SKETCH OF A PLAN

FOR

AUGMENTING THE LIVINGS

OF

THE MINISTERS OF THE

ESTABLISHED CHURCH of SCOTLAND,

BY MEANS OF

The VACANT STIPENDS.

WITH

TABLES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

BY

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To

Dr. Stedman

from

The Author

INTRODUCTION.

THE importance of the clerical office, to the interests of the state, and the morals of the people, is acknowledged by every wise and virtuous man. It has made a part of every system of legislation; and will always have an extensive influence on the happiness and prosperity of nations.

The condition of the clergy has been very different, in the different ages and different countries of the world. But it can scarcely be doubted, that the situations in which they can best promote the interests of religion, and of good government, are those which most effectually secure their fidelity in the duties of their profession.

On the one hand, the experience of ages has demonstrated, that high degrees of wealth and power are in all respects unfriendly to clerical duties, and in the hands of churchmen are dangerous weapons. It will not be denied, on the other hand, that the ministers of religion are most likely to do justice to the business of their profession, when their livings, being in proportion to the rank of life which the constitution of their country has intended for them, enable them with prudence and œconomy to make a competent provision for their families; removing them, at the same time, from the depression of poverty, and from the objects of ambition.

The ecclesiastical establishment of Scotland excludes the ministers of religion from any share in the civil government, and is evidently calculated to confine them to the proper functions of their clerical office. The same series of pastoral labours, the same rank in the country, the same authority in the church, belongs to every individual.—The stipends secured to them by law, though far from being equal, were originally designed to be sufficient to enable them to support their rank with propriety, and to make a moderate provision for their widows and children. At the Revolution,

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in 1688, when the prefent conftitution of the church was permanently fixed, the ftipends of the feveral parifhes in Scotland, tho' perhaps more limited and unequal than they ought to have been, bore fuch a proportion to the price of labour, and to the expence and habits of the country at that time, that the clergy, though without wealth, could preferve themfelves from being degraded by poverty, and were even able to fecure moderate advantages to their families. When there was almoft no trade, and none of the later improvements in the cultivation of land; when the circumftances which have gradually raifed the price of labour were unknown in the country; and when the means of educating children were in almoft every man's power; the ftipends of the clergy, however limited, were at leaft fufficient to render their fituations refpectable. The improvements which have been introduced into Scotland in the courfe of the prefent century, and efpecially fince the year 1745; the wealth which has followed the progrefs of trade and manufactures; the large fortunes which have been brought into the country from the diftant provinces of the empire; and many other circumftances fimilar to thefe, have added fo much to the price of labour and the expence of living, as to have produced a material change in the condition of men of almoft all ranks and defcriptions. An annual fum which fixty years ago placed a man in eafy circumftances, and enabled him both to do juftice to his children and to be liberal to his friends, is now no more than fufficient for the moft common expences of his family. What was then confidered as a reafonable provifion for the widows and children of men who held very refpectable fituations in the country, is now no more than enough to afford them the neceffaries of life; and, in many inftances, is not fufficient to fave them from degradation and poverty. ——The ideas of men are changed with the price of every thing: And no man who has a family to provide for, and poffeffes a limited income to which no addition has been made in the courfe of the prefent century, can at this time either live in the fame fociety, or enjoy the fame advantages, with thofe who were his

his equals when the century began, but whofe income has been raifed in proportion to the progrefs of the country.

There is reafon to believe that there is more wealth in Scotland at prefent, than it has ever poffeffed at any former period; and that the increafe of wealth has been in certain proportions diftributed among the different claffes of men, thofe alone excepted who depend on a fixed ftipend or falary, or on the annual intereft of limited fums.

The legiflature has no doubt made fome provifion for augmenting the ftipends of the clergy. For more than a century and a half, commiffions of teinds have been fucceffively appointed, with power to grant fuch augmentations as appear to be neceffary and reafonable, from the free tiends of the feveral parifhes, in confequence of regular proceffes brought at the inftance of the incumbents. Since the date of the prefent commiffion to the Lords of Seffion in 1707, a confiderable number of augmentations have been granted; which, though very different in themfelves, have certainly improved the fituations of many individuals. But no man who is well acquainted with the prefent circumftances of the clergy at large, can perfuade himfelf that this refource has been at all in proportion to the increafing expence they are fubjected to, from the rapid improvement of the country. In many parifhes the free teinds are exhaufted; and however fmall the ftipends may be, no augmentation can be obtained. In many others, the amount of the free teinds is fo inconfiderable as to afford no augmentation which would produce any material alteration in the circumftances of the incumbents. The expence even of fuccefsful proceffes is in many cafes fo confiderable, as to diminifh greatly to the prefent incumbents the value of the augmentations. But it is almoft ruin to a private clergyman, who has a family to provide for, and has no funds of his own, to carry on a procefs of augmentation, which, after being litigated for feveral years, is unfuccefsful at laft; a cafe which has not feldom occurred, from the oppofition of the heritors, or the uncertain ftate of the teinds. Befides, the court have found, in fome late inftances, that they are not authorifed

thorised, under the present commission, to grant a second augmentation, but that after any stipend has been once augmented, their powers as to that benefice are exhausted. This question is now under appeal before the House of Lords, in the case of Tingwall. But whatever shall be the final decision, whether the judgement of the court shall be reversed, or whether (if it should be affirmed) a new commission shall be granted, there are certainly good reasons to convince every impartial man, that some general and effectual augmentation of the stipends of the clergy of Scotland is become necessary, if they are at all to remain useful or respectable among the other orders of men.

Though the interests of individuals may well be supposed to be safe in the hands of fifteen honourable men, who are acquainted with their situations, and have a permanent interest in the country, the limits of the only funds which the commission of teinds has a right to dispose of; the natural opposition arising from titulars and heritors, who consider the teinds as their private property; the number of parishes in which there are almost no free teinds remaining; and the expence inseparable from processes of augmentation; must convince every person who considers the subject with candour, that with the best intentions towards the Church, the Lords of Session, under their present commission, have it not in their power to give any general or effectual relief to the great body of the clergy.

On the other hand, there are few dispassionate men in the country who will not admit, that the present circumstances of the clergy deserve the most serious attention. There is scarcely a public office of any consequence in the kingdom, depending on a fixed salary, to which great and even repeated additions have not been made in the course of the present century. These additions have uniformly been granted, on the principle, that the increased expence of living, and the rapid improvement of the country, had made them absolutely necessary. The clergy alone remain as they were; struggling with difficulties produced by the prosperity of their country; unable to support the rank of life for which they have been educated, and in which their predecessors have been always respectable.

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There are at present in Scotland upwards of fifty parishes in which the stipends are fixed at from thirty to fifty pounds. There are two hundred and fifty, in which the stipends are from fifty to seventy pounds; and the amount of them in both instances is taken, not from any nominal conversion of grain, but from what they are supposed really to bring to the incumbents. Many of these stipends, small as they are, have been already augmented by the court of teinds, so that no further augmentation is to be expected.

Men in the other employments of life, have many ways to improve their situations: And there are few men in the country who hold public offices, who have not something else to depend on than their stated salaries. But a clergyman is seldom possessed of any funds when he enters on his office. He is excluded from almost all other employments but those of his profession. He must devote his time and his life to his pastoral duties, however embarrassed in his circumstances, and how destitute soever may be the condition of his family at his death.

It is from a very considerable knowledge of the private situations of the ministers of this church, that the author of the following Sketch has been led to turn his thoughts to this subject. Upwards of forty years ago, a fund was established by act of parliament for the benefit of the widows and children of clergymen and others, to which every parochial minister is bound by law to pay a yearly contribution. This fund has undoubtedly secured very important advantages to the families of clergymen. Its success has hitherto been equal to the most sanguine expectations of those who saw its commencement; and it will always do honour to the memory of the respectable man who formed the design, and so happily conducted it for many years. But with all the advantages of this fund, it has unquestionably diminished the livings of the clergy. The annual contribution, of which the average sum is five guineas, is a permanent deduction from every stipend in the church. In many instances, it is more than a tenth of the whole. It is at least equal to a fifteenth of the parochial livings in general. The deduction is made greater still, by the contingencies for which the act of par-

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liament provides; and by an intereſt of five per cent. on the ſeveral ſums due to the fund, from the day they become payable to the collector.

