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The Assembly Fund.

A COLLECTION for this Fund is ordered to be taken on the third Sabbath of November. It is a Fund in which the whole church is interested, and all should contribute their share. Our Assembly is large, and many of the members have to travel very great distances in order to be present, and to do the work of the church; but it is not to meet the expenses of members that this Fund is intended, but to defray the necessary expenses connected with the work of the Assembly itself. The whole amount received last year for this fund was \$3,308.67. Two-thirds of this were expended in printing and distributing the Minutes of the Assembly and the reports of the Assembly's committees, a volume of some four hundred pages of closely printed matter, filled with information of a very interesting kind, and which as a book of reference is simply invaluable. Then it is to be remembered that every elder of the church is *ex officio* entitled to a free copy of this book—a sufficient reason in itself why kirk-sessions should willingly contribute their quota towards the Assembly Fund. In our sister church in the United States, the fund is very large and covers the travelling and total charges of members. They have a fund at least twenty times as large

as ours, and they need it all. Are we to move in the same direction? Can we adopt a plan by which the necessary expenses of commissioners shall be paid? It is very desirable that something should be done to lighten the very heavy burdens which, in many instances, are borne by individuals and by congregations far from the usual places of meeting. Members of Parliament are paid mileage, as well as a daily "indemnity," and they certainly do not toil more faithfully in the civil interests of the country than our ministers and elders do in the interests of the church. Many commissioners to our Assemblies pay from \$40 to \$50, and sometimes much more, in order to serve the church in her highest court. Of course it is a high honour to serve thus, and to pay for the privilege; but is it quite right to expect such service year by year, and to take it as a matter of course?

A committee reported last June in favour of reducing the number of commissioners, from one fourth, as at present, to one eighth of the ministers on the rolls of Presbyteries, and a corresponding number of elders. Thus reduced in numbers it might be possible to raise a fund large enough to cover the actual outlay for travelling. The General Assembly did not adopt the proposal of the committee. Some members spoke strongly against reduced representation. Some expressed a preference for biennial