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REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE
OF
SOUTH PLACE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY.

SOUTH PLACE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY,

1882.

MINISTER.

MONCURE D. CONWAY, M.A., Inglewood, Bedford Park, Chiswick, W,

COMMITTEE.

Dr. E. BERDOE.	Mr. G. HICKSON.
Capt. J. BERDOE.	„ J. KNIGHT.
Mr. G. W. COOKE.	„ A. LAURIE.
Mr. T. DIXON.	Mr. E. R. LEVEY.
„ E. DALLOW.	Miss E. PHIPSON.
„ S. G. FENTON.	Mr. W. J. REYNOLDS.
Mrs. I. FISHER.	Miss SHAPLAND.
Miss C. FLETCHER.	Mr. H. THORNDIKE.
Mr. J. A. GOTCH.	„ J. H. K. TODD.
Mrs. GOFF.	„ G. WALKER.
Mr. J. HALLAM.	

TREASURER AND CHAIRMAN.

Mr. GEORGE HICKSON, 35, Highbury New Park. N.

SECRETARY.

Miss C. FLETCHER, 17, Darnley Road, Hackney, E.

AUDITORS.

Mr. J. A. LYON. | Mr. C. H. SEYLER.

TRUSTEES.

Mr. W. BURR.	Mr. J. L. SHUTER.
„ G. HICKSON.	„ F. WALTERS.
„ J. A. LYON.	Sir S. H. WATERLOW,
„ M. E. MARSDEN.	Bart., M.P.,
„ W. C. NEVITT.	Mr. A. J. WATERLOW,

TRUSTEES OF THE MORTGAGE REDEMPTION FUND.

Mr. M. E. MARSDEN,
Mr. R. CARTER,
Mr. T. HEALEY,

SECRETARY SOIREE COMMITTEE.

Miss E. PHIPSON, 5, Park Place, Upper Baker Street, N,W,

CHOIR MASTER AND ORGANIST.

X Mr. J. S. SHEDLOCK, 4, Lower James Street, Golden Square, W,

SOUTH PLACE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY.

REPORT FOR 1882.

It affords your Committee much pleasure to be able to congratulate the congregation on the continued progress of the Society.

That the principles of religious freedom are obtaining wider recognition is manifest from the increasingly large attendances at the services.

The high degree of intellectual vigour which has marked Mr. Conway's discourses during the year, affords gratifying evidence of his continued physical and mental well being.

In accordance with a resolution passed at the last Annual Meeting, a Committee was formed to arrange for the consecutive publication of Mr. Conway's discourses, and the first number was issued in October. In order to accomplish this object, it was necessary to form a guarantee fund, and the society at large is indebted to the guarantors for the issue of "Lessons for the Day." It is confidently hoped that this publication will have a long life, but being in the nature of a missionary effort, it will take some time before a guarantee fund can be dispensed with. In the Report and Balance-sheet of the Publishing Committee full information will be found upon this subject.

In the course of the year Dr. Andrew Wilson and Mr. W. C.

Coupland delivered discourses which were highly appreciated by the Society.

Many changes have taken place in the personnel of the choir since Mr. Shedlock took up the leadership, and it is only since October last that the choir, as at present constituted, has had the advantage of regular and united practice. Increased efficiency in the musical portion of the service is now confidently anticipated by the Committee.

The monthly soirées during the year have been, as usual, a source of great pleasure to the Members, and the Committee tender their thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who have worked so energetically and successfully to arrange such pleasant and sociable evenings. The New Year's dance, and the annual dance in April, were admirably organized and well attended. The opportunities for friendly intercourse afforded by these réunions are of great value to the social life of the Society.

It is satisfactory to report that the sum of £33 14s. 2d. has been contributed by the Soirée Committee to the Mortgage Redemption Fund. The total amount contributed towards the reduction of the Mortgage Debt during the year amounts to £155 12s. 4d. This, together with £74 1s. 8d. contributed in 1881, has been invested by trustees appointed for the purpose. In addition to this the fund has been augmented by the gift from Mr. Thomas Dixon, of £250 fully paid-up shares in the Anglo-African Diamond Mining Company.

Under the auspices of the Lectures Committee, the chapel has been occupied on Tuesday evenings during the winter months, and some very able and interesting papers on various subjects have been contributed by gentlemen interested in the success of the movement. A special feature of these meetings has been that the reading of the papers has been followed by

highly interesting and instructive discussions. The series will be continued up to Easter, when a short course of lectures will be commenced by J. Allanson Picton, M.A.