It is chiefly from his ſituation as general collector of this fund, that the author has been led into the knowledge of the private circumſtances of the clergy. By a very conſiderable number of them, limited as their ſituations are, the annual contribution is held ſacred, and is punctually paid. But there is no ſmall number of contributors who have not this in their power. It falls to the lot of the collector in many caſes to demand, what the neceſſities of their families will not permit them to pay; to urge the extinction of arrears for which no funds are accumulated; to ſuggeſt expedients where there are few reſources; and to be firm in diſcharging his duty to the public, without aggravating the embarraſſments of reſpectable men.

Theſe circumſtances will be allowed to have been ſufficient to prompt his inquiries into the ſtate of the livings, and to ſuggeſt to him the neceſſity of ſome general plan for the relief of his brethren. And though the following Sketch ſhould not in any degree deſerve the approbation of the public, he perſuades himſelf that at leaſt he ſhall not be thought to have gone out of his ſphere in ſoliciting its attention to the ſubject.

The miniſters of the church of Scotland have hitherto poſſeſſed a diſtinguiſhed reputation. In literature, in purity of manners, in the faithful diſcharge of paſtoral duties, they yield to no church in the world. They depend not on their livings for the reſpect which is due to their characters: and it may be ſafely admitted, that with their moderation, and their peculiar habits, a leſs annual ſum will render them independent, than would be ſufficient for men in the ſame rank of life who are engaged in ſecular profeſſions. But it is as certain on the other hand, that in a country in which the progreſs of wealth and refinement is obvious and rapid, reſpect and poverty cannot be long united; neither purity of manners nor paſtoral fidelity will ſave the clergy from being gradually degraded from the rank they have hitherto enjoyed. The contempt with which men in the ſecular

ſecular employments of life regard their limited ſituations, will be inſenſibly transferred to the duties of their office, and to the character which they bear.

The author of the following Sketch is fully perſuaded, that theſe conſiderations will weigh with virtuous and impartial men. He has not the preſumption to think, that what he now ſubmits to the public will meet with general approbation; but if it ſhall in any degree contribute to ſtimulate or aſſiſt the labours of men more capable of ſucceeding in ſuch an attempt, he ſhall think that his time has been well employed.

It is almoſt three years ſince he began to collect materials to enable him to form an opinion on the ſubject; from theſe he has now prepared the Sketch contained in the following pages.—He is ſenſible that the arrangement is far from being complete; and that if the public ſhould beſtow any attention on the ſubject, many circumſtances which he has not ſtated would require to be explained and conſidered. At preſent he has attempted no more than to ſtate the facts eſtabliſhed in the courſe of forty years; and without pretending to inſtitute calculations on doubtful ſuppoſitions, to point out concluſions, of which every man who examines the facts is a competent judge.

SKETCH

SKETCH OF A PLAN FOR AUGMENTING THE LIVINGS OF THE MINISTERS OF THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH of SCOTLAND,

BY MEANS OF The VACANT STIPENDS.

THE difficulties which have attended every ſcheme hitherto ſuggeſted for augmenting the livings of the clergy of Scotland, have not proceeded from any idea that the preſent ſtipends are ſufficient for their ſituations. They have chiefly ariſen from the intereſt of the landed proprietors, at whoſe expence the augmentation has always been ſuppoſed to be made.

Few men are willing to relinquiſh a property of which they are in poſſeſſion, as long as they have the means of defending it. And whatever may be ſaid in favour of the rights of the clergy, or with regard to the peculiar ſituation of the property in teinds, it is but natural to think that there will be an oppoſition from the gentlemen of Scotland, in every caſe in which a general attempt is made to wreſt from them funds which they conſider as their own.

Though the annual ſum which might be laid on particular proprietors ſhould not be great, no man, if he can avoid it, is willing to ſubmit to a permanent burden on his eſtate.

In 1750, when the General Aſſembly reſolved to apply to parliament for a general augmentation of ſtipend, the oppoſition of the landed proprietors was almoſt univerſal. The officers of the Crown, and ſome of the moſt diſtinguiſhed gentlemen of the kingdom, united in a diſſent from the Aſſembly's reſolution. Their reaſons of diſſent were afterwards publiſhed; and one of the chief reaſons which they urged was taken from the poverty of the country, and the limited fortunes of many of the landed proprietors.

The condition of Scotland has been greatly improved in the courſe of the laſt forty years. But it muſt alſo be admitted, that the wealth which has been introduced into the country during that period, has not been confined to the landed proprietors (though they have had a ſhare in it), but has been diſtributed among various other orders of men, on whom no burden can be laid for augmenting the ſtipends of the clergy.

There is therefore reaſon to apprehend a decided oppoſition to every ſcheme which can be ſuggeſted, for a general augmentation of the parochial ſtipends from the property in land. And nothing can be more obvious, than that the weight of the gentlemen of Scotland will always prevail againſt the influence of the clergy.

Thoſe conſiderations firſt led the author of this Sketch to inquire, Whether it might not be poſſible to form a ſcheme for augmenting the livings, by means of a gradual accumulation of the vacant ſtipends. He ſaw that this idea, if it ſhould be found to be practicable, would not be liable to the chief objections urged againſt the ſchemes of augmentation hitherto ſuggeſted. Though the vacant ſtipends in the hands of the ſubject-patrons, are at preſent deſtined for pious uſes within the ſeveral pariſhes, no man lays claim to them as his perſonal property; and though the landed proprietors may derive ſome advantages from the preſent application of them, he perſuaded himſelf that theſe would not influence the gentlemen of Scotland, in oppoſition to any moderate and

and practicable deſign to improve the ſituations of the parochial miniſters. He obſerved, beſides, that a conſiderable proportion of the vacant ſtipends is in the hands of the Crown, and in the gift of the Barons of Exchequer, unappropriated to any ſpecific purpoſes. From this quarter, in which the clergy have uniformly experienced indulgence and protection, he apprehended no oppoſition but ſuch as might be ſuppoſed to ariſe from real defects in the ſcheme itſelf.

Encouraged by theſe conſiderations, he began to collect the facts, which alone could determine, whether the accumulation of vacant ſtipends, ſuppoſing them to be faithfully appropriated, would be found to be ſufficient to anſwer the end, or would afford any conſiderable addition to the livings of the clergy, within ſuch a period of time as would render it an object worthy of public encouragement.

It was neceſſary, in the firſt place, to be in poſſeſſion of an accurate ſtatement of the ſtipends of the ſeveral pariſhes, according to their preſent value. By the aſſiſtance of a friend, the author had acceſs to a liſt of pariſhes and ſtipends, which had been prepared, from particular inquiries, upwards of thirty years ago; from the record of the court of teinds, he was able to aſcertain the augmentations which have been obtained within that period; and from an extenſive correſpondence with clergymen in different parts of the kingdom, he perſuades himſelf that he has at laſt prepared a general ſtatement of the ſtipends in Scotland, not far from being complete. If in ſo many articles there are ſtill ſeveral miſtakes, which he is ſenſible may be the caſe, he has at leaſt reaſon to think, that the ſtipends of which his information has not been perfectly exact, are ſtated under rather than beyond their real amount. With regard to that part of the ſtipends which is payable in grain, he has taken it at the eſtabliſhed converſion of L. 100 or L. 80 Scots money per chalder, according to the ſeveral counties within which the reſpective pariſhes lie; and to aſcertain the real value of the ſtipends, he has added one third-part to the converted prices of the victual, which, from all the trials he has made on the ſtipends

ſtipends of which he has exact information, determines very nearly the real average price which the victual has brought to the incumbents for upwards of twenty years paſt. He has at leaſt reaſon to be aſſured, that this computation will not be found to exceed the fact, *communibus annis* *.

