

Dr. Hutton was as earnest and enthusiastic in favour of Disestablishment as in former years. Even Dr. Calderwood, who looked so pleasant and amiable as a Pan-Presbyterian, at Philadelphia, is capable of dealing heavy blows when he gets on 'his war path.' Dr. Cairns likewise. They all do it. But the Synod, as a whole, was satisfactory, and had a good healthy ring about it. THE IRISH ASSEMBLY met in Dublin, and although they had some burning questions on hand they appear to have handled them coolly and harmoniously. The number of congregations in the Irish Church is 560. The subject of missions occupied a large portion of the Assembly's time. It could scarcely fail to be markedly a missionary meeting with Dr. Fleming Stevenson as Moderator. It were a trite remark to say that the debates were conducted with manifest ability, for, give Irishmen their due, unpremeditated good speaking is a speciality with them. "The organ question" is still in the air, and although the Newtownbreda congregation has very prudently decided, in obedience to the recommendation of the Assembly, to discontinue, for the present, the use of their organ, it is easy to be seen that the agitation will be revived at an early day. According to the latest figures, the communicants of the Free Church are about 230,000, of the United about 172,000, and of the Established about 500,000. These, with the other divisions, would make nearly 1,000,000 Presbyterian communicants in Scotland, and show that more than three-fourths of the population are in Presbyterian families. The Free Church has 16 Synods, 73 Presbyteries, and 1,043 congregations, with 49 other preaching stations. Its money columns for the year just closed, grouped as we group ours, amounted to £491,102 (\$2,455,511) for congregational, and £99,230 for benevolent causes. The Foreign Mission collections, embraced in this, were £79,111. The Established Church has 1,268 parishes and 200 chapels and preaching stations. Its Foreign Mission contributions last year were £49,000. The United Presbyterian Church has 549 congregations. Last year £245,000 were raised for congregational, and £81,700 for missionary and benevolent purposes. The whole income for the year was £383,000. The average congregational income is about £700. The average salary of pastors is £265. Only 78 of the 550 ministers receive less than £200 a year. The original Scotch Secession, which, under the Erskines, left the Presbyterian establishment 160 years ago, has a Synod, 4 Presbyteries, 21 ministers, two of them professors, and 3,300 communicants. It appears that since the year 1841 the population of Ireland has decreased by more than three millions. The census re-

cently taken places the present population at 5,130,893, of whom 4,951,888 are Roman Catholics. The Episcopalians number 635,670; Presbyterians, 485,503; Methodists, 47,669.

Aged and Infirm Ministers Fund.

WESTERN SECTION.

ANNUAL COLLECTION.

THE ANNUAL COLLECTION for this Fund is, by appointment of the General Assembly, to be made on the third sabbath of August, by congregations that do not contribute to it from the funds of their missionary associations. While there has been a very considerable increase of income during the last three years, the increase has not been such as to enable the Committee to continue the payment of the maximum annuity of \$250. For the three years preceding the Assembly of 1878, the Committee, owing to the increase of the number of beneficiaries, had to draw upon their capital at the rate of \$1300 yearly. The Assembly of 1878 enjoined that there should be no further reduction of capital, and that only the income derived from congregational contributions, ministerial rates, and interest of capital should be paid out by the Committee in annuities and other necessary expenditures; and at the same time urged congregations to support the Fund more liberally. To a very great extent, there has been on the part of congregations a most dutiful response to the Assembly's appeals for increased contributions; but unhappily there are not a few congregations, and some of these VERY WEALTHY CITY congregations, that have hitherto done little or nothing to assist the Committee in their struggle to prevent the reduction of the annuities. During the past year, *twenty-seven* retired ministers received annuities, varying from \$100 to \$220, and amounting in all to \$5760. *One* beneficiary died during the year; and *three* will be added to the list by the action of the late Assembly. The Committee, therefore, has this year to meet the claims of *twenty-nine* beneficiaries, who, with few exceptions, are much in need of all that the Fund can do for them. \$6000 will hardly suffice to pay the annuities at the same rate as last year; and not less than \$6500 will be necessary to enable the Committee to resume their payment of \$250. The full amount required will, without doubt, be placed at the disposal of the Committee, if congregations that have hitherto been neglectful in relation to the Fund will, this year, send in only such moderate contributions as shall not be so small as to warrant either personal or Presby-