

from being regular in his attendance on the church courts; indeed two meetings of Synod, the one at Kingston in 1839, and the other at Toronto in 1840, are the only occasions on which we find his name marked as having been present, till 1844, the year of the disruption; after which period he was only absent from Synod on two occasions, and he became also a very regular attendee at the meetings of the Presbytery. When present he always showed a deep interest in, and gave an earnest attention to the proceedings of the Court; and though never taking an obtrusive, he always took a prominent part in the business. He never sought display. While matters were going on to his satisfaction he was content to keep in the back ground; but, whenever duty called, he was ready, no less to give his counsel in solving any difficulty, or his help in carrying out any work, than to lift up his voice against what he considered wrong, or to stand in the breach, even single handed, to resist any encroachment on the privileges or purity of the church. His mind was deeply engaged, and his spirit roused by the exciting discussions and events connected with the Disruption of the Church of Scotland in 1843, and the organization of the Free Church, at which period he was on a visit to Scotland. The promontory events of the preceding years, he had watched with intense interest. His heart burned within him at the thought of the chains sought to be cast over the blood-bought liberties of the church of his fathers, and while his lofty principle made him grieve over the backwardness of some and the pusillanimity of others, and regard with shame and humiliation the sad prostitution of principle, and the melancholy manifestation of interested motives, which was exhibited in holding to the emoluments at the sacrifice of the dearest privileges of the church, and the crown-rights of the Redeemer, his heart warmed with admiration and glowed with generous sympathy for the noble band, who cast all their secular interests, and all their most hallowed ties and associations to the winds, that they might maintain the honor of the Redeemer and the glorious liberty wherewith he hath made, not only his people, but his church free.

He was thus prepared to be the leading and guiding spirit in the movement of the following year, in our own church, which led to its disruption and to the formation of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, under most discouraging circumstances, by twenty-three ministers. Around him all holding the same views confidently rallied, and under his leadership they unhesitatingly went forward in what approved itself to them as the only path of duty. Though Mr. Bayne and those who adhered to him were but followers of a noble band, in a noble cause, which had moved the springs of feeling and excited the sympathies of Christians throughout the world, yet the step which they took was not less a painful one, nor were the sacrifices attendant upon it small. It was perhaps all the more trying, that with us it was a testimony simply to principle, seeing that our church was not exposed to the same practical evils under which the Church of Scotland suffered, and seeing moreover, that the weakness of our body, only emerging from infancy, filled the minds of many with discouraging fears as to what the result of

a disruption might be. But the unflinching confidence of their leader gave assurance to all, that, in honoring Christ and in upholding the supremacy of his crown rights, was the only safety for a church. As a heathen said, "fiat justitia ruat cælum," so his principle was, simply to obey Christ, and leave the result in his hand, who can overrule all things for his own glory and the advancement of his cause.

Few who were present at Kingston on that occasion will forget how and the strong manifestation of feeling which was displayed, and amid the tumult of emotions which swelled his own bosom, he stood firm to every principle which he had avowed, and almost to every expression which he had uttered, and how some, who at the time thought his views too stern and his words too strong, afterwards acknowledged that he had not stood forward for any principle which it was not necessary to uphold, nor uttered a word which was not well weighed, or which manifested personal feeling rather than a sense of public duty. The able pamphlet which he published in 1846, at the request of the Commission of Synod, in reply to the question "Was the Disruption of the Synod of Canada in connection with the Church of Scotland called for?" shows how clear and strong were his convictions of duty, and that if he felt keenly, the vital importance which he attached to his views justified his warmth, which arose from an honest desire not only to expose the evil, but to shew the better way.

From this period, he took a deep and earnest interest in all that concerned the church, and to his accurate and extensive knowledge, his clear head and his sound heart may be traced, under her great Head, much of her present prosperity. He was an able counsellor, and his opinion had always great weight. He was clear and powerful in debate, whether in the statement of a case, or in reply. He had a remarkable faculty of unravelling perplexed cases, and of exposing sophistries. He never aimed at fine speaking, but, when his feelings were roused, he was more than eloquent, and he impressed with the depth and sincerity of his feelings even those who were unconvinced by his arguments.

