

ducted by Professor Young, for the critical exposition of Scripture. In this class, select portions, particularly of the Old Testament Scriptures, are read by the students in the original, and critically expounded by the Professor. This, in the opinion of the Committee, will not interfere with, but, on the contrary, be an excellent preparation for the formal and systematic study of hermeneutics and Biblical criticism, under Dr. Willis, in the two last years of the theological course. The curriculum is submitted, not as the best that could be devised, but as the best which it seems possible to adopt in present circumstances, with a staff of only two professors. The Committee are of opinion that the appointment, when that shall be found practicable, of a third professor, to fill the chair of Biblical Criticism and Hermeneutics, and to whom the teaching of the Hebrew language might also be committed, would be of great advantage. When the Church is in circumstances to make such an appointment, other modifications of the curriculum now submitted by the Committee will probably suggest themselves as desirable.

What has principally rendered the services of a tutor in Knox's College indispensable, is the fact that the great majority of the young men who come up to Toronto to study for the ministry are unable to profit by the Latin and Greek classes as at present conducted in University College. Your Committee are happy to be able to report that they have good hopes of such an alteration being effected, as will render the classes in University College suitable for the generality of the students of this Church. And that nothing may be left undone to secure so important a result, it is suggested that a small Committee be nominated specially to attend to this matter, with authority to confer, in name of the Synod, with the Senate of the University, the Government, or any individuals who have it in their power to promote the object desired by the Synod. In the event of this object being accomplished, it may not be necessary for the Synod to retain the services of a tutor in Knox's College beyond next session.

VI. As some irregularity has been found to prevail throughout the Church, in the matter of the examination of students, the Committee would respectfully call the attention of the Synod to the subject, and request this Court to make such regulations, and give such directions, as in its wisdom it may see fit, to remedy the defects which exist, and to secure the thorough, regular, and efficient examination of the students of the Church, both prior to their entering upon their studies in Knox's College, and at the different stages of their course.

VII. The Committee beg to urge upon the Synod the importance of taking decided steps towards the erection of College buildings. This matter having been committed into the hands of a special Committee, your Committee would not have adverted to it, had it not been well known that nothing practical had been effected during the past year. The necessity for College buildings becomes every year more and more urgent; and it is hoped that the Synod will not pass by without such an expression of the mind of the Committee, as will secure the most vigorous action during the ensuing year.

VIII. In conclusion, it is recommended that the College Committee, now to be appointed by the Synod, should contain one member, who might, even when it was impossible for him to attend the meetings of the Committee, still to give the Committee the benefit of his opinion, and convey also the sentiments of his co-presbyters, by correspondence, who might take it especially in charge to keep alive an interest in the College, within the bounds of the Presbytery to which he belonged, and to urge upon the Presbytery from time to time the consideration of such measures, and the adoption of such courses of action, as should seem best fitted in any way to

strengthen the foundations, and to increase the efficiency of the great central institution of our Church.

REPORT OF WIDOWS' FUND COMMITTEE,

For year ending 31st May, 1855.

Your Committee are glad to report to the Synod that the Fund is, on the whole, in a prosperous condition, although not in a position to justify any relaxation of the efforts of the friends of the Church in aid of this most important object.

The following is a statement of the receipts and expenditure for the past year, and also of the present position of the Fund—

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE MINISTERS' WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND, OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MAY, 1855.

RECEIPTS.	
1. Congregational Collections reported up to date	£392 10 14
2. Annual rates paid by Ministers, and fines	153 0 0
3. Donations	1 11 3
4. Interest	155 10 94
5. Principal invested, repaid	95 0 6
6. Bal. on hand at beginning of year	439 11 44
Total receipts for year	£1147 7 04

EXPENDITURE.	
1. Annuities—2, £30 each; 1, £35, 2, £37 10s. each; 1, half-yearly payment, £15	£185 0 0
2. Proportion of Agent's salary	50 0 0
3. Postage, discount on drafts	2 19 6
4. Invested in purchase of debentures	666 0 04
5. Minister's rate repaid with interest	2 3 9
6. Blank Book for Ledger, Stationery, and incidental expenses	2 0 0
Balance in hand	239 3 9
	1147 7 04

STATE OF THE MINISTERS' WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND, OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CANADA, 31ST MAY, 1855.

