to the music of bands. Night drops a curtain upon the scenes of mirth and revelry, of drunkenness and vice that close the Sabbath in a Russian city.

B. R.

The *Baptist Weekly*, on enquiring into the antecedents of the preachers of Brooklyn N. Y. has acertained that while 13 were brought up Baptists, five being sons of Baptists ministers, 15 had come as follows: Five from the Presbyterians, four from the Methodists, two from the Episcopalians, one each from the Lutherans, Quakers and the Reformed, and one had been converted from New Testament reading at the age of 17.

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., May 23rd, 1877.

PROVISION FOR MINISTERS' WIDOWS.

Efforts have been frequently made to provide some more efficient means for aiding the widows of ministers when left, in the Providence of God, without the support to which they had been accustomed during the life of their husbands. Our Associational Infirm Ministers' Funds are intended to aid, as far as may be, the ministers themselves when unable to perform the functions of their office. Appropriations have occasionally been made from these funds, more or less, according to the necessity of the case, in behalf of ministers' widows; and the help thus afforded has been of much value to the families so assisted.

We find from a Circular which appears in the *Christian Visitor* of St. John, N. B., that a plan—not altogether a new one—is projected by the Baptist ministers of St. John to form a sort of Joint Stock Life Assurance Company with this object in view. The Circular is accompanied by a Constitution which together have probably been forwarded to each individual minister in the Maritime Provinces. As the subject is one of general interest we copy the Circular for the benefit of our readers. as follows:

Dear Brother,—Herewith we send you a copy of the Constitution of an Association which we believe should have the hearty endorsement and support of our brethren in the ministry.

The ministers of this city and vicinity, who assemble weekly in Pastoral Conference, have been moved to adopt incipient measures to secure the organization of the Association, not because we assume the possession of wisdom or judgment of a superior order, nor even, because we suppose ourselves to be more deeply impressed than others with the necessity of devising some plan to provide aid for the families of deceased ministers, but simply because we knew that if ever there should be such provision made, the plan and means whereby it should be effected, must be presented by some parties having a vital and common interest in the movement. We have therefore assumed the duty of taking the initiatory step.

We have, also, been somewhat influenced in attempting this organization from the consideration, that if it were demonstrated to the satisfaction of the members of our churches, that the Ministry, as a class, were intent on providing for their own prospective widows and orphans, and thus relieving the churches of any responsibility in that direction, that then the great masses of our denomination, it is hoped and believed, would give their hearty and undivided support in raising and securing a fund for the support of disabled and superannuated Ministers. The existence of such a fund has long and generally been acknowledged as most desirable and necessary, and justly due to our hard-worked and inadequately paid Ministry.

But the magnitude of an undertaking, to provide not only an annuity to ministers retiring from professional duty, but also sustenance for the widows and orphans of deceased clergymen, has discouraged our denomination from making any plans for a permanent organization to meet the case.

We now have valid reason for believing that ere long an united effort will be made by all the Baptist churches in the Maritime Provinces to arrange for the proper and permanent support of infirm and aged clergymen. Already, some of the generous and philanthropic Baptists formerly of this Province, but now resident in Great Britain, inspired by the noble and generous efforts of English Baptists, who have recently succeeded in securing £52,000 for a Ministers' Annuity Fund, have signified their intention to lend pecuniary assistance to an effort to establish a somewhat similar fund for our Provinces.

But in reference to this matter, you may be more fully advised at an early period. In the meantime, if you can see it to be your duty to unite with us in our Mutual Aid Association, please send your name and address attached to the following pledge, and forward it to Rev. W. P. Everett, Sec'y *pro tem.*

We have already secured the countenance and pledges of all the Baptist Ministers in the City and Portland, as well as that of others who reside in our vicinity. We are anxious to secure a large number of members before the meeting of the Convention in August next, at which time we propose to permanently organize and elect our officers.

We are brethren, your fellow servants in the work of the Gospel.

G. M. W. CAREY,
J. D. POPE,
EDW. HICKSON,
D. MCCLELLAN,
W. P. EVERETT,
Provisional Com.

PLEDGE.

The undersigned agrees to pledge himself to become a member of the Baptist Ministers' Mutual Aid Association, and to accept the above Constitution and By-Laws subject to amendment at a meeting to be held in Wolfville, N. S., in August next, during the session of the Baptist Convention of N. S., N. B., and P. E. I.

