

taneously. Though the latter were the majority yet their faith was so weak that many at first thought it best to unite with the others and have only one church. And when they did resolve on having one for themselves it was with difficulty they could be persuaded to build it as large as they did.

Till the church was ready for occupancy supply continued to be given in the same way, in all for a period of over four, I think, five, years. I need not say that this involved a good deal of labor on our part. After preaching twice at home we had to travel some miles, rain or shine, it might be through deep mire or deeper snow banks, sometimes in almost pitch darkness, and perhaps exposed to other dangers, (once a bear crossed the road before me between East and Middle Rivers.) All this was continued I may say without fee or reward. Once a present was made to Mr. McKinnon in acknowledgement of a special service rendered, but I am safe in saying that not one of the others received what would have bought his horse a feed of oats.

And here I would remark that I deem it but justice to say that to no man was the movement so much indebted as to Mr. McKinnon, then of Hopewell, now of Nigg, Scotland. He was concerned in its first starting. During the whole of these years he arranged for the supply of preaching, and so well were his arrangements made that they scarcely missed a single evening's preaching, and the building of the church at the time was largely through his counsels, his encouragement and his urgency. I feel justified in holding him up as under God the founder of the congregation.

Your correspondent and the congregation will, I trust, give me the credit for the kindest feelings in what I have said. None can rejoice in its present goodly proportions and growing influence more than they who amid considerable toil were instrumental in laying its foundations; but I do not think that in what purports to be its history they should be entirely ignored. Sower and reaper must rejoice together at the rich harvest, but let not the latter forget the Master's saying, "Other men have labored and ye have entered into their labors."

GEORGE PATTERSON.

A SHORT SERMON ON SALT.

BY REV. THEODORE L. CUYLER.

The people who listened to Christ's Sermon on the Mount, knew the value of salt; it was a prime necessary of life in that hot climate; it was the universal preservative without which their daily food would soon putrify. "Ye are the salt of the earth," said the Master to His disciples. That is as true now as eighteen centuries ago. But salt in a barrel is of no use to anybody; it must be brought into contact with the objects which it is to preserve, and to purify.

One of the burning problems of the day, especially in great cities, is to bring the rich, the cultured, and the Christianized, into closer contact with the poor, the ignorant, and the ungodly. The tendency is for the social salt to concentrate into fine streets and into costly churches by itself. How shall the chasm be bridged? How shall the two classes be brought together for their own good? For the well-to-do class needs to mix with the poor and destitute quite as much as the humbler class needs the sympathy and uplifting influence of those above them. Mission-chapels are in the right direction provided that the broadcloth Christians in considerable numbers will go and worship and work there also. Personal visitation through the week is still better. Prof. Drummond told us that a group of Christian students of the Edinburgh University took lodgings down in a squalid region that they might live among the wretched poor and help *live them to Christ*. A noble piece of genuine apostolic work that. What the whole irreligious world needs most, is that Christ's followers shall put the restraining, purifying, and sweetening influence of beautiful *lives* right up against it. An honest Christian in a corporation, in a business-firm, or in a legislative hall, may shame out a deal of iniquity by the protest of his example. So may a fearless young Christian make himself or herself felt in social life. It has been well said that unless the Church salts the world, the world will soon rot the Church.

2. The indwelling presence of Jesus Christ is what imparts the healthful saltiness to character. If Christ is in us He will come out—as light spontaneously flows from a lamp or heat from a kindled fire. Can salt lose its savor? Yes; even physical salt can lose all its saline properties. —Dr.