

felt for them on this account, when he stated that, in several instances, after he had recorded in his book his opinion of a particular treatise, he re-perused it for the sake of personal pleasure and edification.

### Charge

DELIVERED BY THE REV. ARCHIBALD BUCHANAN AT THE ORDINATION OF THE REV. HUGH DRENNAN, RECENTLY APPOINTED ONE OF THE CHAPLAINS TO THE BRITISH FORCES IN THE EAST: PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH, November, 22, 1854.

MR. DRENNAN.—It now devolves upon me to address to you a few words of exhortation. Allow me to say, before doing so, that I am deeply sensible of my inability to realize to you the vast importance and responsibility of the office to which you have been set apart. Would that it had been the part of some one of the fathers of this presbytery to address you this day! In common with all who know and love the truth—in common with all who wish for peace and progress in civilization—we unite in deploring the cause of your mission to the East. War is undoubtedly the greatest of earthly calamities—the most appalling and terrific of judgments. You, my dear brother, will be an eye witness of its frightful consequences. It will be your part to minister to its immediate sufferers—the diseased, the wounded, and the dying—perhaps to visit the field of battle in the prosecution of your peaceful calling, and to behold commingled in mangled masses, friend and foe—rider and horse—their hatred and their vengeance quenched—their wounds speaking, with open mouths, the vanity of man whose breath is in his nostrils. “It must needs be that offences come,” both among individuals and nations. The Divine Author of Christianity has himself assured us, that He “came not to send peace, but a sword.” How literally has the prediction been fulfilled in the history of Europe! How woefully have wicked princes, at various eras in her annals, perverted the truth, and made zeal for the glory of God the pretence for oppression and carnage! The present struggle in the East is regarded by the wise and the good of this country, as just and necessary on the part of the Allies;—just, because undertaken for the defence of the weak and the oppressed—necessary, to prevent the despotic ruler of a territory, already enormous, from becoming master of the liberties of the whole world.

You go forth, my dear brother, to the scene of strife as a soldier of the Cross. Your Captain is the Captain of salvation. Your divine Leader is wise in council and strong in battle; and the weapons of your warfare, worn and wielded in His strength, will give you the victory. Your sword is the bloodless sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, and its edge is keen and double. Your helmet is the helmet of salvation; your breastplate, the righteousness of Christ; your shield the shield of faith. Thus equipped, you will, we doubt not, be a blessing to the brave men to whom you are sent, and whose spiritual state you are to care for. You are to preach to them “Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” It is this doctrine which is best fitted to lay hold of, and lead captive the wayward affections of the human heart—to subdue rebellious passions—to eradicate impure propensities, and to prepare for heaven the outcast and the lost. Be it yours, then, to declare the whole

counsel of God, to reprove the careless, to encourage the timid, to check the presumptuous, to establish the doubting, to comfort and console the wounded and the dying, and to build up saints in their most holy faith.

The faithful discharge of these duties you will find to be arduous in the extreme. The special service to which you are appointed calls for the highest degree of self-denial. Yours is a voluntary exile from many things loved by the educated mind. The sacrifice of these things, and exposure to toil, privation, and danger, you have doubtless well considered, and determined to encounter ungrudgingly for the sake of your suffering countrymen abroad. Be animated amid weariness, and weakness, and discouragement, by that courage which springs from faith in Christ—that courage which enabled an apostle to say: “And now I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus.” This spirit is nobler and more sublime than that which, stimulated by popular applause impels a man to brave the cannon’s mouth; and if by your ministrations, and by the influences of the Holy Ghost, this indomitable spirit be breathed into the minds of the soldiers in the East, they will transcend the heroic deeds they have already done, they will intrepidly dare every danger, and press forward to victory where death is most threatening. If the fear of God be an abiding affection in the heart, it will undoubtedly expel the fear of man. But let us not forget, that there is a Divine Providence overruling and settling all the vicissitudes of the present struggle. Let us not forget, that “there is no king saved by the multitude of his host; and that a mighty man is not delivered by much strength.” How forcibly are we thus taught to recognize the hand of God in every event! We may not be able to foresee His intentions, but we may securely rely on their beneficence; we may confidently trust in His power to cause all things to work together for good to them that love Him, to them who are called according to His purpose. The despot who seems to sway the destinies of empire, is completely under the power of Him who can either stay or prolong the carnage of war; and while, clothed in imperial authority, he sends forth those myrmidons, whose march may be traced by the dilapidation of cities and the devastation of fields, he is actually doing God’s will, and is as much God’s servant as the hurricane which He lets loose to purify the atmosphere, or as the pestilence which He sends forth to teach the nations wisdom. Let us, therefore, bow ourselves under the mighty hand of God, confessing our sins and shortcomings as individuals and as a nation; beseeching Him to quench the rage of the violent, to silence the clangour of the trumpet, and to sheath forever the ruthless sword; and peace shall yet be restored, and that speedily, to bless the nations—the earth shall yield an ample increase, prosperity shall shine upon us like a sun, and God himself shall throw over us the shield of His protection.