We also append the Constitution of the Association so that the matter, as a whole, may be before our readers—ministers and members.

CANADIAN BAPTIST MINISTERS' MUTUAL AID ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE I.—NAME.

This organization shall be styled the "Canadian Baptist Ministers' Mutual Aid Association."

ARTICLE II.—OBJECT.

The design of this Association is to afford immediate relief to the families of deceased Ministers, members of the Association.

ARTICLE III.—MEMBERSHIP.

Any Minister, possessed of sound health, holding his membership in a Baptist Church in the Dominion of Canada, may become a member by signing this Constitution within a year from date, and paying an initiation fee of fifty cents; after that period, no one can be received to membership in the Association except by a two-third vote of the Managing Committee hereafter specified.

ARTICLE IV.—OFFICERS.

The officers shall be a President, and a Secretary, who shall also act as Treasurer, and who shall be elected annually. There shall also be an Executive Committee of nine brethren, elected at the same time with the President and Secretary, whose duty it shall be to exercise a supervision over the general affairs and interests of the Association.

ARTICLE V.

Whenever the Secretary shall be duly certified of the death of any member, he shall immediately transmit to each member notice thereof, accompanied with a circular setting forth the object of the Association.

ARTICLE VI.

Each member of the Association shall forward to the Secretary, within thirty days after the receipt of notice of the death of one of its members, the sum of Five Dollars, which shall be immediately paid to the widow or legal representative of the deceased, or to such person or persons as the deceased member may have designated by written or verbal request, certified by two disinterested witnesses.

ARTICLE VII.

Any member failing to meet the requirements of Article VI. of this Constitution, shall thereby forfeit his membership in this Association, and shall not be eligible to membership until all arrearages are paid, with an addition of ten per cent. if membership be not resumed within one year from time of forfeiture, and twenty per cent. if deferred beyond two years.

ARTICLE VIII.—AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at any regular meeting of the Association.

BY-LAWS.

1. Any person may become an Honorary Member of this Association by pledging the payment of One Dollar or more on the death of each member.

2. Removal from the Dominion shall not vitiate membership in this Association, provided no obligation of the Constitution is violated by the party changing residence.

3. Any member thus removing shall at once notify the Secretary in writing of such change.

From the name given to this document it would appear that the brethren putting it forth purpose to extend its operation to ministers in all the provinces of the Dominion of Canada.

Whether such a Society as this is best suited to meet the case and is adapted to so extensive a field may be called in question. The proposal to raise so large a sum for the bereaved families at one time and make no provision for future necessities might be very desirable in certain cases, just as in ordinary Life Assurance, but we think a certain periodical amount, *during widowhood*, would in most cases be of far greater service.

We know not if the above plan is the result of any combined experience—if it has been tried in any other place. If so, we should like to know, on behalf of ministers and churches, how it worked. It would seem at first sight that in case of three, four or more deaths occurring in the number pledged or assured, within a short time of each other, there would be a demand for fifteen, twenty, or thirty dollars to be paid by the two or three hundred ministers. If the society consisted of the latter number it would give each of the widows $1500. This might be very convenient, but it might be less beneficial than in smaller sums received at intervals, say yearly or half yearly. The larger this Society became the greater would be the demands on its members. Whilst the Society would have no money basis it would have no graduating scale of the amount of payments according to the age of the contributor and consequently would present less inducement to young men to join the Society than it would to those advanced in life. This it may be said is a mercenary view of the matter, but then the thing is altogether financial, and at the start it should be considered before entering upon it; what would be the value of the organization as a permanent institution and not make a commencement and afterwards find out that it would not work. In this "Canadian Baptist Ministers' Mutual Aid Association" or Life Assurance Company it might possibly turn out that one person would receive the amount two or three times over.

As our attention is called to this matter again perhaps it may be well to offer a plan which has lately come to our knowledge for assisting the widows of deceased ministers, and which seems practicable and free from objection; and besides has the advantage of having been in successful operation for a long series of years in another place. As our space is now filled we defer the further development of the subject for our next.

VITAL STATISTICS OF NOVA SCOTIA.

