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Augmentation of Stipends.

IT is now three years since the Augmentation Scheme in its present form was launched, and nothing could be more cheering than the result of the first year of its operation. It seemed as if the vexed question of an adequate support for the ministry had been fairly solved. The enthusiasm of the western section was caught in the eastern section, and both succeeded admirably. At last Assembly, however, the committee in the west reported that in order to pay the full amount—\$750, with manse,—it had been found necessary to draw upon the reserve fund to the extent of \$7,000. The Committee frankly stated to the Assembly that they could not congratulate the Church on the success of their efforts. Another deficit like that of last year would more than exhaust the reserve and the Scheme would become a failure, at least, so far as the western section is concerned; and failure in the west would probably ere long be followed by failure in the east. Happily, the eastern section reported most encouragingly to last Assembly. All, or nearly all, that the Committee asked for was given, and the promises made were implemented. It is very evident that the General Assembly does not anticipate failure. It declined to adopt a recommen-

dation which looked towards a lowering of the minimum, and passed a resolution urging congregations to increase their efforts. Presbyteries were directed to take up the matter at once, and the Moderator was instructed to issue an appeal to the whole Church on behalf of the Scheme. This appeal appeared in our last number, and we feel sure it will not be unheard. The Augmentation Scheme is necessary to the well-being of our Church. Other churches are looking to us for an example; and it will be most disastrous if we allow ourselves to fail in what we have deliberately undertaken to carry through. The responsibility rests largely with Presbyteries and Sessions. If they do their part promptly and earnestly the congregations will not fail to respond. The success of the scheme in the east is largely owing to the vigorous way in which Presbyteries have taken the matter up and allocated among their congregations the amounts asked from them by the Committee. The Committees, both east and west, have this year divided the amount required among the several Presbyteries; and it is hoped that every Presbytery in the Church will carefully allocate among its congregations the sum asked from it, and take such action as is most likely to secure that the amounts be raised. It is also the duty of Presbyteries to see that their aid-receiving congregations are thoroughly visited, and