

exercises connected with its annual session. With the cause of that prevention you are already in some measure informed, through the medium of your own periodical, which announced the affliction which compelled me to relinquish the pastorate at Simcoe, and in fact, to give up the work of the ministry. I regret this the more as I had hoped that some mitigation of the disease would have enabled me to be with you, and to have addressed to you some fraternal counsels on leaving the chair, in which your kindness and confidence placed me at your last anniversary. But in this I am disappointed, as the aneurism in my neck is decidedly more aggravating in its symptoms, and of course more paralyzing in its effects. Indeed, either physical exercise or vocal power is becoming more and more hopeless to me. But though absent in body, I shall be present with you in spirit, and my prayers to the God of all grace will be offered in your behalf, that He may fill you with all wisdom and understanding in the knowledge of his Son Jesus Christ; that He may sanctify and direct all your deliberations to the extension of His blessed kingdom, and grace all your meeting with His felt presence and rich blessing:

There are many things in relation to our position and prospects which crowd upon my mind, and seem to demand attention. But in my present state of health I fear to touch them, and to excuse me from doing so I will throw myself upon your kindness and candour; for this, my beloved brethren, is a day of darkness and trial with me. At a time when otherwise possessing health, some mental power and strength of character; at a time when a life of public activity and labour had become a confirmed habit with me; at a time when the preaching of the Gospel was as fresh and fragrant to me as ever, and when I was forming plans for the furtherance of the cause of my blessed Saviour, I am suddenly laid aside from a work which has been the sweetest pleasure and the greatest gratification of my life, and led away into obscurity as an useless instrument. I trust I do not murmur, and am not without submission to the Divine will, for all that will is love; but the lesson, "Be still and know that I am God," is one not easily acquired.

Excuse me, dear brethren, for so much personal allusion. I do not seek to elicit sympathy, for many testimonials prove that I have that already, but if possible to quicken your zeal and activity in the Master's service. "Brethren the time is short, the day is far spent, the night is at hand." Oh work while it is day, the night cometh in which no man can work!

Receive my thanks for the many tokens of confidence and affection shown me; and allow me to present to you, individually and