

ment of some, of lavish liberality. No heart ever responded more unsuspectingly and ungrudgingly to the tale of distress; no hand ever opened so freely and unostentatiously to the claims of poverty. It was not in him to quench the risings of pity or withhold any assistance he could minister. To all our religious and charitable institutions he was a ready and munificent donor, in addition to the services he ever willingly rendered by his presence and counsel; and the numerous calls made upon him by the necessities and efforts of this Congregation, of which he was an original member, and for many years an Elder, and by the Church with which we are connected, always received the most kindly and favorable consideration, and elicited his most cordial support.

The day of his active and useful life has set at length in the night of death. Full of honors as of years he has been removed from amongst us. We have deposited his mortal remains in the narrow house where the weary are at rest. His name lives now upon earth only in the remembrance of his many excellencies, and in the lasting gratitude we owe to God for his valuable services. But we trust that he has received that new name by which the children of God are known in heaven, and that spiritual inheritance which is the incorruptible and eternal portion of all Christ's faithful followers. With this hope let us comfort our souls, and in the example which seems to warrant it let us find encouragement to work while it is called to-day. We may be greatly inferior to our departed friend in the attainments he possessed and in the ability to use the opportunities with which he was favored, even should like opportunities present themselves to us, but his God is our God, and his Saviour our friend and brother, merciful to forgive and gracious to aid, and though it be with us comparatively the day of small things, yet neither the cheerful giver nor the busy worker, who strives to do all to the glory of his Father in Heaven, will be despised in that which he doeth."

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A WORD TO OUR READERS.

Our little Periodical has now completed the last number of another year, and it may not be altogether out of place to give some account of the past, and make known our plans and arrangements for the future. First of all it is a source of great satisfaction to be able to state that our circulation during the past has been considerably greater than during any previous year, and thus we have reason to hope the great principles which we have been attempting to advocate having found a wider audience, may also have left a deeper impression. Our aim has ever been,

as public teachers, to plead the cause of Christ and of Christianity—to strengthen as far as lay in our power, that branch of the Church of Scotland which has been planted in our midst, to cultivate and consolidate a bond of union and Christian fellowship between all the members of the various Churches in our communion, so that our strength might be that which arises from a common feeling, from concentration of purpose and harmony of action. We have endeavored both to inculcate and practice a spirit of Christian love and forbearance towards all people and all sects, avoiding carefully any subject which might cause irritation and engender bad feeling. We have endeavored to do this without for a moment compromising any principle, or sacrificing any opinion. The honor and interest of the Church of Scotland we have watched over with all possible care. We are well aware that we have not done all that might have been done; there may have been some sins of commission, and doubtless many of omission of which we have been guilty, but we have not willingly written or inserted a word calculated to jar on the feelings of any one, and if we have inadvertently done so, we beg to express our sincere sorrow.

We might have received, and we were led to expect a larger measure of literary aid. Promises made in that respect have been poorly kept, but while we hope for livelier interest and greater effort in future, we cannot refrain from thanking in our own name, in the name of the Committee, and we are sure that of the whole Church, those who aided us in supplying the monthly pabulum for our readers, and especially to our unwearied, punctual and instructive Scotch Correspondent, and the gifted and graceful M. J. K. Amidst a wilderness of disheartening disappointments, these obliging contributors never failed to cheer and assist us with their monthly quatum.

We are about to encounter the responsibilities of another year, and we trust under happier auspices even than the present. After anxious deliberation and more than one meeting, the Record Committee have come to the conclusion to alter the form of the Publication to a certain extent, and we trust and hope that the alteration will be the means of increasing its interest and usefulness. It will certainly add to a considerable