

The Annual Report of the Managers of the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund was given in, and read, and is as follows:—

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

Since the last Report submitted to the Synod, the Managers have placed two Widows on the Roll of Annuitants—Mrs. Purkis and Mrs. Bryning. There are now seven ladies deriving benefit from the Fund, and it is hoped, should no increase in the number take place during the current year, that the Managers may be able, following up the cautious policy with which they commenced the administration of their trust, to make a small addition to the Annuities. That addition will probably be declared from the Fund consisting of Congregational Collections, which, owing to the improved contributions made by most of the Churches, will be best able to bear it—indeed, the Annuities now payable from Ministers' subscriptions amount to quite as much as it is prudent at present to issue from that source.

The Managers take leave to suggest, that the Synod should pass a Resolution, directing that Presbyteries should, at the meeting next succeeding to the decease of any one of the members, communicate the event to the Secretary of this Board, accompanied by such information as may enable them to place the widow (where there is one) on the Fund.

So far as returns have been received the Congregational Collections show an increase over preceding years. The Managers, however, have, as in former Reports, to call attention not only to the long delay which has occurred in committing to them, but to the fact that no fewer than ten Congregations have not up to the present date sent forward their collections—these are: Markham, (Rev. Mr. Stewart); Perth, (W. Bell); Guelph, (C. Gregor); West Gwillimbury, (A. Ross); Quebec, (Dr. Cook); Clarke and Hope, (Porter); Smithfalls, (S. Mylne); Belleville, (M'Ewan); Woodstock, (P. Sim); and Norvaltown, (Milligan).

The Managers have great pleasure in bringing under the notice of Synod the liberal contribution made to the Fund by the Rev. W. Montgomery Walker, of the Parish of Ochiltree. That Rev. gentleman was for many years a faithful and zealous Minister labouring within the bounds of the Presbytery of Montreal, and he has never ceased to remember with affection that portion of the Church with which he was so long connected. The gift was accompanied by so kindly an expression of feeling as considerably to enhance its value in the estimation of the Managers.

As the books of the Trust are balanced in July after receipt of the Minister's half-yearly Contributions, and the payment of Annuities, the Managers can at this period of the year only give a sketch of what the Fund is likely to exhibit at the above date; but it is probable that the actual statement will not vary more than a few pounds from the present, which is necessarily in part conjectural.