The chapel has been occupied on Sunday evenings by the Peoples' Concert Society, whose admirable selections of music have been received with great enthusiasm by crowded and attentive audiences. Seeing how keenly these evenings are enjoyed, it is a matter for profound regret that this is the only chapel in London at which such an entertainment is given.

The past year has been marked by the loss of three eminent men who have greatly furthered the cause of free thought, Charles Darwin, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. In commemoration of their deaths, special discourses were delivered, and in the discourse delivered on the occasion of the death of Longfellow, an interesting incident was related by Mr. Conway. In 1853 he was told by the poet that on his visit to England many years before, he was one Sunday alone in London and experienced a great sense of solitude : he went to South Place Chapel : as he entered the congregation was singing the "Psalm of Life," the cheering effect, the thrill of joy which he felt, was with him ever a cherished reminiscence of that visit to London—he had never before heard his poem sung.

The financial position of the Society as shown by the Balance-sheet is, as far as regards its ordinary income and expenditure of a satisfactory character ; but owing to the necessity of renewing the mortgage, an extraordinary expenditure of £42 4s. 2d. was incurred. In addition to this expense an indebtedness of £47 for interest upon the old mortgage was considered by the Auditors as properly chargeable to the present year, making a total of £89 4s. 2d. Your Committee think it would be advisable to appeal to the Society for funds in preference to carrying forward a deficit to the new year.

The increase of the seat rents, an increase maintained at

about the same amount for two successive years, is most encouraging from a financial point of view, and not less so as an evidence of the growth of the Society.

NOTICE.

In accordance with the Rules, seven members of the Committee will retire from office at the ensuing Annual Meeting, and are not eligible for re-election until next year. The members so retiring are Mr. S. G. Fenton, Captain J. Berdoe, Mr. J. Knight, Mr. E. R. Levey, Miss Phipson, Mr. W. J. Reynolds, and Miss Shapland. In addition Mr. A. Laurie has resigned. The Society will, therefore, have to elect eight new members to serve on the Committee and two Auditors. Nominations for the above offices must be forwarded to the Secretary (in writing) on or before February 1st. Printed forms for nominations can be obtained in the library, or will be forwarded by the Secretary upon application.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 15th, at 7 p.m. precisely.

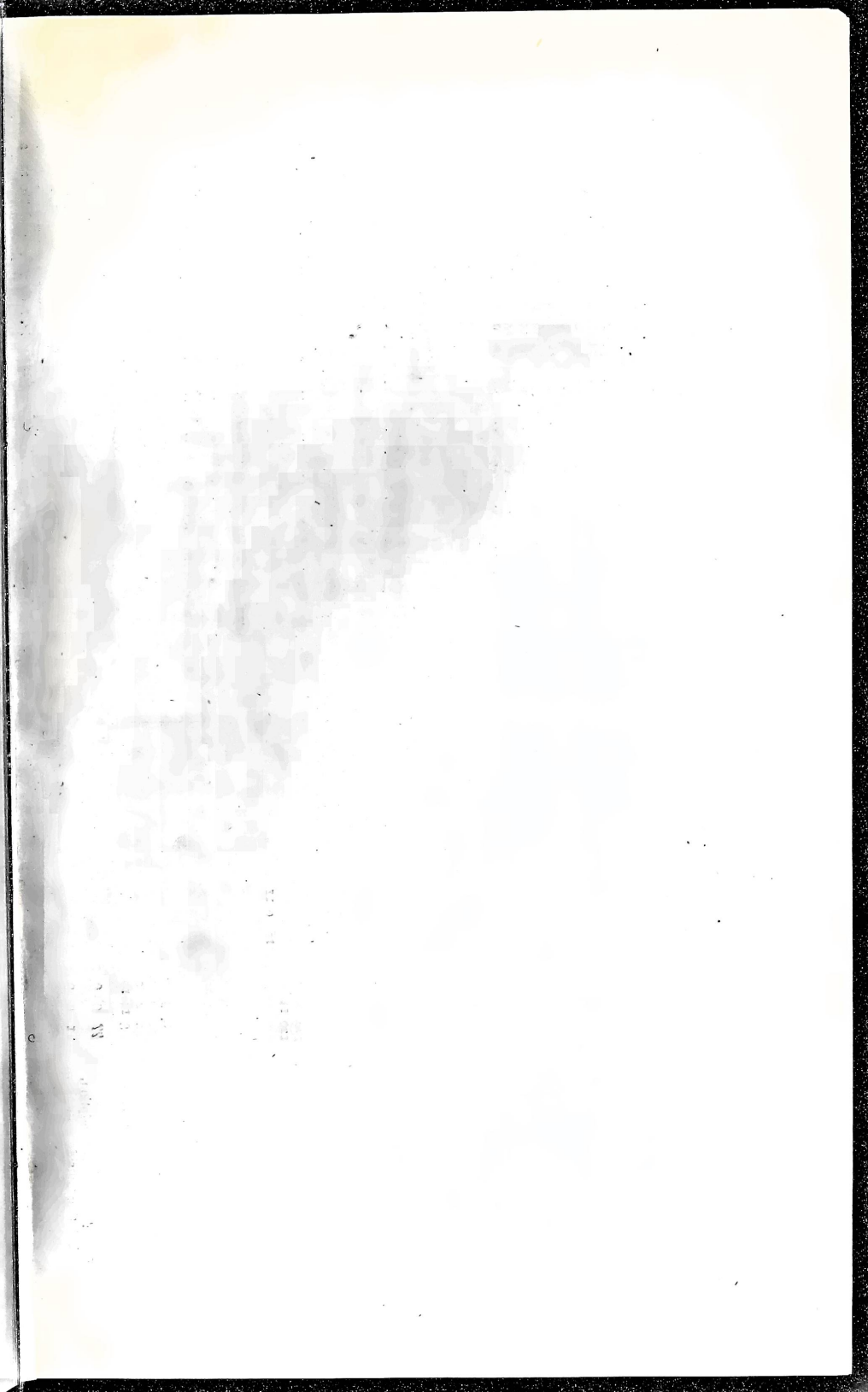
FORM OF BEQUEST TO THE MORTGAGE-
REDEMPTION AND REBUILDING FUND.