Having aſcertained the amount of the livings; it was neceſſary, in the next place, to determine the annual extent of the vacant ſtipends within the kingdom, in order to form any judgement of the fund which could ariſe from them.—It would have been eaſy to ſtate the annual number of vacant pariſhes, from the experience of a few years, aſcertained by the annual reports ſent to the Truſtees of the Fund eſtabliſhed for Miniſters Widows, and to have calculated the amount of vacant ſtipends, by dividing the average ſum of the annual ſtipends in Scotland, by the average number of annual vacancies. But on a cloſer attention to the ſubject, he began to ſuſpect that the average ſum of vacant ſtipends annually might not, from different cauſes, be in exact proportion to the average number of vacancies. And as facts are more to be depended on than any calculations, it occurred to him, as the moſt certain way of determining the facts exactly, to prepare a complete liſt of the real vacancies for forty years paſt, ſtating preciſely the pariſhes vacant each year, the date of each vacancy, and the real amount of the ſtipend belonging to each vacant pariſh.

This is the plan which the author has purſued; and though it has ſubjected him to a conſiderable degree of additional labour, and has prevented him from completing his purpoſe, till he had examined the annual reports prepared after the 22d of November laſt, he thinks himſelf ſufficiently compenſated by the facts which he has been enabled to aſcertain.

It appeared to him to be unneceſſary to publiſh the complete

* If the computation ſhould be thought high in a few inſtances in which the ſtipends contain a conſiderable proportion of oats, this circumſtance is more than balanced by the application of the ſame rule of computing to the wheat and barley of the richer counties.

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liſt he has prepared; but the firſt Table will ſhew what the preciſe number of vacant pariſhes has been in each year, from the 22d of November 1747, to the 22d of November 1787; the ſum to which the whole annual ſtipends of thoſe vacant pariſhes would have amounted in each year, according to their preſent value, and the average of the annual ſum, which (from the experience of thoſe forty years) might be fairly depended on, ſuppoſing a whole year's ſtipend of each vacant pariſh to be in future employed for augmenting the livings of the clergy.

From this Table it will appear that there have been, in the courſe of forty years, 1463 vacancies. But it is neceſſary to add, that within that period there have been beſides, 60 pariſhes in which the admiſſion of an aſſiſtant and ſucceſſor has prevented a vacancy from happening. No general ſcheme of augmentation, from the vacant ſtipends, can ever be eſtabliſhed, in which each pariſh is not ſuppoſed to bear its proportional part of the burdens, and to have its natural ſhare in the eventual advantages; for this reaſon, though thoſe ſixty pariſhes could not be claſſed with the vacancies, the real ſtipends belonging to them, amounting in whole to L.4592 : 6 : $11\frac{4}{12}$, are in the following Table added to the total amount of the ſtipends ariſing from the 1463 vacancies, and are included in the average annual ſum which the future vacancies are ſuppoſed to produce.

TABLE I.

Shewing the Number of Vacancies which have really happened in each Year, from the 22d of November 1747 to the 22d of November 1787; and the amount of Vacant Stipends which those Vacancies would have produced, had each Parish been vacant for one whole Year, the Stipends being computed at their present Value.

Years.	Number of Vacancies.	Amount of Vacant Stipends. L.	s	d	12ths.
1748	23	2202	3	2	2
1749	34	2869	2	1	6
1750	19	1574	12	6	8
1751	42	3507	12	10	10
1752	37	2690	4	10	6
1753	45	3689	6	8	10
1754	42	3813	6	2	4
1755	35	2822	8	0	5
1756	40	3386	5	6	4
1757	35	2904	12	5	1
1758	45	3443	14	7	1
1759	49	3707	13	10	11
1760	35	2852	11	11	4
1761	41	3076	14	11	0
1762	42	3520	6	1	2
1763	33	2504	12	7	0
1764	32	2633	14	2	6
1765	45	4017	19	4	5
1766	32	2671	7	3	9
1767	31	2737	10	11	7
Carried over,	737	60626	0	5	5
Brought over,	737	60626	0	5	5
1768	36	2928	1	4	5
1769	36	3080	6	6	11
1770	34	2746	19	3	4
1771	38	3148	7	2	0
1772	45	3796	14	1	3
1773	42	3309	7	6	6
1774	44	3212	10	5	11
1775	30	2401	13	1	4
1776	33	2531	6	10	6
1777	34	2592	13	2	8
1778	28	2354	8	7	2
1779	34	2695	17	2	10
1780	43	3530	16	4	6
1781	28	1923	10	0	9
1782	26	2314	16	11	0
1783	34	2991	8	0	1
1784	36	3114	3	2	4
1785	42	3381	12	8	1
1786	42	3361	5	7	6
1787	41	3412	3	5	5
	1463	119454	2	3	11
Add the amount of the stipends of 60 parishes, in which the admission of an assistant and successor prevented a vacancy*, - - -		4592	6	11	4
		124046	9	3	3

If the above sum is divided by forty (the number of years) the average amount of vacant stipends will appear to have been L. 3101 : 3 : $2\frac{9}{12}$.

* It may not be improper to mention, that of 1463 vacancies, which have happened within the course of forty years, 983 were occasioned by the death of the incumbents, 406 by translations from one benefice to another, 65 by resignations, and 9 by sentences of deprivation. It may also be observed, that had there been no assistants and successors, there would have been 60 additional vacancies, and almost all of them occasioned by deaths.

If any dependence can be placed on the preceding Table, it appears, that if each parish which has been vacant within the last forty years, including sixty in which assistants and successors have prevented vacancies, had uniformly continued vacant for one whole year after the last incumbent and his family had ceased to have right to the benefice, the vacant stipends, according to their present value, would have produced an average annual sum of L. 3101 : 3 : $2\frac{9}{12}$. There is every reason to conclude, that the number of future vacancies will be in the same proportion; and therefore, that this average annual sum may be safely relied on in any scheme which may be attempted for augmenting the livings of the clergy by means of the vacant stipends, if the stipend of each parish, as often as it shall become vacant, shall be appropriated for one whole year. In all probability the annual sum would in fact be found to be greater still. Many parishes are, from particular circumstances, kept vacant for several years together; and the general fund would in every such instance receive a great addition. Cases of this sort, however, cannot be calculated with precision from any facts which have occurred in the course of the last forty years. The causes which have hitherto operated chiefly to protract vacancies, are not likely to have the same influence in future. And therefore, though any fund to be created from vacant stipends might be supposed to gain considerably by the number of vacancies extended beyond a year, no dependence is placed on this circumstance at present, excepting in as far as it may be supposed to compensate such deficiencies in the fund as might arise from unforeseen events.

But even from the average produce of vacant stipends which has been stated, (L. 3101 : 3 : $2\frac{9}{12}$), there must be a considerable deduction, on account of the taxes payable out each vacant stipend to the fund established for ministers widows. The average amount of these taxes from the vacant stipends of a year is L. 236 : 1 : $3\frac{7}{12}$; so that the remaining sum, of L. 2865 : 1 : $11\frac{2}{12}$, is all that could be fairly depended on as the free annual produce of vacant livings.

But it is submitted to the public, whether even this sum, properly accu-

accumulated, would not, within a certain number of years, (which will be afterwards mentioned), be ſufficient to create a fund, which would make a very conſiderable addition to the preſent ſtipends of the parochial clergy.

