

local nature under consideration, which your space forbids us to notice at length—*ex gr.* The Rev. Mr. McLeod agreed to visit Percy and Alnwick, and spend two Sabbaths there. The Presbytery cordially received circulars from the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, inquiring into the condition of the Church within the bounds, and agreed to furnish the statistics required. The Presbytery unanimously agreed to receive and encourage the deputation appointed to lay before the congregations the Scheme of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund.

The next meeting of Presbytery was appointed to be held at Cobourg on Tuesday, the 14th day of October.

J. W. SMITH, *Pres. Clerk.*

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA  
MINISTERS' WIDOWS' FUND SCHEME,  
INCLUDING PROVISION FOR CHILDREN.**

HAMILTON, August 13, 1851.

We, whose names are subscribed, being members of the Synod's Committee on the above Scheme, beg leave to submit the following statements to the serious consideration of the members and friends of the Church. Some modifications of the plan may yet be adopted, but we are perfectly certain that the leading views, as here set forth, embrace the mind of the Church so far as it has been declared Synodically; and we are quite prepared to act upon the plan here laid down. Prior to any direct appeal being made on the subject of funds, we are anxious that this paper should be extensively circulated; and that it should be followed up by the appointment of small Committees in the different districts of the Church. Need we add, that a high scale of liberality should be aimed at in the establishment of a fund, which is designed to extend to future times, and to be the source of permanent blessings.

- JOHN FISHER, Hamilton, *Convener of Com.*
- ALEXANDER MACLEAN, Wellington Square.
- G. DAVIDSON, New Aberdeen, Waterloo.
- ALEXANDER GALE, Toronto.
- ROBERT BURNS, D.D., Toronto.
- JOHN BURNS, Toronto.
- GEORGE SMELLIE, Fergus.
- JAMES WALKER, Hamilton.
- DONALD McLELLAN, Hamilton.

The following gentlemen, members of the Presbytery of Hamilton, being present, concurred in the above:—

- J. G. Mcgregor, minister, Guelph.
- JAMES WEBSTER, elder, Hamilton.
- WILLIAM MELDRUM, minister, Puslinch.
- ALEXANDER CHRISTIE, elder, Niagara.
- GEORGE EWING, elder, Hamilton.

The subject of a "Widows' Fund," for the families of ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, has been more or less under consideration of Synod and Presbyteries for years. After full deliberation on the plan of Insurance, as generally adopted by the British Churches, and after correspondence with the managers of the Free Church Scheme in Scotland, it was found that in the infancy of our Church, and in the peculiar circumstances of Canada, the scheme of Insurance could not be successfully carried out.—When the Synod's Committee met at Hamilton, in October, 1850, they came to an unanimous agreement as to this, and recommended a mixed plan. The removal, by death, of two respected ministers—neither of them in advanced life, and both leaving behind them mourning widows and fatherless children, added weight and solemnity to the charge devolved on the Committee, and they came to the unanimous resolution, to place the provision for the families of ministers on a solid and permanent basis, and that immediately.—The best evidence which the Committee could give of their sincerity and heartiness in the scheme, is the practical movement which they made in the shape of prompt and liberal subscriptions; and their example in this respect has been

so well followed up by others, that the amount of funds subscribed up to the present date exceeds considerably £700.

When the Synod met at Kingston, in June last, a report on the scheme was given in, and its leading features thereafter illustrated by various members; when, on motion by Dr. Burns, of Toronto, seconded by the Hon. John Macdonald, elder for Gananoque, the object and general features of the plan submitted, were cordially approved. The Committee, with additions, was re-appointed, with instructions, to draw up and circulate a statement of the plan, for the information of the Synod and the public, in the view of active measures being taken without delay; and the Synod further recommended a modification of the plan, so as to embrace fatherless children and orphans as well as widows. The Committee thereafter met, reviewed the whole scheme, and submitted the details of it to the Synod, by whom it was unanimously approved. It is, in pursuance of these proceedings, that the Committee now lay before the friends and members of the Church the leading features of the plan, as follows:—

Embracing, as the scheme does, the families of deceased ministers, as well as their widows, it is proposed that each widow having no children shall receive, per annum, £30; a widow with one child, £35; a widow with two children, £37 10s.; a widow having three or more children, £40. A single orphan shall receive an annuity of £10; a family of two orphans £15; of three, £20; and of four, or any greater number, £25. After the age of 14, the charge of the children shall not be considered as devolving any longer upon the fund. The annuity of the Widow shall be, however, for life, or until a second marriage; but in no case, whatever may be the number of children or their ages, shall the sum allotted to one family exceed £40.

