

endured, and the exertions you have used, in the organization of Churches among a thinly scattered population, in new settlements, and amidst such difficulties and hardships both of a moral and physical kind as, we fear, have tended greatly to injure your health, and undermine your constitution.

It is a heart-saddening consideration to us to look back to, and think of the love and tenderness and zeal with which you entreated us to attend to the things of eternal life; and then to look forward, as, we fear, we shall have to do, to many silent Sabbaths, and the House of God shut up, with none to break to us the bread of life, or give us warning for God.

While any expressions of ours can add but little to the high character which you bear as a Minister of our Church, we wish at the same time to offer an expression of the estimation in which you are held by us, both on account of your private virtues and the manner in which your public duties have been performed.

In offering you these expressions of our regard, we would not forget your amiable partner in life, who hath endeared herself to the hearts of many on account of her amiable, kind, and charitable disposition: we assure her of our regard and of our sorrow at our separation.

Dear Pastor, with sorrowful hearts we say Farewell: we desire that you will remember us at the Throne of Grace; and our prayer for you shall be, that the Great Head of the Church may go with you and your family, bless you with every Spiritual blessing, and cause much fruit to redound to His own glory, from your labours in your new sphere of usefulness.

September 22nd, 1848.  
(Signed by ninety-one persons, of whom forty-two are heads of families.)

MR. BELL'S REPLY.

DEAR BRETHREN,  
I thank you for your affectionate expression of your feelings and desires towards me, and I rejoice to hope, from the language which you use, that my labours have not been in vain. And yet, dear brethren, I feel sad, when I look back over the time during which I went in and out among you, and bowed with much weakness and many tears the precious seed of the Word, to remember what coldness and hardness of heart, what carelessness and determination to despise the Great Salvation, I met with among many, and how little an earnest following after holiness was exhibited by all.

When with you, this was the object of my labours and the subject of my prayers, that you all might receive the Lord Jesus and walk in Him; and with the same solicitude, I long for your exhibiting the devotedness to God of living members of Christ. And my heart cannot but be sad when I think of many over whom Jesus weeps, because the awful realities of eternity are soon to end for them the day of grace.

But, though sorrowful, I have also cause to rejoice. Many of your names are memorials of dear brethren in Christ, with whom I have held sweet fellowship, and from whom I have received such encouragement and support as did much to strengthen me when ready to faint. And I think I may fondly hope that the precious seed of the Word, which I was permitted to sow, may not all have been lost.

I have to express my gratitude to many of you from whom I have received personal acts of kindness and attention, and I pray God you may not lose your reward.

In the name of Mrs. Bell I have to thank you for your affectionate expressions of regard towards her, and to assure you that she will long cherish an affectionate remembrance of the friendships formed among you.

When seeking to be faithful, it was to be expected that I should meet with opposition, and that ingratitude and attempts to injure me should be manifested by a few, for whose salvation I was earnestly longing. Any such among my former flock I cheerfully forgive.

Dear Brethren, with my heart's desire and prayer for your salvation, I commend you to God and to the Word of His grace, which is able to build you up,

and to give you an inheritance among all them that are sanctified. Amen.

GEORGE BELL.

Simcoe, November 3rd, 1848.  
To James M'Caul, Esq., and others, Members of the Presbyterian Church, Cumberland and Clarence.

TO THE REV. GEORGE BELL.

DEAR SIR,  
We, the undersigned, Inhabitants of Clarence, having learned that you are about to leave this part of the country, beg respectfully to address you on the occasion.

Although unconnected with the Congregation of late under your spiritual superintendence, we nevertheless have enjoyed frequent means of appreciating your zeal in general usefulness, your liberality of spirit, and obliging courteous character.

Particularly we would instance your firm and efficient advocacy of the Temperance Reformation. As labourers in this cause, we feel much obligation for your frequent and able assistance at our meetings, and beg you to accept the expression of our sincere thanks.

Trusting that your zeal in this and every other good work may have ample scope, and meet abundant success in the future sphere of your operations, and with best wishes for the health and happiness of yourself and family, we bid you farewell.

Clarence, September 26, 1848.  
(Signed by Rev. John Edwards, Baptist Minister, and twenty others.)

MR. BELL'S REPLY.

DEAR BRETHREN,  
I have received your Address, and I assure you that your expressions of esteem and good wishes are truly refreshing to me, coming as a disinterested testimonial to the correctness of my position towards those brethren with whom I was not in immediate church-fellowship.

It was my desire, when labouring in your neighbourhood, to cultivate liberality of spirit, and to promote unity, harmony and peace among the children of God, although called by different names among men; and it is still my prayer that you may be led by the Spirit to love one another.

You mention in particular the Temperance Reformation, a matter of great importance in the present day. Without expressing an opinion, favourable or unfavourable, of societies altogether unconnected with Christianity, it appears to me that our duty as Christians is plain—simply to return to Bible rules of duty, and withdraw from that conformity to the world into which the Church at large has fallen, whereby her testimony has been weakened, her purity soiled, and her energies paralysed.

It is my prayer that the Great Head of the Church may enrich you with every spiritual blessing, to the glory of His Holy Name.

GEORGE BELL.

Simcoe, November 3, 1848.  
To the Rev. John Edwards and others, Inhabitants of Clarence.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE UNIVERSITY QUESTION, (UPPER CANADA).

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PRESBYTERIAN.  
SIR,—The time is now approaching when this important question may be expected to occupy the attention of our Legislators and the country generally. It is of the utmost consequence that this subject should be looked at in a practical, not a political light, and settled purely on the principle of ensuring, as extensively as possible, the benefits of a superior education, without reference to the parties or persons who may be the authors of any particular plan. It is miserable policy indeed to sacrifice the welfare of a country,

both for the present and future times, to the temporary, and ever changing, political movements and contests of the day. The misfortune is, that, while many talk on this subject, few are really interested in it; few, except those who seriously intend giving their sons a University education, can be brought to regard the subject as one of personal concern, or to view it in a practical light. While anything connected with trade, commerce or the like, is sure to be discussed thoroughly and in some degree satisfactorily, because by those who are at once interested in, and conversant with the subject, there is much danger that this most important question will depend upon the discussions and judgments of those who care little, and know less, about the practical consequences of its adjustment.

The question now to be decided by the wisdom of the Legislature, and by public opinion, is this: are we to have monopoly or competition in regard to University education? We use the word monopoly here in no invidious sense, but merely to express the main feature of a plan which would confine the whole of the superior education of the Province to one institution, one set of instructors, one system of instruction, and one particular locality. It may be thought by some, that, while such a system would be universally condemned if applied to other subjects, as trade, banking or the like, it is beneficial when applied to education. It is for such to show how the evils, so apparent in the one case, are to be obviated in the other. In every department monopoly has always been found to be the source of inertness, indifference, slowness in adopting improvements, in a word, a want of attention to the wants and wishes of the public and the requirements and advances of the age; and these naturally produce dissatisfaction and want of confidence among the community. We cannot see how the case is materially different in regard to education. In no department are energy and activity more indispensable; untiring diligence and ardent zeal, immediate attention to everything that can promote the student's progress, readiness to adopt every really useful improvement, and, if possible, to improve on these; attentive watching of the progress of science: these, and many more that can hardly be specified, are essential qualifications for those who conduct a great educational institution. We fear that, in the entire absence of the great stimulus of competition, no care in the selection of instructors, no strictness in the framing of rules, no formal inspection of government officers or otherwise, can secure these requisites to nearly the same extent that a wholesome, honourable rivalry would effect. We say the entire want of competition, for it is perfectly evident that in this country no privately established college could attempt to compete with a great, publicly endowed