

of relief, which they have afforded to many a bereaved family. A similar scheme the Synod have now resolved on establishing here. The particular regulations for the future management of the fund have not yet been determined on, but it is likely that the annual payments required from ministers will range from ten to twenty dollars, and it is expected that sums of at least from fifteen to twenty five pounds annually will be guaranteed to each widow, and four or five pounds to each orphan. In order however to fix the scheme on a firm basis and at the same time to give an opportunity to the benevolent to contribute towards the object, it has been resolved to appeal to the church to raise a capital fund of £1000, besides what may be raised by collectors and ministers subscriptions, to be invested on the most advantageous terms, and to be liable for distribution only to the amount of its annual interest.

The advantages of this plan are principally three. In the first place, it makes better provision for the classes referred to, than any other scheme in our power. True the amount of the annuities will not be large. To a person prospering in any other calling, the prospect of say £20 per annum for his widow and £5 additional for each young orphan would appear anything but a brilliant future for those he might leave behind him. But it is much more than we could ever hope to provide for them by any other scheme within our reach. In the case of a widow with five children the amount at the above rate would be forty five pounds per annum, and the rate may be higher and any one who has had any acquaintance with such a case, will know how much such a sum payable regularly every half year would add to the comfort of a family in such circumstances. Such a sum would raise them above absolute want, and it is not contemplated that they should be placed in such a position as to render their own efforts or the assistance of their personal friends unnecessary. But secondly, the provision is a certain one. This is an essential element of the scheme, one which we trust will never be lost sight of in any arrangements that might be made. The annuities will be placed on such a scale,

as on a correct calculation of the rates of mortality, we may be certain our funds will enable us to afford, and all will be secured, permanent vested funds. This can never be secured by any scheme of charitable donations. Such would always be precarious. But by this scheme every minister who contributes to the fund will have all the certainty that can be afforded regarding anything human, that the sacrifice he is making will secure provision to his widow and young fatherless children, should he leave such behind him; and he can lay his head on a dying pillow without anxiety as to their receiving the amount guaranteed. And lastly, The provision thus made will be without anything of the humiliation of pauperism or charity. The sums that the widow will receive she will be as much entitled to, as to anything earned by the labour of her hands. To a dying husband it must be a pleasing reflection, that by his own self-denial or as part of the return made for his labours, he has been enabled to make such a provision for those dearest to him on earth. And to the bereaved widow it must afford the utmost satisfaction to know that the funds she now receives are not the gifts of charity, but are the results of his labours and self-denial while on earth, and that she has as much right to use them for the support of herself and family as she had to use any part of his stipend for the same purpose during his lifetime.

The raising of the sum required annually from ministers will even at the lowest rate mentioned, be a heavy tax upon the narrow means of many of our ministers. But the object is so important, and so nearly concerns the interest of those dearest to them on earth, that we believe it will be borne, even although it should involve their denying themselves comforts or what others would regard as necessities of life. But it is intended hereafter to appeal to Sessions and congregations, to relieve their pastor of this burden, and we hope to see the day, when congregations will consider it their duty to provide for their minister an interest in the Widows Fund, as much as to provide him with a stipend for his annual maintenance. At present however the attention of the