

# COLLECTION FOR WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND, AND FOR FUND FOR AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS.

According to the appointment of Synod, the collection for the Ministers' Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and for the Fund for Aged and Infirm Ministers, should be made on the third Sabbath of the present month. The collection will be divided between the two funds in equal proportions, if no special instructions are sent to the agent of the church. It is presumed, however, that congregations may collect for both objects separately, or for either the one or other.

**WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.**—This fund, which has been in operation for ten years, has an accumulated capital of upwards \$30,000, which is increased from year to year by the contributions of ministers, the collections of congregations, and interest on investments. But while there is such a capital, there are seven widows receiving annuities, besides three children. The number, both of widows and orphans, may be expected to increase very considerably from year to year. And the most experienced actuaries, who have been consulted, have given it as their opinion that the Fund cannot be regarded as in a permanently safe condition until the capital is considerably increased beyond its present amount, and that congregational collections cannot be at present dispensed with.

A special effort will be made to raise subscriptions for this object from congregations formerly connected with the United Presbyterian Church. A committee has been appointed by the Synod for this purpose, and we understand this committee are preparing to take steps to bring the matter prominently before the congregations.

**FUND FOR AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS.**—There is at present no accumulated capital available for this object. But a division is made of the annual collection for the Widows' Fund, and the proportion thus obtained is employed for aiding aged and infirm ministers. At present there are three on the list, and there may be more applications in the course of the year. To enable the committee to meet these cases the Fund must be liberally sustained. The balance from last year, when there was only one on the list, is only \$313.00

It is scarcely necessary to urge the duty of contributing for the aid of aged and infirm ministers. Their strength is exhausted in the service of the church. Their annual income renders it out of the question to make any adequate provision for sickness or old age, when they must give up their accustomed duty. It is therefore a duty

which the church owes to such, to contribute to their aid when overtaken by sickness or old age. It is, moreover, a duty which the church owes to itself to make a provision for the aged and infirm, that there may be no inducement to continue services, which, however vigorous and efficient in former years, may have become, through bodily infirmity, less useful and successful.

The collection, when made, should be remitted to Rev. W. Reid, Knox College, Toronto.

For the information of all concerned, we subjoin the rules and regulations of both Funds, and request any who have not yet connected themselves with the Widows' Fund, but desire to do so, to communicate with Mr. Reid, who will supply any farther information.

## WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND. REGULATIONS AT PRESENT IN FORCE.

1. Ministers shall be admitted to an interest in the Fund on the following terms, viz:—Those under the age of 35 shall pay annually \$8; those who are 35, and under 40, \$10; 40 and under 50, \$12; 50, and under 60, \$21. No minister whose age is 60 or over shall be admitted.

Ministers falling into arrears shall pay in addition to the regular rate, \$2 for the first year, \$1 for the second year, and \$6 for the third year, but failing for four years, they shall forfeit all claim in connection with the Fund—intimation, in every case, to be sent to Ministers in arrears, before they shall be cut off from the benefits of the Fund.

2. The first November in each year shall be the period for the payment of the annual rate. In the case of entrants into the ministry, who may desire to secure an interest in the Fund previous to 1st November, immediately following their ordination and induction, they may be admitted on the following terms, viz: If their ordination or induction has been within six months of the 1st November, they shall pay one-half rate; if their ordination or induction has taken place six months or more before the 1st November, they shall pay a full rate for that year. In no case shall any have an interest in the Fund until payment has been made. Ministers who shall not avail themselves of the benefits of the scheme within four years of their ordination cannot be admitted afterwards.

3. In the event of any minister ceasing to labor as such in the capacity of Pastor, Professor, or Missionary, of this Church, he shall no longer (except in the case of infirmity or old age) have an interest in or right to the benefits of the Fund; always providing that one half of the amount paid by him into the Fund, shall be returned.

4. Any Minister who may have, according to the provision of the foregoing regulation ceased to have an interest in the Fund, and have received back one half of the amount paid by him into the Fund, and who may again on resuming his connection with the church as Pastor, Professor, or Missionary, desire to have an interest in the Fund, may be admitted on re-payment of the amount withdrawn, together with the amount of rat. s from the time he ceased to have an interest in the Fund until again connected with it; or he may be readmitted at an advanced rate, on payment of the sum withdrawn only.

The following are the allowances sanctioned by the Synod, viz:—

For a Widow having no children .....	\$120 per annum.
" " with one child .....	140 " "
" " with two children .....	150 " "
" " with three or more children .....	160 " "
For a single Orphan .....	40 per annum.
" Two of the same family .....	60 " "
" Three " " " .....	80 " "
" Four or more " " " .....	100 " "

After the age of 14 the annuities to children cease.

The annuity of a Widow is for life, or until a second marriage.

The present capital of the Widow's Fund is somewhat over \$50,000.

## FUND FOR AGED & INFIRM MINISTERS, INTERIM REGULATIONS

1. No Minister shall have a claim on the Fund who enters the service of the church after the age of 50.

2. No Minister shall have a claim till he has served for ten years.

3. A Minister invalidated at the close of ten years' service shall receive from the Fund an amount not exceeding \$100 per annum.

4. For every year over ten during which a Minister is in the service of the church before he is invalidated, he shall receive, if the Fund admits of it, \$8 yearly, till the sum of \$200 is reached.

5. No Minister who is on the Fund, shall engage in any stated employment without the approval of the committee.

6. When application is made to admit a Minister on this Fund, the committee shall have power to deal with his congregation, in order to arrange with them what amount he is to receive from said congregation as a retiring allowance, and no Presbytery shall dissolve a pastoral relation on the ground of age and infirmity, without first communicating with the Committee for this end.

## WHAT IS ESSENTIAL TO THE REAL STRENGTH AND INFLUENCE OF A CHURCH.

It will be admitted that a church can be strong, prosperous and influential, only when enjoying the blessing and gracious presence of the Great Head of the Church, and when the influences of the Spirit are abundantly vouchsafed in the conversion of sinners and the edification of believers. It is by the Spirit of the Lord, and not by human might or strength, that the church can prosper and accomplish her work. This, we say, is admitted. But it needs to be more fully realized and acted upon; and it were well if the members of the church generally, in view of this great truth, were more earnest in the putting up of fervent, believing prayer, for the outpouring of the Spirit, and the manifestation of the mighty power of God.

But, in subordination to this, there are certain things that may be regarded as essential to the real strength and prosperity of a church. Negatively, it is not the eloquence or more intellectual power of the ministry, nor the wealth or worldly position of the members of a church, that we can