

Rev. John Brown of Londonderry. In sacramental work, they were associated with uninterrupted regularity, assisting each other from year to year, during the whole term of their ministerial neighborhood. To themselves and others, these were seasons of great refreshing, both publicly and privately. We have often thought that the union of the peculiar properties of these two eminent and venerable persons in one minister, would have presented to the church such a specimen of clerical excellence as has been rarely witnessed. There would then have been a combination of head and heart, thought and feeling, such as the wise Architect of the *earthen vessel* prepares only at very distant intervals; in order that the excellency of the power, of the heavenly treasure, may appear to be of *God and not of man*.

Mr Kerr's pulpit qualifications were of a high order. In literary, and still more in theological attainment he was decidedly beyond the average class of the clergy of his day. Endowed with remarkably clear and prompt powers of perception, a sound and vigorous judgement: from the first of his public career, he gained, and to the day of his demission he retained the enviable reputation of a most instructive and acceptable preacher, not only in his own district, but wherever he was called to minister. The intellect, however, predominated so imperiously over the affections, as to render his public discourses rather lucid and convincing, addresses to the understanding, than powerful and subduing appeals to the heart. The attachment of the people to the minister was consequently that of high respect and profound reverence, rather than strong affection and ardent love. Not, that he was destitute of feeling; on the contrary he was keenly sensitive, and was often, especially in his later years, unable to control those emotions which formerly had been held under complete restraint. Hence, while he was ever a welcome visitor at the bed of sickness and the chamber of death, this department of pastoral duty appeared to be regarded by himself, with some measure of dread. His pulpit address was the type of his mental conformation, cold but clear

and emphatic; and his ministrations, as a whole, were evidently better fitted to instruct the sincere christian, than arouse the careless and hardened. One striking peculiarity was visible in the structure of almost every sermon, and that whether the subject was doctrinal or practical. The mode of illustration pursued was not the common course of heads and particulars, but from first to last, a series of observations, which were so directed as to embrace the leading features of the passage, without exhausting it. In this art he greatly excelled, frequently delighting the hearer by the rich mine of gospel truth which was opened in portions of scripture, which to the ordinary reader appeared altogether uninteresting and uninteresting. At the same time it ought to be observed, that there was frequently exhibited a strong tendency to metaphysical subtleties and logical niceties, such as the intelligent hearer alone could appreciate. In his manner of administering the sacraments, Mr Kerr was remarkably felicitous, and even in the performance of the marriage ceremony, his form was highly acceptable and generally accounted a model, for appropriate sentiment and beautiful expression.

In domestic comfort, Mr Kerr was greatly blessed. It was universally acknowledged, that he had been well directed, in the choice of a pious and devoted partner. As the *virtuous woman*, "the heart of her husband did safely trust in her. She did him good and not evil, all the days of her life. Her husband was known in the gates, when he sat among the Elders of the land." And although no "Children arose up to call her blessed, her husband did arise, and he praised her." Often was he heard to attribute all his worldly well doing, and even his ministerial usefulness, to a considerable extent, to her influence; thus entering fully into the sentiment—"many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all."—What he lacked in power of attraction in his own person, was amply supplied in the *help-meet* which God had given unto him.—The warm beatings of her friendly heart were felt by all, who came within the circle of her acquaintance; and even the casual