

# ARDROSSAN E U. CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

SIR,—The letter which appeared in your issue last week relative to the debt on the above church was unnecessarily intruded upon your readers. It purported to be a reply to a letter which appeared in a Glasgow contemporary, and, unless for reasons best known to the writers, ought to have been confined to the same medium.

We have no intention of parading our financial affairs before the public; but as we are deeply concerned that the *true* state of affairs be known, we ask permission to make a brief statement. Leaving out of account gifts in kind towards furnishing the church, the building in which we now worship cost £4326. Towards this there was raised up till the time Mr Sharpe left Ardrossan for Glasgow, £1366, the debt remaining thus amounting to £2960. As set forth in an official statement, printed and circulated recently among the members, this sum was obtained as under:—

Bond over Church, . . . . .	£1500 ;	annual charge,	£60
Private Loan, . . . . .	200 ;	do.	6
Denominational Fund, . . . . .	250 ;	do.	12 10
Annuity, . . . . .	1000 ;	do.	80
	£2950		£108 10

To this indebtedness we have to add, Bond over Manse for £350, carrying an annual interest of £13 2s 6d.

Three months after Mr Sharpe left Ardrossan, the old church was sold, and part of the sum received was devoted to wiping off the private loan, thereby reducing the annual burden of interest by £6.

The annuity loan will ultimately come under the category of a gift, but meanwhile it imposes, as any other loan would do, a burden of £30 per annum. This obligation we frankly recognise, because but for the donor's interest in the church at his time, the money would require to have been borrowed, and we would not enjoy the anticipation of eventually reaping the full benefit of the gift.

What we wish your readers to understand is that, apart from the annuity loan of £1000, the congregation is in debt to the extent of £2100, and that in addition to the ordinary charges upon a church, we have to meet annually the sum of £115 12s 6d for interest.

(Signed) JOHN STRACHAN, President.

“ THOMAS WILSON, Secretary.

“ WILLIAM CRAIG,

Treasurer of Building Fund.

[Correspondence on this subject is closed.—  
EDITOR.]