made up.

The Deacons would close their Report by giving expression to feelings of heartfelt thanksgivings to God for His great goodness to us in the past, and while they gratefully acknowledge that there is much in the condition of the congregation that affords ground for congratulation; and not a little that affords ground for hopeful feelings, and earnest expectation of better things to come, in the fact that its labours for the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom, have not been, to human sight, altogether unsuccessful; that its various meetings, even during the absence of our Pastor, in his fatherland, have been solemn, interesting, and well sustained, and that the harmony and cordial feeling subsisting amongst its members remains unbroken; yet with candour it must be felt that congratulation disappears when we think of how few there are amongst us who give evidence that they are “seeking the way to Zion,” when we think of the numbers all round us, who are travelling in the “broad path”; and when we think how little we are doing to reclaim them, or to throw around them the safeguard of Christianity. That the Deacons, in these remarks, may not be considered as overstepping their province; they would only further add an expression of their desire to join with every sincere servant of their arisen Lord, amongst their brother members, in earnest aspirations, that the period may soon come, when all our members will, each for himself and herself, realise their individual responsibility in this respect; when, not the minister alone, or the minister, the office-bearers, and sabbath-school teachers alone, but the congregation as a whole, shall be actively and earnestly engaged in works of Christian beneficence and usefulness.

All which is respectfully submitted

On behalf of the Deacons' Court,

A. F. SKINNER,
SECRETARY.

Note.—By request of the Annual Meeting, the Constitution adopted by the congregation some time ago, has been printed, and is distributed along with this report, among the members.

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Dr.

The McNab Street Church in Account with the Treasurer.

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SUSTENTATION FUND.

To paid Minister's stipend to date.....	\$1750.00	By amount of Balance on hand at last statement.....	\$ 232.97
" Precentor and Door-keeper.....	178.83	" weekly contributions from 1st May, 1858, to date	2211.91
" One year's Interest on Mortgage.....	600.00	" of balance due Treasurer	83.95
	\$2528.83		\$2528.83

GENERAL FUND.

To balance due Treasurer at last statement.....	\$ 235.34	By amount of Sabbath Collections, from 1st May, 1858, to date.....	\$ 639.65
To paid for insurance on Church.....	70.00	" of Special Collections	261.50
" for Gas and Firewood.....	161.77	" of Subscriptions for Knox's College	282.00
" for supply of Pulpit.....	66.50	" of Mr. Buchanan's annual contribution to College Bursary Fund	80.00
" for Stove Pipe, fitting up Stoves, &c.....	14.83	" received from Sabbath School for French Canadian Missionary Society	67.50
" for Stationary and Communion Tokens.....	26.60	" received for stove sold	6.60
" Presbytery Fund.....	4.00	" of balance due Treasurer	8.75
" for Printing.....	4.50		
" T. A. Blythe for survey of Church lot	4.00		
" for cleaning Church, whitewashing, &c.....	25.46		
" for communion expenses.....	11.87		
" for sundry repairs, &c.....	18.63		
" on account of poor's fund.....	103.50		
" Contribution to Knox's College	282.00		
" " to College Bursary Fund.....	80.00		
" the following special collections, viz:			
French Canadian Missionary Society, including amount received from the Sabbath School	\$88.00		
Buxton Mission and Synod Fund	36.00		
Foreign Missions	37.00		
Widows' Fund Scheme	34.00		
Sabbath School Fund	42.00		
	237.00		
Total.....	\$ 1346.00	Total	\$ 1346.00

BUILDING FUND.

To Paid Robert Dow, balance of his account omitted in last statement	\$ 60.00	By amount of balance on hand at last statement	\$ 723.60
" H. & R. Young, for iron fence	530.00	" received on account of old subscriptions, from 1st May, 1858, to date	751.50
" Angus Sutherland, for stone fence, raising area walls, &c	390.00	" received for casting patterns	22.50
" John Scott, for casting patterns.....	54.00	" of collection at re-opening of church	121.45
" J. E. Tomes, painting fence, glazing and painting windows	50.00		
" David Nay, for gas regulator.....	28.50		
" for furniture for Committee Room	12.00		
" Wm. Scott, for wooden fence, drains, &c.	80.98		
" Wm. Scott, alteration in seating of church....	126.45		
" Thomas Freeborn, painting	25.00		
" Treasurer of Gallery Fund	262.12		
Total.....	\$ 1619.05	Total	\$ 1619.05

RECAPITULATION.

Sustentation Fund.....	\$ 2528.83
General Fund	1346.00
Building Fund	1619.05
Amount of Subscriptions received for Galleries	770.75
	\$ 6264.63
Less Balances owing Treasurer on Sustentation and General Funds.....	92.70
HAMILTON, 2nd May, 1859.	\$ 6171.93

(Signed)

DAVID McGEE,
JAMES WATSON, } Auditors.