

be derived from this meeting of Synod will depend on the number of members in attendance; and it was at one time feared that, owing to peculiar circumstances, the attendance at Charlottetown would be small. We believe that all anxiety on this score may be dismissed. The friends in Charlottetown will easily accommodate every member of Synod; and we have reason to think that they will feel much disappointed unless their hospitality be put to full proof.

We trust therefore that all our ministers and representative elders will make up their minds in good time to take a trip to Charlottetown about the 22nd of June. Our Synod this year should count at least a hundred members. Sessions and congregations should be prompt in providing for the travelling expenses connected with the meeting of Synod. It is cruel to compel ministers to pay these expenses out of their own stipends or avail themselves of the only other alternative of staying at home.

There are a few things which should now be attended to with as little loss of time as possible:

1. Congregations should make collections and forward them to the proper quarter.
2. Ministers with the sessions should carefully fill the statistical schedules which are ordered by the Synod. We have never yet received full returns from all our congregations. Last year the Table of Statistics could not be published till December, and even then it was defective.
3. Very important subjects were remitted by last Synod to various Committees. While some Committees have been active in the work assigned to them, we fear that a few may have slumbered over their task. Reports should be prepared when possible, before the meeting of Synod, and all Committees should be ready to give a good account of their diligence.

#### **Ministers' Widows' Fund.**

We beg to remind Kirk-Sessions of the following deliverance of the Synod in reference to the Fund for Ministers' Widows:

"The Rev. James Bayne read the report of the Committee appointed to prepare a

scheme for a Fund for the widows and orphans of Ministers, proposing to raise by appeal to the more wealthy members and adherents of the Church, a capital fund of \$4000; and that to increase this fund a collection shall be taken up in each Church; and while open at all times to the donations and bequests of the benevolent, that the fund shall depend for its future support on the annual contributions both from Sessions and Ministers.

"The raising of a capital fund of \$4000 by appealing to the liberality of the wealthy and of increasing it by collections in each congregation was approved, and it was remitted to the Committee to carry out the object in the way they judge best. It was further agreed: *That for the present year the chief effort shall be the raising of the capital fund, and that the details for the management and distribution of funds be a matter of future consideration;*—and the Committee were directed to have a scale of distribution prepared to be submitted to Synod next year. The Committee was re-appointed with the addition of Rev. D. Roy."

Such then is the deliverance of last Synod. It is urgently requested that collections for this Fund be made in every congregation within the bounds of the Synod. The Committee are preparing the details of the Scheme, and everything will be well matured, we believe, before the next meeting of Synod: but the essential matter is that congregations furnish funds. Let each Minister and each Kirk-Session feel and act as if the success of the Fund depended on their efforts.

#### **Statistical Returns.**

We have already referred to the importance of having full and accurate Statistical Tables to lay before the Church every year. The one essential step for securing this object for 1863, remains now to be taken by ministers and Kirk Sessions: namely, to fill up the Schedules with which they will be furnished by the Clerks of Presbyteries. These Schedules have been forwarded to the Clerks of Presbyteries towards the close of April; and we trust that they will be in the hands of ministers as early as the pre-