

manner of conducting public worship, meetings of Session, or sacramental seasons, he had none; for he was a Presbyterian, and the four walls of the Church, necessary for her well being, all built upon the chief corner stone, namely, doctrine, government, worship and discipline, were by him, as a sentinel on his watchtower, faithfully guarded. He was an ensample to the flock, pointing to a better world and leading the way.

The privilege of hearing him conduct worship in his family morning and evening, on the visits to him above named during his season of debility, I highly prized, and regard these days as among the most refreshing times of my life. The boldness with which he came to the throne of grace, the subdued emotions of his soul, his solemn and melodious voice, the action and fervor which adorned his morning and evening song of praise, and his profound veneration for the Word of God, were all calculated, under the Holy Spirit, to arouse attention and refresh the soul.

Wherever, during the efficient years of his ministry, he appeared and preached he was heard with earnest attention, especially when the hand of disease was upon him. Tall and commanding in person, with a voice of rich melody and of great compass, with a due attention to personal appearance, and above all having his own soul deeply impressed with the awful realities contained in his message, and its effects for weal or for woe, upon his hearers, his influences on his audiences were unusually great. His instructions were clear, forcible and valuable; but in his impressions upon the soul through the affections were his peculiar characteristics exhibited. Never can I forget some of his solemn appeals to his hearers, and, in one of these, his enunciation of the twenty-second verse of the fiftieth Psalm* was among the most thrilling and impressive intonations of the human voice which ever fell upon my ear.

VIII. HIS DEMISSION.

In the spring of 1833 he was attacked by pleurisy, and from its effects, combined with consumption, he never recovered. In the infant state of the congregation he could not think of being longer chargeable on its bounty when he could no longer perform the duties of his office, and he adopted the resolution to *demit his charge*. This step was the more trying to the feelings of the man, the husband and the father, inasmuch as having devoted himself exclusively to the duties of his office (not so common a course then as now) he had derived from his limited income little more than the means of immediate subsistence for his increasing family. But the conviction of duty prevailed over every other consideration, and with *Jehovah-Jireh* as his maxim, he applied to the Presbytery for a dissolution of the connection between him and his flock. Under the peculiar circumstances of the case, the Presbytery felt that it was their duty, however painful to their feelings, to comply with his request. His demission was accepted and the Rev James Waddell was appointed to intimate the fact to the congregation. The scene that followed we shall give in his words:—

"Seldom has it fallen to my lot to be engaged in so deeply affecting a service as that of publicly announcing to the people the decision of the Church. Proof's of

* "Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver."