

The Presbyterian Alliance is an affiliation of the Presbyterian churches of the world. It represents twenty-three millions of people and its Council meets once in three years. The last meeting was in Glasgow in 1896. The next will be in Washington in 1899. Our Church is entitled to send twenty-four delegates, and one of the asides of Assembly was choosing these delegates for next year.

Presbyteries in appointing their commissioners to Assembly have usually some system of rotation, whereby whole or part of the representation is changed with each successive year, and the stimulus and benefit of attendance is shared by all. The Assembly in choosing its delegates has no such system, and as the number of "prominents" is somewhat limited, practically the same men, barring the changes made by time, are sent to each successive Council, and the benefit to the Church is in this measure limited.

That the "world owes every man a living" is questionable. That the world has a living for every man and he who seeks it finds it, is nearer the truth. But there can be no question that a living is due to the aged ministers who have spent their years and strength in the service of their church and country, laying in righteousness the foundations of national prosperity, and often at salaries which, when their own small wants and large charities were met, left them nothing for sickness or age. To give in some small measure this living that is due is the aim of the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.

To receive benefit from the Fund a minister must be "sick or seventy," and must have paid to it his yearly rates. It is thus for those who have helped themselves and are now past age or strength for full service.

In the West during the past year, as reported to Assembly, eighty-four such ministers received a portion of their dues, in sums varying from \$100 to \$250 each; and in the East twenty-four received varying amounts up to \$200.

The Fund is made up by interest from invested endowment funds, by contributions from individuals and congregations, and by minister's rates. It should be larger. The present rate is too small. But even the present amount can scarcely be continued without increased giving.

Little do we who enjoy the fruits of their labor, realize what we owe, as church and country, to these aged ministers. There should be more liberal support on the part of all for all share in the good which their work has brought to our land. And there should be more cordial co-operation by all the younger ministers. Not only for his brethren's sake, but for his own sake, should each pastor at ordination connect himself with the Fund by contributing his rates.

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