

nals, with a model memorial and directions appended. Your Committee have reason to know that a partial response has been made to these appeals. The Synod's memorials were duly forwarded signed by the Moderator and Clerk—separate memorials were also sent by your Committee. Several Presbyteries and Sessions have taken similar action. Your Committee would recommend:—

I. That the Synod memorialize again, if it be found necessary, and that Presbyteries, Sessions, and Congregations, which have neglected this duty be instructed to attend to it.

II. Meetings should be convened throughout the Province, that by direct oral appeals the subject in its more public and practical bearing may be pressed on the notice of the community. At such meetings petitions may be submitted and signed by the Chairman and Secretary in name of the meeting.

III. Tracts pithy and spirited: books like *Edward's Sabbath Manual*, *Waterbury*, *Dwight*, *Agnew*, and *Kingsbury* on the Sabbath: the special volume of *Essays* by distinguished Ministers of the leading Evangelical denominations, and the *Prize Essays* by working men, should be widely circulated. This might be very easily and efficiently done through our system of Colportage.

IV. The Press should be largely taken advantage of by Ministers and others to counteract the pernicious views that are afloat on the subject and to disseminate views of a sound Scriptural character. Your Committee would recommend to the Committee on the Revival of Religion to keep this in view in the proposed "Fly Sheets."

V. Members of Parliament should be dealt with on this question by their constituents. Every legitimate influence should be brought to bear upon them.

VI. Deputations might be appointed (if deemed advisable) to deal with Government and Railway Companies.

VII. Sabbath Defence Associations should be formed all over the Province, and an effort be made to secure the formation of a Provincial Sabbath Alliance.

VIII. Sessions are exhorted to deal firmly and faithfully with members who are guilty of violations of the Sabbath law, such as travelling, social visiting, and the like; and not to admit to sealing ordinances, or retain in their enjoyment, parties who are engaged in unnecessary labor on the Lord's day.

IX. Your Committee would further recommend that a list of queries similar to those sent in 1852 be again sent to Ministers and Sessions, specially bearing on the various forms of Sabbath desecration and the means used for their removal, and that the substance of the answers be embodied in next year's report.

XI. That the *third Sabbath* in January, as heretofore, be devoted to special simultaneous preaching on the subject.

XII. Your Committee would recommend to Ministers, Sessions, and Presbyteries in districts where there is Sabbath desecration on canals or railways, to adopt all competent measures with a view of getting a stopput to such desecration.

XIII. Your Committee in the event of any new crusade being undertaken against the Sabbath in the parent country, your Committee would recommend to the Synod, to consider the propriety of joining with the friends of the Sabbath in any competent way in withstanding it.

XIV. Your Committee would finally call to mind the recommendations to the Synod in June 1853, "that inasmuch as the cause cannot be successfully prosecuted without the Divine blessing, and union for prayer is specially needed and fitted to prove highly beneficial, in order to that blessing being secured, an hour monthly, say between 7 and 8 P. M. on the last Saturday of every month be thus set apart by all the office-bearers and members of this Church.

ROBERT F. BUANS, *Convener*.

### REPORT ON WIDOWS' FUND, FOR YEAR ENDING 31st MAY, 1856.

The Committee beg leave to submit the following statements of the receipts and expenditure of the Widows' fund for the past year.

#### RECEIPTS.

	£.	s.	d.
1 Congregational collections.....	359	1	5½
2 Rates paid by Ministers.....	171	10	0
3 Donations &c.....	26	10	0
Interest.....	261	7	9
Principal invested, repaid.....	95	1	0
Balance at beginning of year.....	239	4	6
<b>Total for year.....</b>	<b>£1152</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8½</b>

#### EXPENDITURE.

1 On account of annuities.....	£204	8	9
2 Proportion of agent's salary...	50	0	0
3 Proportion of Office Rent, Postage, Printing, uncurrent notes received, discount on cheques, &c.....	15	6	8
4 Put out at interest, 9 per cent.	500	0	0
5 Balance in hand.....	382	14	3½
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>£1152</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8½</b>

The whole amount invested is 4463 16 0  
Balance in hand..... 382 14 3½

£4846 10 3½

In carrying out the resolution of last Synod, to submit the scheme to an Actuary, queries were addressed to all the Ministers contributing to the fund, not long after the meeting of Synod. It is to be regretted that returns were not made more promptly to these queries, it being pretty late this spring before all the returns were received. Of course, until all the statistics were received, it was impossible to submit the scheme to the opinion of any Actuary. All the returns having at last been received, a meeting of the Committee was held at Hamilton, when it was resolved to submit the scheme to Hugh C. Baker, Esq., of the Canada Insurance Company. A statement from him, with reference to the fund has been received, an extract from which statement is as follows.