The miniſters of the church of Scotland may be divided, by the preſent ſtate of their livings, into four claſſes: the firſt, comprehending thoſe whoſe preſent ſtipends, according to their real value, are under L. 50 yearly, or do not exceed that ſum; the ſecond, including thoſe whoſe preſent ſtipends are upwards of L. 50, and do not exceed L. 70; the third claſs, comprehending thoſe whoſe annual ſtipends, though nominally high in proportion to many of the reſt, are in reality of leſs value to the incumbents, from the expenſive ſituations in which they are placed; and the fourth, comprehending all the other ſtipends in Scotland which are at preſent upwards of L. 70 yearly, and are not included in the third claſs.

It is obvious that no general addition to the ſtipends of all theſe claſſes of the clergy can be made effectual at one time. The moſt favourable view which can be given of the plan which is now ſubmitted to the public is, that it might ſecure a ſolid and permanent augmentation to each of the claſſes ſeparately, within certain ſtated, though unequal periods.

The claims of the clergy to relief, may be fairly ſuppoſed to be in proportion to thoſe four different claſſes of ſtipends. And if it can be ſhown, that a fund may be created from the accumulation of vacant livings, ſufficient to ſecure a permanent augmentation to all the ſtipends of the firſt claſs, within a period of ten years from the commencement of the ſcheme, and to each of the other claſſes within certain other periods in their order; it is humbly apprehended, that the general deſign cannot be thought unworthy of public encouragement.

It muſt at preſent be ſuppoſed, that an act of the legiſlature can be obtained, veſting the vacant ſtipends of the kingdom in certain truſtees, ſecuring to thoſe truſtees one year's ſtipend at leaſt of each vacant parish, and empowering them to accumulate and appropriate the annual

annual produce, for augmenting in their order the ſeveral claſſes of parochial ſtipends.

What relates to the management of the fund, will be conſidered in the concluſion of this Sketch.

But, if the facts which have been ſtated can be depended on, the ſecond Table will ſhew, that the accumulation of the vacant ſtipends of ten years would be ſufficient to augment all the ſtipends of the firſt claſs (in number 52, ſome of them at preſent conſiderably under L. 40) to L. 65 yearly each; and would beſides leave in the hands of the truſtees a very conſiderable ſinking fund, for future augmentations.

It is neceſſary to ſuppoſe a particular year for the commencement of the fund, in order to ſtate the progreſs of it; and therefore the ſtipends of crop 1790 are taken, and are ſuppoſed to be received by the truſtees at Candlemas 1792.

There is no doubt a large allowance made for the time neceſſary in collecting them; as it may well be ſuppoſed that they ought to be made payable much ſooner than they are ſtated in the Tables, as received by the truſtees. But many difficulties may be expected to attend the collection, (eſpecially in the early ſtages of the buſineſs), both from the uſual practice in the payment of ſtipends, and from the extent of the country. And it is, at leaſt, ſafer in the calculation, to fix the term at which the truſtees may be ſuppoſed to receive the annual produce, at a more diſtant, than at too early a day.

It ſhould alſo be obſerved, that in the following Tables, the annual produce is calculated at an intereſt of four and a half *per cent.* from the time when it is ſuppoſed to have come into the hands of the truſtees. There ſeems to be no reaſon, from experience*, to doubt, that this rate of intereſt would be always obtained, as long

* The calculations relative to the fund eſtabliſhed for miniſters widows, &c. proceeded on the ſuppoſition of no more than an intereſt of 4 *per cent.* But, excepting the ſums lent to contributors, on bonds of L. 30 each, which in whole amounted to between L. 29,000 and L. 30,000, and were limited by the acts of parliament to that rate of intereſt, all the money which the truſtees have hitherto diſpoſed of, has uniformly been lent on heritable bonds, at an intereſt of four and a half *per cent.*; and there has been no difficulty to find proper ſecurities, as often as they have had money to lend.

as the law of the country remains as it is. But ſome time would certainly be neceſſary to enable the truſtees to render the funds of each year productive, after they ſhould be poſſeſſed of them. No allowance has been made for this circumſtance in the Tables; becauſe it is plain, that in the act of parliament, without which the ſcheme could not be made effectual, there muſt be a proviſion, by which the vacant ſtipends ſhould become payable by the ſeveral heritors, at leaſt ſix months ſooner than the term ſuppoſed for completing the collection, and ſhould bear an intereſt of five *per cent.* till they ſhould be actually paid. The landed proprietors would have no reaſon to complain of this ſtipulation; becauſe the ſtipends would not be exacted from them till nine months at leaſt after they had become due; and an intereſt of 5 *per cent.* from the term of payment, would either enable the truſtees to complete the collection much ſooner than is ſuppoſed in the Tables, or would more than compenſate them for any deficiencies which could ariſe from the time which might be loſt in rendering the funds productive.

TABLE II.

Shewing the progreſſive Accumulation of Stock, according to the preceding Facts, for the firſt Ten Years.

	L.	s.	d.	12ths.
Amount of vacant ſtipends, from Michaelmas 1789 to Michaelmas 1790, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1792; being the average ſum of the real ſtipends of the pariſhes which have been annually vacant for forty years, -	3101	3	2	9
Deduct taxes payable to the miniſters widows fund, at the rate of L. 6, 4 s. for each year's vacant ſtipend, taken at the average ſum for the ſame number of years, - -	236	1	3	7
Remains of free ſtipend at Candlemas 1792,	2865	1	11	2

	L.	s.	d.	12ths.
Brought over,	L. 2865	1	11	2
Add a year's intereſt at 4½ per cent. to Candlemas 1793, - -	128	18	7	0
— A year's free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1791, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1793, the taxes to the miniſters widows fund being deducted as above, -	2865	1	11	2
Stock at Candlemas 1793,	5859	2	5	4
Add intereſt as above to Candlemas 1794,	263	13	2	4
— A year's free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1792, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1794, - -	2865	1	11	2
Stock at Candlemas 1794,	8987	17	6	10
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1795, -	404	9	0	11
— Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1793, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1795, -	2865	1	11	2
Stock at Candlemas 1795,	12257	8	6	11
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1796, -	551	11	8	0
— Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1794, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1796,	2865	1	11	2
Stock at Candlemas 1796,	15674	2	2	1
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1797, -	705	6	8	2
— Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1795, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1797,	2865	1	11	2
Stock at Candlemas 1797,	19244	10	9	5
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1798, -	866	0	0	9
— Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1796, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1798,	2865	1	11	2
Stock at Candlemas 1798,	22975	12	9	4

	L.	s.	d.	12ths.
Brought forward,	22975	12	9	4
Add interest to Candlemas 1799, -	1033	18	0	9
— Free stipends to Michaelmas 1797, supposed to be received at Candlemas 1799,	2865	1	11	2
Stock at Candlemas 1799,	26874	12	9	3
Add interest to Candlemas 1800, -	1209	7	1	10
— Free stipends to Michaelmas 1798, supposed to be received at Candlemas 1800,	2865	1	11	2
Stock at Candlemas 1800,	30949	1	10	3
Add interest to Candlemas 1801, -	1392	14	2	0
— Free stipends to Michaelmas 1799, supposed to be received at Candlemas 1801,	2865	1	11	2
Stock at Candlemas 1801,	35206	17	11	5
Deduct the capital to be sunk at this term, for securing an annual revenue of L. 1008; the interest, computed at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. being the sum necessary for augmenting the stipends of fifty-two parishes, which at present are at L. 50 and under, and raising each of them to L. 65 yearly, -	22400	0	0	0
Remains of free stock at Candlemas 1801, to be carried to Table III. - -	L. 12806	17	11	5

Whatever objections may be urged against the other parts of his plan, the author is persuaded, that the prospect of so considerable an augmentation as the preceding Table supposes to be made effectual from the produce of ten years, to all the stipends of the first class, will at least be allowed to be a strong argument in its favour. The ministers who hold those benefices in their present state, have not what is enough to provide their families in the necessaries

cessaries of life. They are, beyond doubt, in the most difficult situations; and have a preferable claim to all the other clergy of the kingdom. And if such an annual sum could be effectually added to their small livings within so limited a term, a capital object would certainly be gained to the church, whatever might be the fate of the other branches of the scheme.

