

in the above, making our whole assets at the time \$13,723.55.

In addition the Committee have received notice of a legacy of \$200 from the late Mrs. Angus Chisholm, of New Glasgow, which would probably have been paid over but for the lamented death of Roderick McGregor, Esq. They have also received information that during the present month Charles D. Hunter Esq., of Halifax, intends making the scheme a donation of the same amount. There will also now fall to be added the annual dues payable at this meeting of Synod, amounting to about \$1000 which will raise the amount of our funds to over \$15,000, from which however will fall to be deducted the annuities, payable at the same time, amounting to \$435.

During the past year two ministers upon the fund have died; the Rev. Dr. Smith of Stewincke, and the Rev. James McNair of Eromanga, leaving two widows and three orphans on the fund. But on the other hand one orphan having reached the age of 16 years is no longer entitled to annuity, leaving the number on our fund as follows:

5 Widows, at \$120 each.....	\$600.00
1 " at 20 "	90.00
6 Orphans, at 90 "	120.00
4 " at 15 "	60.00

\$870.00

It will thus be seen that the claims upon the fund are rapidly increasing. The committee also think that this statement shows that the Synod was not a day too soon in establishing this fund. We think too that we may now fairly appeal to the present state of the scheme, both as to its means and obligations, as showing the sound basis on which the scheme has been established. On what other plan could the Synod have been able to provide so liberal assistance and in a manner so satisfactory to the parties interested. At the same time the rapid increase of claims shows the necessity of careful management, and prudent efforts to increase the funds at our disposal.

The Board have to record the death of Roderick McGregor, one of their members, who took a deep interest in the object of the fund, and who was ever ready to aid us by his co-operation and assistance.

At the last meeting of Synod, it was recommended to your Committee to consider "whether in justice to the scheme, any measures can be adopted, at the time of the next septennial revision of the rate in 1871, by which those ministers not upon the scheme may be in a position to enjoy the benefits of the fund," and to report to this present meeting of Synod. This subject engaged the serious attention of your Committee. After careful consideration they came to the conclusion, that in order

to prepare any plan for this purpose it would be necessary to ascertain, how many members of Synod would be prepared to avail themselves of its advantages. They therefore addressed circulars to those ministers not upon the fund, enquiring whether in the event of such a measure being adopted, they wished to join the scheme. Answers to these circulars have been received from about two-thirds of those addressed. These replies were of three kinds. Some intimated that they would not join; and it is gratifying to find that a good proportion of these assign as a reason, that either before or since the establishment of this fund they had made provision by some plan of Life Assurance or otherwise for those dependant upon them, in the event of being separated from them by death. One or two are connected with similar funds in Scotland; and we learn that the circumstances of several, render such a provision unnecessary. Others expressed their desire to join should an opportunity be afforded, while a third class expressed themselves in uncertainty.

The Committee have since carefully considered the whole question. There were only two ways in which in justice to those upon the fund, other members of Synod who had not paid from the beginning or from their ordination, could in justice to others be admitted to its benefits. The first would be by their paying a sum as composition for the past years in which they would have paid, had they joined at the proper time. The other would be to allow them to enter now at the regular rates, but with the consideration that they pay for a proportionally longer time before their widows and orphans would be entitled to annuity. The Committee recommended with the consent of a majority of a meeting of those on the fund, that a last opportunity be afforded to those ministers, who did not join the fund at the proper time, of enjoying its advantages, on the following terms: That they be chargeable in addition to the regular rate of the class on which they wish to enter, from the 1st July 1871, with the following, as composition for their past payments; those who should have paid, one or two years, to be chargeable with one year's rate; that any ministers prepared to pay that amount at once have the privilege of joining the scheme now and their widows and orphans in case of decease, be entitled to annuity after the same number of annual payments from this date as if they had joined the fund at the regular time; that should they prefer not paying the amount at once they be allowed to join the scheme now, on condition that they pay rates for the number of years stated, in addition to what is required of those entering after proper time according to Rule XII,