

THE
Home and Foreign Record
OF
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE LOWER PROVINCES.

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MINISTERS' WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

Our readers, we presume, are generally aware that our Synod have resolved to take immediate steps to establish a fund for the widows and orphans of ministers of our Church. The necessity for such a measure will be admitted by every thoughtful person, who will examine the subject. Any one who knows anything of what is required for the support of a family in the manner in which it is expected that a minister and his family should live, will at once admit, that the salaries of our ministers are in the majority of cases, miserably inadequate.—We acknowledge that there are a number of congregations, which manifest creditable liberality toward their ministers, and we are happy to observe, that for some years there has been in many parts of the church considerable improvement in this respect. Yet we have only to mention the fact, that nearly one-third of our ministers do not receive more than \$400 per annum from their congregations, some of them considerably less, and this paid in all sorts of ways and at no regular periods, to show what room there is for improvement. Even those whose salaries are considered good and well paid, receive barely sufficient with economy and good management to enable them to live in something like the manner that their position in society requires. They are not able on their stipends to keep abreast of the age, by providing themselves with the books necessary for the thorough study of the different subjects connected with their profession, nor can they have that access to general li-

terature so necessary for their mental improvement, and their respectability in general society. They have not the freedom from worldly anxiety which will allow them to devote their attention to study and the duties of their profession without distracting care; much less can they from their salaries lay up for the time of old age and infirmity, or make provision for their families, after their removal, should the great Head of the Church summon them from their labours on earth. We believe we do not go too far when we say, that there is not a minister of the body who can out of his salary make any thing like adequate provision of this kind, even by the exercise of economy through a series of years. And if this is the case with the best paid, what shall we say of the worst!

Besides there are often particular circumstances to render the position of a number of our ministers worse. Only by rigid economy have they been able to complete their education, and often this has not been accomplished without their involving themselves in debt. On entering upon their work, they are obliged to be at what is in their circumstances, heavy expense, in obtaining travelling conveniences, they *ought* to spend a considerable amount in purchasing books, and should they enter upon house-keeping, many of our readers can appreciate the demands upon them. But this is not the worst. Instead of the congregation having a manse and glebe ready for their occupation, they are themselves obliged to buy land and build a house, and involve themselves in debt from which they do not get free for years, even though denying them-