

We recognise among you many of our brethren and early associates in our preparation for the Christian Ministry, and we know that your flocks consist for the most part of those who having gone from our own shores have left among our people many kinsmen and friends, and in you and in the members of your flocks, we and our people retain a lively and Christian interest.

We are not ignorant of the difficulties and privations, and loss of many advantages enjoyed at home, which must be experienced by those who are dwelling in a new or a strange land, and we reckon it ours to bear your burdens as in God's Providence we may, or contribute to lighten them.

The scattered residences of many of those to whom you have to minister, will be the occasion of obstacles to their enjoyment of your ministrations, and of much toil and self-denial to you in supplying them and we earnestly pray that God will abundantly bestow His grace on you and them, preserving them from forgetfulness of the Divine ordinances, through which they are kept in memory of their spiritual wants, and are led to seek the gift of eternal life, and keeping you from fainting in your ministrations, and making you faithful and unwearied in all watchfulness and self-denial to which you may be called in proof of your ministry.

While many of you, moreover, dwelling far apart from brethren in the Ministry, are thus deprived of the brotherly counsel and encouragement by which you might be sustained and profited, we would bid you be assured of the earnest sympathy and regard which yet many brethren cherish toward you,—of the honored nature of the service in which your labour is employed,—and of the Divine presence and grace which never fail for them who go forward in God's work depending on His aid.

We rejoice to hear of your continued attachment to the Church of Scotland. Not regarding the blessing of Divine grace as confined to those only who are of our own communion, and desiring to maintain the spirit of unity and concord with those who are of other Christian communions, and to unite with them in good works, we are fully persuaded of the Scriptural character of our own Church and of its fitness through the Divine blessing to afford Christian privileges, and to promote the edifying of the body of Christ.

It will continue to be our anxious wish to encourage young men of piety and zeal to join you in your labors in your Master's service,—men who will do credit to those by whom they are sent, and will give real help to those with whom they are sent to be fellow-laborers.

It will gladden us ever to hear of your prosperity and steadfastness and beseeching you in faith and hope to hold fast the profession you have witnessed, and to maintain the character which will adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour, we commend you to God and to the word of His grace, praying Him to bless and prosper you ever more and more.

In name and by appointment of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, met at Edinburgh, May, 1859.

JOHN COOK, D. D., *Moderator.*

Answers

Rev. Dr. C
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