

and useful fund. There are now twenty-six widows receiving aid from the fund (three since the meeting of Synod), and upwards of forty orphans; and if the fund is to go on prospering as it has done in the past, the large number of annuitants now drawing from it, in proportion to the number of congregations, makes it necessary that the contributions to it shall be increasingly liberal. As the first Sunday in January is New Year's Day, congregations cannot do better than celebrate the festival with a bountiful thank-offering for the benefits they receive from the hands of the Lord, by providing for the future comfort of the families of their ministers. This scheme is so popular with congregations, however, that they do not need any great solicitation to prompt them to devise liberal things in reference to it; and when the facts are before them, we are convinced they will do their duty.

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OWING to the publication of the Statistics in this number, which will be found of great importance, we have been compelled to leave over our ordinary current matter, communications, &c. In the January number we shall endeavour to overtake all arrears.

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THE PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO. — This court will meet (D.V.) for general business on the 8th December, at two o'clock, p.m.

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THE Essay on Union written by the Rev. R. Campbell, and which received the prize will be published by the 15th of the month by Mr. Grafton, Montreal.

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Notwithstanding the explanations made in these columns a year ago, the financial position of the *Presbyterian* has undergone no improvement. While the cost of publication during the past year was considerably lessened, this has been more than counterbalanced by an increased and still increasing amount of unpaid subscriptions. Were the Committee of Publication to take an ordinary business view of the matter, and act accordingly, they would simply go into liquidation, stop the magazine, and so

rid themselves of a deal of work and anxiety. But, feeling that the interests of the Church would suffer by such a course, and, that at this particular juncture in the history of Presbyterianism, and of Protestantism, there is more need than ever for watchfulness and assiduity on the part of the press; remembering, too, the disinterested and unwearied labours of their predecessors during the past three-and-twenty years, they are resolved not to quit their post so long as a foot of ground remains for them to stand upon.

It pains us very much to be obliged to inform our readers that at a recent meeting of the Lay Association it was resolved, as a matter of necessity, to dispense with the professional assistance which the Committee has found to be very valuable to them in the past, and which our readers cannot fail to have appreciated for themselves, and without which, we may add, no magazine that aims at respectability can be expected very long to exist. Upon the members of the Publishing Committee, therefore, it will devolve, for a time at least, to supply the lack of service. In doing so to the best of their ability, they must necessarily throw themselves largely upon the indulgence of the readers of the *Presbyterian*.

The January number will be sent as usual to all whose names are on the despatch list; but, with the distinct understanding that those who do not wish to pay for the publication will be expected to give intimation to that effect, either by returning the *Presbyterian* to the office of publication, or, by letter, requesting it to be discontinued.

Along with this number subscribers in arrear will receive their accounts, which we hope will be promptly settled. If the statement above made is not sufficient to secure for the conductors of this journal the support which they think they have a right to expect from the members of our Church it were useless to attempt any further argument. If it is the mind of the Church that the *Presbyterian* may now be discontinued without any detriment to the cause of which it has been the consistent advocate for nearly a quarter of a century, then, the sooner this is made known to those who are responsible for the publication, the better.