

In 1859, the "Society" met for the first time independently of the Union. There were now 26 beneficiary and 16 life-members, and 4 churches. At the annual meeting in 1860, it was announced that no claim had arisen, that the capital was \$2202.41, of which ministers' subscriptions had produced \$545, interest \$158.71, Zion Church, Montreal, \$1402.35, and all the other churches \$96.38 ! During the previous session of parliament, corporate powers had been obtained for the Society.

Next year, \$156.04 were reported from 21 churches, capital increased to \$2804.51. In 1862, only 15 churches contributed an aggregate of \$156.76, but the capital had grown to \$3453.79. In 1863, again, only 15 churches collected, the sum of their gifts being \$191.

In 1864 the fund had been in existence for seven years, and still no claim had arisen ! Collections this year \$174.12, life-membership \$50. Yet the capital had grown to \$5,233.61.

The year 1865 was memorable as that of the occurrence of the first claim. As an illustration of the benefits of the fund to ministers, it was noted that the deceased member had paid premiums in all amounting to \$57 ; while his widow received in three quarters of a year \$67.50. [The same annuity, \$90 a year, has been continued till now, making almost \$700, besides any future annual payments, secured by \$57.] The capital has now grown to \$6,073.94. Of total receipts from the beginning, amounting (in round numbers) to \$6300, the beneficiary members had paid \$1900, and \$1900 had been received from dividends, while life-members and churches had given \$2500. Of the latter amount, \$1700 had come from Zion Church, Montreal, leaving only \$800 for all the other churches, in 8 years, an average of one dollar twelve-and-a-half cents per church per annum.

We will not weary our readers by a bare recital of the figures of each successive year. Suffice it to say, that the last report, for 1872, exhibited an invested capital of \$12,435.90, of which \$845.88 had accumulated during the years ; a beneficiary membership of 28 ; 16 churches subscribing during the year a total of \$229.54 ; and 4 annuitants receiving aid.

In a few words, we would sum up the leading points of the history, constitution, claims, and advantages of this Fund, hoping that both ministers and churches will "consider what we say."

1. The Fund is evidently owing to the liberality and forethought of our friends in Montreal, who have been the largest givers, as well as the planners and managers from the beginning until now. And among these, we are sure we shall awaken no jealousy, when we specially mention the name of Mr. Peter W. Wood, who has educated himself into an actuary for this very purpose, and has exhibited the results of most pains-taking solicitude for the safety of the undertaking in elaborate tables, showing the "risk" assumed on behalf of every minister's family.— The management throughout has been wondrously economical, every expense from the beginning not amounting to much more than \$200.