

Canadian Independent.

VOL. XIII. TORONTO, SEPTEMBER, 1866.

No. 3.

THREE WORDS FOR THE WIDOWS' FUND.

On behalf of the Widows' Fund, for which every Congregational Church in British North America is requested to collect, on Sabbath, the 2nd inst., we have space to say only these words:—

1. To provide for the families of deceased Ministers, is not so much a charity, as the payment of a debt,—the arrears of too small salaries.
2. The annuities need to be much increased. A widow with seven children under the specified ages, would only have \$250 a-year!
3. The Fund is managed with singular economy. Of \$7,000 received, only \$150 have been paid for expenses. Mr. P. W. Wood writes us, that the cheapest Assurance Company would not take the risks on this Fund at less than \$1,000 a-year. But the churches and ministers last year did not pay half this sum.

We ought to be able to engraft on this Fund a provision for pastors retiring from active work in old age. Let there be a collection from every church in 1866.

WHY SO FEW CANDIDATES FOR THE MINISTRY?

In our recent account of the Annual Meeting of the College Corporation, it will have been observed, that both in the Report of the Board and in the proceedings of the Annual Meeting, great stress was laid upon the fact, that so few young men were offering themselves for the ministry of the Gospel among our churches. The classes in the College were attenuated to painfully small dimensions; vacant churches could not be supplied or new fields opened up; while the alumni of former years were dropping off to the States! This condition of things demands the most serious consideration of the body, for it indicates that there is something wrong somewhere, which ought to be put right without delay, for the defect is a vital one, affecting not only our well-being but our very being.

It may be some mitigation of the alarm which it may occasion, to know that we are not alone in this misfortune. Throughout Britain and America,