

The report on the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, western section, stated that at the beginning of the year there were fifteen names on the list. One name has been withdrawn from the list and three have been added.

#### STATISTICS OF THE CHURCH.

Among other business brought before the Assembly on Monday last the report of the committee on Statistics was read and adopted. It estimates 705 congregations, of which 122 are vacant and 126 do not report; 1,042 churches with upwards of 83,000 communicants during the year, and 8,344 baptisms. A variety of formal and necessary matters were disposed of, and in the evening the Assembly was brought to a close with appropriate ceremonies.—*Exchange*.

---

#### THE DEVIL DEAD AT LAST.

---

The following letter, which we copy from the *Montreal Witness*, illustrates the principle that the "end justifies the means" in the unscrupulous and wicked manner in which an attempt was made, in the name of religion, to wrest money from a dying man. Pity each of the Priests involved in the wicked and disgraceful conspiracy did not receive a bullet in some part of their body, where it would be more inconvenient than fatal, until they would be led to see the error of their ways, and employ means to kill the devil that does exist, rather than help to make new ones. The church that employs such means to keep herself in existence ought to be on her last legs.

The Spanish papers narrate a fact of some gravity which occurred at Cervera, province of Rioja, on the 9th of the cur-

rent month, and which we reproduce. A rich proprietor, well known in the country for his advanced opinions, refused spiritual aid on his death-bed, notwithstanding the supplications of his family and the pressing of his friends. There was a moment, however, when it was thought the patient would modify his resolutions. The cure of the parish then presented himself at the bedside of the dying man, but he persisted in his refusal; the father retired precipitately, saying, in a loud voice to those around, that after the death of the reprobate the devil would come in person to search for him and lead him to hell. The family watched for two days by the corpse of the loved one they were to lose, and in a few hours he would be buried, when the door of the mortuary house opening suddenly, an indetachable being clothed in red, armed with a pitchfork, smelling of burning brimstone, dragging a long tail, presented himself. At once fear and fright produced an effect. The women fainted and the men ran away or followed the women's example. However, one of the men-servants, occupied in an adjoining room, hearing shrieks and a great confusion, thought there was an attack of thieves. Seizing a loaded revolver, he went to the mortuary house. Entering there, he was terrified at the sight of the devil, but thinking it better to kill him than to be killed by him, he fired three shots at him. The howling of the apparition was changed at once into lamentations and groans, and then followed a profound silence. After some minutes the family of the dead man returning, found the sacristan of the church transformed into a demon, with three bullets in his breast and death foam on his lips. The authorities entered and made an enquiry, which gave reason for four priests being sent to prison. The corpse of the sacristan was buried next day, and the servant was set at liberty after a short detention.—*Letter from Spain in English Paper*.