

My Christian friends : Although the pastoral relation has not been formally constituted between us,—and while I speak my own sentiments, I am sure I but respond the sentiments of my brethren who also ministered to you in the gospel,—I have ever considered you, and virtually you have been, part of the flock which the Great Shepherd entrusted to our care, and enjoined to feed with the bread of life. You are our countrymen. We have been united by common religious views and purposes. We have been educated in the same faith, and most of us have been taught to worship the God of our fathers after the same forms in which they presented their devotions at a throne of grace. But besides the relation formed by holding in common the same religious principles, I have other ties that bind me especially to you. My own early connection with the army,* has inspired me with a desire to promote the best interests of my fellow-subjects who have selected the profession of arms. But my associations with the Seventy-first Regiment are of the most agreeable nature, and not of recent origin : they belong to my earlier days ;† they have been cherished through life ; and lately they have been increased, by

* The writer of these pages first saw the light, while his father, as a soldier, served his Country and King.

† 1811—While the Regiment was quartered at Glasgow. Circumstances then occurred which led the writer ever afterwards, to observe with the deepest interest, the future achievements of that gallant corps.