

# THE PRESBYTERIAN RECORD

FOR THE  
DOMINION OF CANADA.

VOL. XIV.

JULY, 1889.

No. 7.

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### Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund.

**S**PEAKING for the western section of the church, it must be acknowledged that this Fund is far from being in a satisfactory condition. We have looked over the annual reports since 1860, when it was founded, without being able to discover any reason for its apparent "unpopularity." The committees seem to have been in dead earnest all these years, and yet we find them year after year bewailing the apathy and indifference of the church in regard to the comfort in their declining years of these aged servants of the Lord, who are no longer able to bear the heat and burden of the day. The condition of things, instead of improving, has been gradually growing worse, until now a crisis has been reached in the administration of the Fund calling for remedy. The annuitants have increased more rapidly than was anticipated. In 1878, there were only nineteen on the list, whereas now there are upwards of *sixty*. The available revenue has not increased proportionately, so that the maximum annuity has actually decreased from \$300 to \$200! As there are three sources of revenue for this Fund, (1) ministerial rates; (2) congregational contributions; (3) interest from investments, it might be well to consider how each of them might be most advantage-

ously dealt with. With regard to the first, it appears that only a limited number of the ministers are connected with the Fund; it would certainly be much better if *every minister* was a shareholder, and perhaps they might also contribute without undue sacrifice a little more than *one half per cent.* upon the annual stipend—amounting to only \$5 per annum, in the case of ministers who receive \$1000 a year. The *congregational contributions* are after all the main spring of this machinery, and every legitimate effort should therefore be made to double or treble the amount at present obtained from that source. But in the meantime the committee are engaged in a special effort, sanctioned by the General Assembly, to create an Endowment Fund, worthy of the name and of the purpose it is intended to serve. The sum aimed at is \$200,000, which at the current rate of interest would yield a revenue of say \$10,000, and which would be kept as a reserve, giving stability to the Fund, and enabling the committee to accord those ministers who have rendered the longest service an annuity of \$400 instead of \$200. It requires no argument, and only a very little consideration, to show the claim which this fund has on the liberality of the church. The soldier and the sailor, who fight the battles of their country are provided for after a certain term of service, as a matter of course; and surely the church