By some, a stipend even of L. 65 yearly may be thought too limited a provision. But if it is observed, that the real addition which would be made to those small benefices is in itself far from being inconsiderable; that a greater sum would encroach too much on the common fund, to afford a prospect not very remote of augmenting the other stipends of the kingdom; that L. 65 yearly would, on the plan suggested in this Sketch, become the smallest provision made for any parochial minister; and that those 52 parishes do not, in general, lie in the most expensive situations; the author persuades himself, that no solid objection to the general design will arise among candid men, from the limits assigned to the augmentations intended for the stipends of the first class.

It may, perhaps, be thought, that the sinking fund is too large stated in Table II. as remaining with the trustees, after the first augmentations are supposed to be completed. But it must be considered, that the stipends belonging to the second class are in number 250; and that, without such a sinking fund, there would be no prospect of securing augmentations to them within a reasonable time.

It will appear from Table III. that, with the aid of this sinking fund, the accumulation of vacant stipends would, at the end of fourteen years from the time of the first augmentations, be sufficient to augment all the stipends of the second class (which are at present upwards of L. 50, and do not exceed L. 70) to the yearly sum of L. 75 each.

A circumstance in this Table requires to be explained. It is obvious, that in the parishes first augmented, the same proportion of vacancies must be supposed as in the other parishes of the kingdom; and therefore that, from Candlemas 1801, the fund would gain annually

nually an additional ſum in proportion to the number of vacancies occurring in fifty-two pariſhes, and to the average amount of the augmentations eſtabliſhed. This additional ſum is ſtated in Table III. at L. 40 annually; and there is every reaſon from experience to be aſſured, that the computation would be juſtified by the fact.

TABLE III.

Shewing the Accumulation of Stock from the Time when the Firſt Claſs of Stipends ſhall have been augmented, till a ſufficient Sum ſhall be raiſed to augment 250 Stipends belonging to the Second Claſs.

	L.	s.	d.	12ths.
Balance of Free Stock at Candlemas 1801, brought from Table II. - -	12806	17	11	5
Add a year's intereſt at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to Candlemas 1802, - - -	576	6	2	5
— Amount of vacant ſtipends from Michaelmas 1799, to Michaelmas 1800, after deducting the taxes payable to the miniſters widows fund, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1802,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum which will ariſe annually from the vacant ſtipends of the 52 pariſhes, augmented at the end of the firſt ten years, as per Table II. after their ſeveral augmentations ſhall have been eſtabliſhed, being the difference between the original and the augmented ſtipends, computed at - -	40	0	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1802,	16288	6	1	0

	L.	s.	d.	12ths.
Brought forward,	16288	6	1	0
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1803, -	732	19	5	5
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1801, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1803,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above, -	40	0	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1803,	19926	7	5	7
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1804, -	896	13	8	9
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1802, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1804,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above, -	40	0	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1804,	23728	3	1	6
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1805, -	1067	15	3	11
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1803, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1805,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above, -	40	0	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1805,	27701	0	4	7
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1806, -	1246	10	10	11
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1804, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1806,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above, -	40	0	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1806,	31852	13	2	8
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1807, -	1433	7	4	6
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1805, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1807,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above, -	40	0	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1807,	36191	2	6	4
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1808, -	1628	12	0	1
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1806, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1808,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo additional ſum as above, -	40	0	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1808,	40724	16	5	7

	L.	s.	d.	12ths.
Brought forward,	40724	16	5	7
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1809, -	1832	12	3	10
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1807, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1809,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above, -	40	0	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1809,	45462	10	8	7
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1810, -	2945	16	3	2
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1808, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1810,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above, -	40	0	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1810,	50413	8	10	11
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1811, -	2268	12	0	11
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1809, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1811,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above, -	40	0	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1811,	55587	2	11	0
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1812, -	2501	8	5	1
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1810, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1812,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above, -	40	0	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1812,	60993	13	3	3
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1813, -	2744	14	3	4
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1811, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1813,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above, -	40	0	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1813,	66643	9	5	9
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1814, -	2998	19	1	3
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1812, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1814,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above, -	40	0	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1814,	72547	10	6	2

	L.	s.	d.	12ths.
Brought forward,	72547	10	6	2
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1815, -	3264	12	9	1
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1813, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1815,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above, -	40	0	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1815,	78717	5	2	5
Deduct the capital to be ſunk at this term for ſecuring an annual revenue of L. 3289, 10s. the intereſt computed at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. being the ſum neceſſary for augmenting the ſtipends of 250 pariſhes, which at preſent are above L. 50 and do not exceed L. 70, and raiſing each of them to L. 75 yearly, - -	73100	0	0	0
Remains of Stock at Candlemas 1815, carried to Table IV. - - -	L. 5617	5	2	5

If the addition intended for the ſtipends of the ſecond claſs ſhould be completed according to the preceding Table, at the end of fourteen years from the date of the firſt augmentation, it is humbly apprehended, that it is no ſmall recommendation of the general deſign, that it would be effectual to ſecure an augmentation of 302 ſtipends, at preſent the loweſt in the kingdom, within a period which a conſiderable number of the preſent incumbents have a natural proſpect of ſurviving.

The annual ſum ſuppoſed to be added to the 250 ſtipends of the ſecond claſs, cannot juſtly be conſidered as a ſmall augmentation. Some of them would be raiſed from leſs than L. 51 to L. 75. And though to a few which at preſent approach neareſt to L. 70, the addition would not be very important; this circumſtance would be unavoidable in any plan for augmenting unequal ſtipends from limited funds, according to any general rule.

The third claſs of ſtipends in the arrangement which has been ſtated, comprehends thoſe which, whatever may be the amount of

them,

them, have loſt much of their real value, by means of the expenſive ſituations to which they are attached. Theſe are at preſent ſuppoſed to be in number fifty-four; and though there is certainly room for a difference of opinion with regard to the comparative ſituations of particular pariſhes, the author does not apprehend, from any inquiries he has made into the ſubject, that a greater proportion of ſtipends could fairly or reaſonably be included under this claſs.

It will appear from Table IV. that with the aid of the ſinking fund, ſtated at the end of Table III. the accumulation of vacant ſtipends will, in ten years from the period when the ſecond claſs of augmentations is ſuppoſed to be completed, be ſufficient to augment all the ſtipends of the third claſs (at the number of 54), and to add to each of them L. 30 annually.

It muſt be obſerved, at the ſame time, that though the augmentations intended for the ſtipends of the third claſs are ſtated at the average ſum of L. 30, it is far from being ſuppoſed that an equal addition ought to be made to each of them. Many of them would require a greater, and ſome of them would certainly be ſufficiently provided for by a leſs augmentation. If the plan were to ſucceed, it would be neceſſary to examine accurately and impartially the comparative ſituations of thoſe pariſhes, ſo as to diſtribute to each of them its fair and reaſonable proportion of the total ſum intended for the claſs. But it is apprehended, that if the fund, at the period ſuppoſed, ſhould be ſufficient to afford them an average augmentation of L. 30, it would anſwer all the purpoſes of ſecuring to each of them ſuch a proportional addition as their particular ſituations would be found to require.

To explain Table IV. it is only neceſſary to add, that the additional ſum ſuppoſed to be annually gained by means of the vacancies occurring in the ſtipends augmented under the firſt and ſecond claſſes, is, according to the rule followed in the preceding Table, ſtated at L. 171, 10s.

TABLE

TABLE IV.

Shewing the Accumulation of Stock, from the Time when the Second Claſs of Stipends ſhall have been augmented, till a ſufficient Sum ſhall be raiſed to augment the Stipends belonging to the Third Claſs.