We have just received the Annual Report of Registration of Marriages, Births and Deaths in Nova Scotia during the year 1875. The material from all parts of the Province is not received at the Statistics Office in Halifax by Mr. McMillan, the Secretary, till some time after the expiration of the year (1875). The analysis to which the returns are subjected for the purpose of bringing out the results, as shewn by the numerous tables, involves a vast amount of labor and close application. This may account for the apparent delay in presenting the facts shewn in this Report. In this pamphlet of 80 pages we have a vast amount of highly interesting matter concerning "life, health, and disease," in this province. In neither of the provinces of the Dominion are the arrangements for obtaining the Statistics so complete as in Nova Scotia. Although there has been but a small sum each year expended in doing this, say five or six thousand dollars, yet the Dominion government now refuses to continue that grant.

The department was in vigorous operation when the Confederation of the Provinces was effected, and the withdrawal of the grant now would seem to be an injustice to the Province. Whatever may be their intention there should be arrangements made to preserve the documents of the past years, or else great injury will be done to those who depend on them as permanent records of Marriages, Births, and Deaths. Statistics are properly a part of the Department of Agriculture, but in the Report of the Minister of Agriculture we find no reference to the Vital Statistics of any of the Provinces. In the House of Commons, when attention was called to the omission of the grant for this service, no satisfaction was given. Mr. Cartwright admitted "the desirability of having such Statistics for the whole Dominion, but their preparation," he said, "would involve a very great deal of labour and expense" and he thought this could not be done in one Province "unless a general system were adopted."

Mr. Jones argued that in the Province of Nova Scotia "the system in question had been established previous to the Union, and it had proved to be very valuable," and "he deeply regretted the omission of the vote" for its continuance. "There might be good reason why the Government was not prepared to adopt a general system, but this was no reason why they should abolish the system already in force in Nova Scotia. He held that this would be almost a breach of faith with that province, necessitating in addition the loss of the services of valuable officers and the destruction of a system which had worked extremely well."

Another member, Mr. Pope, of Compton, said "if there was one thing more than another to which the government should give attention, and one on which the expenditure of money would be valuable to the country it was the collection of Statistics." "If it was found impossible to extend the system to the Dominion at present that was no reason why Nova Scotia should suffer."

Mr. Goudge said "to deprive the Province of its system of Statistics was a step backward, and the act would be regarded as a breach of faith." Notwithstanding these strong expressions were given they were without effect, and this "breach of faith" was committed by the Dominion Government, by which the Province will be deprived of a valuable department of information, that in future years will be deeply regretted. Unless some action is taken at once, either by the Dominion or the Local government, in the mean time, the Registration of past years which is of first importance will be rendered comparatively valueless.

With these preliminary observations and reflections we may proceed to give a very brief summary of what this report, made by Mr. McMillan to the Minister of Agriculture comprises. Respecting Marriages, he says: The records of Marriages are perfect in all details. The number of Marriages registered in Nova Scotia during the year 1875, was 2,854. Of this number 2,244 were by license, and 610 by proclamation of banns. In the previous year, 1874, the number was 3,079, being an excess of 225 Marriages over those of 1875. This shows a decrease in the Marriages for the year under review of over 7 per cent. A decrease in the number of Marriages is not a favorable indication, the Marriage rate being regarded as a tolerably correct criterion to judge of the general prosperity of a country.

According to the estimated population, there was in 1875, one Marriage to each 144 persons living.

In England the ratio is one Marriage to 121 persons; in Scotland it is one to 144. The ratio in Ireland is considerably lower, being only one couple married to every 212.

"Of the 2,854 Marriages registered in 1875, 657 belonged to the Baptist Church; 639 to the Presbyterian Church; 608 to the Roman Catholic Church; 441 to the Church of England; 356 to the Wesleyan Church; 91 to the Church of Scotland; 24 to the Lutheran Church; 22 to the Congregational Church; 2 to the Universalist Church; 1 to the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and 13 to other Churches. These proportions differ slightly from those of previous years. For the last five years the Marriages in connection with the Roman Catholic Church have been more numerous than those in connection with any of the other denominations. This year the Marriages which have taken place in connection with the Baptist Church are most numerous."

The proportion of males marrying in this Province under the age of 21 is not so great as in England; that of females however, so marrying, is considerably greater.

The greatest age of man married was 78; the greatest age of woman was 74. The least age of man married was 15; the least age of woman was 14. The united age of the oldest couple was 149. The united age of the youngest couple was 34, the man being 20 and the woman 14.

