

Blantyre SefSION House

23<sup>rd</sup>. April, 1876

Which day the SefSION met

Present, Rev. Stewart Wright

Moderator, Messrs Fullarton

McKerrow, Reid, J. Muir.

- 1 Meeting constituted.
- 2 The Moderator drew the attention of the SefSION to the great increase of the inhabitants of the Parish and how absolutely necessary it was to provide more Church accomodation. He read the following letter which with the approval of the SefSION he meant to get printed and distributed.

“Proposed New Church, at Stonefield, Blantyre.”

Every one acquainted with Blantyre is aware of the thorough change that has passed over the Parish. A little time ago it was a retired, thinly populated, agricultural district; but now it has become the important centre of a vast mining population. In 1871, its inhabitants numbered about 3500; a census taken lately shows that to have increased to 7000, and we may safely predict, from the evidences everywhere around us, that in five years more the seven thousand will have doubled.

In these circumstances, the Minister and Kirk SefSION feel that there is the most urgent call upon them, to be up and doing, so as to provide Church accomodation for this vast multitude. Within the bounds of the Parish there are at present but two Churches, Established and Free, which cannot accommodate more than 1300 people. The United Presbyterians have a Church on the confines which can hold 400 more, and the Roman Catholics are about to erect a chapel for their adherents, perhaps numbering about 700; so there is thus a large and ever increasing population for whom it is incumbent upon the Church of Scotland to provide, without unnecessary delay, religious ordinances. Therefore, The Minister and Kirk SefSION send forth this appeal to all who love our Zion, and are concerned for the religious instruction of our people, to grant them sympathy and help, that they may, to some extent, meet those spiritual demands of their Parish.

A site has been promised on the Glasgow and Hamilton Road, in the very centre of the district of Stonefield that is being so quickly populated. The proposed Church is to accomodate 900 sitters, and will cost between £4000 and £5000. Grants in aid are expected from the Home Mission, the Board Trust, and the Ferguson Bequest; but others too, must be willing and ready to contribute as God has given them power, if we are soon to see erected here for this service, and to His glory, a “holy and a beautiful house”.

Your name, as a contributor, will be gladly received by

“Stewart Wright”

“Minister of Blantyre”

The Manse of Blantyre, 17<sup>th</sup>. April, 1876.

The SefSION authorise the Moderator to print and distribute the above letter, and to take the measures required to carry out the most desirable project of erecting another Church within the bounds of the Parish and within the district of Stonefield. Preliminary expenses to be borne by the SefSION, and to be refunded from the Subscriptions received for the building of the New Church.

Closed with Prayer.

Signed Stewart Wright. Moderator.