	L.	s.	d.	4ths.
Balance of ſtock at Candlemas 1815, brought from Table III. - -	5617	5	2	5
Add a year's intereſt, at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to Candlemas 1816, - - -	252	15	6	3
— The amount of vacant ſtipends from Michaelmas 1813 to Michaelmas 1814, after deducting the taxes payable to the miniſters widows fund, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1816,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum which will ariſe annually from the vacant ſtipends of the 302 pariſhes augmented per the 2d and 3d Tables, being the difference between the original and augmented ſtipends, computed at -	171	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1816,	8906	12	7	10
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1817, -	400	15	11	6
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1815, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1817,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum, as above, -	171	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1817,	12344	0	6	6
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1818, -	555	9	7	3
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1816, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1818,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum, as above, -	171	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1818,	15936	2	0	11

	L.	s.	d.	tths.
Brought forward,	15936	2	0	11
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1819, -	717	2	5	10
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1817, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1819,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum, as above, -	171	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1819,	19689	16	5	11
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1820, -	886	0	9	10
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1818, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1820,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum, as above, -	171	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1820,	23612	9	2	11
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1821, -	1062	11	2	4
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1819, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1821,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum, as above, -	171	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1821,	27711	12	4	5
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1822, -	1247	0	5	4
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1820, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1822,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum, as above, -	171	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1822,	31995	4	8	11
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1823, -	1439	15	8	5
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1821, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1823,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum, as above, -	171	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1823,	36471	12	4	6
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1824, -	1641	4	5	4
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1822, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1824,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum, as above, -	171	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1824,	41149	8	9	0

	L.	s.	d.	tths.
Brought forward,	41149	8	9	0
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1825, -	1851	14	5	7
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1823, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1825,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum, as above, -	171	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1825,	46037	15	1	9
Deduct the capital to be ſunk at this term for ſecuring an annual revenue of L. 1620, the intereſt computed at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. being the ſum neceſſary for augmenting the ſtipends of 54 pariſhes belonging to the third Claſs, adding to each of them L. 30 yearly, or diſtributing among them the annual ſum of L. 1620, in ſuch proportions as ſhall be thought beſt ſuited to the circumſtances of each pariſh reſpectively, - - - -	36000	0	0	0
Remains of free ſtock, carried to Table V. L.	10037	15	1	9

The plan is completed by the preceding Tables, as far as it relates to the three firſt claſſes of parochial ſtipends. And it is humbly apprehended, that the augmentations propoſed to be made to theſe claſſes reſpectively, if once effectually ſecured, would produce a moſt important change on the general condition of the clergy. Thoſe whoſe benefices are at preſent leaſt proportioned to the neceſſary expence of their ſituations, would certainly be greatly relieved; and by the common courſe of tranſlations from the ſmaller to the better livings, the advantages would be ſtill more generally diffuſed.

The term at which the ſtipends of the third claſs are ſuppoſed to be augmented, cannot well be objected to, when their preſent proportion to the livings of the two firſt claſſes is conſidered, with the proſpect of ſo conſiderable an addition to be made to them at the ſtated period.

But the fourth claſs of ſtipends, which comprehends far the greateſt number, would ſtill remain to be provided for. The number of ſtipends which are at preſent upwards of L. 70 annually, and are not included in the 3d claſs, is 580. From theſe, the advantages of ſuch a ſcheme as is now ſuggeſted, would certainly be much farther removed than from any of the other claſſes. But it ought to be conſidered, that theſe have hitherto poſſeſſed ſuperior advantages; that a great proportion of them may be ſtated at preſent at from L. 80 to L. 100 yearly; that not a few of them exceed even that ſum; that many of them have been augmented by the court of teinds; and that it muſt form an eſſential part of every plan which can be ſuggeſted for augmenting the parochial livings from the produce of vacancies, to poſtpone the advantages intended for the moſt numerous claſs of ſtipends, till thoſe ſhall have been provided for which evidently require a more immediate and a greater augmentation.

But it will appear from Table V. that with the aid of the ſinking fund ſtated at the end of Table IV. the accumulation of vacant ſtipends will, in twenty-ſix years from the date of the third claſs of augmentations, be ſufficient to augment all the ſtipends of the 4th claſs, and to add to each of them a ſum within a trifle of L. 14 yearly.——With this addition to the preſent ſtate of thoſe livings, it is humbly apprehended the incumbents would not have much reaſon to be diſſatisfied.

In the following Table, the additional ſum ſuppoſed to be gained annually by the ſtipends augmented under the three preceding claſſes, is ſtated at L. 236, 10s.

TABLE

TABLE V.

Shewing the Accumulation of Stock from the Time when the Third Claſs of Stipends ſhall have been augmented, until a ſufficient Sum ſhall be raiſed to augment 580 Stipends belonging to the Fourth Claſs.

	L.	s.	d.	12ths.
Balance of ſtock at Candlemas 1825, brought from Table 4. - -	10037	15	1	9
Add a year's intereſt, at 4½ per cent. to Candlemas 1826, - - -	451	13	11	8
— The amount of vacant ſtipends from Michaelmas 1823 to Michaelmas 1824, after deducting the taxes payable to the miniſters widows fund, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1826,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum which will ariſe annually from the vacant ſtipends of 356 pariſhes, augmented, per the 2d, 3d, and 4th Tables, being the difference between the original and the augmented ſtipends, computed at -	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1826,	13591	1	0	7
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1827, -	611	11	11	3
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1825, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1827,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum, as above, -	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1827,	17304	4	11	0
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1828, -	778	13	9	7
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1826, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1828,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum, as above, -	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1828,	21184	10	7	9

	L.	s.	d.	12ths.
Brought forward,	21184	10	7	9
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1829, -	953	6	0	8
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1827, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1829,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum, as above, -	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1829,	25239	8	7	7
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1830, -	1135	15	5	7
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1828, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1830,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum, as above, -	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1830,	29476	16	0	4
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1831, -	1326	9	1	4
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1829, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1831,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum, as above, -	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1831,	33904	17	0	10
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1832, -	1525	14	4	2
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1830, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1832,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum, as above, -	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1832,	38532	3	4	2
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1833, -	1733	18	11	3
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1831, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1833,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum, as above, -	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1833,	43367	14	2	7
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1834,	1951	10	11	1
— Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1832, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1834,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above,	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1834,	48420	17	0	10

	L.	s.	d.	12ths.
Brought forward,	48420	17	0	10
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1835, -	2178	18	9	2
— Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1833, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1835,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above,	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1835,	53701	7	9	2
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1836, -	2416	11	2	11
— Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1834, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1836,	2865	1	11	2
Alſo the additional ſum as above,	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1836,	59219	10	11	3
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1837, -	2664	17	6	10
— Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1835, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1837,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above,	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1837,	64986	0	5	3
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1838, -	2924	7	5	6
— Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1836, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1838,	2865	1	11	2
Alſo the additional ſum as above, -	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1838,	71011	19	9	11
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1839,	3195	10	9	10
— Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1837, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1839,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above,	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1839,	77309	2	6	11
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1840, -	3478	18	2	4
— Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1838, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1840,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above,	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1840,	83889	12	8	5

	L.	s.	d.	12ths.
Brought forward,	83889	12	8	5
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1841,	3775	0	7	9
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1839, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1841,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above,	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1841,	90766	5	3	4
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1842,	4084	9	7	7
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1840, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1842,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above,	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1842,	97952	6	10	1
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1843,	4407	17	1	1
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1841, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1843,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above,	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1843,	105461	15	10	4
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1844, -	4745	15	7	3
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1842, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1844,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above, -	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1844,	113309	3	4	9
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1845, -	5098	18	2	9
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1843, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1845,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above, -	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1845,	121509	13	6	8
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1846, -	5467	18	8	2
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1844, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1846,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above, -	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1846,	130079	4	2	0

	L.	s.	d.	12ths.
Brought forward,	130079	4	2	0
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1847, -	5853	11	3	2
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1845, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1847,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above, -	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1847,	139034	7	4	4
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1848, -	6256	10	10	11
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1846, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1848,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above, -	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1848,	148392	10	2	5
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1849, -	6677	13	2	11
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1847, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1849,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above, -	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1849,	158171	15	4	6
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1850, -	7117	14	7	0
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1848, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1850,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above, -	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1850,	168391	1	10	8
Add intereſt to Candlemas 1851, -	7577	11	11	9
—Free ſtipends to Michaelmas 1849, ſuppoſed to be received at Candlemas 1851,	2865	1	11	2
— Alſo the additional ſum as above, -	236	10	0	0
Stock at Candlemas 1851,	179070	5	9	7

The above ſtock, producing an annual intereſt at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of L. 8058 : 3 : $3\frac{1}{12}$, is the ſum to be ſunk at this term for augmenting the ſtipends of 580 pariſhes belonging to the Fourth Claſs, and adding to each of them L. 13 : 17 : $10\frac{1}{12}$.

