

Remember, then, Brethren, (I speak to those who are engaged in the work of the ministry,)—remember the office to which you have been set apart. We are to be heralds of the truth. We are to receive the message as it is delivered by God Himself, in that “Word which is Truth,” and convey it faithfully to those to whom we are called to minister. We must “keep back nothing that is profitable” unto them; but “declare unto them the whole counsel of God.” We incur a fearful guilt if we neglect to warn men of their coming danger, or say to them, “Peace, peace, when there is no peace.” We are set as watchmen to warn the people; and the prophet tells us that “if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will God require at the watchman’s hand.”

Let us then be ever watchful and diligent, never ceasing to raise the warning voice that the people who hear us may be constrained to flee for safety to the stronghold provided for them; that thus “we may both save our own souls and the souls of them who hear.” Which may God of his infinite mercy grant, and to His name be all the praise! AMEN.

ADDRESS TO REV. JOHN GOODWILL,

(PRESENTED AT THE MEETING OF SYNOD BY REV. A. McLEAN, CON-
VENER FOREIGN MISSION COMMITTEE.)

Dear Brother,—It is now a full year since you stood up before this court and declared your willingness to make what the world and what the feelings of nature would call a great and a very painful sacrifice. Animated, as we believe, with the spirit which true religion and real love to Christ alone can inspire, you solemnly declared that you were willing to leave home and friends, and all the prospects to which you might be warranted in looking forward, in this your native land; and this court heard from your lips words that filled every heart with deep and lively emotion, “Here am I, send me.” The day on which you made this announcement is one which every member of this court, then present, will always remember with feelings of gratitude, difficult to express. In the few words by which you made known the solemn purpose you had formed, we felt that God had indeed heard our prayers and granted the wishes of our hearts. We felt that His own gracious presence was in our midst, and that He would honour us, as a church, by accepting our feeble services to extend the glory of His name, and to kindle up, in some dark portion of the heathen world, the light of everlasting life and love. For six long and tedious years, we hoped, and longed, and waited, but no help came. We applied to every quarter from which there was any prospect of success, but in vain. But, when our hopes were well nigh gone, and the feeling that it were better had we not spoken of such a work or mission as this, was beginning to creep over our fainting hearts,—then, when we looked not for it, we found that God’s good time had come, and that, while we knew it not, He was silently preparing your heart to make the self-denying and the noble offer which, on that eventful day, gladdened our spirits; and while, by that offer, you removed a cloud of despondency from our minds, and drew from our every heart the sincere response of gratitude to God, it also, let me assure you, gave you a place in our esteem and affection which no amount of labour could otherwise secure. On that day, you exchanged the obscure though useful position of a pastor, whose name would not, perhaps, be heard beyond the narrow limits of our own Synod, for that of the first missionary of our church. Already has that given you a high and distinguished position, and rendered your name familiar to every family of our church, at least in three Provinces; and as certain it is, that the earnest prayers of all the truly pious of these many thousands.