

he knows the needs of each of them, and by his influence and tact he can often remove what seems to be mountains of difficulty in the way of the weak who look to him for help. Frequently he is the trusted family councillor, called in to settle domestic disputes and allay the fever of family strife. In the sick room and in the house of mourning his presence is a benediction. All this describes the relations between a model pastor and a people who love and trust him. When these relations have extended over twenty-five years the personal ties between the shepherd and his flock must be strong indeed, and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the forming of those ties is well worthy of celebration.

The Herald therefore congratulates the venerated pastor of McNab Street Presbyterian Church and his congregation upon the completion of Rev. Dr. Fletcher's twenty-fifth year as pastor, and hopes that the celebration of the anniversary next week will be a cause of fresh inspiration and benefit alike to Dr. Fletcher and his congregation. It is unnecessary to say that the Pastor of McNab Street Church is well pleased with his congregation and that the congregation likes its Pastor; for the Presbyterian polity is essentially democratic, and if the relations between the Minister and the congregation are not pleasant they cannot long exist. And so the fact that Dr. Fletcher has ministered to the McNab Street Presbyterians for twenty-five years is sufficient evidence that their relations are pleasant and profitable. Under his ministry the church has prospered and still prospers; the congregation is united and in many branches of church work, charitable as well as distinctly religious, it is one of the most active congregations in the city—a power for good, whose influence is widely and deeply felt.

As for Dr. Fletcher himself, who has ever heard him spoken of but in a kindly way? Himself a lover of humanity, he is beloved in return by all who know him. A wholesome, hearty Highland Scotchman, he combines a sagacity, tact and shrewdness with a certain naive simplicity and juvenility of spirit—a combination not often found, but less rarely in Scotchmen than in men of other nationalities. A profound scholar (probably the best Hebraist in Hamilton), Dr. Fletcher is not a mere man of books, but takes an active and intelligent interest in the affairs of the busy world. In his pulpit he is earnest and faithful. He aims at a clear and useful exposition of the word of God, and practical application of it, rather than the exploitation of his own gifts as a pulpit orator; therefore his preaching is never sensational, but always instructive and suggestive. Although Dr. Fletcher has remained in continuous charge of one congregation for a longer period than any clergyman in the city, he is by no means stricken in years, and there is no reason to suppose that his active career as a minister of the gospel is near its close. It is easy to predict that when the time comes for him to rest from active ministerial work, he will retire from the pastorate of McNab Street Church at the same time.

The reasons for Dr. Fletcher's success as a Minister and Pastor may be found in the qualities which Chaucer ascribes to his good "Persoun," some of which are these: