

Your Committee would further suggest the equity of requiring "a fine" from those who shall hereafter be received into the Diocese, on the ground of their participation in the benefit of a fund already accumulated; and they would further recommend that a fine be likewise required in the case of second marriages.

The proceeds, then, of the general collection made on behalf of this Fund—the special donations which may be made towards its augmentation—the dividends accruing from its vested capital—the £1 5s. per annum paid from the General Purposes Fund for each Clergyman in the Diocese, and the fines above suggested, appear to be all the sources to which we can legitimately look for the purpose of sustaining this most important object.

Your Committee are deeply sensible that, regarded upon any principle of Life Assurance, the proceeds arising from the various sources just enumerated, must be pronounced inadequate to secure for the Widows and Orphans of the Clergy the sum which is at present assigned to them.

To adopt the principles of Life Assurance, would be indeed to render safe whatever amount of income might be warranted thereby; but it would at the same time so reduce that amount, as to render it insufficient to answer, in any adequate degree, the object for which the Fund was originated.

Your Committee are therefore brought to the conclusion, that it is impossible, with due regard to the object at which it aims, to reduce the Widows and Orphans' Fund to a matter of simple Life Assurance; and they are convinced, that the best practicable method of attaining the object of the Society, is to disregard the apparent hazard of the step, and to go on in FAITH, regarding the proceeds of the annual collections as income—to be expended, if the demands upon the Fund shall so require—to be invested as permanent capital in whatever measure such demands shall leave it unconsumed.

But while your Committee are impressed with this conviction, they are equally impressed with the vital necessity of adopting every legitimate means in order to maintain the largest possible capital, for the purpose of securing as far as practicable the safety and efficiency of this most important Fund.

Since there is, unquestionably, great danger of the Widows and Orphans' Fund being eventually unable to meet the demands hereafter to be made upon it, your Committee are disposed to think that the Clergy at large are bound to consider whether or not from their own resources, or by the assistance of their parishes, they could not contribute a larger sum to this object than £1 5s., if such payment will tend to secure to their families so great a boon as the pension at present paid from the Widows and Orphans' Fund.