

widow, with the additional annual sum of \$20 for one child, \$36 for two children, \$50 for three children, and \$10 for each additional child. In the case of orphans, the annuity shall be the same as to widows until the annuitant or annuitants have reached the age of 18 years.

According to these proposals—and there is no doubt of their acceptance—our ministers will be considerably better off than they would have been under their own fund. Two duties, therefore, lie before them: (1) To increase the capital sum as much as possible, so that they may go into the united Fund not as paupers, but with a fair contribution to it. The capital of the united Fund at the outset will be about \$200,000. (2) To get enrolled on our own Fund at once, by sending to the Treasurer their first annual payment of \$12, and by making a congregational collection as soon as possible before the close of the year.



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA.

The following article, written from the point of view of Ontario, and copied from the *Globe*, will be read with interest:

The lately effected union of the different Presbyterian Churches in the Dominion of Canada has attracted a large amount of attention, and has already, we doubt not, had a very beneficial influence. It will take, however, some time to show what may be the extent of that influence, and how specially it has been exerted. In the meantime, as the minutes and statistics of the different contracting Churches to this Union in the last stage of their separate existence come in, we can at any rate see with what strength the United Church starts, and also what progress the several sections had made within the few years last past.

The Canada Presbyterian Church has, for nearly the whole period of its existence, aimed at having as full and complete statistics as possible; and though, from congregations not reporting, as well as from other causes, these statistics have never been absolutely correct, yet the approximation to such a desirable state of things has always become greater, till we come to the report laid before the Assembly at its meeting in June last, which is now before us, and which gives as full a view of the strength,

contributions, and operations of that Church as could almost be expected. It so happens that the Canada Presbyterian Church has had a General Assembly for six years; and if we take the statistics at the union in 1861, and 1870, the year of the first Assembly, and compare them with those of the last, we shall have some very unmistakable intimations of progress during the intervening period.

In 1861, when the union between the Free and United Presbyterian Churches took place, there were, all told, 226 ministers of both bodies. In 1870, when the first General Assembly was held, there were 294; and in 1875, at the time of the last union, the number of ministers in the C. P. Church had increased to 339. Thus the number had, in fourteen years, increased fifty per cent exactly. In 1861, the number of communicants was, as nearly as could be estimated, 35,525, and the average number of attendants at church, 58,289. In the year ending 31st March, 1875, the number of communicants had risen to 56,231, and the average attendance to 96,720. In 1870, at the holding of the first General Assembly, the membership was 44,451, while the average attendance is not given. In 1861 there were in Sabbath Schools and Bible Classes, 18,609; in 1870, 39,016; and at the time of the Union in 1875, 48,028. In 1861 the number of elders was 1,165, and of other office-bearers, 1,963; in 1870 the eldership had increased to 1,659, and the other office-bearers to 2,396; while in 1875 the number of elders was 2,093, and of other office-bearers, 3,385. The number of families connected with the Church was first reported in 1866, and was then given at 19,229. This, at an average of five to a family, would make the whole adhering population 96,145. In 1870 the number of families reported was 25,978, or, on the same basis, 129,890 of an adhering population. In 1875 the number of families was 30,940, or 154,700. This would give in nine years an increase of more than fifty per cent. Very possibly this apparent increase is larger than what it actually was, from the first statistics having been somewhat imperfect.

As was to be expected, considerable effort has always been made by the Presbyterian Church to supply its members and adherents with wholesome reading matter. In 1870, the number of volumes in congregational libraries was 12,574, and in Sabbath-school ones 84,858. At the Union in 1875 the increase had been comparatively small. In the congregational libraries there had been literally no increase at all, but in the Sabbath-schools there were about 12,000 more volumes.