

my own feelings repeatedly and honestly expressed to you, that in the very peculiar circumstances in which, in the providence of God, we find ourselves at present placed, it would be in the interests of the Church that I should retire, if a cordial union could thereby be secured, and friendly co-operation thereafter be likely to follow; and especially with the perplexing and difficult question, as I submitted it to you at your meeting, which, first you, and then the Presbytery, I told you, had to "consider on its merits, and without any further regard to me," viz.: "Is it or is it not expedient, in the interests of the Presbyterian Church in this place, in its present circumstances, that I should retire?" I was not surprised nor disappointed that the desires and hopes which led me in the circumstances, conditionally to tender my resignation, should have led you to offer no objections to the Presbytery's acceptance of it. Indeed, I was prepared to hear that you had, not by a small majority, but unanimously, acquiesced in my resignation. I was, however, both surprised and pained to learn that the resolution suggested by one of the members of the Presbytery's Commission, to accept my resignation with an expression of kindly regard and good wishes for me, so long your pastor, had been opposed, even by one person, connected with the congregation, and that the cold, unkind resolution put in place of it should have been silently adopted. I understood, however, and I appreciated the feelings which caused you to refrain from opposing this unkind, or at least, inconsiderate resolution, and my confidence in your regard and affection was not in the least shaken. In this confidence your address shows that I did not err. As expressive of my feelings towards you, my dear friends, I can only add what I stated in my answer on the occasion of the presentation, so kindly made to me by many in the congregation, in September last, "My pastoral relation to you as a congregation may change, (it has now changed) but my interest in your welfare, temporal and eternal, shall never cease or be abated. I have strong affection for many of you as personal friends and as my brethren and children in the Lord. And I have towards every family and individual now connected with the congregation, or who has been connected with it, feelings only of kindness and of strong desire for their welfare in all their highest interests in time and through eternity."

---

*At Almonte, and within St. John's Church, the Twelfth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one, which day and place the Presbytery of Lanark and Renfrew being met and constituted, Inter Alia.*

The Committee appointed to draft a minute anent the retirement of Dr. Bain from the active pastorate of St. Andrew's Church, Perth, gave in their report, which, on motion duly made and seconded, was received and adopted, and ordered to be entered on the records of the Presbytery and a copy of the same sent to Dr. Bain by the Clerk. The minute is in terms following:—"In accepting the demission of the Reverend William Bain, M. A., D. D., who has been the incumbent of St. Andrew's Church, Perth, for more than thirty-five years, this Presbytery hereby, in accordance with a resolution to that effect, record the estimation in which he has been held in the surrounding district by all classes of the community, and especially by the sections of the Christian church with which he has in any way been connected. Dr. Bain was highly respected by the general public, while his genial qualities en-