

In the year 1865 there were in the United Presbyterian Church—

55 stipends under £100 per annum.			
167	"	120	"
81	"	150	"

In all 303 stipends under the proposed minimum of £150.

At the present time there are in the denomination only—

13 stipends under £100 per annum.			
11	"	120	"
48	"	150	"

in all 72 stipends under the minimum of £150; while of the 48 cases in which the stipend is between £120 and £150, there is a large proportion in which the amount paid exceeds £130 and even £140.

Besides the direct aid afforded to congregations from the Augmentation Fund, a powerful impulse has been given by this scheme of effort to the liberality of the Christian people in many other congregations, where supplemental grants were not required to enable them to pay the minimum stipend of £150; so that, throughout the denomination, increased provisions has been made for the comfort of the ministers of the church, and for the adequate maintenance of religious ordinances.

The Synod's Committee desire to remind contributors to the Fund, and the Church at large, that this work of augmentation is not a special effort for a single term, but is one which must be continuously carried on from year to year. No congregation receiving aid should, indeed, be content to remain a perpetual recipient of that aid, but the reception of supplemental grants should rather stimulate exertion to become self supporting; and it may reasonably be hoped that, from year to year, several of them may attain that measure of increase and consolidation which may enable them to pay at least, and without aid from without their own membership, a stipend of £150.

It would be most discouraging to ministers who, amid many difficulties, are faithfully fulfilling their ministry in remote districts, and in weak congregations, and who have experienced some addition to their comfort from the grants of the present year, if the standard which has been watched should not in future be maintained. And it would be most injurious to the honour and the progress of the denomination at large if, having begun so well in the work of providing for the better support of its ministers, the United Presbyterian Church should be found unwilling or unable to persevere in that work, and to prosecute it successfully. The Synod's Committees are most anxious that no occasion for such discouragement and in-

jury should arise from any partial failure of this movement; and they, therefore, most earnestly desire that this matter may be brought under the immediate notice of the session of every congregation, in order that, in conjunction with the managers, or with the Committee on Stipend Augmentation which may be formed in any congregation, such measures as may be deemed most advisable for the support and increase of the Augmentation Fund may be put into immediate operation, for obtaining subscriptions, donations, or collections on behalf of that Fund. And as early information of the progress made in such portions of the Church as are more ready and prepared for this work may encourage and accelerate the operations of other districts, the Synod's Committees respectfully request that each congregation may report to the presbytery of its bounds, or to the convener of that presbytery's Committee on Stipend Augmentation, as soon as possible, what it has done for the advancement of this most necessary and important scheme.

Some congregations of the Church have honourably distinguished themselves by their lively interest in this work, and by the amount of their contributions for its promotion and success. They have begun well, and it is desired that nothing may hinder them in well-doing. Rather is it hoped that their zeal may provoke many to similar liberality, and that the support of the Augmentation Fund, being placed on a wider basis, may be burdensome to none. The work is affectionately commended by the Committees to the prompt attention of the Church at large; and it is their desire and expectation that, by the combined energy and liberality of all the congregations on the Synod's roll, the result of the present year's exertions may be followed by yet more happy and successful results in future years.

CHRISTIAN HYMNOLOGY.

By REV. M. HARVEY, ST. JOHN'S, N. F.

No. V.

Hymns of the Reformation Period.

It is satisfactory to find, as we range through the history of the past, that the great hymn-writers were the best men of their times—not faultless, by any means, but still men who lived a noble, christian life, in accordance with the religious ideas of their age, and whose piety and worth, marred, no doubt, with many imperfections, and not a few superstitions, placed them above their contemporaries. These good