

first ten years of our existence as a Church, during several years of which period, you performed a large amount of strictly missionary labour, in addition to the regular duties of the Pastoral charge of the Church. At that time our membership was scattered over, not only this township, but also the neighboring ones of Pickering and Darlington, and the oversight of so wide-spread a congregation involved a great amount of mental and bodily exertion.

Being as you were the first educated minister in this part of the country, when educational and moral institutions were unformed, or in their infancy, you felt called upon to exert yourself in forming and assisting all measures for advancing the best interests of society in these respects, and in so exerting yourself, you wielded a great influence for good.

The efforts you have made on behalf of education in this locality have already been acknowledged in a becoming manner by the Teachers' Association of Whitby and the friends of education generally.

During the whole period of twenty-five years of our existence you have continued a Faithful Watchman upon the Towers of Zion, holding not back from any good work, being ever ready for what was good, dealing forth to us constantly of the Words of Life; doing the work of an evangelist, making full proof of your ministry.

While so continuing to discharge your high duties, you have declined many offers of advancement and worldly profit, that would have taken you from us; you have made personal sacrifices for our sakes, you assisted us through early trials when it was easier to have left us to struggle without you, and our present continuance as a Church is due, under Providence, to your continued labours in our behalf. It is not often that a Congregation is favored with the continued ministrations of one Pastor for so long a period, and our happy lot is to us a cause of gratitude and thankfulness to the Giver of all good.

In conclusion we may express a hope that you may long be spared to labour in every good work.

Signed on behalf of the congregation.

JOHN MICHAEL,
ALEX. BURNET,
W. TEMPEST.

To the foregoing Address Mr. Thornton replied in feeling and appropriate terms, expressing his grateful sense of the honor designed for him by the occasion and the address. The speech was of more than ordinary interest, and it is matter of regret to the writer that a treacherous memory prevents him giving anything like a lucid outline of what was so well said by Mr. Thornton. He referred to the providential circumstances that led to his lot being cast in the locality,—to their call and his settlement amongst them,—to the early difficulties, ecclesiastical and political, which the congregation had to encounter,—and to the numerous vicissitudes through which it had passed. He stated that the Church, when constituted, consisted of twenty-five members,—that the Lord's Supper was dispensed for the first time about seven months after his settlement, and by that time the membership had increased to seventy six, of whom not more than six or seven were found in connection at the expiry of ten years, the great majority having removed to other localities. He alluded also to the fact that the congregation (and, he might have added, his own missionary labours,) had been the parent of other congregations in the neighboring townships, by which it suffered numerical loss for the general good; and that more recently the sphere of his labour had been greatly narrowed, the northern portion having been formed into a separate congregation at Columbus, by which more than one half of the membership were at once set off. He said he greatly rejoiced in the prosperity of the various off-shoots, and trusted that he and the comparative remnant would see cause to thank God and take courage.

Mr. Thornton's reply was listened to with deep interest by the large assembly. Representatives from three or four of the congregations formed by Mr. Thornton's