

to His service in His kingdom, no natural or acquired gifts will render you useful ministers of Christ. Cleave, then, closely to Him, and prove in your own experience the soul-transforming power of His Spirit. Aim to be like Barnabas, full of the Holy Ghost and of faith, and like Apollos, mighty in the Scriptures.

II. In regard to those of you who are yet in the status of Students, much solicitude is felt by the Committee. We would have you to keep it constantly in mind, that *we do not ask, and that duty does not demand of you, constant employment in missionary services*; and we are quite sure that this will not be expected of you by the Presbyteries who superintend your labours, or by the people who enjoy them; and we trust that the fields of your labour, and the times of your various services will be arranged accordingly.

III. Notwithstanding your present employment in missionary labours, we would not have you forget for a moment that you are still students, and that, looking forward to the great work of the ministry, your first duty is the regular prosecution of your studies. We think that without neglecting your present important labours as Catechists, you should devote not less than two days in each week to the prosecution of your proper studies; while the daily study of a portion of the Holy Scriptures, in the original languages, should never be omitted. Though not now called on to address you specially on the subject of your studies, we would yet say, the Word of God must be daily "the man of your counsel," and you should never intermit—never relax your endeavours to attain a thorough acquaintance with it, in the languages in which it was dictated by the Spirit.

IV. To such of you as have had little experience in public speaking, we recommend that you allow the Divine Word to speak largely for itself, by your reading considerable portions of it in the meetings for public worship, and that you add or intermingle with it only a brief exposition. Be not ambitious to be recognised early as preachers: the Catechist, the Exhorter, yea the Scripture-reader, may, through the Divine blessing, conduct public worship in a way at once to interest and to profit the hearers.

V. Besides the public exercises of the Sabbath, we recommend to you all, that you use your best endeavours to establish and maintain Sabbath Schools, Bible Classes, and Prayer Meetings in your different spheres of labour. They are important helps alike to the pastor and the missionary. We recommend you all to promote and foster them in every prudent way. You cannot, of course, personally superintend all, or even many of these important labours; but you may render the most valuable service by suggesting proper modes of proceeding, and by seeking and calling into action suitable agents among the people.

VI. You will, of course, feel it to be your duty to visit the sick, whenever called in Providence to do so. The visitation of families, also, we need not say, will be productive of the best results. This you will endeavour to conduct in a systematic way, and so as not to interfere with your own studies and public duties. These visitations will afford you an opportunity of manifesting an inter-

est in all that concerns the welfare of the people, and especially of engaging the affections and attention of the young. But let it be your main object to promote their spiritual welfare. Deal faithfully with the conscience in reference to family and personal religion. Instruct, admonish, or speak words of comfort, as circumstances may require, and study to diffuse a sweet savour of Christ in every house thus visited.

VII. For the faithful discharge of these varied duties, we would remind you that you will require to redeem the time, not, however, from proper, healthful relaxation, but from sloth and frivolous conversation, and frivolous reading. Your souls will need to be invigorated by constant communion with God, through the Word and prayer. It will be necessary for you to make an exact distribution of your time—to have the times of your public services well known in your several localities, and to be undeviatingly punctual to all your engagements.

VIII. Those of you who are ordained Ministers will of course look to the Presbyteries within whose bounds you are labouring, for instructions as to times and places for the dispensing of the Lord's Supper, and you will also refer yourselves to them or to the nearest member of Presbytery for counsel, in any case of difficulty in the exercise of discipline.

IX. Missionaries and Catechists should furnish to the Presbyteries within whose bounds they are labouring, full accounts of all moneys received by them or due to them for services rendered at each particular station, also statistical accounts of the congregations and mission stations supplied by them, giving as far as practicable, answers to the queries which were published in the *Record* for June, 1848, and republished in the last number. We would also direct your attention to the Resolutions of Synod, passed at Kingston in 1847, on the subject of Home Missions. (See Minutes, page 30—35.)

X. You will remember, and our people should know, that our Home Missions must be to a great extent SELF-SUSTAINING. In order to their being so, it is necessary first, that the people be instructed in the duty and privilege of providing for the maintenance of spiritual labourers. And secondly, that there be a proper organization amongst themselves, for collecting the offerings of all, however widely scattered the people may be. Presbyteries, it is presumed, in stationing a missionary in a particular locality, will make the people acquainted with the terms on which his services are to be enjoyed, and also see that some associated agency is provided for looking to the fulfilment of these terms; but we would remind you all, that much may be done, and should be done by yourselves, in the way of stimulating and encouraging the liberality of the people. Elders, Deacons, and Members of Committees may be reminded of the duty which pertains to them, of collecting the voluntary offerings of the people, and of the privilege which in this way they enjoy, of labouring for the upbuilding of that glorious house of which Christ is at once the foundation and the chief builder.

XI. Seek in all things to make it manifest that

you are really labouring for the salvation of the people, and then you will have the greater liberty in your own mind, and more acceptance with them in urging them to contribute to the maintenance of Divine ordinances amongst themselves and others. It is not disparaging the liberality of the christian people, as the immediate source of the pecuniary means for the support of the gospel, to say, that it requires to be stimulated from time to time; for this is only confessing that it is in the same condition with all other christian virtues, in a world full of influences adverse to their development.

XII. The people of mission stations, it is to be expected, will bestow the principal fruits of their liberality for the support of their missionaries, just as congregations who have a stated ministry will make the largest offerings for the minister; but we would have you to keep in mind, that every one of the great enterprises to which the church is committed, has its claims on the people at mission stations, or in vacant congregations, as much as on those who have pastors. And so you should see that the various collections recommended by the Synod be made at your respective stations, and that, as far as practicable, on the days appointed for them. It may be well to remind them that the contributions for the college, are made in the way of subscription, and in all cases in which these have not been made for the year, which closes with the meeting of Synod, they should even yet be made, and the proceeds, with the lists of contributors, forwarded to the Treasurer, John McMurrich, Esq., Toronto.

Beloved Brethren, we would say to you with Paul to his son Timothy—and indeed the Holy Spirit is still saying this to each of us—"Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." Our prayer is, that you all may be greatly honoured in bringing many perishing men to know his saving power, and to rejoice in Him as their King and Lord.

I am, dear Brethren,

In name, and by appointment of the Home Mission Committee, your fellow labourer in the Gospel of the Saviour,

RALPH ROBB,
COUNCILLOR.

Hamilton,
May 15, 1849.

CONCLUDING LECTURE ON CHURCH HISTORY.

BY DR. BURNS.

(Read in the Divinity Hall, Knox's College,
April 5th, 1849.)

The course of prelections about to be concluded, has embraced three distinct topics. Of each of these we shall now take a short retrospective glance, concluding with a few practical suggestions.

I. In the earlier part of the course our attention was called to the subject of the Church in general, as respects its visible character, and its invisible or spiritual relations. In both views we considered the Church of God as a witness set up by Him in our world for the maintenance of truth and the advancement of practical godliness. Every individual member of the Church is in his sphere called to be a witness for God, while the general body of professing believers constitute one company of such witnesses, subordinate to the