The cost of the freehold land and buildings belonging to the Society was defrayed by the founders in 1825, a sum of £2,850, being raised thereon by mortgage for the purpose of making certain alterations and additions to the premises. It is desirable that this indebtedness should be cancelled in order that the Society may occupy a secure financial position, and that no obstacle of this nature may in the future retard the erection of a building suitable to its increasing needs.

I give and bequeath unto the Treasurer, for the time being of "SOUTH PLACE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY," the sum of

to be raised and paid by and out of my personal estate and effects, such sum to be applied in the first place towards the redemption of the mortgage upon the land and buildings of the Society situated and being in South Place, Finsbury, or secondly towards providing a fund for the rebuilding of the said premises.

N.B.—Devises of land, or bequests of money charged on land, are void by the Statute of Mortmain.



Statement of Accounts of South Place Religious Society, for the Year 1882.

GENERAL ACCOUNT.

Dr.		Received by Treasurer.		Total for 1882.		Cr.	
ORDINARY INCOME.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Total for 1882.	
To Seat Rents for 1882 :-							
Received in 1881	26 8 9						
" " 1882	613 8 2						
" To receive	£40 0 0	30 0 0					
Doubtful	10 0 0						
	£669 16 11			669 16 11			
" Collections	...						
" Sale of Hymn Books and Pamphlets	110 2 4*			86 1 0			
" Paid to Mr. Conway for sale of Books	36 10 10						
" Rent of House	...						
" Chapel Lettings	...						
	73 11 6			73 11 6			
	17 10 0			17 10 0			
	108 17 0			108 17 0			
To Seat Rents for 1881 :-							
Unpaid 31st December, 1881	54 12 3						
Bad debts	6 5 9						
	48 6 6			48 6 6			
" Rent of House, 1881	17 10 0			17 10 0			
" Seat Rents for 1882	24 18 9			24 18 9			
" Collection for Surgical Aid Society in June	25 11 0			25 11 0			
" Publishing Committee :-							
Received for them	139 1 8			139 1 8			
Paid for them	120 11 9			120 11 9			
	18 9 11			18 9 11			
	899 7 8			899 7 8			
	107 5 0			107 5 0			
	1033 1 5			1033 1 5			
	73 11 6			73 11 6			
	52 10 0			52 10 0			
	24 15 0			24 15 0			
	133 12 0			133 12 0			
	899 7 8			899 7 8			
	107 5 0			107 5 0			
	1033 1 5			1033 1 5			
	73 11 6			73 11 6			
	52 10 0			52 10 0			
	24 15 0			24 15 0			
	133 12 0			133 12 0			
	899 7 8			899 7 8			
	107 5 0			107 5 0			
	1033 1 5			1033 1 5			
	73 11 6			73 11 6			
	52 10 0			52 10 0			
	24 15 0			24 15 0			
	133 12 0			133 12 0			
	899 7 8			899 7 8			
	107 5 0			107 5 0			
	1033 1 5			1033 1 5			
	73 11 6			73 11 6			
	52 10 0			52 10 0			
	24 15 0			24 15 0			
	133 12 0			133 12 0			
	899 7 8			899 7 8			
	107 5 0			107 5 0			
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