

"Presented by the congregation of St Peter's Church, Credit, to James McGrath, Esq., in recognition of his faithful and efficient discharge of the duties of churchwarden during a period of thirty years, July, 1863."

The following address and reply explain themselves:—

"DEAR SIR,—In accordance with a resolution unanimously passed at the last Easter Vestry Meeting held at St. Peter's Church in this parish, deeply regretting your retirement from the office of churchwarden, the duties of which you had so zealously and assiduously discharged for upwards of thirty years, and declaring the intention of the parishioners at the earliest convenient period of testifying their sense of, and thankfulness for, the services rendered by you during that long period, by offering for your acceptance some suitable testimonial in acknowledgment thereof; it affords us much pleasure to inform you that that intention has been carried into effect.

"We are now commissioned by the congregation—being a deputation of your old friends and associates in office—to present to you the accompanying Tea Service and Tray in token of their esteem for you personally, and in acknowledgment of your valuable and disinterested services to the church.

"It may enhance your satisfaction to learn that this testimonial has not been procured out of the means of a few only who might be supposed to be influenced by feelings of personal friendship, but that it has been subscribed for heartily by the entire congregation of St. Peter's Church and for the most part in small sums.

"During your long tenure of office you have been privileged in being chiefly instrumental in, and have had the gratification of seeing at its close many desirable objects accomplished and promising arrangements made for sustaining and perpetuating the work of the church in a proper efficiency—exhibiting upon the whole a pleasing contrast with the state of affairs on your first assumption of office.

Among such objects we would allude in particular to the erection of a substantial and commodious parsonage house—a work, next to the building of a church, of paramount importance in every parish.

The congregation deeply regret the cause of your retirement, and they one and all pray that you may be sustained by divine grace under the trying and depressing influence of ill health from which you are at present suffering, and that it may please Almighty God in His own good time to restore you to your accustomed health and to grant you a longer continuance among us, that you may be enabled to continue your good works in the midst of the congregation with which your name has been identified from its first formation, and that you may be permitted to witness a still further consummation of your efforts for its welfare.

We do not feel that by making any further remarks we could more adequately express the sense of the congregation on this occasion, and therefore conclude by begging your acceptance of this testimonial—assuring you that with it you have the heartfelt good wishes of every member thereof."

We are, dear sir,

Your sincere friends,

Signed on behalf of the deputation,

Credit, County of Peel, July 7, 1863.

T. P. HODGE.

"MY DEAR FRIENDS,—It is with feelings of much gratification that I receive the very kind address, and accept the handsome testimonial which you have been deputed by the congregation of St. Peter's Church to present to me.

During the long period I have been churchwarden, it has always been my earnest desire to perform the duties of that office in such manner as to be most conducive to the best interests of the church; and also so as to meet the approval of the congregation; and if I have been so fortunate as to succeed in my humble endeavours, I now find in this very flattering address, and the valuable testimonial which accompanies it, my ample reward.

Accept my heartfelt thanks for the very kind sentiments expressed with regard to my health, and be assured that I shall always feel a deep interest, and exert my best endeavors for the welfare of the church.

I beg you will convey to the congregation my most grateful acknowledgments of their kind regard for my humble but zealous efforts for the interest of St. Peter's Church."

JAMES MAGRATH.