

services. I have spent and been spent for your sakes, seeking not your substance but your welfare. I have born hardships and distress uncomplainingly in the days that tried men's souls. Now you wish me, when you propose to have a comfortable house of worship, to sell my principles. That I shall never do. The God that has brought me thus far is able to keep me to the end, and my trust is in Him."

These words moved not a few to tears. Others determined to have their way, continued the discussion. One man shouted to father, "If you join the kirk you will get into the new building; if you don't, you will eat thin kale!" Father replied to this coarse assault in the language of the Psalmist. "I have been young and now I am old, yet have I never seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread." Several of the leaders said in substance: "We were born in the kirk and we will die in the kirk." A goodly number protested against the proceeding, most of the women objecting strenuously to any change. None had ever absented themselves from the services, father had no misunderstanding with any of them, and not a word of grumbling had been heard, so that the sudden zeal for the kirk was a great surprise. At last father ended the controversy by saying: "I foresee trouble will come before long. There is a God who judgeth in the earth, and you will see the time you will bitterly repent of this day's ingratitude."

Soon after the meeting some of the malcontents went to Perth and sent a petition to the Presbytery in Scotland for a kirk minister who could preach in English and Gælic. About the time the stone church was finished, Rev. John Smith and his two sisters arrived. Mr. Smith was a very quiet, unassuming man. He was dumb-founded to find a minister in Beckwith, declaring he would not have left Scotland had he known the situation of affairs. Two of the elders, John Carmichael and Alexander Dewar, and many of the members adhered to father. He preached regularly in the largest room in our house until his last illness, while Mr. Smith occupied the stone church.