1. Number of Annuitants—1, having annuities of £30 each; 2, having annuities of £37 10s. each

Total charge at present for annuities £195 0 0

2. Number of Ministers at present contributing.

Presbytery of Toronto	16
“ Cobourg	6
“ Kingston	6
“ Brockville	4
“ Perth	9
Presbytery of Montreal	13
“ London	16
“ Hamilton	11
	81

3. Amount invested in debentures bearing interest at 6 per cent.

Debentures of County of Waterloo	£1019 0 0
Do. Town of Sarma	500 0 0
Do. Township of Dereham	1939 17 0
Do. County of Middlesex	600 0 0
	£4058 17 0

4. Money in hand for investment 239 3 9

During the past year one annuitant has come upon the fund, making now six in all. The Committee rejoice to observe that so many ministers of the Church contribute to this fund. There are, however, several who are non-contributors. The Committee deeply regret this, as they regard it as a duty which ministers owe not only to themselves and to those depending

upon them, but also to their congregations, to put themselves in a position to enable those surviving them to benefit by this fund.

The Committee also earnestly recommend that measures should yet be taken for drawing forth the interest and zeal of such congregations as have not contributed in an adequate measure to this most important fund. The Committee suggest that the Synod should recommend this point to the consideration of Presbyteries.

The Committee, while thankful for the success which has attended the efforts made to raise this fund, are decidedly of opinion that it would be unsafe to lay aside the annual congregational collections until the vested capital shall have accumulated very considerably above the present sum

In name, and by appointment of Committee,
W. REID, Sec'y and Treasurer.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS.

In presenting this Report, the Committee on Statistics have to state, with regret, that the papers submitted to them, although more complete than those of last year, are nevertheless far from being satisfactory. Some of the Reports are most full and accurate, others are exceedingly meagre and incomplete. The Presbytery of Brockville, for instance, has rendered no Presbyterial Report; and only one Congregational Report—that of Prescott—has reached the Committee. The Synod will perceive, then, that only an approximation to a full Report can be expected from the Committee.

The Committee would, in the first place, call the attention of Synod to the Congregations that have disregarded this part of duty. A hope is expressed that some definite action may be taken by the Synod in this matter, to insure for the future greater regularity. If no notice be taken of these irregularities, it is useless to call for Reports, or to appoint a Committee to examine them.

Those who have neglected to make returns are the following:—In the Presbytery of Montreal—3—Quebec, Osabrack, Lingwick. Ottawa—0. Brockville—3—All, except Prescott. Kingston—0. Cobourg—0. Toronto—1—King and Vaughan. Hamilton—1—Fergus, Guolph, Paris, Nassaga. London—1—Ingersoll. [weya.]

Total, 12 Congregations not reported.

It is but justice to state, in reference to Guelph, that the books of the Congregation have been destroyed by fire.

(It will be seen that since the meeting of Synod, returns have been received from several of the above Congregations.)

MEMBERSHIP AND PASTORAL VISITATIONS.

The returns handed in to the Committee are very full, as far as they extend, in exhibiting the strength of the Church in point of membership; and it is pleasing to record, and to report to the Synod, that out of 104 ministers, only two are said not to visit their flocks. The fact that all the ministers within the bounds preach at least twice every Lord's day, and that most have appointments also during the week, combined with the circumstance already mentioned, will present to the Church and the world a favourable view of the real members of our Synod.

LIBRARIES—MANSES.

It is with much pleasure that the Committee note the fact that Congregational Libraries are being extensively formed throughout the bounds. Sabbath School Libraries, containing several thousand volumes are found connected with our Churches, and it is hoped that such will continue to be the case. At the same time the Committee would most earnestly submit to the Synod