The four preceding Tables have ſhewn the progreſs of the ſtock during

during the courſe of ſixty years, till the ſcheme ſhould be completed.

In caſe the augmentations ſuppoſed in the preceding Table for the ſtipends of the 4th claſs ſhould be thought to be too limited, the author is happy to obſerve, that by extending the period propoſed for augmenting the firſt claſs of ſtipends from ten to twelve years, ſuch an additional ſum would be gained to the ſtock, as by accumulation till the ſcheme ſhould be completed, would enable the truſtees to add to each of the ſtipends of the 4th claſs, inſtead of L. 13 : 17 : 10$\frac{4}{12}$, a ſum upwards of L. 21 yearly. If the plan ſhould be liſtened to, this circumſtance would certainly deſerve to be conſidered; and would be intitled to the more attention, as the vacant ſtipends ariſing from the 4th claſs are ſuppoſed to contribute for ſo many years to the augmentation of the other benefices. Sixty-two years inſtead of ſixty would, in this view, be neceſſary to accompliſh the deſign.

At the ſame time, in forming the Tables, the author was unwilling to ſuppoſe the addition, ſo obviouſly neceſſary to the loweſt ſtipends in the kingdom, to be poſtponed beyond ten years, for the ſake of more diſtant, and comparatively leſs neceſſary augmentations.

It will be obſerved, that that part of the ſtipends which conſiſts of victual, is ſuppoſed to produce to the fund its real annual value. But every man acquainted with the ſubject, muſt be ſenſible, that the collection would be involved in inſuperable difficulties, unleſs it ſhould be provided, that this part of the vacant ſtipends ſhould be paid by the heritors in money, at certain ſtated prices, regulated at leaſt, though not perhaps determined by the fiars of the ſeveral counties. A proviſion of this kind would render the collection eaſy, and would prevent any diſputes which might be ſuppoſed to ariſe from accidental or local differences in the price of grain.

In the laſt article of each of the Tables, it has been ſuppoſed, that the principal ſum neceſſary to produce the augmentations intended for each ſeparate claſs of ſtipends, is to be ſunk on permanent ſecurities, at the terms at which thoſe ſeveral claſſes of augmentations are ſuppoſed to take place. It is underſtood that the truſtees

truſtees are not to have the immediate management of the ſtock, after it ſhall have been appropriated at the ſtated periods. But it has occurred to the author, that if the general deſign ſhould be thought worthy of attention, ſome plan ought to be adopted, by which the principal ſums intended for each claſs of augmentations ſhould be lent or ſunk on ſuch permanent ſecurities, as ſhould render it eaſy for the incumbents to receive the annual produce, and ſhould in a great meaſure ſuperſede the neceſſity of a ſubſequent management.

This object might certainly be attained in many different ways. But it is humbly apprehended, that no plan would in general afford a better ſecurity to the funds, or render it eaſier for the incumbents to receive the annual produce regularly, than to lend or ſink the principal ſum appropriated to each ſtipend, on a ſeparate heritable bond over lands belonging to the pariſh, payable to the preſent incumbent and to his ſucceſſors in office, and bearing a yearly intereſt of four and a half per cent.

If it ſhould be difficult, in any caſe, to find a proper ſecurity over lands within the pariſh, it might in this event be provided, that the truſtees ſhould have power to accept of ſuch heritable ſecurities as they ſhould think moſt eligible, over lands ſituated within the bounds of the preſbytery or county within which the pariſh lies.

It would, no doubt, be neceſſary to provide, at the ſame time, that it ſhould not be competent to change the ſecurities originally granted, without the conſent of the truſtees, as long as their powers ſhould remain with them, or after their truſt ſhould have expired, without the conſent of the preſbytery of the bounds and the ſheriff of the county.

This plan of ſecuring the funds to be appropriated at the four ſucceſſive periods ſuppoſed, would have ſome obvious and peculiar advantages, and does not appear to the author to be involved in any conſiderable difficulties.

There is indeed another mode which will be allowed to be a preferable one in every caſe in which there ſhould be an opportunity of adopting it. The ſum intended for augmenting the ſtipends

could

could not perhaps be better employed, than in the purchaſe of lands to ſecure an addition to the glebes. As often as this could be done, it would afford the moſt permanent ſecurity to the incumbents, and would render the value of the livings progreſſive in proportion to the improvements of the country. It might not be poſſible in every caſe to find lands in the vicinity, or lands which could be purchaſed at ſuch a price as would not encroach on the value of the augmentation intended, and would at the ſame time be convenient for the incumbents. But this method ought unqueſtionably to be preferred to all others, in every inſtance in which it could be followed with propriety.

What relates to the general direction and management of the fund is yet to be ſuggeſted.

It has been ſuppoſed, that the vacant ſtipends are to be veſted in certain truſtees. And thoſe will certainly be allowed to be beſt qualified for the execution of ſuch a truſt, who, beſides their experience in buſineſs of the ſame kind, have ſuch an intereſt in the ſucceſs of the ſcheme, as will render them active and zealous in promoting it. It will naturally occur, that the truſtees of the fund eſtabliſhed for miniſters widows, &c. are the perſons who ought to be entruſted with the immediate management; that the vacant ſtipends ſhould be veſted in them; and that though their proceedings ſhould be ſubject to review, as will be afterwards mentioned, every thing neceſſary to collect the funds and render them productive, and to apply them to the purpoſes of the truſt, ſhould be carried on in their name and under their authority.

The clergy have a confidence in this body of men, from an experience of their fidelity and attention in the management of the fund already intruſted to them. And though there are ſome of the truſtees who could have no perſonal intereſt in a fund for augmenting the parochial livings, theſe are men who have a natural attachment to the members of the church, whoſe knowledge in buſineſs would be of importance in the management of the truſt, and whoſe impartiality and candour might always be depended on.

On the other hand, it is obvious, that the landed proprietors of Scotland

Scotland would alſo have an intereſt in a fund created for the benefit of the parochial livings; and it would be reaſonable that they ſhould be fully aſſured, that it would be properly conducted. On this account, it is humbly ſuggeſted, That it ſhould be alſo provided, that a meeting ſhould be held at Edinburgh once every year, conſiſting of the Lord Preſident and the four ſenior Judges of the Court of Seſſion, the Lord Chief Baron, and the ſenior Judge of the Court of Exchequer, the Lord Advocate and Solicitor-General for Scotland, the Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, and the ſheriffs-depute of each county within the kingdom; that the whole tranſactions and accounts of the truſtees for the year preceding ſhould be laid before this meeting, who ſhould have power to approve or diſapprove of them; that if the meeting ſhould approve of the proceedings of the truſtees, a minute to this effect ſhould be inſerted in their books, and ſubſcribed by the preſes; that if the meeting ſhould diſapprove of any part of the proceedings, their objections, with the anſwers made to them by the truſtees, ſhould be ſtated in a memorial, to be afterwards laid before the Court of Exchequer, who ſhould have power to judge of them and to determine finally.

