

their co-operation, for in their good we get good.

But to come to five years ago, when our new Church was erected—"He shall build the temple and have the glory," was, you remember, the text on that occasion. How have the fears and forebodings of that period been happily overcome, through the efforts of our people, country and town. How the poorest and farthest-off settler came forward eager to acquire a seat in the Church of his Fathers, and how the mighty debt that threatened, like a millstone, to crush or to be transmitted to posterity, was rolled off, within one year, by generous subscriptions, you know. A Church free from debt to receive the gratulations of her children and children's children, and to send the Gospel to her countrymen and to the Heathen, as well as to accommodate her own members, is a comely spectacle, and we have to thank God for the work accomplished and for more since! We do not boast, but we bless God that this new Church has not been a failure—no division—no heresy charged upon us—we have not been content merely to live, but have sought to exert an influence for good, to spread the sweet name of Christ, and to excite to liberality and zeal; and we have not been exclusive, maintaining a separate interest and refusing intercourse with others; on the contrary, we have both given and received, and therefore may reckon upon the sympathy of other religious bodies; this catholicity is surely better than exclusiveness, and it is the Spirit of the Gospel.

Five and twenty years! I am not so presumptuous as to pry into the future. Ministers in this country, in the Scotch Church, seldom see their jubilee; but twenty-five years of pleading with God and men, preaching and addressing, or catechizing in the country, what fruit, what account! for at last ministers have to give in the account of their labours, which must turn either to the profit or harm of their hearers. This was my first settled charge, you then my first love. Not with Paul, have I any cause to say, "these hands have ministered to my necessities," but yet I may aver, "I have coveted no man's silver or gold or apparel," stuck to my profession, and sought no worldly ends, neither political

nor pecuniary, not yours, but *you*. I rejoice in the prosperity of this town and of this congregation; the latter has reached large proportions. Upwards of 200 families of town and country wait upon our ministry,—what strength, energy, activity and devotedness are required for such a multitude! It would more than tax human effort were it to be attempted in all its greatness, but both town and country must exercise forbearance. Elders must be added, and after all, patience and tolerance shown, for it is quite possible that some outlying place or individual be overlooked; but let the regular diets of preaching be attended to in this place, and wherever announced in the country. It is from the pulpit that ministers best instruct; they prepare beaten oil for the Sanctuary. That is now a constant labour with us, which nothing but a vacant Sabbath can remit. It is in your power to facilitate labour and to encourage the labourer, in short, to help forward the work. Every member can do so. How many of Paul's hearers, in Romans, 16th chapter, his Urbanes, Amplias, Hermases, and Marys were only *lay helpers*, and yet they furthered the ministry. It is then only the field can be properly cultivated, when Sabbath School teachers generously come forward and instruct, when volunteers aid at the prayer meeting, when our choir leads in the service of song, when Elders in their stations and fellow-workers together with them labour, and when the people yield obedience thereunto, instructing their own households, and governing themselves by the lessons of the Sanctuary. O how pleasant then! our success is yours, your edification is ours. Every one that joins the Lord's people is so much gain. Each convert is a crown in the day of Christ. A minister's rewards are certain, though they be not silver and gold, but they are chiefly to be found in the day of Christ. His converts are his joy, apostates a loss. Ah! brethren, what need of prayer; prayer to uphold, prayer to fetch down the blessing. Not without prayer have we laboured hitherto, and we invite your co-operation herein. "Brethren, pray for us," for we trust we have a good conscience in the work; pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified.