

THE TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
SUPERANNUATED MINISTERS, WIDOWS
AND ORPHANS' SOCIETY.

Did time permit, the object of this Society, and the beneficial results of its operations, furnish ample scope for extended remarks. Its advantages may seem insignificant, to those whose circumstances have placed them beyond the need of its help; but they do not so appear to those who, were it not for the friendly and timely relief it gives, would be at a loss to know how they could live. One widow, with a considerable family to care for, writes, "If some, who look down on this blessed society, knew how much good it does me to get the little I do, I think they would do more to increase its funds." An old brother, one of the pioneers of our denomination in the northern section of Ontario, whose name, if spoken, would be considered a sufficient voucher for the honesty of his words, in a letter to the Secretary last spring, says, "I consider the Society has been a means, in God's hand, of prolonging my life and labors, for I do not see how, without it, I could have lived." No doubt, if the society did not exist, God would find or raise up some other means of sustaining his servants, whose youth and strength have been expended in his work. But this society seems to be the way he has chosen to assist them in their declining years, and he therefore put it into the hearts of his people to form it for this purpose. Hence we may look on it as God's plan for supplying the need of their last years on earth.

It is to be regretted that the churches do not more generally take sufficient interest in the society and its work to give it a more generous support. Few will question the need of such a society, and, perhaps, none its usefulness, and, it would not be an injury, it would be a benefit to the churches to contribute the small amount which, added to the interest from capital, would meet all the claims of the present time. The fact that such a small number of the churches give it a helping hand, is not creditable to us as a body of Christians, and is at variance with the principles by which we profess to regulate our conduct. Gratitude to the Saviour for the great salvation, should show itself in a suitable degree of regard, for the men through whom he has brought that salvation, with all its fullness of blessing home to ourselves; and that regard should be specially manifested at the time when their helplessness appeals most forcibly to our sympathies. They need and deserve our help, because, at the call of Christ, they have turned away from the opportunity, utilized by others, to make provision for the time of age and infirmity. The claims of these brethren on the churches does not all grow out of mercy, but out