HAMILTON, June 10, 1856.

MY DEAR SIR,—

The questions submitted to me by you in reference to the Widows' Fund Scheme of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, have had my attention so far as to enable me to reply generally, and probably with as much accuracy as may serve the present purpose.

1st. You ask as to the present position of the Fund, will it justify you in continuing the present rate of annuity to future claimants?

Your memorandum represents 6 claimants receiving £30 a-year each, irrespective of the sums allowed for children under 14—at their respective ages a capital sum of £2107 is thus already pledged (this being the tabular value of the Annuities) deducting this from your accumulated fund, the sum of £2,353 remains, the income from which is..... £141 0 0

Your revenue from 93 Ministers at £2 each..... 186 0 0

Do. Congregational Collections..... 325 0 0

..... 652 0 0

Deduct Expenses of Management &c..... 62 10 0

Leaving..... 589 10 0

which represents your available income to meet the constantly accruing liabilities from 93 Ministers, of whom 67 are now married.

My only guide by which to estimate the probable number of claims is the experience of the scheme in the Established Church of Scotland which I have before referred to, this would lead

us to expect one year with another 2 widows, and, taking the average of the 6 now on the fund in regard to age, £715 13s 4d. yearly additional charge; showing that the fund is not quite sufficient to meet the widows, annuity, while no provision is made for the children's allowance.

There are, however, circumstances which in judgment may justify a continuance of your present scale; the ages of your Ministers are certainly of a less average than in the scheme. I mention, inducing an expectation of a diminished mortality in the earlier years, and, I presume your Congregational collections may be expected to increase. On the other hand, the ages of your Ministers' wives are also less, while as large a proportion as nearly one-fourth of the whole, are more than 10 years junior to their husbands, thus creating an excess of liability, by the expectation of a lengthened survivorship.

I have not attempted any valuation of the sums allowed for children, the gross charge on this account, will not be very important as it ceases at fourteen, and it would be a very tedious question to value or investigate.

1. You ask would it be safe to give up the annual collection in congregations!

The preceding remarks will show that to do so would at once destroy the scheme, as these form one-half of the current future income.

3. Would an increase in the rates, payable by Ministers to £3 or £4 be very desirable or important?

A moderate increase of income, from whatever source, would of course tend to render the scheme itself so far, and more reliable in the future, but knowing how small the incomes of the Clergy of this Province generally are, I would rather suggest the propriety of urging greater zeal on the part of the congregations.

I am, yours faithfully,

HUGH C. BAKER.

During the year twelve new Ministers have become contributors, there are still a few of the Ministers in the various Presbyteries, who do not contribute. But the number is small, and is becoming less every year. It is to be regretted, that any should not see it to be a duty to connect themselves with this fund now, it is to be hoped, on a permanent basis.

During the past year, one additional claim has come on the fund, viz., Mrs. Bethune, the widow of the Rev. N. Bethune, for a short time Minister at Thamesford. Mrs. Bethune has one child.

The Committee grateful for the prosperity which has hitherto attended this benevolent scheme, would urge on the Synod the propriety of seeking to keep up the annual collections, and endeavoring to draw forth the interest and liberality of such congregations, as have never yet done justice to this scheme. There are not a few in this position. And it is but fair, that the burden should be divided, and borne by all according to their ability.

The collection has been pretty generally attended to; but, still there are a good many congregations for the various Presbyteries, from which no collection has yet been received. The Committee recommend that the Synod should enjoin such congregations yet to make, and remit a collection, so that there may be no defaulting congregations.

In name of Committee.

W. REID, *Sec. and Treasurer*.

#### ABSTRACT

of the Receipts and Expenditures for the various Schemes of the Church,—per statement submitted at late meeting of the Synod by the General Agent for the Scheme.