

calmly breathed his last, committing his spirit into the hands of his covenant God and Saviour. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow

them." "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

Correspondence.

HOME MISSION FUND.

(To the Editor of the Presbyterian.)

SIR,—The scheme for the future maintenance of ordinances, the outlines of which you gave us in your issue for April, is one which on the whole ought to commend itself to the friends of church extension. Every one acquainted with the views of the great body of our people must know that rightly or wrongly they do not cordially support the present system of distribution. A few leading men connected with the Synod may rally round the endowment or sustentation principle; but we have neither the numbers, the wealth nor the spirit in our Church necessary to carry it out with success. It may be that the large and able congregations, whose ministers, equally with those of feebler congregations, now share in the fund, give as much *into* the fund as their ministers get *out of* it; yet the great majority of the people cannot be got to see or sympathize with that fact. The semblance of excuse they have for declining to support heartily the present plan of *equal distribution* would be entirely taken away by the adoption of the principle proposed, that of *helping only the weak*. The moneys contributed by the congregations would then form a purely missionary fund, for supplementing struggling stations and forming new ones in the back settlements. There is no doubt this would give an impulse to church extension; and a scheme that would yield such tangible results, would likely call forth the hearty support of our people. At least it ought to do so.

The reverting to the £50 in the distribution of the Temporalities' Fund is also a wise proposal. Some think we should take a further step, and revert to £100, as far as the fund would go. The whole of the people's money should be thrown into the proposed mission fund, and therefore the £50 should be given unconditionally. The church at large would not lose, as the \$50 now supposed to be contributed by congre-

gations would then be thrown into the new fund. It is true, so many ministers as are at present receiving from the fund, would not continue to do so; but, besides that their case would present a first claim on the new fund to be created, if they suffered by the change, it would be something for every minister now on the Synod roll, or hereafter to be placed in it, to look forward to the enjoying of the £50 over and above his congregational income, as a thing no longer subject to peradventure. For myself, as one of those whose position has been for many years doubtful with regard to the fund, I would say that I should rather forego any claim upon it for two or three years now, to secure the certainty of my coming on it then, never more to be disturbed in the enjoyment of it. But docking \$50 from it, would greatly lessen the pleasant prospect. According to the proposal, the Temporalities' Fund would in a short time become virtually an aged ministers' fund. At least it would be only in the last decade of their activity that they could look to participate in its benefits. And experience is beginning to show that this is the period of their ministry when, with their waning powers, they shall as a rule most require something to fall back upon in addition to their ability to command a large congregation.

I would, however, beg to offer two suggestions to the committee. First, that an arrangement should be made for retaining a surplus to meet the cases of ministers obliged to retire from active duty through infirmity, even though it should not be their turn in ordinary course to come on the benefits of the fund. And, secondly, that the yearly payment of \$12 to the Widows' Fund on behalf of non-recipients, be made a first charge on the Temporalities' fund, after all the privileged rights are secured. This is the only way to insure the regular payment of the ministers' allowance to this important and necessary scheme of the church.

Although the adoption of the committee's