

REVEREND AND DEAR BRETHREN—

THE three years which have nearly elapsed since we last met together, form a considerable part of our fleeting lives; a still larger portion of our ministry in the Church of God; and, as may fairly be presumed, deduct a greater sum from my brief sojourning among you as your Bishop. These reflections, which add something of sadness to all human fellowship, will, I trust, banish from our view all feelings of difference and distrust, and will place before us more distinctly the time, when we must bid farewell to the dreams and the contests of Time, and when the measure of our hopes and fears will be the great future of the Eternal world. For myself, I hail this periodical meeting as a season of Christian communion, and mutual counsel with my fellow-labourers; and I desire that the advice which I now tender may be considered as coming from one, who throws himself on your kindness and indulgence, and who, in the imperfect discharge of a very difficult and perilous office, will, under God, be best sustained by your united co-operation.

The elder Clergy, especially, will regret the absence of two of our number; both somewhat unexpectedly taken from us: both honest and zealous labourers: who have gone to their rest not unknown nor unlamented; and their work is with their God. Since I wrote these words, another of our little band has fallen: a brother truly beloved by his Parishioners, and by us. Surely this sad stroke, coming on us so unexpectedly, and at this particular time, should deepen all our better feelings, should draw us nearer to God and to each other, for we "know not when the Master of the House cometh, at midnight, or in the cock-crowing, or in the morning." Our journey is short, our time of probation is brief, our reckoning is heavy, our Master is near. Many of you have also heard with sincere grief of the continued illness of the father of the three Dioceses of Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Fredericton. And I am sure it will be a gratification to his kind heart to know, that among those whom he has ordained, there is not one who does not sympathize with him in his affliction, not one, I trust, who does not send up to the Throne of the Heavenly Grace petitions in his behalf.

Amidst these reasons for seriousness and sadness, we have surely abundant cause for thankfulness. We meet not as the confessors and