With respect to the registration of Births the Report says: The Birth Returns however, exhibit a highly encouraging progress, and it is to be hoped that in a very few years they will attain to the same good degree of completeness with the Marriages.

The natural increase of population is represented by the excess of Births over Deaths.

The annual registration of Births comprises probably about 80 per cent. of the Births that should be registered, consequently this rate per cent is below the actual increase.

The number of Births registered in 1875, was 10,718. This is equal to 1 birth in each 38 of the estimated population. The rate should be higher than this. A fair proportion for this Province would be 1 birth in 32 persons.

There were 189 illegitimate births recorded, about 2 per cent of the whole, very much less than in England, Scotland, or Wales. They are probably not all registered.

Now that the difficulty respecting the fee of ten cents to Deputy Registras for each Birth and Death returned by them is satisfactorily settled by an Act of the Local Legislature, it is earnestly hoped that the Birth and Death Returns will yearly increase, till a numerical completeness, and a perfection also in the essential particulars of all individual records, are reached.

Of the 10,718 Births registered, 5,561 were males and 5,157 were females. The percentage therefore, of male to female Births has been 51,89 to 48,11, showing an increase in favor of males of 3.78 per cent.

In every country the males born are in excess of the females. Nova Scotia is not an exception to this general rule. It must be borne in mind however, that although more male than female children come alive into the world, the mortality of the former, especially during the months of infancy, and indeed during the first five years of life, is also greater, so that by the time the twentieth year is reached the numbers are supposed to be very nearly equal, and from that age upward it is observed that the female population invariably preponderates. Although therefore, more boys than girls are born, there are always more females than males of all ages living in a country.

Fully 2000 of the Births annually taking place still escape registration. The actual Births therefore, are about 12,871. This number is rather below than above the mark. The actual birth-rate therefore, of this Province, is about 31.13 in every 1000 persons.

In relation to Deaths in Nova Scotia the report says: there were 4709 registered during 1875 of whom 2,453 were Males and 2256 Females. Mr. McM. says: "The Death registration is becoming yearly more complete. Very few Deaths, if any, now escape registration in the City, and not more than twelve per cent. of the Provincial Deaths fail to be recorded. The particulars also required by law to be registered touching each Death, are given by the Deputy Registrars with tolerable correctness."

The causes of death and various other particulars are given in carefully prepared Tables which will be of more value in future years than now.

CHRONOLOGY OF THE WEEK.

			A. D.
May	14th.	Assassination of Henry IV (France)	1610
"	"	Vaccination introduced.	1796
"	"	Death of Joseph Sharp.	1859
"	15th.	Second General Council (Constantinople)	381
"	"	Death of Danl. O'Connell.	1847
"	16th.	Death of Rapin, historian	1725
"	"	Battle of Albuera	1811
"	"	Death of Thos. Burchill, Missionary	1846
"	17th.	Death of Empress Catherine	1727
"	18th.	Death of Gen. Snwarroff.	1800
"	"	Disruption of Presbyterian Church	1843
"	19th.	Queen Anna Boleyn beheaded	1537
"	"	Battle of La Hogue	1692
"	20th.	Jerome of Prague, burnt.	1416
"	"	Death of Columbus	1506
"	"	Death of Myles Coverdale	1507
"	"	Battle of Minorca	1756
"	"	Battle of Bantam	1813

One of our Eastern exchanges tells his readers that there are hundreds of his subscribers who have up to this time forgotten to call at the office to square themselves on the list. There are some of ours also from whom *we* should be glad to hear.

The Presbyterian General Assembly of the Dominion of Canada will meet in St. Matthew's Church on Friday, the 13th of June, when it is expected that ministers and ruling elders from all parts will be here probably to the number of three or four hundred. The case of Mr. Macdonnell charged with heresy will doubtless cause some excitement.

The *Wesleyan* last week, as an offset to the statement of a few weeks ago that other ministers were inclined to follow Rev. E. J. Haynes" gives the following:—

"As to gains to the Baptist faith, there are a few chapters of modern ecclesiastical history of which the *Messenger* seems strangely ignorant. There are communities in these Provinces where the Baptist Church held undisputed sway twenty or thirty years ago, in which they hold to-day scarcely a fragment of a cause, while other churches have swept the country."

Perhaps that will comfort our contemporary's enquiring friends, although he does not give the names of the places or the statistics.