

and thirty couples were united in marriage by ministers of our church in 1869; eighteen hundred and eighty little ones were received into the visible church by the sacrament of baptism, and six hundred and forty one funeral services were conducted during the past year.

Turning to the Financial Department, it is refreshing to find such a very decided, and, indeed, unprecedented manifestation of increased liberality pervading every portion of it, as calls for thankfulness and bids us take courage. Although the failure of the Commercial Bank, in October, 1867, occasioned the loss of more than \$100,000 to the Church and College, and was followed by the discontinuance of the annual Government grant to our University of \$5000, these occurrences would seem but to have awakened the dormant energies of the Church at large, to have provoked its membership to love and good works, and infused a spirit of self-reliance which cannot fail to be beneficial. The College difficulty has already been got over by the institution of a voluntary Endowment Fund, exceeding \$100,000, while, on the other hand, the creation of a general Sustentation Fund has been resolved upon by the Synod, and bids fair to make up for the losses sustained by the Temporalities' Board.

The voluntary subscriptions for stipend in 1869 exceed those of 1866 by \$9632, while the average stipend paid from all sources has risen from \$750 in 1866 to \$780 in 1869. During the same period the arrears of stipend have sensibly diminished. The sum grimly chronicled under the heading of "arrears" for 1869, is \$2749 less than the similar black list of 1866, and \$8299 less than what was then deliberately estimated to be the actual amount due. The existing sum, \$5622, is, however, sufficiently large to demand the attention of Presbyteries, whose peculiar function it is to see that such irregularities are "stamped out." After a close scrutiny of the separate items of arrears, it appears to your Committee that instances may be cited in which the figures have assumed a chronic form—in other words, that arrears are acknowledged in these columns, the chances of which being liquidated during the incumbent's lifetime are so very slender as to raise the

question whether it would not be better for all concerned that a portion at least of the sum should at once be "written off" as a very bad debt, that old contracts be cancelled, fresh arrangements entered into between the Minister and his Congregation, and that thereafter business should re-open *de novo*, just as if nothing had happened.

Another marked feature of importance is the increase observable in the ordinary Sabbath collections, equal to 40 per cent; *i. e.* the collections for 1866 were \$11,772; for 1869 they were \$16,316— increase \$4544. A like gratifying result is noticed in the contributions to the schemes of the Church, all of which are larger than those reported in 1866, with the exception of the French Mission Fund, which remains at the same figures, \$800. The whole sum contributed for Home Missionary purposes during the year 1869 was \$12,547.37.

The sum of \$2,797 was last year added to the invested capital of the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund, which has now risen to nearly \$60,000. The number of annuitants is at present 30 widows and 33 orphans. There was contributed for the Juvenile Mission to India \$605. At the same time, as numerous blanks in the columns for the Schemes testify, there are many congregations whose love for this or that particular scheme has cooled down to zero. To be exact, twenty-eight congregations only out of one hundred and thirteen have made entries in each of the columns for the Schemes of the Synod and the Presbytery's Home Mission.

The reported contributions for "all purposes" amount to \$137,986 being, \$44,894 in excess of the sum similarly reported for 1866. Respectable though the amount be in itself, your Committee feel well assured that it falls far short of the actual expenditure of the year, in proof of which it need only be mentioned that while the sums reported as having been paid to the Endowment Fund of Queen's College during the year 1869 amount to \$35,511, the aggregate acknowledged by the College Treasurer to the 15th of December is \$40,453. Another palpable omission occurs in the congregational return from Three Rivers, in which it is stated that "the total ex-