

It will also be in the recollection of the Synod that the Board reserved to itself the right of determining upon all cases in which the Collections from Congregations were less than £3, each case upon its own merits and without reference to the adopted scale. It may be observed here that the sum of £3 was fixed upon as the lowest in the scale because that is the sum paid by each Minister, and it was supposed that the united efforts of a Congregation should surely equal the Minister's own payment.

In reference to this plan the Managers find from the Acts and Proceedings for 1850, fol. 23, "that the Synod unanimously resolved not to act for the present year on the suggestion made by the Board to modify the allowance to the widows of those Ministers whose Congregational Collections in aid of the Fund may not have come up to the sum expected by the Board."

The Board of Managers respectfully submit to the Synod that the graduated scale was adopted after careful consideration, and it was deemed by them the only one calculated to carry out with fairness and impartiality the object for which the Corporation was created. They believed that while it gave a greater share of the fund, in proportion to the smaller contributors, it at the same time to a certain extent, rewarded the exertions of the larger or more zealous congregations.

It is certainly most desirable that the Synod at its present meeting, should declare whether it approves of the scale recommended last year, because much of the success to be derived from such an association, proceeds from the uniformity of arrangements connected with it, and the permanency of the rules and regulations for its management.

The Board are deeply impressed with the necessity of continuing the plan on which they are now acting, because if any departure be permitted from it, and an attempt made to equalise the benefits from the fund indiscriminately to all widows, they feel persuaded that the collections, already in many cases very paltry and unworthy of any Congregation, however poor or few in number, will suffer a rapid diminution. They feel confident also that the lesson to be learned by Congregations of the effects arising from their own neglect or apathy will not be lost on them. In the case for example, of one of the widows before referred to, it consists with the knowledge of some of the members of Synod, that had the Congregation of the late Minister contributed in any reasonable proportion to their means and numbers, the position of the widow would have been greatly improved. The knowledge of this fact will not only, it is hoped, stimulate that Congregation to do its duty better in future, but also all others who shall acquire a knowledge of it.

However strongly impressed the Board is with the necessity of continuing the graduated scale, yet they are perfectly willing and ready to carry into effect any other plan which the Synod may prefer. They can, of course, have no other object in view than the improvement of the Fund, and the distribution of the interest amongst those entitled to participate in the most equitable manner.

The Board have frequently had under consideration the case of the Widow of the late Mr. Lambie, of Pickering, and after mature deliber-