

MINISTERS' WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND

After a general statement as to the existing funds, the subject was referred to a Sub-Committee, who brought in a carefully prepared report, which was again considered in detail by the General Committee, and adopted with certain alterations. It was proposed to recommend, that after the amalgamation of existing funds, there shall be one fund, to be sustained by the interest from investments; annual contributions from ministers, varying from \$8 to \$12 per annum, according to the age of the minister on entrance; and congregational contributions. After guaranteeing the rights of existing annuitants, it was agreed to recommend that each widow should receive \$150 per annum; the sum to be increased in a certain ratio where there are children. Where there is an orphan, the allowance that would have gone to a widow shall be paid; and where there are several orphans, the rate shall be increased in a certain ratio. Several details were embraced in the report, which our space will not permit us to notice.

FUND FOR AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS.

On this subject it was agreed to recommend: 1. That there shall be a fund for the whole Church, in behalf of aged and infirm ministers; 2. That it shall be sustained by annual contributions from congregations, donations, and bequests; 3. That payments out of the fund shall be made according to the following scale: (1.) When a minister is allowed by the Assembly to retire, after ten years' service, he shall receive \$100, and \$10 a-year for each additional year, up to forty years' service, or till the minister is seventy years of age, if the state of the funds permits; (2.) The case of a minister permitted to retire after less than ten years' service shall be made the subject of special consideration by the Assembly. 4. That it be an instruction to Presbyteries, when accepting the resignation of ministers permitted by the Assembly to retire, to secure, when practicable, a suitable retiring allowance to such ministers, from the congregations which they had served.

ECCLESIASTICAL PROCEDURE, &c.

Under this head were included Ecclesiastical Procedure; Synodical Functions and Business; Standing Orders for the Conduct of Business in the Church Courts; Regulations as to Records of Church Courts; and Admission of Ministers from other Churches. These subjects were referred to a Sub-Committee, with the understanding that they might report on certain points before the Committee adjourned, and that they might present a more complete report before the meeting of Assembly. They accordingly reported on certain points, viz., a Formula to be signed by Ministers, Elders, and Deacons, and the questions to be put to such on Ordination; Standing Orders for the Supreme Court; Regulations as to Records of Church Courts. We give the Questions to be put to Ministers on their Ordination, and the Formula to be signed:

QUESTIONS.

1. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and the only infallible rule of Faith and Manners?
2. Do you believe the Westminster Confession of Faith, as adopted by this Church as the Basis of Union, to be founded on and agreeable to the Word of God; and in your teaching will you adhere thereto?
3. Do you believe the Government of this Church by Sessions, Presbyteries, Synods, and General Assemblies to be founded on and agreeable to the Word of God; and do you engage, as a Minister of this Church, to maintain and defend the same?
4. Do you own the purity of Worship at present authorized by this Church, and will you conform thereto?