

THE
Home and Foreign Record
OF
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

APRIL, 1866.

OUR CHURCH ENTERPRISES.

The Ministers' Widows and Orphans' Fund, commenced nearly two years ago, is not yet on a satisfactory, self-sustaining basis. Far from it. More than another thousand pounds is the least with which the church should rest satisfied as a basis for the Fund. Five thousand pounds would be a reasonable and adequate sum, but that is evidently not to be looked for. The collecting drags a good deal. Cheering news reach us from the Presbytery of Truro where the Rev. Mr. Wylie has presented the claims of the Fund in a manner that has secured a most pleasing response. The city of Halifax, and several of the congregations in connection with the Presbytery outside of the city have done well. But much more than half the Presbytery remains to be canvassed. Pictou town, New Glasgow, Antigonish, and many other sections of the Pictou Presbytery have also done something. We have also seen handsome acknowledgments from Prince Edward Island. But a great deal yet remains to be accomplished. Many of our largest congregations appear never to have had an opportunity of contributing to the fund.

But there is another FUND of the church still more important, perhaps, than that for the Widows and Orphans, which is still several thousand dollars short of what it should be. We refer to the Educational Fund. The current income from our funds falls far short of the current outlay. The difference has to be made up by an-

nual congregational collections or by individual donations. We are sorry to add that, not seldom, both collections and donations and every source of income fall short of the expenditure; and then there is no alternative but to draw upon the capital funds of the church. We need not say how extremely unsatisfactory this is to all who take an interest in the prosperity of the church, and the permanence of her arrangements for the training of the ministry. Its evil consequences are obvious at a glance. We refer to it now in order to remind ministers, elders, and all our people of the necessity of liberal collections EVERY YEAR for Education.

It is likely also that members of our church may from time to time feel it their duty to dispose of their property in view of death and eternity. They may be at a loss as to what object in connection with the church stands most in need of help. Money is sometimes sent out of the country for religious and benevolent purposes which might perhaps be still more advantageously expended nearer home. We do not presume to dictate; but we may be permitted to say that the EDUCATIONAL FUND and the WIDOWS' FUND are emphatically objects which the wealthy may very appropriately bear in mind when they are moved to make donations, or when they make their wills.

Other work presses very urgently on the attention of the church. Not a week in all the year passes without our own attention being forcibly called to the necessity for a "Church Erection Fund"—some