

### Report of the Committee on the Presbyterian Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund, 1869.

The committee on the Presbyterian ministers' widows' and orphans' Fund have little more to report than the state of their funds, which have increased from our ordinary sources of income at a satisfactory rate. No donations of any amount had been received. At the date of our last report of our capital fund was \$8874 50. Since that time the balance in hand of the New Brunswick Widows' Fund, has been paid over amounting to \$359 41. The receipts from the ordinary sources of income have been as follows:—

Members dues - - - - -	\$984 87
Interest and dividends - - - - -	555 99
Fines - - - - -	26 49
Donations - - - - -	8 74
	<hr/>
	\$1576 09

From which has to be deducted one annuity of \$120 and incidental expenses \$10, leaving the sum of \$1446 09 from ordinary income, and the sum of \$359 41 from the New Brunswick fund, or a total of \$1805 50, to be added to the capital fund, which now amounts to \$106 80, to which is to be added the dues of members payable at this meeting of Synod amounting to \$1000.

The committee are happy to record that no death has taken place during the past year among the ministers, so that we have as yet only one annuitant upon the fund. Such a remarkable preservation of the lives of our ministers as this Synod has enjoyed for some years calls for our most devout gratitude to the Preserver of men. This, however, cannot long continue. Already we hear of more than one of our ministers laid aside from active duty. Since the assembling of this meeting of Synod, the committee have learned with deep regret, that one of their own number, a brother dearly beloved is under an illness, which excites the most lively anxiety regarding the continuance of his labours on earth.—At all events removals must be more frequent in the future, than they have hitherto been, and in the prospect of them it is to the committee matter of sincere gratitude that by this fund provision has been made for the beloved ones, whom they may leave behind them, and who might otherwise be left destitute; and at the same time of unfeigned regret, that there are so many of our ministers for whom no such provisions has been made, and that among those most deeply interested, there should be so much indifference on the subject. It is to be feared that such neglect may yet be attended with painful results.

Since the last report seven ministers all

belonging to the former Synod of New Brunswick have connected themselves with the fund.

Having, in former reports, entered fully into the nature and merits of this scheme, the committee do not feel called on to repeat what they have said. But they may be allowed in conclusion a word of earnest advice to their younger brethren just entered upon their ministry. It is frequently made the subject of complaint that the stipends of our ministers are such, that they cannot, from that source, make provision for the wants of those dependent on them. But all this only shows the urgent necessity of their availing themselves of such a scheme as the present. We believe that in the large majority of cases, by proper effort the amount of the annual subscription might be obtained from the session or congregation. A single collection would, in most instances, be sufficient. What session would refuse, say a single sacramental collection for this object. In this way the minister might obtain the provision for his family which this scheme affords, without any diminution of his salary. And while this is the case, can any person who neglects the opportunity thus afforded him, be held excusable, or can he with any consistency complain, that his salary will not enable him to make provision for his family should be in the Providence of God be taken from them?

All which is respectfully submitted,

GEORGE PATTERSON, *Sec'y.*

## Home Missions.

### An Interesting Field.

#### NEREPI, NEW BRUNSWICK.

This beautiful agricultural settlement receives its name from the little stream by which it is intersected, a name which like many in New Brunswick is of Indian origin. From time immemorial the red man of the forest held undisputed sway along the banks of this stream. Dwelling in wigwams and spending their time in fishing and hunting, there was no white man to molest them in their forest home. At an early period, however, some thousands of acres of land in Nerepis which the Indian considered his by right and inheritance, was granted to Colonel Glasier, a retired officer in the British army. Holding