

similar causes it has been shown, that under the mutual system, assurance might be effected on the lives of ministers for half the rates charged in the regular Companies. Under our scheme all these advantages accrue to those who avail themselves of its advantages. All that is paid will go either for Widows or Orphans or may be applied to the reduction of rates, whereas under any ordinary system of Life Assurance a large portion of what he contributes goes to pay salaries and commissions, as well as losses from the greater mortality in other classes of the community. Then comparing a Widows' Fund with other forms of Life Assurance while we acknowledge that the latter provide a sum for representatives in every case, yet, as in such a scheme as ours, all the payments made go to Widows and Orphans, it must be proportionally advantageous to this class, and must afford to them just so much greater benefits, than any ordinary Life Assurance Company can do.

The Trustees have observed during the past year, that in other churches the subject has been engaging considerable attention. In the Presbyterian Church of the United States especially, a vigorous effort is being made to secure the benefits of such a scheme for the ministers of that body. So far as they have been able to examine the plan proposed, your committee have only been the more satisfied of the safe and sound basis, on which our scheme has been established, and have therefore the more confidence in recommending it especially to the younger ministers of our body, assured that in no other way can they as easily secure the same advantages.

All which is respectfully submitted,

GEORGE PATTERSON, Sec'y.

The Report was cordially approved.

On motion of Mr. Hiram Smith, seconded by Mr. John Dickson, it was agreed to recommend to Presbyteries, at the time of ordaining or inducting ministers, or at Presbyterial Visitations, to represent to congregations their duty to provide for the annual payment of the sum necessary to place the name of their minister on this fund.

Mr. James D. McGregor, New Glasgow, was appointed a Director of the Fund in place of the late Roderick McGregor.

Reference from Halifax Presbytery.

This reference had respect to the "Wind-sor case," the Presbytery asking direction how to deal under certain conditions, with a woman who had married her deceased

half-sister's husband. The following was the decision of Synod: "That having read papers and heard parties, the Synod decline to sustain the reference as irrelevant, and remit to the Presbytery to see that the laws of the Church are duly sustained."

Marriage Affinity.

Out of the foregoing case arose a very prolonged discussion on the degrees of Affinity that should be a bar to marriage. It ended by the adoption of a resolution to defer the final decision of the question till next Synod.

Titles to Church Property.

An Overture was read from the Presbytery of Halifax on the subject of defective titles to Church property, asking the Synod to have a model deed prepared and printed, with blanks and code of rules prepared, forming a general Constitution for Congregations.

Rev. Messrs. McKnight and Falconer, and Mr. R. Murray, were appointed by the Presbytery to support the Overture. Mr. McKnight having been heard, it was agreed to approve of the Overture, appoint the three brethren named by Presbytery a Committee of Synod, with power to get the suggestions of legal gentlemen for the perfecting of the deed, which had been prepared and of the Constitution proposed, and to report to a subsequent Sederunt.

At the last Sederunt Rev. Mr. Falconer from the Committee on titles to Church property, submitted a model deed and By-Laws which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Forms.

TEMPERANCE.

The Report on Temperance was submitted by Rev. Isaac Murray:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.

So long as annually the lives of thousands of our fellow-beings are destroyed by strong drink; so long as religion is dishonored because many who profess that worthy name, by which we are called, have fallen victims to the inebriating cup, and the Church mourns sad blanks made by it in the lists of her members, elders, and ministers; so long as all professions and ranks in society are compelled to blush because of