

The first annual meeting of the Ministerial Provident Fund, was an important feature of the present occasion. There had been received, from January 1858, to March 31, 1860, £1,667; £200 from the Ferguson Bequest Fund, the remainder by subscriptions. It is proposed to provide for each minister who joins the Fund an annuity of £40 per annum, when incapacitated through age or infirmity. Further subscriptions are needful for this purpose. The rules were finally amended and adopted.

At the annual (business) meeting of the Union, it was reported that four pastors had died during the year—Messrs. Anderson of Kilsyth, McNaughton of Kirkwall, McLaren of Islay, and Proctor of Hamilton. £1,500 had been distributed among thirty-six churches and ten mission stations. The treasurer stated that an annual increase of £600 was required for the efficient maintenance of the work. At a subsequent meeting for the purpose, open to members of churches, £300 were subscribed, and arrangements were made for deputations to principal cities. Nine or ten churches reported revivals. The next meeting will be held in Aberdeen.

A *Conversazione* was held in the City Hall on Wednesday evening. After tea, Mr. R. Wardlaw took the chair. The assembly sung part of the 68th psalm, with organ accompaniment. The Rev. W. J. Cox, of Edinburgh, read a paper on the Revival Movement now in progress. Rev. A. Nicoll, of Phynie, gave an account of the Revival in his own locality. Mr. Hammond, a student of the Union Theological Seminary, New York, now attending the Free Church College, was introduced by Dr. Alexander, and related many interesting particulars of a good work in the Congregational church at Musselburgh, where he had been labouring. Dr. A. followed, with further incidents, alluding especially to conversions among children, and rough collier and fisher lads.

A Public Breakfast was held on Thursday morning, as usual, at which the affairs of the Widows' Fund were again brought forward. This Fund has been in existence for forty years, during thirty-five of which Rev. G. D. Cullen has been its secretary. On this occasion he received from the members, as an acknowledgment of his services, a beautiful astronomical time-piece.

The Public Meeting was held the same evening, Mr. McLaren presiding. Among other addresses, Rev. Mr. Batchelor, successor to Dr. Wardlaw, made one on "The Harmony of Congregationalism with the Laws of Human Association and of Human Welfare," for which space may be found in our next number. Rev. Mr. Noble, of Lawrence kirk, gave a most interesting account of a revival in his field of labour. The attendance at this service was very large.

Altogether, the Union Meeting for 1860 was one of marked efficiency and hopefulness.

---

The old giant, Popery, has not gained strength—let his followers say what they will—since the days of Bunyan's immortal allegory. Having all the will to inflict the direst evils on heretics and unbelievers, he is still powerless to carry out his bad desires, and we pray that he may ever remain so. The last outbreak of Pontifical virulence has, we suppose, without alarming any one, afforded amusement to thousands. Oh, Lucifer! how art thou fallen! The thunders that once made kings and peoples tremble, are powerless now; and the terrors of excommunication have become a by-word and a jest. The long-threatened major