

itself even to the view of the Church at large. It cannot possibly fail to engage the sympathy of any generous Christian heart in the community; and if any hearts should be touched by the case, those ought to be the most deeply affected, which the departed ambassador of the Lord Jesus Christ has endeavoured, by his ministrations, to lead to the enjoyment of the greatest and purest good—the blessings of salvation. It is that the Church may have ready at hand, when the occasion arises, some tangible and certain method of showing its kindly Christian consideration, that this scheme has been instituted—a means of magnifying the office of the ministry, through the dearest representatives of him, who is no longer present to magnify it by his own words and deeds, but is still saying by each of them, “If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing that we shall reap your carnal things?”

It is to be remembered, also, that the congregational contributions do not compose the entire funds of the scheme, but admit of being considered as auxiliary to what is done by the ministers themselves, *in behalf of their families*. Out of their incomes, in many cases very limited, the ministers engage to do what approves itself to be right, namely, to make some provision for those of their own households—he who does not leave any one to be a recipient of the benefits giving equally, year by year, with those who do; and the people are simply asked to help them in this laudable endeavour. The congregational assistance, compared with the amount contributed by the ministers, is easily estimated. According to last report, the ministers' payments, at the rate of \$12 from each, amounted to \$1296; the congregational contributions, including arrears, were \$1400, showing, at an average, a very little more than the ministers' rate.

The benefit of the scheme may be determined in some measure by the fact that there are now nineteen annuitants on the Roll, two having been added since the meeting of Synod, and the total amount of annuity paid last year is \$1790, which will of course be increased by the additional annuities to be paid this year. It is hoped, therefore, that the scheme will be liberally sustained by the forthcoming collection.

ONE of the *articles communicated* in this number gives intelligence recently received from a most devoted missionary, the Rev.

William Ross, who has been labouring under the auspices of the London Missionary Society, for twenty years, in South Central Africa. We are sure it will interest our readers. They are indebted for it to the Rev. Mr. Fisher, of Fisk, Scotland, from whom Mr. Ross received his early education, and to whom is due the credit of rescuing from obscurity one of the most devoted, heroic, and successful missionaries ever engaged by the great society with which he was connected. Mr. Ross was well known in Scotland before he entered the mission field. In Africa he became the associate of Moffat and Livingstone. He commenced his work with the fullest confidence in the holy cause he undertook, and in Him whose it is, and toiled on against obstacles and discouragements, with all the determination and perseverance of a man, who knows that difficulties must be contended with, yet at the same time feels certain of success. During the last few years his labours have been remarkably owned and blessed of God.

The communication we insert has a particular interest, from the circumstance that tidings have arrived of the death of Mr. Ross. We have perused the letter containing this news, recently received by our correspondent, from Mr. R's widow, who has all along been deeply interested in her husband's work, and who writes, as may be supposed, with a heart sore and perplexed, yet with a truly admirable spirit of submission to the will of her Father in heaven. Mr. Ross died at Likatlong, of dysentery, on the 30th of July last, having been a great sufferer for two months before. The disease baffled the medical skill of his fellow missionaries, Hughes and Moffat, who came to his assistance, the latter remaining until he expired. Mr. Ross spent himself with entire unselfishness in his Master's service; he became a willing sacrifice to his great and noble work. The same spirit which animated him in all the trials of his intensely interesting career, supported him during his last hours of suffering. “Never,” says his grief-stricken widow, “never, my dear friend, was the power and efficacy of the Gospel more strikingly seen; such perfect peace, resignation, and holy joy! No murmur or complaint ever escaped him; he was calm and conscious till the last moment. It was a privilege indeed to be near him. He expressed his firm belief that the seed sown would still bring forth fruit. His faith and confidence were unwavering to the last.” Mrs. Ross is left in