

ing encouragement to the timid or desponding, in consoling the bereaved, and in comforting those who are sorely tempted and tried. The pastor never finds the gospel so precious to his own soul, as when thus witnessing its blessed power upon the hearts of others. That precious experience has often been mine during these eleven years and eight months. No people could have given their pastor more of their confidence than you have given to me. I have been consulted on the most delicate matters, often involving family affairs, not readily communicated to outsiders. Large numbers of children and youth of both sexes, when awakened to the solemn realities of life and eternity, have secretly come and opened their hearts to me, in preference to their own fathers and mothers. The aged have clung to my hand, and confided to my ear their hopes and fears as they entered the precincts of the dark valley. Those in youth and manhood have confessed their sins and shortcomings, made known their trials, and looked to me for guidance and comfort. To all I have been accessible, to all I have loved to minister of the consolations of the grace of God. In this I have often been greatly aided, so that there are many here who will never hereafter think of me except with tenderness. And when God next visits them with trial, sickness, bereavement, I know they will long to hear the voice that has so often comforted them in the past. I trust and pray, that God may send you a pastor, who shall deal as faithfully with your souls, and sympathise as tenderly in your sorrows as I have done—one to whom you shall be able to go with as much freedom and confidence as you have ever come to me.

These labors for you are all ended. A few minutes more and the last words of a sermon eleven years and eight months long will be uttered. I have very strong convictions as to the advantages of a permanent pastorate, especially to the church and