It would be neceſſary alſo to provide, that an annual Report of the progreſs of the fund ſhould be made to the General Aſſembly, according to the practice obſerved with regard to the fund eſtabliſhed for miniſters widows.

This is the general ſcheme of management which has occurred to the author: the minuter parts of it, it is at preſent unneceſſary to ſtate. How far it is liable to any conſiderable objections muſt be left to the judgement of the public.

One other circumſtance, however, ought to be mentioned. The operative part of the buſineſs ought not to be entruſted to thoſe who hold reſponſible offices in the management of the fund eſtabliſhed for miniſters widows. A proviſion to this effect, the author apprehends, would be neceſſary, both to prevent the interference of funds intended for different purpoſes, and conducted by different rules, but what is much more important, to ſecure ſuch

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a degree of attention and ardour, as the collection and operative management of the fund ſuggeſted in this ſketch would certainly require.

The expence of management has not yet been provided for.

In ſtating the amount of the parochial ſtipends, it will be obſerved, that no notice has been taken of the glebes. As there can be no idea entertained of equalizing the livings, it is apprehended, that any difference in the annual amount of them produced by the unequal value of the glebes, may be ſafely allowed to remain as it is. But if the vacant ſtipends ſhould be veſted in truſtees for the purpoſes which have been ſtated, there can be no reaſon to prevent the annual produce of the vacant glebes from being included in the truſt: the ſum which would ariſe from it might be as much depended on as any other part of the funds, and would certainly be equal to the expence of management.

The act of parliament relative to the fund eſtabliſhed for miniſters widows, has limited the whole expence of management to L. 280 yearly. The annual produce of that fund far exceeds any ſum which could ariſe from vacant ſtipends; and every proviſion made to prevent unneceſſary expence from being brought upon the fund in the one caſe, would apply equally to the other. The produce of vacant glebes would probably be more, but cannot be eſtimated at leſs than L.200 yearly, every allowance being made for deficiencies ariſing from thoſe vacant pariſhes in which the incumbents are not poſſeſſed of glebes. This ſum, it is humbly apprehended, would be fully ſufficient to defray all the expence of management which could be fairly incurred.

The author has thus ſtated his general ideas on the ſubject. He is aware, that an inveſtigation of the plan may diſcover many objections to it which have not occurred to his mind; that every part of the arrangement may admit of improvements; and that a more equal and better diviſion of the ſtipends into claſſes may, perhaps, be ſuggeſted, as well as different periods for augmenting each of them. By ſome, the augmentations he has pointed out may not be thought to be ſufficient, and to others, they may ſeem to be diſtributed in improper

improper proportions. In a plan conſiſting of ſo many parts, no one man can be ſuppoſed to have ſufficiently conſidered every circumſtance, or to have been aware of every objection. The author's chief object has been, to ſhew that a conſiderable augmentation of the livings by means of the vacant ſtipends may be effected. And if the general deſign ſhould be adopted, he can have no reaſon to be diſſatisfied if any plan better than his ſhould be choſen to accompliſh it. He is fully convinced, on the one hand, that no idea of equalizing the livings ought to be adopted; that in augmenting the ſtipends, no diviſion of them into claſſes will be found to be admiſſible, in which an addition to the ſmall livings is not made the firſt and the chief object; and that no plan, by which a few livings would be raiſed greatly above the reſt, would be generally approved of in this country, or accord with the ſpirit of our eccleſiaſtical eſtabliſhment. On the other hand, he admits, that any different mode of arrangement, which ſhould either tend to ſhorten the periods of accumulation, or to diſtribute the ſums to be added to the ſtipends in a juſter proportion to the preſent circumſtances of the incumbents, would be a real improvement on the plan, and well intitled to public attention.

The author has no end to promote but the general intereſts of the order to which he belongs, and to which he has been much indebted. He can derive no perſonal advantages from the ſucceſs of his plan, and can have no perſonal reaſons of regret though it ſhould be diſregarded. If the public ſhall think it deſerves to be encouraged, every man's endeavours who can in any degree contribute to render it more complete, muſt be acceptable to him.

There are two objections which may be naturally ſuggeſted, which, before he concludes this Sketch, he thinks it neceſſary to mention.

The plan ſuppoſes that each pariſh which ſhall in future become vacant, ſhall uniformly remain ſo for a complete year at leaſt after the laſt incumbent and his family have ceaſed to have right to the benefice. Many inconveniencies will at firſt ſight be conceived to ariſe from this extenſion of the duration of vacancies.

 But

But it ought to be conſidered, that from a compariſon of the vacancies which have happened in the courſe of the laſt forty years, it does not appear that their duration has hitherto been ſo much leſs than a year, as to render the difference a ſource of much or general diſadvantage. During that period, the ſtipends, at an average, have always been vacant ſeven months; and it will not be pretended, that a difference of five months in the duration of vacancies, can afford any ſolid objection to a plan otherwiſe reaſonable, which would ſecure a general addition to the benefices. It will be obſerved, beſides, that in all vacancies produced by tranſlation, reſignation, or depoſition, in which no ann is competent, a year's vacant ſtipend would be obtained at leaſt ſix months ſooner than would be poſſible in the caſe of vacancies occaſioned by death. The average proportion of thoſe cauſes of vacancies has been, to the number of deaths, as 4 is to 9; and in the ſame proportion, therefore, there would be no neceſſity for extending the future vacancies beyond a year from the term of Michaelmas or Whitſunday immediately preceding their commencement. It ſhould alſo be conſidered, that the clergy are the perſons who are to reap the benefit of the plan if it ſhould be adopted; and beſides the attention which preſbyteries may therefore be ſuppoſed to beſtow on vacant pariſhes, it would be in their power, at all times, to leſſen the duration of vacancies, by means equally obvious and practicable. It has hitherto been common, to ordain or admit preſentees a few days or weeks before the term of Michaelmas or Whitſunday, in order to intitle them to the ſtipends from the term preceding. It would certainly be no great innovation, if the admiſſion of preſentees ſhould take place a few weeks after the term from which their right to the benefice is to commence. No injuſtice would be done to them; and by this means, it is apprehended, the duration of vacancies would not be more conſiderable on the whole than it appears to have been for forty years paſt. Individuals might be ſubjected to ſome temporary inconveniencies, but could have no reaſon to complain, if the meaſure ſhould be generally adopted, and if it ſhould

ſhould be thought in any degree to leſſen diſadvantages ariſing from a plan in other reſpects ſo important to the clergy.

The difficulty of providing for aſſiſtants and ſucceſſors may ſuggeſt another objection to the ſcheme. It is obvious indeed, that according to the ideas which have been ſtated, an aſſiſtant and ſucceſſor could not be admitted, on any other ſuppoſition, than that he ſhould continue to officiate after the incumbent's death on the ſame ſalary which he had enjoyed during his life, till the fund for augmenting the benefices ſhould have received a ſum equal to the annual value of the living. The ſituation would certainly become leſs eligible, and perhaps thoſe admiſſions leſs frequent. This circumſtance the author regrets, though he can mention no expedient to avoid it. It might exclude a few men in the decline of life from advantages which ſome of their predeceſſors have enjoyed, but could have no extenſive influence on the ſtate of the church. In forty years, there have been only ſixty inſtances, in which the admiſſion of an aſſiſtant and ſucceſſor has prevented a vacancy. There would ſtill be a certain proportion of them, notwithſtanding the condition ſuppoſed by the author's plan. And certainly no temporary diſadvantages to which a few individuals might be expoſed, can be ſet in oppoſition to the benefits ariſing from a general augmentation of the parochial livings.

The author muſt now leave the ſubject to the judgement of impartial men. In ſtating his ideas, he has attempted no more than to expreſs them with perſpicuity; perſuaded, that if the general Plan ſhall not be condemned, any defects which may be obſerved in the form of this Sketch will be forgiven.