

you especially are well known his labours in establishing this church and in forming and ministering to this congregation. In every benevolent and charitable undertaking his services were cordially and untiringly bestowed; and his last journey from Toronto was undertaken when he was little fit to travel, on a mission of kindness to a family in the neighbourhood which had been lately involved in the same calamity which has now visited his own.

Let us learn a lesson from his active discharge of duty, from his unwearied benevolence. This let us take to heart; and of himself, beyond this, let our words be few; remembering that we are in the presence of Almighty God—and that, if any thought beyond this be needed to check our utterance, the thought of the dead is here—who would, more solemnly than any monitor on earth, bid us withhold any further tribute which friendship or affection might dictate. “To me it is a very small thing to be judged of you or of man’s judgment,” said St. Paul; and, from that other world, his words we may be sure are echoed with yet deeper emphasis. “Judge nothing before the time until the Lord come, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and make manifest the counsels of the hearts, and then shall every man have praise of God.”

A solemn hour like this would be worse than thrown away, if the preacher unworthily suffered any one here present to bear away with him the impression that he had vainly adventured to anticipate the sentence which must proceed alone from the judgment seat of Christ. It is the Christian’s privilege to *hope* for the departed. Less than hope is to the mourner misery, and to the departed lack of charity. More than hope is presumption, dangerous to ourselves, and, we may be well assured, in the judgment of the departed most unwise. True alike to the best instincts of nature and to the teaching of Revelation our church puts in our mouths the language of *hope* as we stand beside the open grave; we pray that “when we shall depart this life, we may rest in Christ, as our *hope* is this