

cation is sufficiently limited and guarded. It can be dispensed to none but those who are aged or infirm, and to none by whom it is not needed, and to none who are unworthy. It is designed for the relief of faithful men, who have devoted their means to gain an education qualifying them for ministerial work, and their best days to preaching the Gospel and to pastoral work. Practically it has been shewn in older and larger churches, that ministers will not come upon it till, unable to serve at the altar, they accept it as a matter of necessity. Only a small proportion of the whole number will ever derive any direct benefit from it. Many will occupy their post till the Master's message summons them to go hence. Some will not require, and these will not accept it. Others will be provided for by the liberality and justice of grateful congregations to whom God has given the means, and even the small number who shall receive its benefits, will not require it long, three years and half being above rather than below the average in the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland. All the more loudly does the call come to the church to meet promptly and cheerfully the cases which do occur, by a willing-hearted response.

This call will not be annual. If liberally met, it will not recur for a considerable series of years. The funds raised by this first appeal to the church will be invested, but not so that they cannot be directly used. All cases presented for relief and found to be legitimate will be promptly met while the fund lasts, but it is confidently anticipated that if managed with prudence and its claims kept before the more wealthy and willing-hearted of our people, that no special appeal will require to be made for some years to come. There are hundreds therefore to whom this appeal is now made, to whom it will never be made again, and if they neglect the present opportunity of aiding in this good work, they may never have another.

But while in one aspect it may appear to have a first claim on the *more wealthy* of our people, there is another which presents it especially as an aid to the *weaker* congregations. Their pastors are more likely to reap its benefits than any others, and therefore every congregation, even the weakest, should show its interest in the movement by forwardness and zeal in sending in its contribution.

These few explanatory remarks are published by request of the Presbytery of Halifax, which at its last meeting agreed to ask all the Sessions under its charge to take up the subject, and having brought it before the people to gather up their contributions and send them to the Treasurer, before the close of 1871. We trust other Presbyteries

will take action in the way which they judge most suitable to the people in their respective sections of the country. We are persuaded that this movement requires but little advocacy and we feel that without another word it may be left with our Elders and people by whom it will be successfully carried through. If Sessions generally would move within the next three months, and have the work put through before the close of 1871, such action would be graceful and in every way beneficial to the whole body. We have only to add that C. D. Hunter, Esq., has paid \$200 to the Treasurer of this Fund since the meeting of Synod.

MINISTERS' WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

The acknowledgments of the Treasurer shew the receipt during the past month of two liberal contributions to this most useful fund; the first a bequest of \$200, N. S. currency, from the late Mrs. Chisholm, of New Glasgow, herself a widow for many years, and capable of sympathizing deeply with those who, bereft of their husbands by a stroke, are left with scanty means of support and education for a numerous family.

The second is a gift of \$200, in Dominion currency, from C. D. Hunter, Esq., of Halifax, whose house for 30 years and more has been a Minister's Home, beyond that of any other probably in that city. We are pleased to see that he has not grown weary in well doing, and that he desires liberal things so that when servants of the Lord, who have served their generation, shall be called away, their wives and their children shall also feel the benefit of his life, his industry and success.

In dispensing gifts let every man judge for himself, and be fully persuaded in his own mind, but such examples are suggestive, and worthy of notice and imitation.

WIDOWS' FUND.

MESSRS. EDITORS.

An error of some importance occurred in the Report on the Widows' Fund as published in the last *Record*, which I request liberty to correct.

On the subject of the admission of Ministers not hitherto on the fund, (see last column page 237), the report should read