

# THE ECCLESIASTICAL AND MISSIONARY RECORD.



## FOR THE Presbyterian Church of Canada.

"Wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation."

VOL. VII.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1851.

NO. 4.

### CONTENTS.

Ministers' Widows' Fund.....	49
Pres-byttery of London, do Hamilton.....	50
Guelph Sabbath School Union.....	50
Colored Settlement at Raleigh.....	50
Short Comments on the Psalms.....	51
Danger of Security.....	52
Friend of Missions,—Baptism.....	53
Christian Observer,—Signs of the Times.....	54
Speech of Sheriff Gordon.....	55
China,—Rev. W. C. Burns.....	56
Slavery,—The Fugitive Law.....	56
Letter,—Rev. George Bell.....	57
Knox's College Subscription.....	58
Sabbath School Soirees, Niagara and Dundas.....	50
New York Observer—Letter,—A Protestant.....	59
Truth and Error.....	60
Dr. Beecher on French Novels.....	61

### COLLECTION FOR THE SYNOD FUND.

By appointment of Synod, this Collection will be taken up in all the Congregations and Mission Stations of the Church on the first Sabbath in March. Perhaps none of the funds of the Church for which the four Synodical Collections are made, is so inadequate to meet the charges upon it. These charges are—expenses at meetings of Synod, salary of Synod Clerk and Agent for the Schemes of the Church, Printing Minutes and other Documents, and Contingencies. In addition to these, there is another very legitimate charge which this fund ought to bear, viz. the expenses of members of Synodical Committees, who are often subjected to considerable outlay in discharging duties devolved upon them by the Synod. It cannot be expected that office-bearers will incur travelling expenses, besides loss of time in attending to the public business of the Church. The inevitable consequence will be that such business will often be either wholly neglected, or very imperfectly performed. Expenses were incurred during the past summer by ministers, in attending to duties assigned to them by the Synod. Surely if they have given their time to duties by no means agreeable in themselves, it is not too much to expect that the Church in whose behalf they acted should re-imburse their outlay.

The contributions to this fund have hitherto come from a comparatively small number of the Congregations. Were all to contribute according to the injunction of Synod, although the collections were not large, the fund would be amply sustained. Let the announcement be made in every congregation and at each preaching station, and the object of the fund stated, then there is little doubt but the returns will be sufficiently liberal to meet the arrears and current expenses.

### MINISTERS' WIDOWS' FUND SCHEME.

#### NOTICE.

In consequence of a considerable number of the Ministers of the Church having failed to intimate their concurrence in the Widow's Fund Scheme, the Committee are reluctantly obliged to extend the time for giving such intimation, collecting subscriptions, &c., to the 1st day of April, the latest period consistent with their bringing this important matter in a regular and hopeful manner before the ensuing Synod. They therefore earnestly entreat all Ministers who have not already done so—as they would not wish to discourage the efforts of the Committee or defeat their just and benevolent object—to intimate to the Secretary without delay their concurrence or non-concurrence in the Scheme. Should there be any who are not disposed to concur in it, they are respectfully requested to state their reasons.

By order of the Committee,

Geo. ELSMIE, Secretary.

MONTREAL, 16th Jan., 1851.

Rev. Wm. Rintoul, Montreal:

MY DEAR SIR,—I received your note of yesterday, along with the copy of the Record for October last.

In the conversations I had with you, we were under the impression that the proposed fund was merely intended to make a provision for widows. I therefore considered the plan defective, but upon reference to pages Nos. 179, 181 and 188 of the Record for October, I am glad to observe that the projected scheme is intended to embrace a provision for children. This supplies what I considered the principal omission, but I may add, that I think it would be an improvement, did the same fund and management include a provision for decayed or superannuated clergymen.

As it is well known that in general the incomes received by Clergymen of our Church in Canada, are inadequate to enable them to make any provision for their families, in the event of their decease, this scheme is one which ought to receive the liberal support of every congregation belonging to the Church; and it is only surprising that such a laudable and necessary measure had not been brought forward before now.

The plan recommended by the Committee is the only mode that in my opinion could be prudently adopted; and as it is wisely intended to leave the details for the decision of the Synod, it is scarcely necessary that I should offer any suggestions as to the management of the fund, especially as the proposed mode differs very widely

from the principles either of Life Assurance or Annuities. And when I consider that the Synod will have the advantage of a knowledge of the experience of the Church in Scotland, and of other bodies similarly situated, I think it still the less necessary that I should enter into any details.

I may observe, however, that by the fourth clause of the resolution carried at the meeting at Hamilton of the 17th Sept., it appears that "each widow or family shall receive from the fund, as soon as it can be put into operation, the average sum of £40 a-year." The language of this clause is not very explicit, and it does not appear by it that the actual number of the members of a family is to be taken as the basis of the allowance to be made. This is an important consideration, however, and I would respectfully suggest that £25 might at present be the allowance made to widows, and that an additional allowance say of £5 or £10 be made for every child unable to support itself.

Being deeply impressed with the importance of this object, I am equally desirous that the most effectual means should be adopted to secure its efficiency, and am apprehensive that the Committee have rather erred in considering £1000 or £1500 as sufficient to form a foundation for such a fund. I cannot but think even the largest of the above sums too small to secure its permanency, and although the country is but now only recovering from a period of serious depression, and the calls made upon the people are heavy, still I think it would not be impracticable to raise by subscription a sum equal to £3600. I would respectfully recommend that after the importance of the subject had been fully made known to the several Congregations of the Church, prepared lists should be sent, and Congregational Committees appointed to obtain subscriptions to the fund. Such subscriptions to be payable in three instalments, say one in February next, one in February, 1852, and the last in February, 1853. I have no doubt that by this mode a large amount would be raised, and do not think it would be forming too great an estimate were a calculation to be made of, say—

5 subscribers at £50 0 each.....	£250
20       "       "       25 0       ".....	500
40       "       "       12 10       ".....	500
50       "       "       10 0       ".....	500
100       "       "       5 0       ".....	500
100       "       "       2 10       ".....	250
250       "       "       1 0       ".....	250
500       "       "       0 10       ".....	250

£3000

and this amount, I have no doubt would be considerably increased by smaller contributions and Church collections from those who might not sub-