

that describe the qualifications of pastors and deacons, as recorded in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus. Not many days after, I was requested to accept the pastoral office, which I agreed to do; and, on the last day of December, I was set apart to this responsible office. Thus I entered on the duties of a pastor among the people of God, where, through infinite patience and long-suffering, I continue to this day. On Sabbath, the 1st of January, 1804, we, as a church, united together, for the first time, in partaking of the Lord's Supper."

Thus was Mr. Barclay introduced into the vineyard of the Lord. The Lord made darkness light, and crooked things straight before him, and led him in the way in which he should go. The numerous pressing difficulties with which he had to contend in the early history of the church made the progress of the work necessarily slow. But he laid the foundation deep in decided piety and devotedness to God, and his labors were eventually crowned with considerable success. The gospel was widely preached—correct views of divine truth were extensively circulated—serious attention to things eternal were excited in the breasts of many—the kingdom of Christ was advanced in the sound conversion to God of not a few—under his fostering care, and by the blessing of heaven, about two hundred persons were, in the whole course of his ministry, united to the church which he was the means or planting—and a considerable portion of deep interest, and fervent prayer, and pecuniary aid, and personal effort, was combined and exercised, by his instrumentality, in the cause of God, both at home and abroad. His interests were bound up in the cause of Christ; and nothing did he count a sacrifice that was likely to promote the spread of the gospel, the glory of the Redeemer, or the salvation of souls. Not only was he "instant in season and out of season," in his own immediate sphere, in all the branches of ministerial labour, but he repeatedly took excursions in the neighbourhood, and tours through the

more distant and destitute parts of Scotland, to preach the gospel of the grace of God. He repeatedly visited England for benevolent purposes. Twice he made a preaching tour through some parts of the Sister Island, to promote the interests of our valued societies, and to preach Christ to sinners that were ready to perish; and many there are, in various parts of the kingdom, who well remember the fervency of his prayers, and the power and penetrating nature of his appeals respecting sin and salvation—the coming wrath, and the glorious redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Wherever he went, he was distinguished as the man of prayer, and the man of God.

Mr. Barclay was privileged to be the intimate friend of Fuller, and Ryland, and Sutcliffe, and others of "our fathers," who now rest from their labours, but who, in their day, were the glory of our denomination. He was their companion and aid when they visited the north on behalf of the Mission; and their letters to him, of which there are many among his papers, breathe the warmth and generous nature of their Christian friendship. He was also the correspondent of Carey, and Marshman, and Ward, and Judson; and in all the trials and triumphs of the Baptist Mission he ever took the deepest interest. The Serampore brethren especially shared his confidence and regard; and, as several of his own family were privileged to reside for a season at that loved spot, where the "first three" lived, and laboured, and died—where the gospel was first planted in Gangetic India—and whence the streams of the water of life have so long and so abundantly flowed to cheer, and fertilize, and bless the barren land of idolatry and spiritual death:—in that spot his interests and attachments, in his latter years, were so concentrated that he seemed to live as much at Serampore as he did in Irvine. The