

THE PRESBYTERY OF AYR has, as usual, published an interesting Annual Report. The same complaint is made by this as by many other Presbyteries, that, in many of the Parishes, the collections for all the Schemes have not been made. The culprit parishes are justly named in the Report, to their confusion. Owing to them, there is a falling off this year. Wallacetown was endowed and erected into a parish *quoad sacra*, and it is hoped, ere the next Report, the chapels of Girvan and Fullerton will be endowed also. During the year, a total of \$37,315 was raised for the missionary, parochial, and charitable purposes of the Presbytery.

THE EAST PARISH CHURCH, ABERDEEN, one of the oldest and most beautiful ecclesiastical structures in Scotland, was destroyed by fire on the evening of the 9th Oct. It was originally the one Parish Church of the town, and known as St. Nicholas', having, in the days of Episcopacy, a rectory and vicarage. The date of the erection of the building is unknown; but, in the year 1477, it was an old building, and insufficient for the suitable accommodation of the worshippers. Therefore the Magistrates and Town Council erected a Choir, which was, after the Reformation, transferred into the "East Kirk." It took thirty years to finish the work, and in 1507 the building was duly consecrated by the Bishop of Aberdeen. At the Reformation, the gorgeous altars, etc., were all destroyed, and the whole building rendered more suitable for the plain worship of the Reformed Church. In process of time, however, the old part of the Church fell into decay, and in 1732 was abandoned. The more recently erected part of the structure, the Choir, already referred to, was then, and for some time subsequently used as the City Church. In process of time, the West Church was rebuilt on the site and according to the plan of the old Church, and opened for public worship in 1755. Nearly a century afterwards, in 1828, the city was divided into six Parishes, the "East" and the "West" forming the churches in these two parishes respectively. In the course of years, it was found that the "East" Church had fallen into decay, and was accordingly renewed according to more

modern plans, at a cost of about \$25,000. Connecting the two parts of the building, the "East" and the "West," was situated an archway called "Drum's Aisle," above which rose the massive tower and steeple. It was so called from having been used as the burial-place of the family of Irvine of Drum; but of late years it was fitted up for the accommodation, during their sittings, of the Presbytery and Synod.

Such is an outline of the varied histories of the noble and beautiful churches which are now in ashes. We do not wonder that the hearts of the Aberdonians are sore over the loss. We all feel the force of the words of the old lady who, looking with a heavy heart upon the smoking mass of ruins, exclaimed: "Ay, it's a sad, sad affair; if it had only been the theatre, or some sic place, a body windna hae cared sac muckle."

Amid the relic-gathering of which Scotch people are so proverbially fond, the following curious incident occurred. A Bible was found all charred through and through, with the exception of one small portion in the very middle of the book, in which only one text was left uninjured; it was entire and perfect in every respect, and was the following suggestive one:—"Because ye have burned incense, and because ye have sinned against the Lord, and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord, nor walked in His law, nor in His statutes, nor in His testimonies, therefore this evil has happened unto you this day."

Intelligence.

We most heartily sympathize with the esteemed Rector of St. Paul's congregation in this city, (Episcopal), who, within a week, has been somewhat suddenly deprived of two of his most effective co-operators in all good work. The Rev Dr. Warren, Curate of that congregation, died, after two day's illness, on the 3rd inst. Although a comparative stranger, having come out from England a few years ago, his stay here was long enough to enable us to see and appreciate his many noble and endearing qualities. The other person referred