It will be your duty, my dear brother, not only to minister to the diseased and wounded in the hospitals, but to publicly preach the Word of truth—to press home to your hearers the conviction of guilt and unworthiness, and to set forth the Saviour’s willingness and

ability to save to the very uttermost—to be instant in season and out of season, reproving, rebuking, exhorting, with all long-suffering and doctrine, that you may save both yourself and those who hear you. Much of your success in this work will depend upon your own felt experience of the power of religion. This alone can inspire you with patience, perseverance, and zeal in your arduous calling—this alone can give true warmth to your ministrations, and kindle a corresponding glow of love to Christ in the breasts of your auditory. Permit me also to remind you, that the issues of all affairs are in the hands of God, and that your exertions in the ministry, however energetic and untiring, will be fruitless without the enriching and gladdening influences of the Holy Spirit. Live, therefore, in dependence upon the promised blessing of God, which alone can crown your ministry with success. Be cheered amid the toils and anxieties of your work by the promise, that divine grace will be sufficient for you, and divine strength perfected in your weakness. In the performance of your sacred duties, rely not on your own sufficiency, but on the sufficiency of Christ. Be thou faithful unto death, and Christ shall give thee a crown of life.

Go forth, then, brother, and prepare for the scene of strife. At a time when the loud cry of war is heard from the Baltic to the Bosphorus, it well becomes you too to go forth as a warrior. Your weapons indeed are not carnal. You are clad in the armour of God. While your countrymen and their brave Allies emulate the one the other in their attempts to spoil the tyrant of his power, and give liberty to the oppressed, let it be your part, as the messenger of salvation, to proclaim peace on earth and goodwill to the children of men. Let it be your part to aid by your prayers, and by the whole of your ministerial functions, what every devout Christian longs and prays for—the jubilee time when men shall “beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; when nation shall not rise against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.”

Finally, my dear brother, fare thee well. Our prayers will accompany you to the scene of warfare. In the closet and in the sanctuary, throughout the length and breadth of the land, prayers will ascend unceasingly to heaven for your success in your patriotic Christian mission. Go, then, in the strength of omnipotent guardianship; and may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you! Amen.

PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH.—Mr. Forrest, minister of the Scotch Church, Charleston, South Carolina, was introduced to the Presbytery by letter from the Kirk-session of his congregation. Mr. Forrest had been ordained by this Presbytery in 1832, and in a short address he stated that the church over which he presided had been in existence since 1729. It was the oldest church in the province, and the mother of all the Presbyterian churches in the Southern States. Since he (Mr. Forrest) had gone out, the congregation had been in a vigorous condition, and had considerably increased. The Presbytery, on the motion of Dr. Grant, agreed to record their gratification at seeing Mr. Forrest again, and at hearing of the prosperous condition of his congregation.

The Rev. John M’Hraith, who has for some time officiated with so much acceptance in Greenhead Church, has, we learn, received