

trust, they will take the trouble, if it be a trouble, to get filled up and returned to the office before the 20th of the month, that we may have some idea what number of extra copies may be required. In our ordinary issue one such form is enclosed to our readers in general, with the request that each will get an order from a friend or neighbour for a copy. It is also intended to send a circular to our ministers by means of which they may bring the matter fully before their people.

And now, resisting the temptation of conjecturing what the result of all this will be, we pass on to make one other announcement before we close this editorial. Our readers will remember that we have repeatedly pledged ourselves to devote whatever we might be able to spare, at the end of this year, out of the publication fund, to one or more of the schemes of the Church. After paying our way, very much to the satisfaction of all concerned, and, we dare say, especially the publisher, who, as sure as the year came to a close, used to have a very troublesome claim against us, we find, and almost feel awkward at finding for the first time, that we have something to spare; and, it has been resolved to allocate one hundred dollars to the *Bursary Scheme of the Church*. Our modesty has not altogether run away with our self-consideration. We feel as if we had worked for this, some of us harder than we care to tell. Yet if our paper has been the instrument, we do not forget that the money of our readers has been the means; and, in the name of some struggling but deserving student, we beg to thank them. It is thus that by our circulation good is circulated in this world of evil—and what this turning round and round of good, from editor to reader, from reader to student, and from student, become a herald of salvation, to a congregation of immortal souls—what this may be, eternity, we trust, will reveal to the astonished joy of some.

OWING to the insertion of the communication on the African South Central Mission, we have been obliged to devote a smaller space than usual to *The Churches and their Missions*, but this is fully made up by the character of the article. We take this opportunity of stating that we usually give the latest news under the head just mentioned, but from our anxiety to have *The Presbyterian* in the hands of all our readers by the first of every month, our magazines and exchanges are sometimes

later in reaching us than is desirable for the purpose. We find, however, that we are ahead of some in this respect. "A Reader," for example, has written to us to say that he has heard intelligence given at a missionary prayer-meeting from "the last arrived number of an English publication," which intelligence he has read six or eight weeks before in our columns; and our correspondent, whom we thank for his letter, wisely concludes that "Home Manufacture" is preferable to "Foreign Importations," while he alleges that it is cheaper as well as earlier.

THE first Sabbath of next month is the day appointed by the Synod for taking up the annual collection for the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund. This is a benevolent scheme of great importance to the welfare of the Church. It has been in operation for sixteen years, and during that period has enlisted the enlightened sympathy and liberal support of many friends. In their last report the managers felt themselves warranted in saying, through their chairman, that "congregations continue to manifest an undiminished interest in its prosperity."

Its object is well known to be the making of some provision for the families of deceased ministers. Such families have oftentimes a hard struggle to maintain a bare respectability, even when the heads of them are alive, but when deprived of these the difficulty of shifting for themselves is very great. We believe that, in general, they bear their lot as creditably as others similarly situated; and it is not the intention, as it is beyond the capacity, of the scheme, to give them a position in which they shall be independent of such efforts as they can make for themselves. The design is to help, and not to destroy, their own exertions.

The widow and the fatherless are objects of compassion at all times and in any circumstances; and no amount of money can make up for their loss or express the sympathy to which they are entitled, according to the dictates both of reason and religion. At the same time money is needful to procure the necessaries of life; and about the lot of those, whom a minister leaves behind him, there is a peculiarity too noticeable to require a detailed statement to make it plain. Their case stands prominently out in the whole district which forms the scene, perhaps for well nigh a lifetime, of the deceased one's labours. It presents