

preaching which had so often delighted and instructed them all. He therefore solemnly charges them,—

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the Church of God which he hath purchased with his own blood.

“For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.”

And then, knowing how vain of itself is all human counsel and exhortation, however solemn the time or circumstances attending it, he points his fellow labourers to HIM, who is the never failing source of grace, and strength, and wisdom—who, amid all the changes and chances of this shifting scene, is always the same—who, tho’ the “earthly priesthood” continually “changes by reason of death,” remains “a priest for ever”—who, while the pastors and the congregations of the Church below, are ever passing away from the face of the earth, is Himself, “the same yesterday, to-day, and forever,”—always able fitly to supply the vacancies which occur in His church, and to overrule, what we think calamitous dispensations, for our good, and His own glory.

“And now Brethren, I commend you unto God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.”

He then concludes the most impressive services of that most memorable day, a day such as the Church of Christ has seldom seen,—in a manner most suitable to such a time. For what can be more suitable, when friends are about to part company in this uncertain world, than to unite in prayer to God, that they may meet where they will “part no more,” and to commit each other to the Guardianship of their Almighty Protector.

But especially, what more suitable farewell for a Christian Pastor, when about to turn his face for the last time from his beloved people, than to mingle his prayers with theirs—and call a blessing down upon their past connexion and their future lives,—on their persons, their substance, and their families.

“In prayer on earth, the saints are one,
They’re one in word and mind,
When with the Father and the Son,
Sweet fellowship they find.”

Accordingly the last sounds of Paul’s voice before he bid his last farewell to the Church of Ephesus—were those of Prayer, “And when he had thus spoken he kneeled down, and prayed with them all.”

How touching is the account given of the feelings shown on this most affecting occasion. No cold, and indifferent scene was that. No carelessness whether he went or staid. “*They all wept,*” not a little only—not a few strained tears—but “*wept sore,*”—copiously did the tears course down their cheeks—as evidence that their hearts were melted too, in tenderness and love.

Moreover, “they fell on the neck” of their venerable and beloved Minister and friend—and they “kissed him!” And though they had various