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MINISTERS', WIDOWS', AND ORPHANS' FUND.

It may not be uninteresting to both the clergy and laity of our church in the Maritime Provinces to hear a few things about the present state and future prospects of the M. W. and O. Fund. Many years ago, it was felt to be a desirable matter, that provision should be made for the widows and orphans of those who devote their time and talents ministering at God's Altar. The Presbyteries of Halifax, St. John and Pictou were forward in urging the adoption of a scheme that would secure so desirable a result as a provision for a very helpless and deserving class in the community. Foremost amongst the benefactors was the late Rev. Dr. Donald of St. John, N. B., who was ever ready to lend a helping hand that had for its object the benefit of man, and the alleviation of the ills of humanity. In 1873 \$4400 had been received as a nucleus in the raising of a permanent fund. The congregation of St. Andrew's, Pictou, contributed \$445 for the purpose, and many instances of liberality and enlightened interest were manifested throughout the bounds of the Synod. Since 1875 the matter, as far as our church is concerned, has been in abeyance. The sums contributed have passed into the care and keeping of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and till lately, little has been said

or done in reference to a vindication of our claim and rights. In prospect of a final settlement of church difficulties by the contemplated decision of the Privy Council, in the case of Dobie *versus* the Temporalities Board, a feeling of expectation has been raised in the minds of the ministers, members, and adherents of our Church. This feeling has of late, been much fostered by the determination of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, to amalgamate our funds with theirs.

Originally the contributions to the fund for ministers' widows and orphans were to be devoted to the ministers' widows and orphans of "The church of the Maritime Provinces in connection with the Church of Scotland." This was the recorded object for the establishment of the fund, and it does seem as if, this really being the design, that there should be little difficulty in adjudging to whom the contributed money belongs. To go to law, to throw away good money after bad, would be ridiculous. A sense of right, however, might lead to a satisfactory conclusion. Both parties were actuated with a simple desire to ask, and to give and do the right, the matter might not be far from a settlement.

Again, it might be a question for consideration to the ministers of our church, what course they would pursue, should their rights and status as regards the fund be fully recognized and accorded by the Presbyterian Church in Canada. To some minds, to throw in our lot with the ministers' widows and orphans of the United Church, commends itself. The future security