

presented at the footstool of the throne of mercy and grace for him, and for much success to him and his Christian fellow workmen in their work of winning souls to Christ,—that they may all have many converted souls to present to Jesus Christ in that great day when He maketh up his jewels. Ever remember, then, especially in your prayers, your first foreign Missionary sent by you to heathen lands, and ever bid him “God speed” in his work. May God preserve him, bless him, encourage and comfort his heart, and grant him much success in his work, for Jesus Christ’s sake.—AMEN.

## SERMON,

PREACHED IN DESABLE PARISH CHURCH, P. E. ISLAND, ON MARCH 25, 1869, THE OCCASION OF THE INDUCTION OF THE REV. JAMES MCCOLL, BY THE REV. GEORGE W. STEWART, MINISTER OF ST COLUMBA AND ST. ANDREW’S CONGREGATIONS.

### HEBREWS iii. 1.

THE descriptions which are given in the Word of God of the characters and circumstances of believers, are very interesting and instructive.—They are represented by every consideration which has a tendency to endear them to each other and to encourage them in the same interesting and glorious pursuit. They are all surrounded with the same enemies, actuated by the same principles, and aiming at the same blessed rest. There are many things which in a subordinate degree engage their consideration; but there is only one grand object that wholly occupies the supreme attention, and that object is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the subject of their sweetest meditation, the object of their devout contemplation; with His comforts they delight their souls, and His statutes are their songs in the house of their pilgrimage. They consider the Lord Jesus Christ in the wonderful variety of His love, in the exceeding riches of His grace, and especially in the glorious display of His great salvation. They also contemplate him in the diversified offices and characters Christ sustains in the economy of redeeming love in man’s salvation. This consideration has a most transforming efficacy on their minds, and a practical influence upon their lives; they are assimilated to His likeness—they are conformed to His image—they imitate His example—and they copy Him in all His imitable perfections. In fine, their meat and drink daily is to do the will of their Lord and Master, Christ.

“Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider ‘the apostle and high priest of our profession, Christ Jesus.’”

Our attention is first directed to the *endearing name* by which the apostle Paul here addresses the Hebrews. He calls them “brethren.” They were, no doubt, his brethren, not merely because they were of the family of Israel, and they might probably be of the tribe of Benjamin, but they were in a special degree his brethren, because of their interest in the Lord Jesus Christ and their intimate relation to the redeemed family of Heaven. The term “brethren” appears to have been a favourite word with the apostle; when writing to the members of the various churches which he had planted, in these epistles, he generally calls them dear brethren. This word denotes, moreover, the spiritual relation subsisting between all believers of every age, name, colour and nationality. Whether they be Jews, Gentiles, Barbarians or Scythians, bond or free—in whatever part of the earth they be located—in whatever position Providence may have placed them in the social scale—whatever be their interests, their prospects, in this present life—if they believe solely and trust entirely on the Lord Jesus Christ, they are truly brethren, and that of one another, and on account of which they are bound by mutual obligation and strong ties of reciprocal affection to seek each brother’s welfare—to endeavour to keep the *oneness* of the Spirit in the bond of peace.