

one-half of this amount, or \$7.00. After he had left the Union, he had paid in personal rates, \$11.50. As this had been paid under a misapprehension, it was right that it should all be refunded. This would make \$18.50 of personal rates which he should receive back. To the \$4.50 sent to the Fund by his congregations in New Brunswick he had no right, because they belonged to the Union and remained in it. The congregation of St. Columba, might claim the one dollar which they had given as they were not in the Union, but Mr. Melville had no right to it.

What did the Committee do? In July, 1885, when they knew that Mr. Melville declined to remain in the Fund on the terms laid down by the Assembly for all ministers not remaining in the Union, they gave him an order on the Treasurer of the Fund for \$26.50. This order, it will be seen, includes the whole \$14.00 which he had paid into the Fund before he left the Union, instead of the half of it to which he was entitled. It includes the \$11.50, the whole amount paid by him into the Fund after he left the Union, and in addition, the dollar given as a contribution to the Fund by the St. Columba Kirk, or, seven dollars more than they had any right to give.

With the committee's conduct in thus giving more out of the Fund than the rules entitled them to do, we are not at present concerned, our object is simply to state what happened.

In his letter in the *Record* Mr. Melville states that he was "cut off in July, 1885, by an order offering to repay me out of said Fund a part of what I had paid into it." Again he speaks of them as "trying to cut me off by paying me a little out of the fund." The committee could not cut him off if he would pay the \$15.00 required of him by the rules under which they were acting. By declining to pay that he cut himself off, and the committee then gave him an order, not for "a part," not for "a little" of what he had paid in, but for the whole amount, and in addition, for the dollar that had been paid as a collection, to the Fund by the St. Columba Kirk. This order Mr. Melville did not draw for over two years. In his letter to the *Record* he says: "I have not taken it." Two months after the appearance of that letter, however, in August, 1887, Mr. Melville wrote Mr. Morrison, the Agent of our Church, requesting him to send the

\$26.50, (for which he had received the order, in July, 1885, more than two years before.) Mr. Morrison sent Mr. Melville the amount, and on Sept. 20th, 1887, Mr. Melville writes Mr. Morrison as follows: "Thanks for yours duly received, for which I enclose receipt. This settles amicably and forever my claims against the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund."

#### THE WIDOW'S AND ORPHANS' FUND.

This is a fund which, in the Maritime Provinces, is supported by the ministers themselves. There may be an occasional contribution from others but such are not asked for. It is a mutual protection society. If a minister who contributes to it leaves a widow, or orphans, under eighteen, they receive an annuity from it. If he leaves neither one nor the other his heirs get nothing. What he has paid in goes to the benefit of the widow's and orphan's of others, that may be left in need.

At the Union in 1875, the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces and the Kirk, had each a Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund. For some time after the Union, these Funds remained separate. Later on they were united. When this union of the Funds took place, in order that ministers of the Kirk who did not enter the union, might not suffer inconvenience by staying out, the preamble to the Act of the Dominion Legislature uniting the two funds, contained the following:

"That the relation of ministers or congregations of the Presbyterian Church in the Maritime Provinces in connection with the Church of Scotland, who might defer entering, or might not enter the United Church, should be similar in all respects to that of the ministers and congregations who should members of the United Church, it being understood that such ministers and congregations should comply with the terms of the constitution of such Fund."

At the amalgamation of these Funds an opportunity was offered to the ministers of either body who had not been previously in the Fund, to join it, on certain conditions which were the same to both. It was at that time that Mr. Melville joined it, but afterward, in the year 1886, he wrote to the committee, asking his money back, on the ground, as he alleged, that in the matter of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund the Assembly had made an unfair discrimination against the ministers who did not enter the Union.