

his time. He was one of those who hoped to the very last that by some compromise the impending secession of 1843 might be avoided—an able and faithful parish minister, beloved and respected by all who knew him.

Shortly after I went to school in Edinburgh, the worthy Dr. called at my lodgings and after talking kindly to me he kneeled down and offered up a beautiful prayer for me, then, as he was leaving, he took me warmly by the hand and looking into my eyes with affectionate concern he said,—“James, never forget God and He will never forsake you.” Thank God for the memory of those words! It was a simple and trite saying, but it has stuck to me all these years. “A word spoken in season, how good is it.” As an illustration of the power of personal touch, as distinguished from eloquent preaching, it may be added that of the many sermons I heard him preach, not one word do I remember!

Dr. Leishman did not shine in Church courts, indeed he cared little for them, though in early life he took his share in the outside work of the Church. That he was held in high esteem by his brethren appears from the fact that he was elected Moderator of the General Assembly in 1858. He retired from active service about 1871, having acquired a small property near Lanark. There he died in the 81st year of his age and was buried in Govan churchyard where a handsome monument bears the brief inscription,—“Sacred to the memory of Matthew Leishman, D.D., for 53 years minister of the parish; died 8th August, 1874, aged 80. His wife Elizabeth Boag died September 1st, 1874. In death they were not divided.” Dr. and Mrs. Leishman had celebrated their golden wedding only a few weeks before their re-union in the “better country.”

Mrs. Leishman was a charming woman. One of their sons attained to eminence as a professor in the Medical Faculty of Glasgow University. The youngest son became a merchant in Rangoon. Thomas, born in 1825, followed in the wake of his father and earned for himself a high degree. After being five years assistant to Dr. McCulloch of the West Church, Greenock, he was presented by the Crown to the parish of Collace, Perthshire,