

all render an account both of our ministry and of the use we make of our gospel privileges. But it may be legitimate on my part now to refer to facts, and leave these to speak for themselves.

On coming here I found a communion-roll of over 300. During my ministry the annual additions to the list of members sometimes exceeded 100, and sometimes fell short of that number. The diminutions by death and otherwise were correspondingly large ; so that now there are upon the communion-roll 572 names, including 12 elders, and 11 deacons.

The missionary and general income of the church has not been lessened, but augmented, and last year was little short of twelve thousand dollars. You have aided in opening and sustaining five mission Sabbath-schools, and through your efforts and liberality, conjoined with those of the other congregations of our denomination in the city, what is now a self-sustaining mission church has been established ; while your church Sabbath-school and Bible-class have continued to flourish. You have done well, and I trust will do still better, in establishing and supporting the Montreal College. " Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to thy name be the glory." We are weak, imperfect, and insufficient to do anything ; but our sufficiency is of God.

But it may be asked, Why with so much for which to be grateful, so much to encourage, and for which to give God thanks, do I now leave the pastorate of this church ? I might answer that, as a dutiful servant of the church, I felt bound to yield to the voice of the Synod in appointing me to be Professor of Divinity in our College in this city ; and those of you who were present in the Synod and witnessed the cordiality, and almost perfect unanimity, with which that appointment was made, will not be surprised that I should show the utmost respect for the opinion of my fathers and brethren. And I do confess that this went far to influence my decision, and now goes far to cheer and encourage me in the new duties to which I look forward. But I have been governed, I trust, by a higher principle than this. When I left a devotedly attached congregation to come to you, I had only one principle on which to rely. I felt bound to occupy the position in which, in the judgment of the church and my own opinion, I should be best able to promote the glory of God, and thus I came to Cote-street church, and the Province of Quebec. On this principle I now act, and go forward on the duties to which I am called, relying upon the Lord, and hoping to continue to enjoy your confidence and support as well as that of the Church at large. I believe that I have still a work to do here, and can only say Brethren, pray for us, that we may surmount difficulties and be crowned with success.

It would be affectation and ingratitude in me to say that I do not feel, and feel deeply, parting from you after experiencing so much comfort in my pastorate, and so many repeated tokens of kindness and respect from all classes in the congregation ; but the grief of separation is greatly lessened by the thought that I am still in many ways to be identified with you in the work of the Lord. And now it may not be inappropriate that I should say with the Apostle, " Brethren, suffer the word of exhortation."

The preacher closed with earnest parting exhortations to his congregation to continue in brotherly love and in the practice of liberality towards the poor and the cause of Christ, to be faithful to their historic past, to one another, and, above all, to their God and Saviour.

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