

the scheme or others cease to contribute. The Trustees are happy to be able to express their decided convictions, that notwithstanding the new burdens thrown upon the scheme, it is in a safe and satisfactory position.

At the date of our last Report, the amount in fund and invested was \$10,680. The receipts during the past year have been as follows:—Members' dues, \$1205; Interest and Dividends, \$682.22; Donations, \$26.65; Fines, \$38.37. Tot. receipts, \$1952.74, from which has to be deducted the sum of \$190 paid as annuities, leaving the sum of \$1762.74 to the credit of the Fund for the year, which added to the amount in Fund at the date of our last Report, makes the whole sum at the credit of the Fund \$12,442.74.

In conclusion, the Committee would remark, that the events of the past year present to the younger members of Synod, who have not yet availed themselves of the advantages of this Fund, a loud call to do so while they have the opportunity. The words of our beloved brother, the Rev. Allan Fraser, convey a solemn lesson. Conversing with a ministerial brother shortly before his death, he said that no one would imagine the amount of satisfaction which his connexion with this scheme afforded him at that time. When he joined the fund he thought that he was throwing money away, as he fully expected that he would survive his wife, but that now he would not have grudged twice the amount, for the ease and comfort of mind he enjoyed in the knowledge that such a provision had been made for the comfort of those whom he was about to leave.

All which is respectfully submitted.

GEORGE PATTERSON,

Secretary.

### SYSTEMATIC GIVING.

TO THE OFFICE-BEARERS, MEMBERS AND ADHERENTS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES:

*Dearly Beloved Brethren,—*

At the recent meeting of Synod in Charlottetown, the following resolutions were adopted:—

I. That the Synod recommend all the office-bearers, members and adherents of our Church, in subjection to the command of the Lord Jesus, to adopt the practice of weekly storing, in proportion to means and income, so that in very deed, as well as in word, they may do homage to the God of Providence, testify most emphatically their gratitude and love to the God of all Grace, and have, at all times, that wherewith they

may meet and discharge the claims upon them, of religion and benevolence.

II. That the Synod recommend to Sessions the immediate formation of Congregational Associations, for the purpose of disseminating a knowledge of the principles and practice involved in the Apostolic method of Christian Beneficence, with the view to the ultimate adoption of that method by congregations for securing all the funds required by the Church.

III. That the Synod, believing that the generally received standard of Christian Beneficence is far too low, enjoins her ministers to endeavour earnestly to elevate it by faithful Scriptural teaching on the subject.

IV. That the Committee on Systematic Beneficence be authorized to issue a Circular, to be read to all our congregations, indicating the claims of God upon our property, and stating, as well as enforcing, the recommendations adopted by Synod.

V. That the Committee be instructed to ascertain from Sessions what progress shall have been made in the premises, so that they may report the same to next meeting of Synod.

Availing ourselves of the authority conferred on us, we embrace an early opportunity of addressing you briefly upon the deeply important subject committed to our charge. That God has claims upon the property of every man, is admitted by all Christians. Indeed no one can deny it without ignoring all such declarations as these:—"The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof" "The beasts of the forest are mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills." "The gold is mine, and the silver is mine, saith the Lord of Hosts." As the Creator and Preserver, He is its Lord. Accordingly, He disposes of His substance as it pleases Him. To one man He assigns more: to another, less; to each according to his ability, *but to all as STEWARDS*. As the Great and Sole Proprietor, He Himself lays down rules for its use, and intimates to all men that he will demand a strict account. He requires every man to provide for his own, and especially for those of his own household; from which it may fairly be inferred, that a considerable portion of the property with which he has entrusted us may be lawfully used to provide food and raiment, the necessities and comforts of life for ourselves and families. But desirable, useful, important, and even necessary as these things are. He has absolutely prohibited us from spending one all on them. The hungry require food; the naked, clothing; and the distressed, relief. Churches must be built, ordinances maintained, and missionaries sent to every land. These things involve an expense