

lived under the influence of things unseen, and he had a good report of all. Indeed, he had the gifts and graces which would have fitted him for a higher office, and, we are informed that in point of fact, his thoughts were directed to entering upon the ministry of the gospel, and he was preparing himself for attendance at the Pictou Academy, then under the charge of Dr. McCulloch, with that view. But, and we mention this to illustrate the unselfishness of his character,—circumstances arose into which we cannot here enter, which in his view justified another application of the money he had intended to devote for that purpose.—No doubt the sacrifice was cheerfully made, though it involved the abandonment and that for ever of a cherished purpose, and yet we do not suppose he was a loser, for, apart from other considerations, what he craved was for usefulness, and we cannot but think that he was perhaps even more influential for good in the lower than he might have been in the higher sphere. His labours, however, was most abundant, and his influence for good was great. All the parts of his office he faithfully and steadfastly discharged. The Presbyterian cause here, during his time, passed through many vicissitudes, but amidst them all he continued true to the old blue flag—and that it is flying at all among us to-day is in good measure to be attributed to him and a few others like-minded with himself. He who writes these lines feels that he has lost a friend indeed. His support, and sympathy, and encouragement were never wanting to him. In the Session his counsel, to which his long experience added weight, was invaluable; in the congregation he was the guide, the counsellor, the comforter, the peace-maker, the friend of all. The spiritual interests of the young men were especially dear to him. He was the first Sabbath School teacher in this district of country. Immediately on his arrival he commenced a Sabbath School, and we believe that till within a year or so of his death hardly a Sabbath passed in which he was not engaged in this work. Here, too, his instructions must have been exceedingly valuable, for he was mighty in the Scriptures, his knowledge of which was not superficial, there being but few passages of the meaning of which he had not formed an intelligent opinion. We have rarely heard equalled the plain and simple, yet interesting and affecting way in which he urged upon the young the claims and the happiness of religion. Indeed, his public appearances were always exceedingly interesting and edifying,—and few meetings among us for the promotion of the cause of the Bible or of Missions would have been held as complete without his presence.

And that which gave him the influence for good, which he unquestionably possessed, and made him a tower of strength to every interest with which he identified himself, was the respect and esteem in which his character was universally held. He had a fund of "natural piety," he was naturally one of the most amiable, humble, unobtrusive, unselfish of men, but he was more,—he walked with God. No doubt the words of the Psalmist were true of him as of all others, "I have seen an end of all perfection"—but he sought to live habitually under the influence of the powers of the world to come. No one could be in his company, no one could even look at the grave, and composed, and settled aspect of his countenance, and fail to see that he was a saint and that his affections were indeed set on the things that are above. Hence his power for good. All felt that he not only pointed to heaven but himself led the way, that out of the abundance of the heart his mouth spake—that what he had himself seen and heard he declared to others that they also might have fellowship with him—for truly his fellowship was with the Father and with his son Jesus Christ.

His death was in keeping with his life. He was not, as we have already stated, much given to speak of his own religious experience, but we have reason to think that he did not enjoy till near his end what is commonly called the full assurance of faith. But we believe this was graciously vouchsafed to him by the Lord before his departure. His last sufferings were great, perhaps greater than falls to the common lot—but he was able, in the midst of them all, to bear a dying testimony to the power and grace of his Lord and Saviour. For a few days before his death he was unable to speak, though in the full possession of all faculties—and had to communicate by writing with those who were around his bed. Among the last of what he set down was this—"I have a desire to depart, not to be relieved from suffering, but to be with Christ, and to be like Christ"; and no doubt he has now obtained his desire.

In contemplating his departure, we feel "as when a standard bearer falleth," we are constrained to say, "Help, Lord, for the godly man ceaseth, for the faithful fail from the children of men." May we who survive and who were associated with him imitate his zeal, his faithfulness, his diligence in the work of the Lord—and to this end seek as he did to be filled with the Spirit of Christ. May those among whom he went in and out for fifty years, remember him who so long had the rule on them, and so often spoke to them the word of God, may they follow his faith, and consider the end of his conversation Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, to-day and forever; and may all pon-