He took a prominent part in originating or maturing the various schemes of the church. One in which he took an especial interest, viz., the Sustentation Fund, in which, in a remarkable degree, were evinced the acuteness and penetration of his mind and the soundness of his judgment, has fallen through, not, as it appears to us, from any defect in the intrinsic excellence of the scheme, but from peculiar obstacles which were in the way of its efficient working.

The Widow's Fund scheme, now in successful operation, was much aided by his co-operation and matured by his counsels. In the establishment and organization of Knox College also the church received great assistance from his knowledge and practical wisdom, and more especially in the prudent discharge of the delicate commission entrusted to him, while in Scotland, in regard to the selection of a competent Principal and another Professor, for carrying on the work of the Institution. The soundness of his judgment in the choice which he made has been fully evinced by the success of the College under the superintendence and teaching of those who have been entrusted with the duties, and by the character for thorough instruction and piety, in general, of those who have passed through the curriculum, many of whom who are now holding the position of acceptable

and efficient ministers in various localities throughout the Province. What a lively interest he took in the students, many of them have experienced, and will bear a willing testimony to his affectionate solicitude for their success.

It has been a matter of regret to many that his own rare endowments and richly furnished mind were not devoted to this department of the church's work, where his commanding talents, his thoroughly digested knowledge and his ardent piety would doubtless have exerted an extensive and beneficial influence upon the rising generation of ministers. As a worthy tribute to his talents and standing, as a theologian and a minister, the degree of Doctor in Divinity was conferred upon him by a university in the sister country.

A question in which he took a deep interest and in the discussions in regard to which he took a leading part, is that of the proposed union between our church and the U.P. Church. Sincerely desirous, as we believe he was, of such a union as would thoroughly consolidate the united bodies on sound principles and thus conduce to the glory of the Redeemer and the interests of his cause, he yet felt that a union of discordant principles is not strength and he was anxious to make sure of unity of sentiment, before he gave his consent to a union of incorporation. To many he appeared over-scrupulous and over-exacting from the other church, but all gave him credit for the honesty of his intentions, and perhaps his caution leaned to the side of safety. Where great principles are involved, it is often well that the sanguineness of generous feelings should be restrained by a little salutary caution.

To his own peculiar sphere of duty—to his own beloved and deeply attached flock, were his powers and energies especially devoted—to their interests were his untiring labors given—for them his most earnest prayers ascended to a throne of grace.

His health being at all times uncertain, his congregation very large, and the members of it scattered over an extensive district, he did not visit from house to house, except on calls of sickness or bereavement, but how faithful and how instructive yet tender and affectionate he was in such interviews, those who have enjoyed them can testify. Many such occasions are treasured in the memories of numbers of his flock.

Within the extensive bounds of his original sphere of duty have sprung up the congregations of Paris, Ayr, East and West Puslinch, Berlin, Doon and New Hope.

Much of his time was spent in the reading and thought required for his pulpit preparations—even more in thought than in reading, for he was not a man to satisfy himself with taking up and appropriating the ideas of others. He was a man independent in thinking, as he was in character, and of much originality of conception. His sermons were distinguished by profound views, logical clearness, a thorough acquaintance with the system of divine truth, by the power infused by a mind deeply impressed with the importance of what he uttered, and by the energy of one who wished his words to go home to the minds and hearts of his hearers, as he himself felt them. His philosophical reading to which he was much devoted, and his varied knowledge were apparent in his discourses, but with him philosophy and science were ever but the handmaids of revealed truth. They never took the place of, but always followed in the wake of the word. His illustrations were appropriate and striking and his whole manner was solemnly impressive, as if his whole frame was heaving with the thoughts to which he strove to give utterance.

He had a deep insight into human nature, a thorough acquaintance with the workings of