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"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its cunning." — PSALM CXXXVII. 5.

INDUCTION ADDRESS

TO REV. D. MCKENZIE, AT LOCHIEL.

BY REV. C. B. ROSS, B.D., LANCASTER, ONT.

DEAR BROTHER,—It is my duty and privilege to address you, in few words, on this the occasion of your Induction. I congratulate you upon your appointment. Your call has been unanimous on the part of the congregation. The tie which now binds you to the congregation of St. Columba Church, Lochiel, is one of the closest which can unite a man to his fellow-men. You are their guide in the Lord, in spiritual things. They will look up to you for leading in matters of duty. They will look up to you for example and quickening in their religious life.

1. Therefore, be always faithful and earnest in prayer! Keep ever near the SAVIOUR in your spirit, for aid. Unless the minister's life be devout and devoted to the LORD, he cannot expect to have much power in the pulpit. His efforts may be praiseworthy from an intellectual point of view; but they will hardly be productive of any real good. The minister's life must be an earnest, prayerful life, nourished from the Divine Fountain, or he cannot expect to nourish the spiritual life of his people. If there is not the fire of true love and devotion in his own heart, he cannot expect to promote the principle of devotion in others. People may listen to his sermons and enjoy them as an intellectual treat; but their religious well-being will not be furthered thereby.

Of recent years, attacks have been made upon prayer by one of the narrowest of the modern schools of thought. And even by some of the theological schools it has been taught that the value of prayer consists only in the spirit of devotion which it nourishes in the worshipper. But human nature will not be satisfied with a mockery such as this. And those narrow sections of the scientific world to which I have referred are beginning to realize that the hands of the Almighty are not bound by the laws they ascribe to nature. This change in the tone of science should be welcomed by all who love religion, as indicating an advance in the religious life of the community. I counsel you, if you desire that your ministerial life should be truly successful, to make your life a consistent life of earnest prayer. If you do this you cannot fail to win souls for CHRIST.

2. At the same time, the intellectual side of religion should not be forgotten. If ever it was necessary it is necessary to-day, that the religious Teacher should be thoroughly equipped for his task! There can be no question about the fact that education is advancing and that the average intelligence is rising. And if the preacher hopes to retain and to increase his influence, he must at least keep in advance of the average intelligence of the community among whom he labors.

We must remember that the facts of religion are studied by a greater number and with greater earnestness than they ever were before. The study of Theology is not confined to professional theologians, but is earnestly pursued by men of different callings and of different bent of mind. It is a matter worthy of keen