The plan proposed for realising these ends is as follows:—It is proposed to raise by subscription throughout the bounds of the Church, the sum of not less than Two THOUSAND POUNDS. This sum, it is proposed to vest in the best Colonial securities, so as to raise the largest possible interest consistent with safety; and this amount to be always kept up. Farther, it is proposed that each ordained minister of the Church shall pay, quarterly, into the fund the sum of ten shillings, being thus at the rate of two pounds each per annum. In addition, it is proposed, as an essential part of the scheme, that one of the quarterly collections, made by order of Synod, annually, shall be set apart in aid of the funds; and the Committee do not think it extravagant if they expect from this source a sum varying from £250 to £300 each year. The various sources of income thus indicated, may, at a very moderate average, be expected to realise, when in full operation, £500 per annum.

We ought ever to speak with reverence of issues which hang suspended on the inscrutable arrangements of that All-sustaining Providence, which sees the end from the beginning, but whose successive developments are known to us only as they arise, and on this account we cannot, in such a case as this, advance beyond the line of hopeful anticipation in regard to success. The scheme, unperceivably, will be paired the most careful and economical management, and a rigid scrutiny into its affairs, once in five years at least, is indispensable. Experience may suggest improvements in the plan, and ultimately it may result in a well adjusted and apparently safe mutual assurance. In the meantime, we have characterised it as a mixed plan, and as spontaneous liberality on the part of our people enters largely into the composition of the fund, a certain degree of discretion in the management of it will require to be vested in the managers. The best guarantee against failure, will be in the prompt exactness with which all payments into the fund are made, and the discretion and judgment that characterise its administration.

It is understood that there shall be a Treasurer or Manager named by the Synod, whose duties it shall be to receive and manage the funds of the scheme; and generally to watch over the interests of the fund. All his intromissions, and all the proceedings of the Committee with whom, and in whose name he shall act, to be regularly reported to the Synod.

But all matters of detail must be left to future consideration. In the meantime, the above may suffice as a fair exposition of the principles on which the scheme is based. What is desiderated now, are zeal and activity in carrying it out into practical operation; and of the success of our efforts we need entertain no doubt.

We know that the plan suggested by Mr. Murray, of Montreal, in his letter to the Rev. Mr. Rintoul, and which appeared in the *Record* for February, finds favor with a large number of the friends of the scheme. For the information of such as take an interest in this benevolent enterprise, we reproduce part of Mr. Murray's suggestions:—

"I think it would not be impracticable to raise by subscription a sum equal to £3000. I would respectfully recommend that after the importance of the subject had been fully made known to the several Congregations of the Church, prepared lists should be sent, and Congregational Committees appointed to obtain subscriptions to the fund. Such subscriptions to be payable in three instalments, say one in February next, one in February, 1852, and the last in February, 1853. I have no doubt that by this mode a large amount would be raised, and do not think it would be forming too great an estimate were a calculation to be made of, say—

5 subscribers at £50 0 each.....	£250
20 " " 25 0 " .....	500
40 " " 12 10 " .....	500
50 " " 10 0 " .....	500
100 " " 5 0 " .....	500
100 " " 2 10 " .....	250
250 " " 1 0 " .....	250
500 " " 0 10 " .....	250

£3000 and this amount, I have no doubt, would be considerably increased by smaller contributions and Church collections, from those who might not enter their names on the lists. The different Committees might be kept in active operation till 1853."

The time for action is now come. Let our Christian people keep in mind, that by one vigorous effort they can now secure a perpetual provision for the widows and orphans of those who are over them in the Lord, and are dear to them for their works sake—that they can relieve the minds of their pastors from the most painful anxiety by which the heart of a parent can be torn—that they can bring down upon their Churches, themselves, and their children, the blessing of Him who is emphatically the Father of the fatherless, and the Judge of the widow. As they love their children—who yet may be fatherless and orphans—as they love the Church of God which is planted among them—as they would manifest, in the tenderest manner, their regard for those who are the ministers of God to them for good, which is everlasting,—let them gird themselves up for the performance of this act of timely justice—for the carrying out of this enterprise of high and holy benevolence.

The foregoing statements have been approved of by the Committee at Hamilton, it was resolved that the active exertions of such ministers and lay members of the Church as were willing to give their services, should be immediately put in requisition; and the following gentlemen were named.

- The Rev. G. P. Young, Messrs John Fisher, James Fisher, James Osborne, James Walker, and Donald Maclellan, Hamilton.

The Rev. John Bayne and George Smellie,