

"Prominent among these, i.e., the signers of the document referred to, were Messrs. Donald Kennedy, Wm. Hutchison, Wm. Taylor, Elders; and Mr. Thos. McKay, a member of the Committee. Also the following members: Messrs. Wm. and John Porter, Robert Whyte, Nathaniel Robertson, Wm. M. Hutchison, James Dalgleish, James Ritchie, Alex. Brown, George and John Bain, John Rowat and Samuel Christie. Mr. Wm. Stewart who had been Secretary from January, 1853, when Mr. Geo. Hay resigned office, also retired in December of the following year, for the purpose of casting in his lot with the new congregation."

It was no small sacrifice on the part of Knox Church, thus voluntarily, to deprive itself of so many of its most active members for the sake of building up a rival congregation.

The following resolution, adopted at the Congregational Meeting, shows the spirit which actuated the church in those days. "Moved by Mr. Hay, seconded by Mr. Donald Robertson, that in view of the prospect of a number of our brethren leaving this congregation, we being assembled in this meeting, desire to record our sense of gratitude to the Great Head of the Church, for the prosperity and harmony which has been vouchsafed to us in the past, and assure our brethren that they carry with them the hearty sympathy and good will of this congregation, and our earnest prayer is that a like prosperity and harmony may characterize their efforts in their new sphere of labor."

If it was no small sacrifice, on the part of Knox Church, to separate from the outgoing members, it was on their part, no less a sacrifice, as well as an act of singular faith and courage to forsake the ministry of a beloved pastor, and the fellowship of brethren with whom years of association and joint labours in the cause of Christ had confirmed strong ties of christian friendship; to undertake the trials and labours incident to the formation of a new church, for which property had to be acquired, buildings erected, officers constituted, and a new pastor chosen, upon whose unknown temper and capacity the success or failure of their enterprise, the disappointment or realization of their hopes must necessarily, to a large extent, depend. It is greatly to their credit, that having once embarked in the enterprise, so very few of them, only two or three at most, thought of forsaking it.