

mous resolution of this General Assembly, come to under peculiar circumstances, and I dare say, in many cases, against strong previous impressions—I cannot but regard these circumstances as making out a clear and strong case, and making out a full warrant for my own mind to be very cordial in carrying out the duty imposed upon me by the General Assembly. I have very great pleasure Mr. North, in tendering to you the right hand of fellowship and in welcoming you as a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, and as highly honoured by your Master. And perhaps you will allow me to say that your position, Mr. North, is a somewhat peculiar one,—that while you have many eminent gifts, there are, of course, difficulties and temptations to which, in your position, you are exposed. I have no doubt you will feel that you stand deeply in need of wisdom, and guidance, and discretion; and I have no doubt you will feel that, in all the encouragement you have had, you have cause to wait upon God, and walk humbly with him; and have great pleasure in tendering you the right hand of fellowship, and in welcoming you to this General Assembly.”

The Moderator, in concluding his speech, gave Mr. North the right hand of fellowship, amid loud and general applause, which was also done by Rev. Sir Henry Moncrieff, Clerk.

Mr. North, who appeared to be deeply affected, and spoke with difficulty at the sunset of his remarks, then addressed the house as follows:—The Lord says, “How can ye believe, that seek the honor that cometh from one another, and seek not the honor that cometh from God only.” Now, I think that at this moment I have received an honour such as it was impossible to exceed. I trust and hope that it is of God that so many of God’s people should see it their duty to go out of their way and do this very strange thing. To welcome such a thing as I am, and to me to sit in that seat and to listen to the language that I have been listening to—nothing can exceed the weight of all these things—language cannot express that which I feel put upon me at this moment. And I do earnestly request the prayers of this Assembly, that what the Moderator so kindly and affectionately put me in mind that I require, may be granted to me. One of my own prayers has been from the very first day that I found myself claimed for Christ, that I might receive marvellous grace, and marvellous grace to bear marvellous grace. I do not know if you understand this. But I feel that I need marvellous grace to bear marvellous grace. I remember walking with Mr. Dallas three years ago, and telling him that that was my prayer. Had God ceased two years ago, when I was preaching to 200 people in a barn at Elgin, to raise me higher, He had then gone far beyond anything that in my wildest dream I ever imagined or expected. To find myself where I am at this moment, I can only say I trust and believe it is the Lord’s doing, but it is marvellous in our eyes. But, dear friends, I have now an opportunity that I shall never forgive myself all my life if I neglect. And although I have a great opening to speak about myself, and to express much more than I have expressed, yet I would rather seize the chance, which I may never have again, of such an assembly as that I am now speaking to, of trying if God will give me the power to say that which will do good. The time is short, and we should do as much as the time allows. Dr. Canilish told me yesterday, that I would probably be asked to say a few words, and told me that it would be on the subject of the religion of the country. I have had an opportunity of going over the length and breadth of the country for the last two years, seeing much of the state of the country; and I have come to this conclusion, that although we are, by God’s grace, gathering many prisoners out of the chains of sin and Satan, still it is but one of a city and two of a family, and that the whole world is no better now than in the days of the Apostle, when he said it was lying in wickedness. Now, dear friends, what a mass of people are here who can help, if they have God’s Spirit and God’s power with them, to leaven this putrid mass of iniquity. But I have been exceedingly struck, in going over the length and breadth of the land, at the absence, in the first place of the general use of one of the greatest machineries for bringing down the Holy Spirit from heaven; if