

the Board and especially to the Chairman, Thos. Paton, Esq., for their management.

The Sixteenth Annual Report of the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund was next called for. Dr. Mathieson explained that in consequence of no election of members by the Synod last year he had not been able to attend the meetings of the Board as a member, but he had continued to exercise a watchful care over the interests of the Fund. A report from the Treasurer, John Greenshields, Esq., with full financial statements, was received, from which the Synod rejoiced to hear of the prosperity of this important Scheme. The total receipts for the year amounted to \$6895.36 of which \$1588.44 were from Congregational collections, an increase from this source of \$178.13 over the receipts of the previous year. Ministers' contributions came to \$1380, and the interests from investments to \$2269.38, being an increase for the year in this department of \$379.76. The total increase over the preceding year is \$984.91. The management of the Fund had cost only \$277.35; new investments amounted to \$2686.67; while the annuities to widows came to \$2150. The annuitants now number twenty-one, the largest list there has yet been. The amount now invested is \$39,586.67, and the whole capital was stated at \$42,174.13. It is difficult to understand and very much to be regretted, that a considerable number of congregations should be in arrear with their contributions. It is surely not considered how much their interests are affected by this default. If the repeated experience of the Board, when an annuity is allocated to a widow, could be imparted to such, they would certainly feel themselves constrained to be more faithful. It is oftentimes a painful thing to find the annuity at a lower figure than the particular case seems to demand: but the just principles of distribution must be adhered to. Vacant congregations especially stand in their own light when they fall into arrears; and it appears to be necessary for Presbyteries to take more effective steps to keep them to their duty.

With feelings of deep regret the Synod heard of the determination of Mr. Greenshields to resign the Treasurership, an office held by that gentleman since the commencement of the Scheme. To his unwearied interest and faithful discharge of duty, the position of prosperity and stability which it now occupies is very much owing. The Synod left the acceptance of his resignation to the Board. It will relieve the minds of the best friends of the Church should Mr. Greenshields be led to re-consider his decision in the interval. A vote of thanks to the Board, with the Treasurer's name particularly mentioned, was passed by acclamation. The Synod elected Dr. Mathieson and Messrs. Mitchell and Morris to supply the places vacated last year; and the retiring members for the present year, namely, Rev. W. Simpson, and Messrs. Greenshields and J. M. Ross were re-elected.

The Report of the French Mission came next in order. It was read by Mr. Snodgrass, Convener of the Committee of management. The operations of the Scheme were very fully detailed. Some new efforts, such as the opening

of a day-school in the Mission premises, Montreal, the formation of a Ladies' Auxiliary Association in that city, and the engagement at its instance of another missionary, M. Antoine Geoffroy, to assist the Rev. J. E. Tanner, whose health is still such as to prevent him from active labour were particularly alluded to. A gratifying increase in the receipts was reported by the Treasurer, A. Ferguson, Esq.,—for the General Fund \$72.77 as compared with \$576.32 the former year, some of the collections being very liberal. The statement of the Building Fund showed some excellent contributions, and those from congregations in the Lower Provinces were particularly noticed.

The whole debt against the Scheme is only \$500, an amount that would soon disappear if a few congregations or individuals would just lay the matter to heart. The tardiness, surely we must not say the positive refusal, of congregations to contribute had caused a suspension of the salary of Mr. Baridon. Although an animated discussion took place upon the claims of the mission in general, the intimation of this fact fairly roused the ardour of the Court, as may be inferred from the unwonted circumstance that several members stepped forward to the Clerk's table and laid down their offerings, for the purpose of wiping out what was freely declared to be a shame and a disgrace. Such a spirit once excited we hope will never abate, and as we write these lines we feel convinced that in various portions of our Church that spirit is busily engaged devising liberal things. We may take upon ourselves to say, that the Committee are in a position to act forthwith upon this hopeful sign, and further, that if the Church will only supply the means, the Committee will engage to enlarge the mission to almost any extent. The Rev. J. Hogg, of Guelph, in an admirable address, moved the reception of the report, noticing in the resolution he submitted its most prominent particulars. The denunciation proposed was seconded by David Allan, Esq., and passed unanimously.

The Report of the Bursary Scheme the object of which is to aid young men requiring pecuniary assistance in their studies for the ministry, was brought up at this Diet, and in the absence of Professor Mowat, the Convener, was read by Professor Williamson. Help was given to twenty-six students, not exceeding \$40 to any unless when specially requested by donors. Fifteen bursaries were accorded after competitive examinations; the others were granted by the Senatus after due inquiry into the circumstances of the recipients. During last Collegiate Session, \$113 was the sum disbursed, but of this the Committee had been enabled by congregational collections to supply no more than \$365.72. There had been only 23 contributing congregations. The Committee expressed their regret that so important a scheme should be overlooked by most of the ministers from year to year, but hoped that the Synod would continue to countenance and commend it. The deliberations of the Court were in a great measure diverted from the true merits and claims of the Scheme, by the intrusion of animadversions upon the course fol-