

to thank God for, when any man gives himself heartily and honestly and perseveringly to these sacred duties,—but most of all, when it is a man of powerful understanding—of extensive acquirements—of benevolent disposition—of devotional temper—of deep and personal experience of divine things. Such a man it was your privilege to have. I trust you felt the value of this privilege, while he was with you : and that now, that he is taken away, you will show your sense of it, not merely by cherishing a respect for the memory of your departed minister, but by your habitual remembrance of his teaching, and by seeking to be followers of him, wherein he was a follower of Christ. Let it be remembered, privilege does always involve responsibility. I can tell you, that amidst much, which he felt to be discouraging in the condition and prospects of the Church, that which depressed him most, was any sign among you, of coldness and indifference to spiritual duties and spiritual exercises, and what gladdened him most, was any token among you, of spiritual revival, and if it be given to the departed to have any knowledge of what passes in this earth, it will add to the joy of a spirit, redeemed, as we humbly trust, through the blood of that Saviour, whom he preached, that you live in the service, and by the faith of Christ.

Apart from the domestic circle, of the sorrows of which under a bereavement, so recent and severe, I venture not to speak, your loss is that which it is natural first to take into account. And yet it is not the only loss that is to be contemplated, nor is it perhaps the greatest. The removal of your late minister is a loss to the general community, in which he lived and laboured. For he was a man of a large and public spirit,—and he was ever ready to lend the weight of