

not urge the importance of these objects. In connection with the Widows' Fund, there are now eighteen widows, several of them having children under 14 years of age, to whom is paid in annuities the sum of \$2400 annually. This number is increasing from year to year. We have reason to be thankful for the success which has attended this fund; but still it is necessary to sustain and increase it by liberal contributions. During the past year it was examined by an Actuary, who gave it as his opinion that, while the fund was at present in a satisfactory state, it was necessary to keep up the annual collections, all of which should be devoted to this sole object.

In connection with the Fund for Aged and Infirm Ministers, there are four ministers, one having lately died. Applications are being made in behalf of one or two more. The Committee regret that hitherto they have not been able to give a larger amount than \$160 per annum to each minister. They feel that it is most important that a larger amount should be given; and they earnestly invite to this object the attention of friends who may have it in their power to assist the cause of God in this way. Hitherto the Fund for Aged and Infirm Ministers has been sustained simply by taking one-half of the congregational collections for the Widows' Fund, in addition to contributions specially given. It is felt that this division of funds is not just to either object; and the Committee trust that ere long there may be more adequate provision made for those, whose strength has been exhausted in service of the church. In the meantime it is hoped that throughout the church the object will be kept in view, and that members of the church and other friends may contribute as God hath prospered them.

OUR STATISTICS.

THEIR LEADING POINTS AND LESSONS.

This is eminently a practical age. Men seem to go about with a ready-reckoner in their pockets, and to apply to every undertaking the prosaic test of dollars and cents. Respecting almost every enterprise, the common inquiry is not—"is it useful to man? or is it fitted to benefit him? but "does it pay?"

Even God's holy word has not escaped this calculating spirit; and the present age has beheld, with wonder, the Arithmetician and Algebraist, in the person of a Colonial Bishop, taking his figures and signs into the sacred precincts of inspiration, and striving, by means of them, to impugn the divine authority of the God-inspired Book. Some one has called this the age of statistics—no question being capable of getting the attention of the popular mind, unless it be marshalled in and buttressed by an imposing array of figures. This is a tendency of the age, that may be abused, by leading us to overlook the important fact, that there are moral truths, which no mathematical science can measure, and spiritual regions, which only faith can traverse and survey. This principle is peculiarly applicable to ecclesiastical organizations. Underlying, and forming the substratum of all such, are those high spiritual truths, to which the Arabic notation can never assign an adequate value, and against which Algebra must ever put the sign that marks an unknown quantity.

With these precautionary remarks, we shall try and answer the question. How does our church stand the test of Statistical investigation? Is its oft-vaunted progress simply the exaggerated figment of the fancy, or its ap-