

Last year was in one respect a sad year for us, for death took from us some of our best known and most active members. Death is always sad, but in some instances the sadness was deepened by terrible suddenness. During my holiday, one sorrow after another came—sorrows which I felt not only as a pastor, but as an intimate personal friend, for I had the privilege of knowing as close and true friends, some of those who died. We all bear upon our hearts in tender sympathy the bereaved homes. It was not all loss, we have added some beautiful memories to our heritage, and surely we have learned and laid to heart the striking lessons. Who may be called away this year, we cannot tell; it may be any of us. Oh that we could begin now to live so that come death how and when it may, it may be a going home. Under the shadow of death may we learn the deeper meaning of life, and may this year be to all of us a year of greater nearness to God, of greater loyalty to Christ, of greater good-will to one another, and of greater zeal and activity in Christian life and work.

Your affectionate pastor,

JAMES BARCLAY, D.D.

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### Report of the Kirk-Session.

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WE are daily reminded of the shortness and uncertainty of life, but when death comes suddenly and takes away, as with a stroke, personal friends and acquaintances who were accounted to be yet in the "prime of life" and in the height of their activity and usefulness, the familiar message seems to be addressed to us in louder tones and with added solemnity—"Be ye also ready for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Thrice during the past year beloved members of this congregation were thus removed from our earthly fellowship. Mr. James Burnett, Mr. John Murray Smith, and Mr. James Richardson died suddenly last summer. The Session recorded its sense of the loss sustained by the congregation in the death of two of those brethern in the following minute:—

"It was unanimously resolved to record in the minutes, the great