

other—whom I found in the Province when I first came to it. One or two, indeed, are still living, I believe, though in another land. I need not disguise from you that, when I first contemplated moving to Fredericton, I heard such alarming accounts of the difficulties I must expect to encounter here, that it was with no little trembling that I decided on the change. To have been altogether free from trials and troubles is what no mortal man can expect, but I bear my willing testimony, that, during the whole period of my incumbency, I have met with the utmost kindness from every family, every individual in the congregation—I might almost say of the whole community.

I can honestly say that I have endeavoured to “live peaceably with all men,” and I have found that others were willing to live at peace with me. I have not knowingly made an enemy; nor do I know that I have an enemy in the city. With my brethren in the ministry, of all denominations, I have all along enjoyed the most friendly intercourse, and sectarian feeling has never prevented us from meeting and co-operating in any good work.

With my own people in particular, my connection has always been of the most pleasant kind. Your kindness began with my first coming among you, and it has continued not only undiminished, but rather increased, till the present day. I have been with you in all circumstances. I have mingled with you in your seasons of joy; and I have not kept aloof from you in your days of sorrow. I have sought to comfort you, and ceased not to pray for you, when on the bed of sickness; and I have mingled my tears with yours when death has visited your dwellings. It is very painful for me to remember the many scenes of sorrow that I have been called to witness, and the many beloved friends whom I have seen consigned to the dust. There is scarcely a family connected with the congregation, or, at least, that has been connected with it for any length of time, that I have not been called to attend under some bereavement, and, in some cases, these have been often repeated. I have seen the husband parted from the wife, and the wife from the husband, parents from

their children, and children from their parents; and every dear and tender tie rent asunder by the strong hand of death.

But I rejoice to think that these sorrowful scenes have often been cheered by the hope of a blessed immortality, and that I have beheld the joy which faith in a Redeemer was fitted to impart, even in the hour of heaviest trial.

I wish I could have said that all who have heard the invitations of the Gospel from this place had cordially embraced them. But though I grieve to think that this has not been so, that some have turned a deaf ear to them, yet I have the satisfaction of knowing that my labours among you have not been altogether in vain. Not a few, and especially those young in years, have passed away, “rejoicing in the hope of the glory of God.”

I began my ministry with this message, “Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be unto all people; for unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour who is Christ the Lord;” and I would desire to end it with the same. Jesus Christ and him crucified, as the only foundation of the sinner’s hope, has been the theme on which I have delighted to dwell; and I trust you will remember it, when the voice that has so often declared it to you shall be silent.

And now, dear brethren, my third decade has come to a close, and we are entering upon another; but who shall see its termination? Without doubt, many of us shall have passed away before that period shall have come round. Others, in many cases, shall fill the pews where you now sit; another voice may be heard from the place where I now stand.

We have often enjoyed the privilege of meeting together in this place. Our prayers and our praises have often ascended together to the throne of God. O, Brethren, join with me in beseeching a gracious and merciful Jehovah, that, when we have finished our course here, and meet no more in His Sanctuary on earth, we may all be admitted into His Sanctuary above, and to unite together in the song of the redeemed—“Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God, even His Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever.” Amen.