

members of the Church, but recommend that authority be given to the Committee to take measures during the present season for this end, as well as to complete the subscription list among ministers, so as to have the fund established on a satisfactory footing.

The Synod authorized the Committee to take measures to provide for the case of any ministers whose circumstances might call for immediate action. Their attention was directed to the case of one brother, who had retired from the active duties of the ministry, and who was then in failing health, the Rev. James Wadd. "The case requiring immediate action, as the Committee not being able to meet, it was agreed by correspondence among the members, to pay him the sum of \$81. This was accordingly done, and the Committee rejoice to be able to say, that the grant was most acceptable, both as affording important assistance, and as an expression of the interest which the brethren felt in the condition of a brother, then, after long service, on the verge of the eternal world.

The Committee have received some reports from Presbyteries, on the proposed rules for the management of the fund, but not so full as to enable them to submit to Synod the views of the whole Church on the subject.

All which is respectfully submitted.

GEORGE PATTERSON,
Convener.

PRESBYTERIAN MINISTERS' WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

Report of the Trustees for 1870.

It is with mingled feelings that the Trustees of the Presbyterian Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund present their Annual Report—of sadness, as they have to report the removal by death of beloved brethren, some of them in the midst of their years, and as they remember the bereaved hearts which have, during the past year, been called to mourn the loss of beloved husbands and fathers—and yet of satisfaction, that through the institution of this scheme, provision has been made for the comfort of those left behind, who would have otherwise been left in circumstances painful to contemplate. For some time this Synod enjoyed a remarkable exemption from death. For some years after the union in 1860, not one of its ministerial members was called to finish his earthly course. For six years after this scheme came into existence, only two deaths occurred among our ministers, only one of whom left a widow. The Committee had

felt that this state of things could not long continue, and during the past year the Providence of God has been loudly warning us that the priests are not suffered to continue by reason of death. Of those on the Fund, three have been removed during the past year, the Rev. Donald Morrison, on the 23rd October last, the Rev. James Waddell on the _____, and the Rev. Allan Fraser on the _____ April. By the departure of these beloved brethren, three widows and eight orphans have been thrown upon the Fund, making a total of four widows and eight orphans now entitled to receive support from it. Of these, one widow received the full yearly annuity of \$120, and one widow and one orphan received the half-yearly annuity, payable on the first January last. The rest have as yet received nothing, but will commence to receive their half-yearly annuities from the first July. The whole amount henceforward payable annually from the fund is \$590, as follows:—

Three widows,	at \$120 each.....	\$360
One " "	at \$ 90 "	90
Four orphans,	at \$ 20 "	80
Four " "	at \$ 15 "	60

\$590

This rapid increase in the claims upon the Fund shows the importance of the scheme, and at the same time illustrates the necessity there was of laying it on a good foundation, and guarding it well. In drawing up our rules, we made our terms as liberal as was thought consistent with safety. On comparison with other institutions, the advantages offered will be found as large in proportion to the sums paid as in any that we know of, or perhaps larger. To many of our brethren, the terms appeared so high and our rules so rigid, as to have deterred a number of brethren from joining, whom we much desired to see upon the fund. And as God spared the lives of our ministers so remarkably, it seemed to many that we were accumulating funds unnecessarily. But the events of the past year have shown the necessity as well as the wisdom of the course adopted. We already see the largeness of the demands that will henceforward be made upon our funds, and it cannot be very long until they are increased. Unless our scheme had been on such a basis as would have produced an accumulation of funds during the first years of its existence, it would be impossible to meet the claims that will certainly in the course of nature be made upon it. In order to the success of such a scheme, a first requisite is safety. It must be able to give security to those who may contribute that all its obligations will be fulfilled, even if at some future time those who may come after us should not join.